

# Document Pack

## 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 Wednesday, 1st October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m., 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 1st September, 2014 (Pages 3 - 10)
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 September, 2014 (Pages 11 - 66)
8. Parks and Leisure Committee of 11th September, 2014 (Pages 67 - 98)
9. Development Committee of 2nd September, 2014 (Pages 99 - 102)
10. Development Committee of 16th September, 2014 (Pages 103 - 118)
11. Health and Environmental Services Committee of 3rd September, 2014 (Pages 119 - 146)
  - a) Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014  

The Council agrees to pass a Resolution to make an Order in Belfast entitled The Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (North Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014, as set out on the summons and within the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014
12. Licensing Committee of 17th September, 2014 (Pages 147 - 160)
13. Town Planning Committee of 4th September, 2014 (Pages 161 - 168)

14. Notice of Motion

- a) Carl Frampton (Pages 169 - 170)

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

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

## **Council**

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 1st September, 2014  
at the hour of 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

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

#### **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 were reported on behalf of Alderman Webb and Councillors M. E. Campbell, McKee and Newton.

#### **Minutes**

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

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

**Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 1st September, 2014**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd August be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

**Leisure Transformation Programme –  
Implementation Update**

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That point 4 of the decision under the heading “Leisure Transformation Programme – Implementation Update” be amended to provide that, having considered the agreed criteria, Active Belfast Limited would defer its decision to appoint a Strategic Operating Partner until such times as Elected Members had been appointed to the Board.

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

**Amendment**

**Request for the use of the City Hall  
and the Provision of Hospitality –  
Falls Community Council Event**

At the request of Councillor Hargey, the Council agreed that the minute under the heading “Request for use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality”, insofar as it related to the Falls Community Council event, be amended to provide that appropriate hospitality be provided for the event on 29th September.

**Amendment**

**Disposal of Land at Maysfield**

Moved by Councillor Mullan,  
Seconded by Alderman Stoker,

That the decision under the heading “Disposal of Land at Maysfield” be referred back to the Committee for consideration.

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On a recorded vote, eleven Members voted for the amendment and thirty-six against and it was declared lost.

<b><u>For 11</u></b>	<b><u>Against 36</u></b>
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Mallon); Aldermen Brown, Rodgers and Stoker; Councillors Attwood, Convery, Hanna, Keenan, Kelly, McCarthy and Mullan.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron); The High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson); Aldermen M. Campbell, Ekin, Kingston, McCoubrey, R. Patterson, Robinson and Stalford; Councillors Austin, Beattie, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Cunningham, Curran, Garrett, Groves, Haire, Hargey, Hussey, Hutchinson, Jones, Kennedy, Kyle, Mac Giolla Mhín, Magee, McCabe, McNamee, McVeigh, Ó Donnghaile, Ó Muilleoir, Reynolds, Spence, Thompson and Verner.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd August were approved and adopted.

**Parks and Leisure Committee**

Moved by Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín,  
Seconded by Councillor Ó Donnghaile and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 14th August be approved and adopted.

**Development Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hargey,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 19th August be approved and adopted.

**Health and Environmental Services Committee**

Moved by Councillor Corr,  
Seconded by Councillor McCarthy and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 6th August be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,  
Monday, 1st September, 2014**

**Licensing Committee**

Moved by Alderman Ekin,  
Seconded by Councillor Mullan and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th August, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its power to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Town Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hanna,  
Seconded by Councillor Ó Muilleoir and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 7th and 26th August, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
Belfast District Housing Plan 2014/2015**

Arising out of discussion of the minutes of the Special Meeting of 26th August, at the request of Alderman Stoker and with the consent of the Chairman, the Council agreed that comments on the aforementioned Plan be submitted to the Housing Forum, with a draft response to be presented to the Town Planning Committee for approval prior to being submitted to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**Notices of Motion**

**Mr. Tom DiNapoli**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Ó Muilleoir proposed:

“This Council recognises the commitment of Tom DiNapoli, Comptroller of New York State, to the regeneration of Belfast and to the peace process since his election in 2007. As chief financial officer of New York State, the Comptroller controls \$172bn (£101bn) of investments, including substantial stock holdings in multi-national corporations with operations in Belfast. The Comptroller has, at all times, used his influence to encourage fair employment practices at companies in which the State of New York holds stock.

In March 2014, in the largest-ever investment in a local equity fund, the Comptroller invested \$15m (£8.8m) in Crescent Capital to enable it to fund early-growth technology companies here. At the time, he stated: ‘We’ve found a dynamic opportunity to provide the New York State Common Retirement Fund with a solid return on investment. Northern

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Ireland has the young, skilled workforce and the solid infrastructure that are hallmarks of the long-range economic growth that is critical to our international investment strategy. This partnership will benefit our pension fund and Northern Ireland in the years to come.'

Therefore, this Council commends Comptroller DiNapoli on his recent investment, urges him to continue on his commitment to double that investment in the time ahead and invites him to visit Belfast again to view additional investment opportunities which can bring a return to the pension holders of the State of New York Retirement Fund, which includes police officers, teachers, fire fighters and other public servants and help build cement the peace here with jobs."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Donnghaile.

After discussion, the Motion was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

**Team Northern Ireland –  
Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Alderman Kingston proposed:

"This Council:

- i. wishes to commend and congratulate all those athletes and competitors who represented Northern Ireland in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games;
- ii. appreciates that they represented the people of Northern Ireland with honour and distinction;
- iii. recognises the contribution made by coaches, families and sports clubs in Belfast and across Northern Ireland to supporting our athletes and competitors to achieve their high standard of ability; and
- iv. expresses hearty congratulations and appreciation to those who won 12 medals for Team NI - gold, silver and bronze, with particular congratulations to our gold medal winning boxers Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlan."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Kelly.

After, discussion, the Motion was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

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**Compassionate Cities**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Curran proposed:

“This Council:

Agrees to become a Charter for Compassion Partner which seeks to endorse the following principles of the Charter for Compassion:

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others - even our enemies- is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women - to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion - to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate - to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures - to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity - to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings - even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

The Council will commit to exploring how the charter will translate into a tangible plan for compassionate action among our citizens and communities, and how it can be best used to promote understanding our unique city context.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor confirmed that the matter would be referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Car Park Provision**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Alderman Stalford proposed:

“This Council:

Mindful of the need to create a more family friendly city will make provision within all car parks that it controls for family designated parking spaces.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

The Lord Mayor confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion, which would be placed also on the agenda for the meeting on 9th September of the Shadow Council, would be referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Online Rates Receipt**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Hussey proposed:

“This Council:

Is reminded of the Notice of Motion presented by Councillor Hussey on 1st November, 2012, namely:

‘This Council is committed to transparency in how it spends Rate Payers’ money. Every Rate Payer has the right to know what we spend their money on.

This Council believes that the principle of transparency is meaningless unless we present our published financial information in a way that is accessible and relevant to rate payers.

To this end, we will provide an online service to every rate payer which will show them, in a comprehensible way, the services and capital projects on which their money is spent. This breakdown will include the pro-rata monetary share of their own rates bill spent on these items alongside the total amount spent by this Council. A comprehensive breakdown of the costs of delivering those services and capital projects will be contained within that breakdown.’

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This Council notes that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, 2012, decided that this proposal should be advanced and Council staff created a working model of this service capable of being fully integrated into the existing Council website.

This Council therefore directs that this service be made available for the use of the Rate Payers of Belfast without further delay.”

Councillor Hussy informed the Council that he had been advised that the online rates model was due to be implemented in the near future and, therefore, no further action was required in respect on his motion.

Noted.

**Welfare Cuts**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Corr proposed:

“This Council is totally opposed to the imposition of Tory welfare cuts, which would have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable in our society, including working families, the poor and people with disabilities.”

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín.

**Amendment**

Moved by Alderman Ekin,  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee,

That the Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor Corr and seconded by Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín be replaced with the following:

“This Council notes that the Parties who take their seats in Westminster will propose the passage of the Welfare Reform Bill; further notes that the principle of parity means that retaining Westminster funding for welfare in Northern Ireland is based on harmonisation of social security legislation; and, therefore, calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly to resolve this issue as soon as possible.”

On a vote by show of hands twenty-two members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against. There being an equality of votes, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Mallon) exercised her second and casting vote against the amendment and it was declared lost.

The original Motion standing in the name of Councillor Corr was thereupon put to the meeting, when, by show of hands, twenty-two Members voted for and twenty-one against and it was declared carried.

Lord Mayor  
Chairman

## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 19th September, 2014

### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Reynolds (Chairman);  
Aldermen Campbell, R. Patterson and Robinson;  
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr,  
Haire, Hargey, Hendron, Kennedy, McCarthy,  
Mac Giolla Mhín, McVeigh and Newton.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. J. Minne, Director of Organisational Development;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Jones and Mullan.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th August 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 September.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Compassionate City Charter for Belfast

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### **"1 Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 At the September 2014 Council meeting a Motion was brought by Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor Kyle that 'this Council agrees to become a Charter for Compassion Partner which seeks to endorse the following principles of the Charter for Compassion:**

**1.2 The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels**

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us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

The council will commit to exploring how the charter will translate into a tangible plan for compassionate action among our citizens and communities, and how it can be best used to promote understanding our unique city context."

- 1.3 In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.
- 1.4 This global campaign is to raise awareness of the benefits of compassionate actions.
- 1.5 Its purpose is to encourage city leadership from around the world to create and bring together efforts towards increasing compassion through local initiatives, policy and projects.

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1.6 As of July 2014 organising campaigns are taking place in over 240 communities worldwide.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The Belfast Compassionate City Charter is an established charity and the Board members are: Frank Liddy, Chair; Mary McManus, Treasurer - East Belfast Community Development Association; Heather McGregor, Secretary – QUB; Rev Bill Shaw Presbyterian Church in Ireland; John Paul Lederach, Professor of Practice for International Peace building at University of Notre Dame.

2.2 Should Council endorse the Charter, it would be envisaged that a high profile public signing of the Charter will take place in City Hall. An action plan will be developed by the Charity to initially commence having the charter available for signing. World Cafe conversations with communities in the four corners of the city will then follow. These events will take place during autumn/winter.

2.3 The results of the cafe conversations will be collated and it is envisaged that a conference will be held in Spring 2015 to disseminate the feedback and future planning.

2.4 Elected Members from each of the areas will be advised in advance when the community conversations will take place.

2.5 The role of the Council in all the activities associated with the roll out of the Compassionate City Charter will be to support the work of the Board and endorse the principles that underpin the aims of the Charter.

3 Resource Implications

A budget has not been set aside for this work.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None

5 Recommendations

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

- (i) agree to adopt the principles that underpin the aims of the Charter
- (ii) agree to support the work of the Board.”

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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Family Friendly Car Parking**

The Committee was reminded that the Council and the Shadow Council at their meetings in September had referred the following Notice of Motion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the Transition Committee respectively:

*“This Council, mindful of the need to create a more family friendly City, will make provision within all car parks that it controls for family designated parking spaces.”*

The Director of Property and Projects reported that, in order to adopt an agreed position, arrangements would be made to paint a parent/child logo in appropriate car parking spaces as had recently been the trend in some supermarket car parks. The exercise would be undertaken in two parts, firstly on the Council’s existing car parks and later on any car parks transferring post 2015 following Local Government Reform. He pointed out that there were no specific family friendly space standards for bay size or the number of such spaces required. Discussions would, therefore, be held with the managers of leisure centres and other facilities to determine numbers and sizes appropriate to the clientele of the various facilities.

He explained that, as a guide, the Department of the Environment guidance, “Access for All” required a minimum normal size bay size of 2.4 x 4.8 metres and 3.8 x 6.6 metres for disabled badge holders. Even then allowances were made for differing parking layouts, that is, parallel, herringbone or in line and tended to be site specific on the details of layouts. The first step was then to obtain details of the car parks, agree on the number and size of family friendly car park bays per site, agree budgets and then undertake the work. This would be added to the current asset and maintenance management plans which were ongoing as part of the Local Government Reform and the most cost effective solution would be implemented.

The Committee approved the suggested actions in relation to family friendly car parking.

**Investment Programme**

**Super-connected Belfast Update**

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

**“1. Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 The Super-connected Belfast programme of work comprises three strands:**

- 1. Belfast Connection Voucher scheme**
- 2. Public Sector Wi-Fi Hotspots**

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**3. Metro-Wireless project**

**1.2** This report provides updates on the first two strands of the programme and outlines recent significant developments relating to the Metro-Wireless project.

**2. Key Issues**

**2.1 Belfast Connection Voucher Scheme**

The Belfast Connection Voucher Scheme (BCVS) allows small businesses and social enterprises within the new Belfast City Council boundary area to apply for grants of up to £3,000, to obtain high-speed broadband connections.

**2.1** The Belfast Connection Voucher team is well established in Digital Services and supports the administration of the Voucher scheme for both Belfast and Derry City councils. An update of the current project status is outlined in the table below.

**2.3**

<b>Belfast Voucher Scheme (as of 4th September 2014)</b>	
Applications received	679
Vouchers Issued	289
Vouchers value	£752,782

**2.4** Voucher recipients have indicated that they expect to create 600 jobs and grow their businesses by over £30million in the next 3 years. Examples of two major applications in progress include:

- Townsend Business Park – 39 applications at a value of £115,000
- Conway Mill – 15-20 businesses

**2.5** Following a comprehensive review of the Voucher scheme across all participating cities, the Department of Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) are now projecting that whilst there is strong evidence to show the vouchers concept is gaining momentum, voucher take-up will not reach initial predictions.

**2.6** To ensure maximum take-up DCMS is now undertaking further work to streamline the scheme to enable suppliers and SMEs in all 22 cities to maximise the number of businesses benefitting, with changes expected to be put in place in September. DCMS are also launching a marketing campaign across all cities which will support our own demand stimulation activities.

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**2.7** The experience of the Voucher team suggests that direct engagement with businesses is the most successful way of driving up voucher applications. Feedback from early engagement with local companies also suggests that businesses require support to help them maximise the potential of the infrastructure. To this end 15 demand stimulation seminars are to take place across the city. The schedule is as follows:

**2.8**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>
25th Sep	Breakfast	City Centre	City Hall
30th Sep	Lunch	City Centre	The MAC
2nd Oct	Evening	City Centre	The MAC
2nd Oct	Breakfast	West	Workwest
9th Oct	Lunch	West	Workwest
15th Oct	Evening	West	BMC – Springfield Campus
6th Nov	Breakfast	East	Skainos
13th Nov	Lunch	East	Skainos
19th Nov	Evening	East	Skainos
8th Jan	Breakfast	North	Belfast Castle
15th Jan	Lunch	North	Belfast Castle
21st Jan	Evening	North	Belfast Castle
5th Feb	Breakfast	South	Malone House
12th Feb	Lunch	South	Malone House
18th Feb	Evening	South	Malone House

**2.9** The schedule of seminars has been carefully planned with telecoms suppliers to ensure they correspond with, supplier roll out plans, areas of current demand and to minimise disruption as a result of physical works. The Voucher Team is planning to hold 3 seminars at each location, morning, lunchtime and evening, on different days to provide the maximum opportunity for businesses to attend.

**2.10** With the support of the Lord Mayor and members, the profile of these demand stimulation seminars can be raised to levels that would ensure we connect with as many businesses as

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possible. The Lord Mayor will launch the seminars in the City Hall on the 25th September and members are encouraged to promote the seminars within their individual constituencies and beyond.

- 2.1 Seminar content will include:
- a general overview of the scheme (Super-connected Belfast Team),
  - explaining how improved connectivity can make business more efficient (local case studies),
  - and, how improved connectivity can drive job creation and economic growth (expert speakers).
- 2.12 It is forecast that each event will have an average attendance of 35 equating to 525 attendees across all of the seminars. It is also anticipated that approximately 250-350 businesses will benefit from the vouchers as a result of the events. Should this be achieved, it would deliver almost £1 million of financial support to local businesses.
- 2.13 Public Sector Wi-Fi Hotspots  
The Public Sector Hotspots strand of the Super-connected Belfast programme aims to fund the installation of wireless/Wi-Fi equipment into buildings regularly visited by members of the public. The funding covers broadband connections and equipment, wiring and the cost of installation.
- 2.13 Public buildings eligible for funding must meet the following criteria:
- Hotspots will only be provided within public buildings (owned or long-leased, and occupied by the Council or other public bodies).
  - The funding is limited to capital works only with an obligation on the Council and its partners (NICS) to operate the service for a minimum of 2 years and to cover all annual revenue costs.
  - The scheme will cover the capital costs of wireless connectivity within buildings, cabling and where necessary the telecoms connection to the building.
  - Public Wi-Fi connectivity is primarily for members of the public, however, staff or other groups within

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a building may also make use of the connectivity if there is spare capacity.

- 2.14 In total 120 buildings have been identified for inclusion and a list of these has been circulated. The list is made up of 109 Council buildings and 11 NICS buildings.
- 2.15 The Public Building Hotspot procurement is underway. The tender closed on the 29th August. Six submissions were received and it is anticipated that the successful supplier will be selected by mid-September.
- 2.16 Metro Bus Wi-Fi  
The Super-connected Belfast team are also actively working to ring-fence DCMS funding to facilitate the installation of Wi-Fi on the Translink Metro bus fleet. Following positive legal opinion on State Aid the project team are awaiting confirmation from Translink that they can meet the criteria stipulated by DCMS, namely:
- that the project can be delivered by March 2015,
  - does not require State aid clearance,
  - and has a clear and sustainable business case as required by HMT Green Book requirements for ensuring value for money.

A decision on whether this addition will be included will be made by the end of September. The estimated cost of the work is £600k and the operating costs will be met by Translink.

- 2.17 Metro-Wireless  
The Metro Wireless concession contract, which aimed to deliver a city centre wireless zone, has experienced unexpected difficulties. Consequently we must now reconsider our approach to delivering this strand of the Super-connected programme.
- 2.18 Five Telecoms Providers originally applied to take part in the procurement exercise and four successfully met our pre-qualification criteria. However, three of the four pre-qualified organisations withdrew from the procurement during the competitive dialogue process, indicating they were unable to develop a viable commercial business case to sustain a city centre Metro-wireless rollout.

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- 2.19 The remaining supplier (GOWEX) presented a highly attractive proposal which met the aspirations of the Council to have a sustainable widespread Wi-Fi offering in the city centre. The supplier also presented a number of impressive case studies of successful high profile city centre Wi-Fi projects which included, New York, Paris and San Francisco. Regrettably, Gowex has experienced widely publicised financial difficulties which have invalidated their pre-qualification status.
- 2.20 It is now proposed that the Council takes ownership of the delivery of this project and procure and implement a city centre Wi-Fi service using funding already allocated within our capital programme. The European commission considers that public funding to a single recipient of up to €200,000 (£160,000) over a 3 year period, has a negligible impact on trade and competition, and does not require State Aid notification. Therefore, the Council is free to establish its own city centre Wi-Fi zone within these constraints.
- 2.21 Initial market research with telecoms suppliers indicates strong interest in a Council funded Wi-Fi network, where Wi-Fi cells are located in areas of high footfall like the grounds of the City Hall. By focussing the installation of Wi-Fi cells on public buildings and by making use of ducting that has already been installed as part of the 'Streets Ahead' initiative a significant Wi-Fi zone concentrated on the city centre can still be delivered. It should be noted that if this approach is successful at the end of the three year period another €200,000 can be invested to extend the original Wi-Fi zone.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 The Super-connected Project Team will continue to manage the three strands of the programme and the Belfast Voucher team will administer voucher applications for Belfast and Derry.
- 3.2 Belfast Connection Voucher Scheme  
Allocated funding of £9.8M will remain with DCMS and will be released based on the take-up of vouchers.
- 3.3 Public Sector Wi-Fi Hotspots  
£1.35M has been earmarked for this strand based on the building list estimates submitted and funding for Translink Wi-Fi.

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	<b>Capital costs</b>	<b>Revenue costs</b>
BCC (109 buildings)	£400,000	£180,000 (BCC annual revenue)

- 3.4 **Metro-Wireless**  
€200,000 (£160,000) over a 3 year period can be allocated to this project without requiring State Aid notification.
4. **Equality and Good Relations Implications**  
N/A
5. **Recommendations**
- 5.1 Members are asked to support the series of demand-stimulation seminars that will take place across the city.
- 5.2 Members are also asked to approve the initiation of a council led city centre Wi-Fi project.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Social Clauses Review and Policy for Consultation**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 **Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- Update members on progress to date with the inclusion of social clauses in council contracts using the interim policy position of CIFNI criterion
  - Seek members feedback and direction on a draft council policy
  - Agree to the extent of data capture for compliance verification
  - Agree a partnership approach to the development of a third party delivery model for social clauses associated with employment

2.0 **Relevant Background Information**

- 2.1 As part of the £150 million Investment Programme (IP), members asked for the introduction, where appropriate, of social clauses and community benefit clauses into council tenders. On 4 July 2012, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed legislation that enables Councils to take account of certain non-commercial matters in the award of public works

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contracts. Such criteria were previously considered as ineligible.

- 2.2 The legislation introduced in July 2012 now enables councils to consider the use of social clauses as contractual conditions, requiring contractors, for example, to provide employment opportunities for the unemployed. These conditions must be incorporated in such a way that they do not infringe the general principles of EU law and also ensure that they remain compliant equality obligations.
- 2.3 The adoption of social clauses within the Northern Ireland public sector has primarily focused on delivering employability-related benefits. These are through the provision of apprenticeships and employment/work placements for students and the long-term unemployed. Whilst social clauses with an employability focus have been most high profile to date, a wider range of commercial, environmental and community-focused clauses exist.
- 2.4 Minimum standards for social clauses within construction works contracts have been agreed by CIFNI (Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland) and CPD. (Central Procurement Directorate) Similar standards are being developed for construction services as well as for goods and services contracts. To be legally admissible these clauses must be relevant to the subject matter of the contract
- 2.5 Whilst these standards are a useful benchmark, they don't necessarily maximise the economic return, nor do they allow for local economic and social conditions to be taken into account.
- 2.6 Members will also be aware that two motions in Council were adopted which impact on the development of the Councils policy formation. These were the inclusion of the living wage as a contract condition and a motion targeting the long term unemployed ('Real Jobs' motion). . Appendix A contains the wording of these motions.

### 3.0 Progress To Date

- 3.1 At the 23 October 2013 meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, members were advised that this work had commenced. As an interim measure, they agreed that all council contracts with minimum labour values of £250,000 and contract duration of 6 months would be screened for the inclusion of social clauses. In the absence of a social clause

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policy, members also agreed to adopt the minimum social clause standards as agreed by CPD and CIFNI.

- 3.2 All internally administered council tenders are now screened against the agreed criteria and in conjunction with Legal Services, Economic Initiatives and agreement with other stakeholders, such as funders, to consider incorporating appropriate contract clauses seeking social benefit.
- 3.3 Appendix B outlines those current contracts which have been captured by the agreed criteria. In total there are 11 contracts with Social Clauses included and a further 8 tender opportunities identified with the programme of tenders and capital works programme for their inclusion. Both the works contracts at Woodvale and Dunville Parks had provision for social clauses but as these were applied respectively and were voluntary thus had only limited success.
- 3.4 Experience to date has identified the importance of engaging with local businesses and residents to support social clause delivery and maximise local benefit. For example to facilitate delivery of the social clauses for the Girdwood Community Hub project, extensive engagement has taken place with local community groups and training providers to promote employment and work placement opportunities available through this contract. Working through the Girdwood Community Forum a subgroup has been created to provide a conduit between council, the appointed contractors and community representatives to engage and inform residents and businesses of employment and supply chain opportunities arising through the social clauses. This engagement included the other non council contractors on this site and provides a joined up approach for social clause delivery across the Girdwood Park site. Although somewhat effective to date, this approach is very resource intensive and would be a challenge to deliver, at this level/ scale, in considering the number of contracts expected to be delivered in the forthcoming months across the capital programme.
- 3.5 Ongoing work is taking place with Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) regarding the social clauses included within the Windsor Park and Casement Park Stadia developments. Council is working in partnership with DCAL and Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) to engage with local communities and businesses to increase their accessibility to employment and supply chain opportunities arising from the social clauses in these projects. In addition officers have been working with DCAL officials on both Olympia and Andersonstown contracts incorporating, as part

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of the funding condition, an agreed set of social clauses. Whilst these clauses are broadly aligned to those adopted by council, the most notable difference requires contractors to employ new apprentices, in addition to a 5% of workforce industry standard agreed by industry and CPD. As outlined below clauses relating to apprenticeships present specific challenges for council.

**4.0 Key Issues**

**4.1 Experience to date of integrating social clauses into council contracts has identified a number of challenges for council, these include:**

- The integration of social clauses within council contracts requires legal consideration on a per contract basis.

To minimise risk of non-compliance, significant resources will be required to support contractors to deliver upon these clauses in order to manage this risk.

- To effectively manage social clause delivery, resources will also be required to collect performance data and then collate this information to provide an overview of the collective impact of the clauses.
- The most frequently used social clauses are employability related, with options available to employ the long term unemployed, apprenticeships and/or student placements amongst others.

**4.2 The nature of these types of clauses provide challenges for council including:**

1. The scale of council contracts in terms of value and duration may make it impracticable for suppliers to deliver longer-term employability benefits such as apprenticeships, the duration of which is expected to be longer than the timescale of the council's contract.
2. Social clauses, are restricted to the timescale of the contract to which they apply, creating potentially unsustainable employment. Whilst Council can try to encourage Contractors to provide sustainable employment, this cannot be enforced or managed by council post contract delivery.
3. Resources are available through DEL to assist contractors to source long term unemployed people

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for employment opportunities, work placements or apprenticeships. However this is an advisory and signposting service only; it is still the responsibility of the contractor to find the candidates to fulfil employment related social clause requirements, which is unsatisfactory for number of reasons. Without a coherent policy position across the public sector in terms of a pipeline of projects and serious economic development support to source, skill and support people needing jobs, the impact of social clause will be piecemeal and limited.

- 4.3 Experience has shown through the development of the Girdwood social clauses that policy and contractual clauses should only be regarded as a means to an end, as it is more important that all the stakeholders including the contractors embrace the spirit of the policy.
- 4.4 The draft policy for consultation, see Appendix C, attempts to capture an evolving understanding of what it is possible to achieve within current council resources. It allows for the continuation of the existing industry standard criteria and will be accompanied by a guidance document which is still to be drafted. The policy is intended to lay a foundation for a more progressive solution as both the industry and the council attunes itself. It has attempted to capture the IP commitments as well as the subsequent motions adopted by the council by targeting long term unemployed and creating apprenticeships.
- 4.5 On 6 January 2014 a notice of motion was adopted by Council calling for a 'real jobs' contract clause. Specifically it asked that:

*'The 'Real Jobs' clause will guarantee ring fenced, fully paid jobs and apprenticeships for the long-term unemployed (12+ months).'*

This has been captured within the policy in the form of employment weeks for the long term unemployed as it prevents unscrupulous contractors creating 'one day' jobs. It is constrained by being only applicable for the duration of that specific contract.

- 4.6 Following the adoption of the 'living wage' motion officers held discussions with CEF. Their view is the impact of the Living Wage motion is unlikely to impact on construction contracts as allowances already exceed the Living Wage. However when we attempted to apply these to service contracts we have been advised following European case law tests that legal opinion

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suggests that the Living Wage may not always be legally permissible, because in certain circumstances it could be seen to disadvantage Contractors from other member states.

**5.0 Monitoring and Reporting**

Clauses have the potential to span a number of areas including employability, promotion of supply chain opportunities, environmental benefits and/or project specific community and regeneration benefits. Therefore the data collection issues alone mean that there is a need to consider how this information is gathered on a contract by contract basis and then brought together to give an overview of the collective impact of the clauses. To minimise the risk of non-compliance, a streamlined reporting process needs to be established through which contractors would report upon progress against social clause requirements. Members should be aware that there is no existing capacity within current staff resources to undertake this dedicated role and this would need to be addressed.

- 5.1** A reporting template is available through CIFNI and this has been used by the council. This template requires contractors to report against social clause requirements on a monthly /quarterly basis in order to validate contractual obligations. The existing template requires the reporting of personal data on the individuals benefiting from employability-related clauses. Due to the transfer of personal data, this may have data protection implications for council.
- 5.2** It is proposed that some amendments would be made to the template to simplify the information requested from the contractor, removing the need to capture personal data. Instead, the postcode of the apprentice/work placement candidate would be recorded, as well as the number of weeks employment/work placement weeks achieved.
- 5.3** This will help confirm how many apprentices/work placements were from the council area. It would also ensure that the wider social clause requirements in terms of apprentice/work placement numbers and duration of employment were available for recording. In order to provide assurances to the council that there was no double counting, we intend to ask contractors to provide the last three digits of the candidate's national insurance number and we could compare these across all the reports received. However it will not be possible to use the DEL verification process to check the information.

**6.0 Potential Collaborative Model for Apprenticeships**

- 6.1** Alluded to previously the Council is limited in what it can achieve when acting on this matter in isolation from others with similar contract clauses. Potential exists to work in partnership with others in the city leading key investment projects such as the University of Ulster Belfast campus development and SIB, to create a pool of public sector contracts with social clauses included. Collectively the scale and duration of these individual contracts, would create the potential for much larger economic returns and would accommodate longer term employment opportunities such as apprenticeships.
- 6.2** Good practice examples, See Appendix D, highlights that these third party models, which feed off a collective pipeline of contracts, has been successful in both Greater Manchester and Liverpool. In both these examples social enterprises act as a delivery vehicle for the fulfilment of the contractual obligations for contractors, across a number of contracts from a range of public sector organisations. This particular model which has operated under a different legislative framework for some time has additional advantages in that it can quite legitimately be focused at a local level.
- 6.3** The set up costs of such a model are not insignificant and would be required to be shared amongst those wishing to avail of it. Whilst there have been some discussions with the relevant organisations no firm commitment has been given to the collaborative apprenticeship model. Likewise, any potential operator of such a scheme would need to be assured of a pipeline of opportunities to order to make the commitment to recruiting the apprentices and ensuring that they would be able to complete their full apprenticeship programme.
- 6.4** Corporate Management Team is in discussion with the Chief Executive of Centre of Economic and Social Inclusion as well as the Director of skills Employment at New Economy Manchester to:
- Identify how other local authorities in the UK have played an active role in local employability and skills strategies
  - Understand how other local authorities have moved away from multiple delivery agents towards a more targeted and streamlined approach
  - Understand how economic competitiveness can be maximised while ensuring that those further from the

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**labour market have the opportunity to build their skills  
and avail of employment opportunities**

**A further report will be brought back to members.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted a request for a Party Briefing on the matter by the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

**Democratic Services and Governance**

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

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

<b>Organisation/ Body</b>	<b>Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
International House Belfast	International World House Organisation Directors' Conference Dinner 25th April, 2015 Approximately 120 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 meeting will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £500
Falls Youth Providers	Falls Youth Awards 25th November, 2014 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event aims to highlight the achievements of young people in the city and to promote the talent which exists among the award recipients. Awards will be presented to recognise success in areas such as education, sport, training, citizenship, leadership, participation and	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits  Approximate cost £625

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			<p>arts and culture.</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' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	
<p>Belfast Education and Library Board – Inclusion and Diversity Team</p>	<p>Inclusion and Diversity Team – Showcase Event and Prize-giving</p> <p>15th December, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 150 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>	<p>This event aims to highlight the achievements of the diverse groups living in the city who often feel marginalised and excluded. It will seek to provide the opportunity for communities to become more inclusive and integrated while promoting diversity within the Cities growing multi-cultural population.</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</p>

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The Scout Association	Queen's Scout Award and Chief Scout's Award Certificate Presentation 25th March, 2015 Approximately 450 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<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>	It should be pointed out that this organisation has been granted use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality for a similar event on 9th January, 2015. Given the costs involved the organisation has agreed to meet the charges for their hospitality, therefore it is recommended that the use of the City Hall be granted.
Young Enterprise Northern Ireland	Young Enterprise Northern Ireland Innovation Awards 7th May, 2015 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	<p>This event will celebrate the achievements of a cross-section of young people from the community, many of whom have learning and physical disabilities. The programme provides the opportunity to showcase the unique talents of the participants while clearly communicating that a lack of academic success does not equate to failure.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key themes 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and of 'Better support for</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits  Approximate cost of £1,000

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			people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
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The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a report on a review on the Use of the City Hall policy would be submitted in October.

**Use of iPads**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st September, 2012, it had considered a report which had outlined a business case for the introduction of iPads for Members. At that meeting the Committee had agreed:

- to the provision of iPads and associated software to Members;
- to the "Terms of Use" for the allocation of iPads;
- that Digital Services schedule a procurement programme, training and distribution of iPads to Members and a demonstration of the technology; and
- to continue with a dual system of paper reports and iPads from November, 2012 till the end of March, 2013.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that, during that period, the programme had been successfully rolled out, with Members being provided with iPads and appropriate training. At that time, a number of Members had indicated that they would be content to rely on the iPad for the provision of electronic papers and to cease to receive paper copies of reports from 1st April, 2013. However, due to a number of technical difficulties, it had been decided to continue with the dual issue of papers to ensure that the iPad "modern.gov" app had been fully tested for resilience and robustness. During the intervening period, the app had proved to be effective and the Council was now in a position to cease the printing and issuing of paper copies of Committee reports. Further training would be provided on the operation of the iPad generally and on the app specifically for any Member who requested that. That might include:

- (1) ensuring that the most up-to-date version of the Modern.Gov app is installed;
- (2) demonstrating good practice so that minutes and reports were downloaded in advance of meetings to ensure that papers could be accessed in situations where Wi-Fi was unavailable;

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- (3) showing how documents could be bookmarked, annotated and searched; and
- (4) in addition, a guidance note on the use of the iPad app would be issued to all Members.

The Committee agreed that, for those Members who had received an iPad from the Council, the printing of paper copies of Committee and Working Group reports would cease with effect from 1st November, 2014; and for the Council minute book with effect from 1st January, 2015.

**Finance/Value-for-Money**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Panel of 16th September.

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

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 11th September.

**Voluntary and Community Sectors –  
Pricing Rates for the Use of Council Facilities**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd August, it had agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting in relation to the undernoted Notice of Motion which had been referred to it by the Council on 1st July, 2014:

*“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.”*

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, as part of the Service Convergence work being undertaken by the Council in preparation for Local Government Reform, the current pricing schedules, including discount arrangements for charities, community and voluntary organisations were being captured for facilities in the new boundary area. As part of the transition plan proposals, a pricing policy, including discounts, would be presented to the Shadow Council for consideration.

The Committee noted that the consideration of a preferential policy which recognised the good work of the voluntary and community sectors across Belfast would be undertaken as part of the Pricing Policy Service Convergence work which must be completed and agreed by the Shadow Council before 1st April, 2015.

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**Request to Participate in Cinemagic Initiative**

The Director of Organisational Development reported that the Council had been requested to participate and part fund a Cinemagic initiative aimed at addressing the under representation of women in politics. The project, to which the Northern Ireland Assembly had already agreed to be a partner, would involve twenty-four young women, aged between 16 and 24 years, being given the opportunity to attend a week long intensive filming course with industry experts to create a short film. The aim of the film would be to:

- inspire a new generation of young women to become leaders in the political arena;
- educate other young women on the political decision making process in Northern Ireland; and
- highlight the current barriers to young women in politics and suggested solutions.

The initiative would be launched by Cinemagic as part of its acclaimed festival in November, 2014. Filming would take place in February, 2015 and the films would be screened on International Women's Day in March, 2015 in the City Hall.

The Director explained that this year's theme for International Women's Day "Equality for Women is Progress for All" stressed the vital role of women as agents of development. One of the most effective ways to do that was to put women at the heart of the political process. The young women would be challenged to make a short film to inspire a new generation of young women to step up and become leaders in the most influential arena in the world – the political arena, covering one of the following issues affecting young women today:

- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse
- Equal Pay
- Single parent families/child care
- Negative effect of social media
- Employment opportunities (STEM).

The under representation of women in politics was a key theme in the Council's Gender Action Plan, therefore, the proposed project linked directly to the aims of the Plan. Cinemagic would manage the media and communications issues and that would be carried out in association with both partners. The total budget required for the delivery of the initiative was £13,000 to be jointly funded by the Council and the Northern Ireland Assembly. Participation in the project had been considered by the Women's Steering Group and that Group had recommended that the Committee agreed to the funding request of £6,500. The funding proposal would meet the Council's criteria

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for special expenditure under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance (Northern Ireland) Act, 2011.

It was

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to approve expenditure of £6,500 for the aforementioned event 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 direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.

**Forthriver Innovation Centre Operator Procurement**

The Committee was reminded that the Forthriver Innovation Centre was a 55,000 square feet capital build project, with 35,000 square feet nett lettable space located off the Springfield Road. The capital build cost of the Innovation Centre was estimated at £9.1 million, with up to 75% of eligible costs to be provided by Invest NI and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme funding. A letter of offer from Invest NI for its contribution was expected imminently.

The quantifiable outputs for the project (in line with the indicative funding letter of offer) included the support of approximately 221 jobs in the ongoing operation of the Centre; the delivery of a suite of collaborative, specific, exemplar business support within the Centre; and five collaborative networks to be supported from 2016 onwards. The Director of Development reported that, in parallel with the capital programme and planning application, officers were preparing documents to commence a competitive dialogue procurement process for the centre operator. The operator's roles would include the following:

- to proactively manage the day-to-day and strategic activities of the centre;
- to support the creation of employment opportunities and act as a catalyst for the further economic development and regeneration of the area;
- to support more business starts to help existing businesses grow and become more productive;
- to achieve the maximum occupancy levels;
- to maintain an attractive and innovative environment to encourage businesses to establish at the Centre;
- to maximise potential tenancy income, while fixing rates which were attractive to the target market; and

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- to provide appropriate levels of assurances to the Council regarding the financial performance of the Centre, in line with Council requirements and those set out in the letter of offer.

It was proposed that the tendering exercise for the operator contract would be carried out using the competitive dialogue method of procurement. That would allow the Council to engage with potential operators to maximise the benefits that could be derived from the contract. The competitive dialogue process would inform a contract for services, through which a list of services would be established and the operator would provide costs for the delivery of each. The process would allow, in particular, a discussion with potential operators regarding the potential regeneration impact of their service delivery, taking account of the need to support economic and social regeneration in the area. The process was likely to take from nine till twelve months to complete, depending on the number of interested operators.

He pointed out that no expenditure would be incurred on either the operator contract or the build contract until the letter of offer was in place from Invest NI.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to:

- approve the procurement of the operator contract for the Innovation Centre using the competitive dialogue process, subject to the receipt of the letter of offer from Invest NI; and
- to grant delegated authority to the Director of Development to approve the most economically advantageous tender for the contract, subject to a form of contract being drawn up by Legal Services.

**Asset Management**

**Leases, Licences and Disposals**

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

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

**(i) Entrances to City Cemetery/Falls Park and Cavehill Country Park – Environmental Improvements**

- 1.1 At its meetings on 14 August 2014 and 11 September 2014 the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the carrying out of Environmental Improvement works by the Department of Social Development (DSD) at all three Falls Road entrances to the City Cemetery/Falls Park and at the Carr's Glen entrance to Cavehill Country Park. DSD are 100% funding the capital works with the Council to carry out any future maintenance which the Council considers appropriate. The combined**

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estimated capital cost of the schemes is £337,000 (split £273K at City Cemetery/Falls Park and £64K at Cavehill Country Park).

(ii) Contractor's Licence at Clifton Street Graveyard

- 1.2 Clifton Street Graveyard dates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and is of historic significance. Boundary walls at the cemetery are Listed by NIEA. Portions of the Listed walls immediately adjoin the gable wall of private commercial premises at 13/15 Antrim Road. The owner of the commercial premises wishes to carry out repair works to the gable of her property and, to facilitate this, is seeking approval to erect scaffolding on the Council's land within Clifton Street Graveyard.
- 1.3 A building contractor has been engaged by the owner of 13/15 Antrim Road to carry out repairs to the gable and other elements of her property. The works are planned to last approximately 2 to 3 weeks and the contractor has sought a facility to allow the installation and retention of scaffolding for the duration of the works.
- 1.4 The contractor plans to construct scaffolding from the Antrim Road side of the boundary and bring scaffolding elements on to the Council's land from there. No materials or vehicles will be brought along the access paths/roads within the Graveyard.
- 1.5 This scaffolding will be erected independently of the boundary and other Listed walls and will not bear upon these walls. The contractor will also be required to satisfy the Council he has complied with any NIEA requirements in relation to carrying out works in the vicinity of Listed structures.

(iii) Cherryvale Gate Lodge – Proposed Change of Use and Grant of Rights to Services

- 1.6 The Gate Lodge at Cherryvale Playing Fields was sold by the Council in 1998 by way of a 999 year lease which, among other things, restricted use of the property to residential purposes. The current owner of the property has sought a lifting of this restriction to allow use of the property for office and/or residential purposes. To accommodate the change of use a Deed of Variation is proposed and the Deed will also sweep up some detailed issues related to the installation of utility services which cross the Council's adjoining land.
- 1.7 A report, a copy of which has been circulated, was received by the Parks and Leisure Committee on 11 September 2014. The report sets out the proposed changes, for incorporation in a

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proposed Deed of Variation, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Director of Property and Projects will provide a verbal update on the outcome of the Parks and Leisure Committee in this regard.

(iii) Proposed disposal land at Balmoral Industrial Estate

- 1.8 The site at 29-33 Boucher Road, shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 4 and known as plot 18 Balmoral, was sold by the Council to Kennedy & Morrison by way of a 999 year lease in August 1972. The Kennedy & Morrison interest is now held by Eldora Ltd. This plot forms part of Balmoral Industrial Estate where the Council is still the Head Landlord for the most of the Estate. The majority of the sites are held under 125 year leases with ground rents which are subject to review every 5 years. This particular site was however one of the initial sites disposed of within the Estate by way of a 999 year Lease. The area of land was retained by the Council for a proposed road scheme; the scheme did not proceed and the land is surplus to Council's requirements. Eldora Ltd have recently approached the Council seeking to acquire the site shaded green on the attached plan.

2 Key Issues

(i) Entrances to City Cemetery/Falls Park and Cavehill Country Park – Environmental Improvements

- 2.1 The reports to Parks and Leisure Committee note the requirements for Licence Agreements at each location to regulate access to the sites by DSD contractors. In accordance with Standing Orders the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is required to the grant of Licences of this nature. A Licence Fee is not appropriate in these cases on account of the capital investments/enhancement of the respective Council property assets being carried out by the Licensee.

(ii) Contractor's Licence at Clifton Street Graveyard

- 2.2 The purpose of the proposed Licence Agreement between the contractor and the Council is to allow the erection of scaffolding within the Council's property and to set out the responsibilities and liabilities of the parties.
- 2.3 One of the reasons for the proposed works is believed to be the presence of ivy growing up the gable wall at 13/15 Antrim Road. This ivy may originate on Council owned land, although this presently remains uncertain. Parks and Leisure personnel

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have however agreed to treat any ivy identified on the Council's side of the site boundary. In view of the circumstances it is not proposed to charge the contractor the Licence Fee which would normally accompany the grant of such permissions to contractors. However Members may wish to note that part of the purpose of levying such a fee is to discourage contractors from remaining on site any longer than is required to expeditiously complete necessary works. In view of this it has been agreed with the contractor in this case that the envisaged period of the works (up to 3 weeks) would not be subject to a Licence Fee but that any period thereafter would be subject to a fee of £50 per week.

- 2.4 The Council will retain a right to terminate the Licence if the presence of the scaffolding results in anti-social behaviour within the graveyard.

(iii) Cherryvale Gate Lodge – Proposed Change of Use and Grant of Rights to Services

- 2.5 The proposed variation to the permitted use of the gate lodge, for offices and/or residential purposes remains consistent with the use of the immediately adjoining Council land at Cherryvale Playing Fields. It is considered the value of the property for office purposes does not exceed its value for residential purposes and thus no premium is being sought from the current owner.

- 2.6 In relation to regularisation of rights associated with utility services across the Council's adjoining land, there is benefit to both the Council and the gate lodge owner from the proposed arrangements. In any case their omission from the original lease is likely to have simply been a minor oversight.

(iv) Proposed disposal land at Balmoral Industrial Estate

- 2.7 Part of the Eldora Ltd site at plot 18 adjoining the site shaded green has become infested with Japanese knotweed. The Eldora Ltd is in the process of removing and treating the Japanese knotweed. As part of those works Eldora Limited would like to incorporate the lands shaded green into their site.

- 2.8 Due to the location of this small site between the back of the footpath and the Eldora site there would be no demand from any other party for this area of land. Officers have therefore agreed, subject to Council consent, to sell this area of land to Eldora Ltd for £4000.

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**3 Resource Implications**

**Finance and Assets**

**(i) Entrances to City Cemetery/Falls Park and Cavehill Country Park – Environmental Improvements**

- Potential additional revenue costs of £1000 per annum, related to additional electricity consumption at Falls Park due to new lighting installations. Any other additional maintenance costs at either location are likely to be minimal and in any case remain at the Council's discretion. All works are to be completed by March 2015 to ensure no financial liability for the capital schemes transfers to the Council post 1 April 2015.
- The works will improve the appearance of the various entrances and will make the assets more visually attractive. The capital works at City Cemetery/Falls Park include re-surfacing of parts of the adjoining Roads Service footways and the works at Cavehill Country Park include some improvements on adjoining land owned by the Belfast Education and Library Board. The responsibility for seeking agreement from these adjoining land owners lies with DSD.

**3.2 (ii) Contractor's Licence at Clifton Street Graveyard**

- A Licence Fee of £50 per week would become payable if the proposed works extend beyond the envisaged 3 weeks duration.
- The Licence Agreement would require the contractor to reinstate any damage caused as a result of his use.

**3.3 (iii) Cherryvale Gate Lodge – Proposed Change of Use and Grant of Rights to Services**

- No financial implications arise from this report.
- The Leaseholders and the Council will mutually benefit in relation to the proposed formalised arrangements associated with provision of utility services. The Leaseholder would benefit from the flexibility the proposed change of use would bring and the Council would retain safeguards in the Lease in

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relation to the future compatibility of any future development with the surrounding Playing Fields.

**3.4 (iv) Proposed disposal land at Balmoral Industrial Estate**

- The sale of this area of land will generate a receipt of £4000 for the Council.
- The sale will have no impact on retained Council assets at Balmoral Industrial Estate.

**Human Resources**

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

**4 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members agree:

**4.1 (i) Entrances to City Cemetery/Falls Park and Cavehill Country Park – Environmental Improvements**

To grant relevant Licence Agreements to DSD to regulate access by DSD contractors onto Council land to carry out agreed Environmental Improvement works at the entrances to Falls Park and Cavehill Country Park, in accordance with the plans submitted to the Parks and Leisure Committee and if DSD have proceeded in advance of Council approval to require DSD to complete such Licences at the earliest opportunity.

**4.2 (ii) Contractor's Licence at Clifton Street Graveyard**

To authorise the provision of access onto Council land at Clifton Street Graveyard to enable the construction and use of scaffolding for approximately 3 weeks to facilitate the carrying out of works to the gable wall of 13/15 Antrim Road, subject to the terms outlined in this report being incorporated in an appropriate Licence Agreement to be drawn up by the Town Solicitor.

**4.3 (iii) Cherryvale Gate Lodge – Proposed Change of Use and Grant of Rights to Services**

To ratify the decision of the Parks and Leisure Committee, that is:

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- 1. Authorise the proposed alteration of the User clause in the Lease dated 18 March 1998 to allow use of the premises for residential and/or office purposes.**
- 2. Authorise the formalisation of arrangements in relation to the grant of rights to the Leaseholder and the Council, as set out in the Parks and Leisure Committee report, in relation to utility services at 670 Ravenhill Road/ Cherryvale Playing Fields.**
- 3. Authorise the proposed change of User and Grant of Rights be incorporated within a Deed of Variation to be drawn up by the Town Solicitor with each side bearing their own legal costs.**

**4.4 (iv) Proposed disposal land at Balmoral Industrial Estate**

**Members are asked to approve the sale of the area of land to Eldora Ltd for £4000.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Duncrue Industrial Estate: Proposed Marketing of  
Former Car Compound/Option Site Lands**

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Committee that the Duncrue Industrial Estate contained 46 sites which were leased from the Council by way of long leases, usually 125 years, subject to the payment of reviewable ground rents. The rents receivable from that Estate represented a valuable income stream for the Council, with an estimated rental income of circa £1,329,000 in 2014/15. There were also a large number of people employed within the estate across a variety of sectors and the various businesses located there provided a valuable source of rates income. The leases within the Estate were proactively managed by the Estates Management Unit to ensure rent reviews and lease terms were adhered to and optimised for the benefit of the Council.

The Director explained that, whilst the majority of the Council's land within the Duncrue Industrial Estate had been let and developed, there remained one area of land that was undeveloped. That comprised a site adjacent to the Council's operational depot at Duncrue Complex which was previously used as a car compound as part of a joint Council and Driver and Vehicle Agency "Operation Clean Up" initiative. In addition, it joined another area of land fronting onto the Dargan Road which was previously held under an option as part of a lease of a larger site. That option had expired and the site had reverted to the Council. The option site was not currently used for any purpose.

He pointed out that the former car compound had subsequently been occupied on a temporary basis by the Community Safety and by Waste Management for project related bin storage and the assembly and storage of salt/grit and more recently a stockpile of sand bags in relation to the recent flooding in East Belfast. The combined site, which had frontage onto the Dargan Road, extended to 2.73 acres.

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At its meeting on 20th March, 2009 the committee had noted the appropriation of the former car compound site from the Health and Environmental Services Committee for inclusion within the Corporate Landbank. The former option site lands were also held by the Committee. Subsequently, at its meeting on 21st May, the Committee had agreed to bring forward various sites, including the above-mentioned site to a “market ready” stage, in order to progress disposal when the market improved or if any advantageous proposals were presented.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the Committee agrees that the land at the former car compound and the option site on the Dargan Road be advertised to let on the open market on the basis of a 125 year lease, subject to five-yearly rent reviews and subject to a further report being submitted to the Committee in due course for approval to the terms of any proposed letting.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Gasworks: Review of Service Charge**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that sites within the Gasworks Business Park are leased out by the Council to developers by way of long leases and subject to payment of equity rents to the Council. In turn the developers have sublet the completed developments to a wide range of occupiers and the Council benefits from these sub lettings by virtue of receipt of an agreed % of the occupational rents. The Gasworks provides a significant income stream to the Council (£988,227 estimated income for 2014/15) and employs a large number of people across a range of business sectors. The completed developments also provide a valuable source of rates income.**
- 1.2 By way of lease agreements between the Council and the various developer Landlords, the Council are legally obliged to provide services aimed at maintaining the quality environment created within the Estate. Council recover costs from individual developers through the annual service charge on a ‘not for profit not for loss’ basis. Estate occupiers pay a building service charge (payable to their developer/landlord) in addition to the Estate service charge payable to Council. For a variety of reasons the annual service charge costs in the Gasworks Estate have increased significantly over the past few years.**
- 1.3 Whilst occupation levels of buildings located within the Gasworks are fairly high, there nevertheless remain vacancies**

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across the Estate. Landlords and lettings agents have highlighted the high services charges as having a negative impact on the ability to secure sub tenants to the vacant units. There is therefore a need to remain competitive in the market place in terms of the level of service charge as compared against other properties. Any reduction in the service charge costs should help attract and secure tenants. This in turn will benefit the Council whose equity rent could potentially increase as a result of new lettings.

- 1.4 Various developers have recently approached the Council requesting a review of the services provided to the Gasworks Estate with the aim of identifying cost saving measures. The two services specifically identified and which add a considerable proportion (73%) of the overall service charge budget of £176,000 per annum are external security (£73,000 pa) and the shuttle bus service (£56,000 pa).

2 Key Issues

Shuttle Bus

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15th February 2006 the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee approved the introduction of a shuttle bus service from the Gasworks to the city centre. It was intended as a one year pilot scheme. The Committee agreed that the shuttle bus service would operate for a period of one year between the city centre and the Gasworks site at a cost of £40,000 per annum. The service was initially operated by Translink and the cost for the pilot period was split on the basis of 50% via the annual service charge paid by the tenants with the remaining 50% payable by the Council. However the full cost of the service has subsequently been paid in full through the service charge. The contract was most recently re-tendered during summer 2013 and was awarded to Dial A Bus on a one year basis at a cost of £56,000 pa payable in full through the Service Charge
- 2.2 The bus operates at intervals of 20mins between the hours of 7am and 6pm Monday – Friday. Whilst the bus service is generally well utilised by some of the sub-tenants, not all businesses within the Gasworks make use of the service. On a regular basis it is understood to be utilised by local residents and shoppers as a free bus service to travel into town. Occupiers at the Gasworks have made representations to the Council that they feel this is unfair to the tenant companies who are subsidising the service. However, it is not possible to police this service in terms of identifying who is actually it.

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- 2.3 Consultation with developer landlords within the Gasworks indicates that the majority are supportive of the proposal to withdraw the shuttle bus service on the basis that it is a non essential service and inflicts a punitive charge to those businesses which do not make use of the service. Piloted initially as an incentive to attract tenants to the Gasworks, the site is now a well established business park and incentives such as a free bus could be deemed as no longer necessary. The general consensus was that the journey into the city centre on foot is not so great that there is a necessity to provide a shuttle bus service.
- 2.4 It is recognised that the cessation of the bus service will cause some inconvenience to those who make use of the service, however the Council provided no undertaking that the shuttle bus would be provided on a permanent basis. The bus has been in operation for 8 years and given that the current contract is due to end on 30th November 2014, this presents an opportunity to make significant savings in the Gasworks Service Charge by not renewing the contract from December 2014.
- 2.5 Officers have met with the bus operator to advise that the contract may potentially not be renewed as a result of a cost saving exercise. However, as a gesture of goodwill and to allow for communication of the change to the service it is proposed that the service would continue until 31st March 2015 which will tie in with the end of the service charge year.

**Security**

- 2.1 Security at the Gasworks is currently undertaken by an external security company, G4S on a 24/7 basis within the Estate. The contract is part of the Council's wider security contract. The main duties of security are patrolling the site, directing visitors, nightly closure of the gateway at railway bridge, reporting incidents of anti social behaviour and key holding.
- 2.2 Following consultation with each of the developer landlords as part of the Gasworks Service Charge review, they are supportive of the proposal to withdraw the security service between the hours of 7am and 7pm. Some of the sub-tenants have their own form of security either in the form of a static security guard attached to their own building or via security alarms. The provision of a 24/7 security guard service paid for in full through the service charge is perceived to be an additional unnecessary expense particular to those tenants who already have security arrangements in place.

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- 2.3 In light of the relatively low number of incidents at the Gasworks to date that required the intervention of security and the limited powers available to security personnel in terms of detaining and arrest, it would support the view that there is no requirement for a 24/7 security presence on the Estate. With this in mind, it is recommended that the security service between the hours of 7am and 7pm is withdrawn. The Council will retain the security guard service between the hours of 7pm and 7am to provide an out of hours security service and to open up and close the gates to the Gasworks as per the current arrangement. It is worth noting that there is directional signage at the entrance and throughout the Estate. The Council intend to maintain a link with the Council's security provider on a call out basis should a situation arise that warrants a security presence. However, in the event of an emergency situation the first point of contact would be the PSNI.
- 2.4 Officers have been in discussions with the security firm G4S and both parties are in agreement that the withdrawal of the service can be justified. The Council's intention would be to conduct a withdrawal of the 7am-7pm security guard service on a 3 month trial basis from 1st Oct – 31st December 2014 with a view to it becoming a permanent withdrawal between the hours of 7am – 7pm as of 1st January should no issues of concern arise during the trial period. It is also proposed to retain the services of Eventsec security during the school summer holiday period which tends to lead to an increase in anti social behaviour around the water feature. The Council's Security Manager is satisfied that the reduction in the extent of the service poses no major risk to the Estate.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

The withdrawal of the shuttle bus and the reduction in the security service will reduce the service charge costs payable by the tenants at the Gasworks and will ensure that the Gasworks is competitively placed against competing business locations in the marketplace. Any reduction in the service charge costs should help attract and secure tenants, which in turn will benefit the Council whose equity rent could potentially increase as a result of new lettings. There will be no financial loss incurred by the Council in securing reductions in the Service Charges as they are paid in full by the tenants.

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**3.2 Human Resources  
Estates & Legal Services staff resource.**

**3.3 Asset & Other Implications  
A reduction in service provision should not impair the quality environment created in the Gasworks Estate. The Council's Security manager is satisfied that the reduction in the security service poses no major risk to the Estate.**

**4 Recommendations**

**4.1 Committee is recommended to approve:**

**(a) That the shuttle bus service at the Gasworks is not renewed when it expires on 30th November 2014 and that a short extension of the contract to 31st March 2015 is agreed.**

**(b) Withdrawal of the external security guard service between the hours of 7am and 7pm on a trial basis from 1st October – 31st December 2014 with a view to permanent withdrawal during these hours from 1st January should the trial prove successful.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Proposed Disposal of Seapark Drive  
former Civic Amenity Site**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th January, 2008, it had declared the former Civic Amenity Site at Seapark Drive surplus to Council requirements and had granted approval to placing the property on the open market. Subsequently, it had been placed on the market in June, 2008 by estate agents acting on the instructions of Belfast City Council. The property was situated adjacent to the Northwood Linear Park in North Belfast and comprised small storage units and a service yard on a site area of 0.061 acres. It had remained on the market ever since and despite a continuous market strategy, it had attracted little interest.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that a recent cash offer of £32,000 had been received from the Managing Director of Fairco McIlhagga Limited, a local glass and glazing company, based on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast. The proposed use was in connection with his business, that is, the storage and fabrication of windows, doors and conservatories. The agent had recommended acceptance of the offer as in the current economic climate it compared favourably with similar premises which had recently been sold.

The Committee granted approval to the sale of the property for £32,000 as outlined, with the detailed terms and conditions to be agreed with the Estates Manager and Legal Services.

**Procurement of the Lord Mayor's Official Vehicle**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Members may recall that a decision was taken by the Committee in December 2013 and ratified at Council in January 2014 to begin the process of obtaining a replacement for the Lord Mayor's official vehicle.
- 1.2 It was also agreed at that time to modify and enhance the traditional procurement approach to be used in respect of this procurement exercise as follows:-
- 1.3
  - tenders to be sought on the basis of both outright purchase and leasing; *and*
  - tenders to be sought for the supply of both a traditional prestigious saloon car and also an SUV-type vehicle.
- 1.4 This approach will ensure that the Council has a wider choice of vehicle and more pricing options available, and will thus ensure a value-for-money outcome. Vehicle specifications have been prepared by the Fleet Manager for both vehicle types, and the procurement documentation is being finalised at present.
- 1.5 During consultative discussions it has been suggested that this asset should also have additional features, including a mobile wi-fi capability and in-car entertainment facilities to assist the Lord Mayor in carrying out the functions of the role while in transit.
- 1.6 The Fleet Manager has therefore developed the necessary specifications in liaison with the Procurement Unit, but it is proposed that these additional features be sought only as optional extras and priced separately, rather than be included as part of the basic specification. The Council would not therefore be committed to incurring the costs associated with these additional features if these are felt to be prohibitive or inappropriate.
- 1.7 In the context of this procurement exercise it would also be the intention to dispose of the existing Peugeot car currently used as a back-up vehicle, and to retain the existing BMW in service as the back-up car for such further period as is deemed feasible and appropriate by the Fleet Manager before disposing of it.

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**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 It is the intention to proceed with the relevant procurement exercise as soon as possible, subject to the Committee noting and endorsing the proposed approach as set out above.

**3 Resource Implications**

- 3.1 The acquisition of a high-specification car for the Lord Mayor's official use will normally involve a significant capital outlay in the order of £70,000 for outright purchase (depending on the specification adopted). The costs associated with leasing have not yet been assessed, but the tender submissions will be evaluated on a whole-life cost basis in order to ensure that the most economically advantageous financial option is chosen.
- 3.2 Provision has been made in the capital expenditure budgets for this procurement.

**4 Equality and Good Relations Screening**

- 4.1 There are no direct equality or good relations implications arising from this report.

**5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- a) notes and endorses the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official vehicle on the basis set out above; *and*
  - b) grants approval under the subsisting Scheme of Delegation for the evaluation and acceptance of tenders to be delegated to the Director of Property and Projects."

The Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to the following:

- (1) that the current Lord Mayor's car was not retained as the Lord Mayor's backup vehicle;
- (2) that the tender for the lease/purchase include all three of the civic vehicles;
- (3) that the options in relation to the replacement of the vehicles include the possibility of purchasing/leasing second hand vehicles; and
- (4) that officers investigate the possibility of a business/company sponsoring the replacement of the Lord Mayor's vehicle.

**Fleet Improvement Programme – Progress Report**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress of the Fleet Improvement Programme and make key recommendations as part of the improvement programme.**

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Fleet Improvement Programme is a key element of the Council’s Efficiency Programme generating significant capital and revenue savings for the Council in relation to fleet procurement and operations.**

**3.0 Key Issues**

- 3.1 Fleet Reduction: Following a review of fleet categories a fleet reduction model has been developed which will reduce the size of the Council fleet by 10%. This position will be reviewed post the implementation of the Route Optimisation (RO) and GPS technologies as these systems will provide a clear evidence base to identify further fleet reductions which can be realised.**

- 3.2 Fleet Procurement: A 4 year fleet replacement programme has now developed that will prioritise the most business critical fleet assets whilst ensuring that a robust and VFM fleet remains in operation and the Year 1 procurement exercise is already underway. The replacement programme agreed with departments will be fully aligned to the £6.4million budget available within the Capital Programme.**

**On the 13th Dec 2013 SP&R Committee approved the commencement of a tendering exercise, on both an outright purchase option and on a lease basis, for the replacement of the official vehicle for the Lord Mayor and delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, to accept the most advantageous tender. A separate report on this issue is being presented to Committee today.**

- 3.3 Global Positioning System (GPS) Implementation: A key recommendation of the VFM Review was the implementation of a GPS fleet tracking system in order to improve utilisation, planning and efficiency of the Council’s fleet assets. System research (including high level supplier demonstrations) has**

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been undertaken by the Steering Group to determine the specification and requirement by BCC and a specification produced and agreed by all user departments and provision of £250k has been made in the Capital Programme. A procurement exercise for this technology is currently underway.

In terms of staff and trade union consultation several papers have already been presented to JNCC on GPS. The views of the Trade Union Co-ordinators were initially sought and their broad assessment was that the implementation of the system would present no real difficulties in terms of the general principles involved. An external independent Privacy Impact Assessment was also commissioned and it concluded that there were no significant privacy-related issues arising from the use of such a system. A management side draft protocol has been developed by Corporate HR and trade union consultation is currently ongoing.

- 3.4 **Review of Route Optimisation and Vehicle Utilisation:** Cleansing Services are currently progressing the RO and Vehicle Utilisation project with support from Digital Services. A draft specification has been developed for the procurement of a Route Optimisation System and associated consultancy support and provision has been made within the current capital programme. Once implemented the GPS and RO systems should identify scope for significant reduction from our fleet going forward.
- 3.5 **Livery:** A report presented to the Transition Committee on 18th August 2014 and passed by Shadow Council on 9th September 2014 presented by Corporate Communications gained member agreement that the Council should not be rebranded.

However the VFM Fleet Review recommended that the Council should consider how it livered its vehicles in the future as the current livery had an upfront cost and also restricted disposal prices at the end of the vehicles life. Some initial work has already been already undertaken in this area including completing benchmarking activities with other local authorities (via APSE); researching prices with and without livery with suppliers and testing prices through the most recent procurement process.

It is difficult to accurately assess the potential level of savings that could be realised until a full market testing exercise is conducted against our fleet; however estimates have been made based on the initial analysis work completed. This paper is presenting three options:

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1) no change to the current status quo on our current approach to livery;

2) procure all future assets in one colour and apply the BCC decal estimated savings whilst phasing out the older two tone livery as vehicles come out of life - £338k;

3) procure all future assets in one colour and apply the BCC decal estimated savings of - £338k and re-spray all remaining BCC assets in this one colour at an estimated cost of - £707k.

The decision to pursue savings from fleet livery is not just a financial decision and it needs to be assessed against the potential impact on the corporate branding and the wider corporate image.

As we are currently on the verge of procuring a significant number of vehicles with plans to replace almost one fifth of our total fleet over the current 2014/15 financial year (*including the LGR transferring vehicles*) a corporate decision is now required from members on which approach to livery is to be applied to these new vehicles as these procurement exercises are already underway.

Members will be provided with hard copy graphical representations of the proposed livery options at committee for their consideration.

Members are also asked to give their approval to explore the opportunities for utilising our fleet assets as an advertising mechanism with the potential benefits of generating income and to offer the scope for promoting key community messages of benefit to BCC.

#### **4.0 Finance and Human Resource Implications**

##### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The capital and revenue savings associated with the ongoing implementation of the Fleet Improvement Plan will be factored into the 2015/16 budget setting process.

##### **4.2 Human Resource Implications**

At this stage there are no HR implications to be highlighted.

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**5.0 Decision Required**

**5.1 Members are asked to:**

**1. Consider each of the 3 options presented below and agree the approach to future livery that will be applied to the Council fleet:**

- a. No change to the current status quo on our current approach to livery;**
- b. Procure all future assets in one colour and apply the BCC decal estimated savings whilst phasing out the older two tone livery as vehicles come out of life - £338k**
- c. Procure all future assets in one colour and apply the BCC decal estimated savings of - £338k and re-spray all remaining BCC assets in this one colour at an estimated cost of - £707k.**

**2. To give approval to explore the benefits of advertising on our fleet assets with potential to generate additional income and to promote key community messages of benefit to BCC and approve that a more detailed specific report will be brought back to Members on this issue.”**

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt option 1b and granted approval to explore the benefits of advertising on the fleet asset.

**Human Resources**

**Public Consultation on Zero Hours Contracts**

The Committee considered the undernoted report and agreed with the proposed approach, but that the response should be strengthened:

**“1.0 Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 The Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) has published a public consultation paper relating to zero hours contracts, with a particular emphasis on their use by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).**

**1.2 The Minister for Employment and Learning made a statement in the Assembly on 23 June 2014 to announce the launch of the consultation which will seek evidence on the use of zero hours contracts and invite views on a range of potential actions that the Department could take to ensure that zero hours contracts occupy a positive space in the NI labour market.**

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1.3 The closing date for responses to the consultation is 29 September 2014. Any draft response approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will be submitted by this date as a draft response to be ratified by Council on 1 October 2014.

2.0 Key issues

2.1 The Council does not engage anyone on a zero hours contract but does, engage 'casual' workers to cover short-term, ad-hoc or unplanned work; to help during busy times; or to cover short-term sickness, leave or specialist assignments in its front-line, customer facing job roles. The Council's casual workers are formally recruited in line with the LGSC's Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection Procedures on the basis of merit. In addition, there is no obligation either on the Council to offer work or on the 'casual' worker to accept such work. The 'casual' worker is not subject to any detriment should she or he be unable to accept the work and there is provision for our casual workers to indicate the days and times when they will be available for work.

2.2 In essence, the Council's proposed view expressed within the response to the DEL consultation documentation is that:

- where used responsibly, zero hours contracts can support business flexibility to create employment opportunities, particularly in SMEs
- zero hours contracts, may be open to abuse by employers therefore any changes to legislation regarding their use should provide sufficient protection to individuals
- zero hours contracts in which employees are subject to detriment if they decline work, are not reasonable and should not be used
- exclusivity clauses, (clauses prohibiting workers from taking up other employment) if used in zero hours contracts, must be justified by an employer by a legitimate business reason
- the use of exclusivity clauses should be restricted
- the Council would welcome a legal definition of a zero hours contract, as well as more detailed guidance for employers and individuals, including model clauses for zero hours contracts to support employers and in particular SMEs

3.0 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

There are no financial implications contained in this report.

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**3.2 Human Resources**

There are no HR implications contained in this report.

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

There are no Asset or Other implications contained in this report.

**4.0 Recommendations**

**4.1 Members are asked to agree the Council's response to DEL's public consultation on zero hours' contracts attached at Appendix one."**

**Question and Answer Booklet: Public Consultation on Zero Hours Contracts**

**Your details**

Your name:

Jill Minne

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation**

Name of the organisation:

Belfast City Council

Your position within the organisation:

Director of Organisational Development

Address:

Chief Executive's Department  
City Hall  
BELFAST BT1 5GS

Email address:

minnej@belfastcity.gov.uk

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There follows a summary of each of the questions asked in the consultation document along with fields for you to provide responses. You should make yourself aware of the content of Chapter 5 of the consultation document prior to making your submission.

General Questions	
<b>Question 1</b>	<b>Are there circumstances when it is justifiable to include an exclusivity clause in a zero hours contract? If so, please state what these are.</b>
<b>Answer 1</b>	Exclusivity clauses are only acceptable when an employer is able to justify that the clause is in the interest of a legitimate business interest and the employee agrees to it.
<b>Question 2</b>	<b>Do you think that exclusivity contracts should be banned from zero hours contracts? Please state your reasons.</b>
<b>Answer 2</b>	Belfast City Council as an employer does not support the use of exclusivity clauses because they can prevent workers from taking up offers of work from other employers. Any exclusivity contract must be fully justified by an employer .
<b>Question 3</b>	<b>Would banning zero hours contracts or exclusivity clauses create any negative impacts for SMEs?</b>
<b>Answer 3</b>	We recognise that the use of zero hours contracts and exclusivity clauses may be more prevalent within SMEs and therefore there is a potential for a greater impact on SMEs should such a ban be implemented. Properly constructed zero hours contracts, where both parties to the contract enjoy flexibility, can provide advantages, provided these contracts are not open to abuse by employers and that there is a legitimate business justification for any exclusivity clauses.
<b>Question 4</b>	<b>Would you support a restriction on the use of exclusivity clauses in a zero hours contract? For example, banning the use of exclusivity clauses in employment contracts guaranteeing less than a minimum number of hours or a minimum gross pay? If so, could you please suggest what you consider the minimum hours, or minimum gross pay might be set at?</b>
<b>Answer 4</b>	We would support a restriction on exclusivity clauses to reduce the risk of potential misuse by employers .
<b>Question 5</b>	<b>Do you think a ban or restriction on the use of exclusivity clauses in employment contracts would discourage employers from creating jobs? Are there any other unintended consequences of such action that should also be considered?</b>
<b>Answer 5</b>	A ban or restriction on exclusivity clauses would not impact on the creation of jobs within our organisation. We recognise however that this may not be the case for SME's.

<p><b>Question 6</b></p>	<p><b>Do you think the Department should provide more focused guidance on the use of exclusivity clauses, for example setting out commonly accepted circumstances when they are justified and how to ensure both parties are clear on what the clause means? If you answer yes, what information should be included?</b></p>
<p><b>Answer 6</b></p>	<p>If exclusivity clauses are not banned, detailed guidance would be required, particularly for SMEs who may be most affected by changes to the law on zero hours contracts.</p>
<p><b>Question 7</b></p>	<p><b>Would a Code of Practice setting out fair and reasonable use of exclusivity clauses in zero hours contracts (a) help guide employers in their use, and (b) help individuals understand and challenge unfair practices? Please explain your response.</b></p>
<p><b>Answer 7</b></p>	<p>If exclusivity contracts are not banned, a Code of Practice to assist employers, particularly SMEs, and individuals would be welcome. This would be helpful to both parties to a contract to help them understand the employment rights and obligations.</p>
<p><b>Question 8</b></p>	<p><b>Do you think that a worker on a zero hours contract should have an automatic right to guaranteed hours if they have worked a regular pattern and number of hours on a zero hours or non-guaranteed hours contract for a given period (e.g. 12 months)? If so, could you suggest how many hours and how long an employee should have worked in order to trigger the automatic right?</b></p>
<p><b>Answer 8</b></p>	<p>It may be advantageous to introduce an automatic right to guaranteed hours if a worker works a regular pattern on a continuous basis. The suggested period of 12 months would be reasonable. It is difficult to suggest what number of hours would be reasonable as this would be dependent on the circumstances of the business and the type of work in question.</p>
<p><b>Question 9</b></p>	<p><b>Do you think that a worker on a zero hours contract should have an automatic right to request a fixed term contract if they have worked a regular pattern and number of hours on a zero hours or non-guaranteed hours contract for a given period (e.g. 12 months)? If so, could you suggest how many hours and how long an employee should have worked in order to trigger the right to request?</b></p>
<p><b>Answer 9</b></p>	<p>It may be advantageous to introduce an automatic right to a fixed term contract if a worker works a regular pattern on a continuous basis. The suggested period of 12 months would be reasonable. It is difficult to suggest what number of hours would be reasonable and this would be dependent on the circumstances of the business and the type of work in question.</p>

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Question 10	<p><b>Do you think that there would be benefit in introducing a compensatory arrangement similar to that adopted in the Republic of Ireland which would guarantee a minimum payment for workers on zero hours contracts who had an expectation of work, but who were not called to work in a given week? If so, could you suggest 1) what the minimum payment might be based upon; and 2) in what circumstances such a payment might be triggered?</b></p>
Answer 10	<p>We recognise that there are circumstances in which zero hours contracts could be misused by employers and in such circumstances a compensatory arrangement might offer a deterrent to such misuse. This however would not be necessary for properly constituted zero hours contracts which genuinely offer flexibility to both parties to the contract.</p>
Question 11	<p><b>Should a worker on zero hours contracts have the option to move to an annualised hours contract?</b></p>
Answer 11	<p>We recognise that there are circumstances in which a zero hours contract worker may be subjected to abuse and, in such circumstances the option of moving to an annualised hours contract might mitigate the risk to vulnerable workers. This however would not be necessary for properly constituted zero hours contracts which genuinely offer flexibility to both parties to the contract.</p>
Question 12	<p><b>We welcome views on whether retaining the current arrangements (or doing nothing) is sufficient and whether taking forward legislation as set out above would undermine business flexibility and individual choice.</b></p>
Answer 12	<p>Retaining the current arrangements is not sufficient. There needs to be further clarification and guidance for employers on the management of workers on zero hours contracts. .</p>
Question 13	<p><b>If you have sought employment information, advice, or guidance on zero hours contracts before, (a) where did you receive it from, (b) how helpful was it to you in terms of explaining your position in regard to zero hours contracts, and (c) how could it have been improved?</b></p>
Answer 13	<p>Advice has been sought from CIPD and ACAS, which was helpful. It would be helpful if there was a definition of the types of zero hours contracts that are available so that a clear distinction can be drawn between contracts which may subject workers to abuse and contracts which genuinely suit the needs of both parties to the arrangement.</p>
Question 14	<p><b>Do you think that model clauses for zero hours contracts would assist employers in drawing up zero hours contracts, and support employers and individuals to better understand their employment rights and obligations? If you answer yes, what should the key considerations be in producing model clauses?</b></p>

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<b>Answer 14</b>	Yes. Model 'terms of engagement' would be helpful for both parties. The model clauses should include guidance on the wording to be used around annual leave arrangements and clear obligations for both parties in terms of offering and accepting work.
<b>Question 15</b>	<b>Do you think that existing employment law, combined with greater transparency over the terms of zero hours contracts, is the best way of ensuring individuals on zero hours contracts are making informed choices about the right contract for them to be on?</b>
<b>Answer 15</b>	Yes, a code of practice providing clear explanations of how such contracts can be used fairly would be essential.
<b>Question 16</b>	<b>Do you think there is more employers can do to inform individuals on zero hours contracts what their rights and terms are?</b>
<b>Answer 16</b>	There is potential for employers to misuse zero hours contracts. A clearer understanding of employment rights would be useful to prevent this. We also recognise that larger organisations have access to HR and legal advice and this resource is not always open to SMEs.

<b>Questions for Employers</b>	
<b>Question 17</b>	<b>If you are an employer, do you use zero hours contracts in your business and if so, for what purpose?</b>
<b>Answer17</b>	The Council has a number of 'casual' workers who are not obliged to accept any work and suffer no detriment if they choose not to accept offers of work, and can indicate to the Council the specific days / times that they are willing to be considered for any work. Such contracts have been offered for many years. Casual workers are recruited in line with the LGSC Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection on the basis of merit and paid the same hourly rate of pay in line with that determined by the NJC for Local Government Services plus an additional percentage rate to compensate for untaken annual leave entitlement.  This arrangement offers business flexibility and individual choice in front-line jobs in the Council such as casual coaches, casual front of house workers in entertainment venues , casual receptionists and casual leisure attendants in leisure centres etc.
<b>Question 18</b>	<b>Have you offered a job on a zero hours contract basis that includes an exclusivity clause? If so, for what reason?</b>

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<b>Answer 18</b>	No.
<b>Question 19</b>	<b>What is your policy when an individual declines hours of work you offer?</b>
<b>Answer 19</b>	If a 'casual' worker in the Council declines hours of work offered there is no detriment. The 'casual' worker is not obliged to accept any work and the Council is not obliged to offer any work. The 'casual' worker will remain on the list of workers to be offered work if and when work becomes available.
<b>Question 20</b>	<b>Do you employ any individuals on a zero hours contract who work a pattern of regular hours? If so, how many hours a week and for what period of time?</b>
<b>Answer 20</b>	Management monitors the use of casual workers to ensure that such workers are deployed only as and when required to cover short term, specialist or ad hoc work.
<b>Question 21</b>	<b>If you offer additional hours of work, how much notice do you give the individual? If so, how do you make the offer e.g. by telephone?</b>
<b>Answer 21</b>	Management gives as much notice as possible (two weeks where practicable), to enable its 'casual' workers to accept the offer of work and this offer is made via telephone or email.

**Questions for Employees/Workers**

<b>Question 22</b>	<b>If you are a worker, have you accepted a job on a zero hours contract basis that has included an exclusivity clause? What was the job and what reason was given for including an exclusivity clause?</b>
<b>Answer 22</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 23</b>	<b>If you are employed on a zero hours contract, do you have more than one employer or contract</b>
<b>Answer 23</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 24</b>	<b>Has being employed on a zero hours contract helped you to achieve a good balance between your work life and home life? Was this a factor in accepting a job on this basis?</b>
<b>Answer 24</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 25</b>	<b>Do you have a choice or say in how many hours or when you will work?</b>
<b>Answer 25</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 26</b>	<b>If you work a regular pattern of hours under a zero hours contract, how much notice do you receive if the number of hours decrease or drop off to zero, or increase?</b>
<b>Answer 26</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 27</b>	<b>If you have ever declined any hours of work offered to you, did your employer subsequently stop offering you work, or reduce the number of hours offered?</b>
<b>Answer 27</b>	Not relevant.
<b>Question 28</b>	<b>Would you wish to remain on a zero hours contract if a job with guaranteed hours was offered to you?</b>
<b>Answer 28</b>	Not relevant.

**Additional Questions to Address the Issues**

<b>Question 29</b>	<b>Are there any issues which you consider that the Department has not addressed in this document, and which would merit further discussion? Please provide detail.</b>
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<b>Answer 29</b>	The issue of zero hours' contracts has been the subject of widespread debate and has generated significant media attention. With no legal definition of what constitutes a zero hours contract, there is confusion between contracts that are not in keeping with best practice (i.e. workers on zero hours' contracts who are obliged to take the shifts that they are offered and suffer a detriment if they do not,) and those which can work to the mutual benefit of employer and employee (i.e. 'casual' workers who are not obliged to accept the work, who suffer no detriment, and who based on their individual choice can decide the specific days / times that they want to be considered for work).
<b>Question 30</b>	<b>Are there any other possible policy options which should be considered to address issues relating to zero hours contracts? If so, please state what these are.</b>
<b>Answer 30</b>	
<b>Question 31</b>	<b>Do zero hours contracts or any of the options explored through this consultation create any negative equality impacts?</b>
<b>Answer 31</b>	A formal equality impact assessment should be conducted to determine this.
<b>Question 32</b>	<b>Do zero hours contracts create any difficulties for employees in accessing benefit entitlements?</b>
<b>Answer 32</b>	There could be potential difficulties for workers accessing benefit entitlements.

**Good Relations and Equality**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Good Relations Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 8th September.

**International Men's Day**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 1 July the Council passed the undernoted notice of motion, which was moved by Alderman R Patterson and seconded by Alderman Robinson.**

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**“International Men’s Day**

*This Council 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’;*

*It welcomes the fact that the day will highlight some serious issues such as domestic violence /abuse, 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 workplace, family life and society, discrimination against men, the bullying of men in the workplace, the promotion of men as role models and improving gender relations and gender equality; and*

*It 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.”*

- 1.3 This motion was referred to Strategic Policy and Resources for consideration at its meeting on 22 August 2014. The Committee requested that a report including details and costs be provided to its meeting on 19 September 2014.
- 1.4 Men’s Rights N Ireland has requested that the Council provides £10,000 to organise a one day conference on the theme of “Working together for boys and Men “ to take place on International Men’s Day, 19 November 2014, in City Hall. (The Great Hall I is currently available for the morning only on this day). The intention is to heighten awareness around the extent that domestic violence and abuse is an issue for men, the lack of support that is available for men and the consequences that stem from this lack of support, for example, mental health issues and increasing numbers of suicides.
- 1.5 Alderman Patterson has requested that consideration of this request is given parity with the funding that was previously agreed to support the International Women’s Day public rally every year.

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- 1.6 Annual funding of £6,000 for the International Women's Day public rally was approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 24 January 2014. Alderman Patterson also asked that this request is considered under Section 37 of the Local Government Act.
- 1.7 Council officers met with Alderman Ruth Patterson and a representative of Men's Right's Northern Ireland, on 5 September 2014 to discuss how the motion could be taken forward.

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 Addressing gender inequality has been a council goal for many years and in 2006 the Women's Steering Group was established to oversee the development and implementation of the Gender Action Plan, the aim of which is to seek to address the under representation of women employed in the Council, particularly in senior roles and the under representation of women in politics.
- 2.2 In general terms the Council's support for International Women's Day has focused on issues affecting women in the workplace and women in political life as there is ongoing and recent evidence to suggest women are significantly under-represented in elected office; significantly under-represented on public bodies; underrepresented at manager, directors and senior official level; that 80% of part time workers are women, but only 24% of self-employed are women; and there remains a gender pay gap in favour of men.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the Council's support for the annual International Women's Day public event would demonstrate the Council's acknowledgement of this special day and its commitment to work towards greater equality of opportunity for all women in Belfast.
- 2.4 The aim of International Men's Day is to focus on men's and boy's health, promote gender equality, celebrate male achievements and contributions, in particular for their contributions to community, family, marriage, and child care and to highlight positive male role models. International Men's Day is an annual international event celebrated on 19 November.
- 2.5 These aims are aligned to Council priorities around health and well being in the city and raising awareness on the issue of domestic violence and abuse. Work in relation to these issues

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includes the South DPCSP Partnership's support for Men's Advisory Project working to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse towards men and our ongoing implementation of a Domestic Violence and Abuse policy for both male and female employees. It is recognised that domestic violence and abuse is an issue for men and that awareness needs to be raised.

2.6 The objectives of the proposed event would meet the Council's criteria for special expenditure under Section 37 of the Local Government Act.

2.7 Issues to be considered are :

- Men's Rights Northern Ireland is a recently formed organisation, currently comprised of three men with personal experience of domestic abuse.
- While Men's Rights Northern Ireland has provided information on speakers, and costs that will be incurred, a detailed breakdown of costs would be required.
- Other established men's advocacy groups work across the city to support men who are affected by domestic violence and abuse as well as the mental health, financial and societal issues that stem from it.

2.8 It is proposed therefore that a detailed programme for an event for International Men's Day to raise awareness around the men's issues highlighted in this report is developed by staff from the Good Relations Unit, Health and Environmental Services and Corporate Human Resources with Men's Rights Northern Ireland and other key stakeholders from across the city

2.9 High level indicative costs for a Council lead event would be:

Staging, audio and lighting - £3,000

Catering - £1,500

Video production and promotional materials – £1,500.

It is unlikely that speakers at the event would incur a cost.

3.0 Members are asked to agree funding to a maximum of £6,000 to be made available through Section 37 of the Local Government Act, an amount equal to that provided for the annual International Women's Day public rally.

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**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

The Director of Finance and Resources has advised that funding of £6,000 could be met from in year revenue resources and that if approved, the total of approved payments under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 for 2014/15 is within the limit for such payments as advised by the Department of the Environment.

**Human Resources**

A Council led event will require a working group comprising staff from Good Relations, Health and Environmental Services and Human Resources .

**4 Equality Implications**

4.1 There are no equality issues.

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 Members are asked to agree that staff should work with Men's Rights N Ireland and other key stakeholders from cross the city to develop an event for International Men's Day to raise awareness around the men's issues highlighted in this report and that a budget of up to £6,000 is allocated for the event.

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to fund this event and, if agreed, passes the undernoted resolution:

**“That the expenditure in respect of the aforementioned event be approved 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 its inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Members' Good Relations Event**

The Committee was reminded that the Council's Good Relations Action Plan contained a section on the Decade of Centenaries. In order to provide awareness and

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information to the Members to increase their knowledge of issues relating to the Decade of Centenaries in advance of planning for events surrounding the commemorations of 1916 and beyond, it was proposed that a study visit be undertaken to the south of Ireland.

The Committee was advised that there was a wealth of history within the south, and particularly Dublin, which had had an influence and impact on the way that the history of the island had evolved and developed over the past 100 years. The state visit by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, in 2011 had brought her to a number of the sites associated with the two main divisions on the island. Her visit had included the Garden of Remembrance, Croke Park, Trinity College and the War Memorial at Islandbridge. In addition, the Secretary of State had recently visited the newly installed memorial at Glasnevin Cemetery. As part of the ongoing programme of development around the Decade of Centenaries, it had been suggested that the Council could run an event to bring Members to some of the sites that were visited by Her Majesty in 2011 by way of awareness raising and education. Accordingly, the Committee was requested to consider nominating up to three Members from each party to participate in the visit, which could be undertaken as a day-long excursion or an overnight stay.

After discussion, the Committee recommended that a day-long study visit be undertaken to Dublin and up to three Members from each of the political parties on the Council be authorised to attend.

**Cross-Cutting Issues**

**Smoking Policy**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report on an update to the Council's Smoking Policy to enable further information to be obtained.

Chairman

## Parks and Leisure Committee

Thursday, 11th September, 2014

### MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McKee (Chairman);  
Aldermen Robinson and Rodgers;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Convery,  
Corr, Hanna, Hussey, McCabe,  
McNamee, Mullan;  
and Thompson.

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

#### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Maire Hendron, and Councillors Cunningham, Haire and Kyle.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th August 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 September.

#### Declaration of Interest

Alderman Robinson declared an interest in Item 4, that is, Summer Camps/Schools – OFMDFM Support.

#### Falls Park Pitch Development – Proposed Consultation

The Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure submitted for the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

**The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 14th June 2014 it received a copy of a report regarding proposed construction of a 3rd generation artificial turf pitch at Falls Park as part of the implementation of the Pitches Strategy which was adopted in March 2012. The report, a copy of which has been circulated, highlighted the concerns from some residents regarding the implications of the new facility. To help address those concerns it was suggested**

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that an engagement exercise be undertaken with residents to identify the issues and agree ways in which these might be mitigated. The Committee Minute stated that:

*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.*

The residents were unfortunately unable to attend the August meeting and asked that a deputation be received at the September meeting.

At the Council's meeting on 1st July, the matter was further discussed and minuted that

*the decision under the heading "Falls Park – Consultation Re: 3G Pitch" be amended to provide that an enhanced engagement process be undertaken between the Council and local residents in advance of the meeting of the Committee in August.*

In the interim, Officers from Parks and Leisure Department have met with a group of residents in August. There has also been recent correspondence from one of the residents on behalf of the group. The most recent correspondence appended a draft proposal as to the extent of the consultation and engagement which those residents believe is necessary in relation to this project. This is attached at Appendix B.

During the meeting it was evident that there was a difference of opinion in terms of the purpose of the consultation exercise. Officers were of the view, in line with the committee report from June, that the consultation was to address mitigation measures around management of the new facility. However, the residents expressed the view that they were opposed to the development and were essentially requesting that the Council undertake an exercise to determine whether the development should go ahead or not.

Further to the meeting with the resident's group in August 2014 it was decided that in order to obtain a wider view from

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stakeholders that a further public meeting should take place and this has been scheduled for 23rd September 2014.

2. **Key Issues**

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The Council has adopted the pitches strategy in March 2012 and agreed that a 3rd generation pitch and changing pavilion and ancillary structures would be located in Falls Park; the strategy has been subject to consultation in line with the Council's Equality Scheme;
2. Meetings have previously taken place and alterations to the proposal have been made such as the repositioning of the changing pavilion and agreements around landscape plans to minimise noise and light escape from the new facility; a further meeting is scheduled for 23rd September with letters being hand delivered to those residents from the adjoining streets. Posters will be put up in local facilities and throughout the park to inform other park users of the meeting;
3. The project has been lodged with the Planning Service; the matter was deferred at the Town Planning Committee and a lighting report is currently being prepared for submission to the Planning Service to enable a final adjudication to be made; during the planning process a range of objections were received, these will be taken into account as part of the determination.
4. The residents have submitted a proposed methodology which would require significant additional resources as outlined in the Committee Report in June and about which Members expressed their concerns;
5. While for some residents there are concerns around future management issues emerging from the extended hours and floodlighting etc, there is a group of residents who are opposed to the development and would prefer to see the decision to construct the artificial turf pitch at Falls Park reversed;

3. **Resource Implications**

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications at this time.

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**Resource Implications**

**There are no additional human resource implications at this time.**

**4. Equality Implications**

**There are no equality implications**

**5. Recommendations**

**The Committee is asked:**

- 1. To note the report;**
- 2. To receive the deputation from a group of residents from streets adjacent to Falls Park;**
- 3. To note the planned public meeting scheduled to take place on 23rd September which is focused on implementation and mitigation.”**

It was reported that Mr G Kearney, Mr F Malone, Ms F Maguire, Ms S Boyce and Ms F Campbell, representing a group of residents from the streets adjacent to the Falls Park, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

The deputation tabled for the information of the Members a detailed presentation outlining their concerns and opinions regarding the installation of a 3G Pitch at the Falls Park. The key points of which were as follows:

- the Falls Park, as one of the few remaining open, green spaces in West Belfast should be protected and invested in as a park. Installation of a 3G pitch would irreversibly change the nature and character of the park;
- there had been no adequate consultations to date with the West Belfast community on the proposal to locate a 3G pitch at the specific location identified within the Falls Park;
- the broader consultation within West Belfast on the Pitches Strategy had been totally inadequate and in breach of the Council's Section 75 equality duties;
- with the increase in provision of 3G pitches in West Belfast in recent years, plus further planned provision, the business case for the development of a 3G Pitch in the middle of the Falls Park had not been made; and
- the Council now needed to engage in proper, meaningful and cost effective consultation with the community about what it wished to have in the park.

The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, thanked them for attending and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

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**Update on Potential Site at Dundrod for Burial Lands**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

Members will be aware that as part of the approach to cemetery and crematorium development we have been engaged in a process to identify a site for development as a new cemetery and that discussions have been ongoing around a potential site at Dundrod.

The site at Dundrod came to the Council through an expression of interest exercise which the Council initiated. This site was put forward by an agent acting on behalf of a business man who holds an option on the site. Officers from the Parks and Leisure Department, Legal Services and the Estates Management Unit have held a number of meetings with the party who holds an option on the site along with their agent. The Council is aware of who the landowners are but at this point have had no direct dealings with them.

A company, Carston Undertakings Ltd, has now been established and has taken over the option on the site. Carston Undertakings has commissioned a number of pieces of work around the development of the site and a delegation led by Strategic Planning made a presentation, on their behalf, to the Committee in June, outlining their proposals for the development of a cemetery on the site.

**2 Key Issues**

Members will be aware that in selecting a site for development as a potential cemetery there are several issues which need to be considered. The report brought to the Committee in August outlined the work that has been undertaken to date in relation to the site and informed Members that URS, who have undertaken previous assessments for the Council in relation to our search for a new cemetery site have been commissioned to undertake an analysis of all the findings of the previous four studies around the viability of the site and to provide a concise view on the issues and constraints to developing the site to allow Members to make a decision on the options available.

**1 Access**

As previously outlined to Members the proposed site is on the circuit of the Ulster Grand Prix which would result in the

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main access, onto the Quarterland Road, being closed for the duration of this event and therefore a secondary access would be required. A potential secondary access has been investigated onto the Carnaghliiss Road. Two issues that have arisen relating to this secondary access are that additional land would be required from adjoining landowners and that due to the undulating topography of the road significant re-grading would be necessary.

The expert opinion is that secondary access from the Carnaghliiss Road is not viable due to vertical alignment and that even if the access was viable the proposed site does not make adequate allowance for the 215m sightlines required.

2 Environmental

The expert opinion assessed the works that had previously been undertaken in relation to the environmental issues associated with the site. The site has a major watercourse (Coopers River) running through it and several minor watercourses. There are NIEA guidelines on the buffer zones required around watercourses and based on this the expert opinion has indicated that it can be assumed that approximately 29 acres of land would be unavailable for use as burial plots. Some of this land may be available for other cemetery related infrastructure. There may be potential to divert the minor watercourses to reduce the amount of land that is lost to burial, however there would be a cost associated with such works and it is not known at this point if the various statutory agencies would agree to this as it may contravene their own objectives.

Within the northern portion of the site there is a Scheduled Rath and there are three other unscheduled Rathes in close proximity but outside the site boundary. There is also a scheduled complex of Rathes 500m to the east of the site, all of which would likely indicate that the area in which the cemetery is located would have high archaeological potential and there remains a certain amount of potential for as yet unknown archaeology to survive below the current ground surface. The work undertaken to date on the site has not included a consultation with NIEA- Built Heritage but URS have indicated that it is unlikely that they will permit development of the Scheduled Rath site and they are likely to recommend a walkover survey takes place followed by a Programme of Archaeological Work. The expert opinion has estimated that if we are required to undertake an archaeological investigation and interpretative analysis of the Scheduled Rath site, this is likely to cost in the region of £250,000. Depending on what else is found on the site the

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Council could spend another £250,000 on archaeological work for the rest of the site. Archaeological investigations would require the approval of the landowner as it would include intrusive site works.

3 Geoservices

The Council has had some initial ground condition tests undertaken on the site. However the expert opinion has concluded that there are significant gaps present that restrict the ability to fully assess the suitability of the site as a cemetery and recommends a series of further tests. The original trial pits were dug to a depth of 3m which is sufficient for a 2 burials grave. However the Council's practice is to have 4 burials per grave and therefore deeper excavations are required across the site. At the time of the original site investigations the Council was not considering purchasing the far northern/north western area of the site and no trial pits or boreholes were dug in this area. However a trial hole in the area below this portion of land has shown bedrock at a high level.

The expert opinion is that a complete Tier 1 hydrogeological risk assessment would be required for the site. This would be submitted to NIEA who would make a determination on whether Tier 2 or Tier 3 tests would be required but given the site is considered as a high burial rate site it is likely that Tier 3 tests would be required. It is estimated that the cost of doing the essential works required to allow the Council to complete a Tier 1 is £8,000. Tier 2 or Tier 3 investigations would result in a period of testing and remodelling which would require in excess of 12 months additional work and have additional cost implications.

4. Planning

The expert opinion in relation to planning is that the site has the benefit of a pre-application in principle 'yes' to a proposed cemetery use from the Planning Authority. However this is qualified on the basis that a significant amount of supporting technical study and detail is required. Their opinion is that the risks of not achieving planning are currently high when issues of access, archaeological impact and possible contamination are so uncertain.

A map outlining the site and potential restrictions on burial has been circulated. The map shows the watercourses that are present within the site and the potential buffer zones. It also shows the position of the Scheduled Rath and those areas that we have not carried out ground investigations in. There is a possibility that archaeological investigations and

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the additional ground investigations required may indicate that further areas of the site would be unsuitable for burials. In the absence of these investigations it is difficult to determine how much of the site is suitable for burials.

5 **Conclusion**

The expert opinion concludes that there is high risk of not achieving planning approval on the basis of a second vehicular access but also with regard to archaeological impact and possible contamination uncertainties. Further studies to bridge the gaps in archaeological and contamination/ground investigation information will be required to fully assess the suitability of the site as a cemetery but may not remove the uncertainty over planning approval.

6 **Costs**

As indicated throughout this report the expert opinion has identified a number of significant potential constraints on this site and a comprehensive body of work would need to be completed if the Council is to continue considering this site as a potential cemetery. The work required and the costs are outlined in the appendix 2 and in summary essential works (which includes the potential archaeological works) are estimated at £508,000. Other future works including a likely Tier 3 assessment are estimated at £51,000. The completion of this work could not guarantee that the site would be suitable for use as a cemetery given the initial issues and constraints that have already been identified.

Members are reminded that the Council has not entered into any contractual arrangements with the option holder regarding this site and nor has the Council made any commitment in terms of agreeing any acquisition terms for the site, including the purchase price. If after the necessary further investigations were carried out, it was deemed that the site, or part of it, was viable for development as a cemetery, and Members agreed, the Council would have to enter into negotiations to ascertain whether the land we required could be acquired at a level of value which could be recommended for Council approval. In addition to the purchase price we would also have to pay legal fees and land registry fees which would be determined by the title to the lands (i.e. if it is registered / unregistered land) and the value of the lands. The Council would not be in a position to agree to acquire the land until planning permission was in place.

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7 **Recommendation**

Based on the constraints that have been identified with this site, in particular the issues around secondary access and archaeology, and the costs of the additional works required, which are likely to confirm the evidence to date, it is proposed that Members do not pursue any further interest in this site as it would not provide good value for money.

8 **Review of burial policy**

The last review of the Council's burial policy was undertaken in 2010 and it identified at that time that the Council required a site of 72 acres, in addition to what was available in other cemeteries to provide it with sufficient burial capacity for a 50 year period. As has been demonstrated over the last number of years there are real difficulties in identifying a suitable site of this size, which meets the strict guidelines required for a cemetery, within a reasonable distance of Belfast. Should the Committee decide not to proceed further with the Dundrod site it is recommended therefore that the burial policy is revisited to look at what options are available and whether or not we should revise the size of site we are seeking, for example that we develop a number of smaller sites. To allow the Council to do this, it is recommended that suitable expertise be commissioned to undertake this review, which will include an update of the statistics and burials etc.

If this is agreed in principle a report would be prepared for consideration by the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3 **Resource Implications**

**Financial**

The development of a new cemetery is currently a Stage 1 emerging project in the Council's capital programme.

We anticipate that the cost of the work around the reviewing of the Council's burial policy will fall within the Council's quotation limits and can be met from existing revenue budgets.

**Human Resources**

There are no human resource implications at this stage.

**Asset and Other Implications**

None at this stage although the final phases of the project will inevitably increase the Council's land ownership and associated liabilities.

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**4 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**There are currently no equality or good relation implications however this will continue to be reviewed as the project is developed.**

**5 Recommendations**

**Members are asked to agree:**

- i. That given the constraints and issues that have been identified with the site at Dundrod, and the costs required to carry out the further investigations, that it is agreed that this site would not provide good value for money and therefore is no longer considered viable for development as a potential cemetery; and**
- ii. To recommend that a review of the current burial policy be undertaken and to refer this to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**

**6 Decision Tracking**

**Director of Parks and Leisure to implement the Committee's decision"**

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- (i) negotiations continue with the site owner or agent to ascertain whether or not a smaller portion of the site at Dundrod could be utilised for burial lands;**
- (ii) a workshop be held early in the new year, at which all the information previously submitted to the Committee in relation to burial sites be presented to enable the Members to review the current burial policy and the provision of crematoria; and**
- (iii) an updated report be submitted to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.**

**Summer Camps/Schools – OFMDFM Support**

The Committee was advised that the Council's Good Relations Partnership had, on behalf of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), agreed to commission and oversee a regional pilot of a range of activities/projects which would inform the design of a summer schools/camps programme from 2015 onwards. The proposed pilot programme was to run over the Hallowe'en period. The Leisure Development Unit had responded to a call for submissions when the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister had confirmed that further funding, in the amount of £50,000 had been made available, with that office agreeing to support the cost of the programme at 100% including an evaluation. The Good Relations

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Partnership, at its meeting on 8th September, had noted a report in relation to the funding and the nature of the programme.

The Committee was advised that, whilst the OFMDFM had recognised that the Council would be limited in terms of the timescale available for delivery, it had requested that the intervention be of a strategic nature and that it be aligned, as closely as possible, to the Ministerial vision of a summer schools/camps with a good relations input as that would facilitate the evaluation and future design of the programme for forthcoming years.

The Leisure Development Unit would coordinate the intervention in the lead up to and during Hallowe'en. The programme would be aimed at children and young people aged between 11 and 19 years of age and would use sports clubs as delivery partners in local neighbourhoods across all areas of the city, focusing on Council assets. Programme planning was currently underway and it was anticipated to be a mix of sports activities and good relations workshops. Recruitment to the programme would be through existing networks and would fulfil the objectives of a cross-community programme.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that funding be allocated as outlined.

**Proposed Northern Ireland Centre of Food Education**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1. Relevant Background Information**

**The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of an emerging proposal from Groundwork NI to develop a National Centre of Food Education.**

**Appendix A to this report sets out the proposal. The main points of the proposal are:**

- 1. The proposal is based on work to develop a healthy living centre at Colin Glen;**
- 2. The aim is to develop a social enterprise centre to provide a city wide resource to promote a health and well being agenda and to create opportunities to enhance multiculturalism and provide employment opportunities;**
- 3. There have been preliminary conversations with Queens University Belfast and with a number of community and voluntary organisations in the South of the City;**
- 4. The proposal includes a small sustainable building which would be an administrative base; an education**

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and information centre; a facility to sell produce and potentially a café;

In the context of the development of a healthy living centre at Colin Glen and their engagement with Queen's University, Groundwork has approached the Council with a view to investigating potential sites in South Belfast and is seeking the Council's consent to identify sites and undertake some preliminary site surveys to determine the suitability of the soil for growing and indeed for the building. It is estimated that approximately an acre of land would be required.

2. **Key Issues**

The Committee is asked to note the following:

1. This project would fit with the Council's own Growing Communities strategy;
2. Identifying suitable sites in South Belfast is likely to be difficult, Botanic and Ormeau have been suggested during preliminary conversations;
3. Whilst no discussion has taken place as to the nature of the legal arrangement should a suitable location be identified; it is anticipated that a lease agreement will be the preferred arrangement;
4. As the site has not been identified no statutory approvals have been sought at this time;
5. No funding has been secured for the project, there are no cost projections but Groundwork are optimistic that given the range of potential funding options they would be able to draw down the necessary grants;

The key issues for the Committee are:

- Is it supportive of the principle of the proposal?
- Is it supportive of the proposal to potentially locate the centre on Council land in South Belfast?

3. **Resource Implications**

**Financial Implications**

At this time there are no financial implications

**Human Resource Implications**

There are no additional human resource implications

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**4. Equality Implications**

There are no equality implications.

**5. Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to consider the report and to

1. Support the proposal in principle;
2. Agree that officers meet with Groundwork to discuss potential sites;
3. Agree that appropriate tests be carried out to determine the suitability of the land subject to the necessary legal agreements being in place if necessary; and
4. Agree to receive a further report at a later date to update the Committee on the proposal and seek necessary further approvals as required.

**6. Decision Tracking**

A further report will be brought to the Committee at a later date.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**UEFA Youth Tournaments 2017 – Request from the Irish Football Association**

The Committee was informed that the Irish Football Association (IFA), was considering submitting a bid to UEFA to host its under 19 youth final tournaments in 2017 and was seeking approval, in principle, from the Committee to support the bid.

The Committee was advised that Council officers had met with representatives from the IFA to discuss the proposal. The Association was currently carrying out a scoping exercise to ascertain if there were any available training venues in the greater Belfast area. In addition planning for the event was in an early stage and currently the costs were unknown. The preliminary discussions with the IFA had identified a number of potential training venues, that is, the Blanchflower Stadium, the Ulidia Playing Fields, the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields, the Victoria Park and the Dixon Park Playing Fields.

Three significant factors in reaching the preliminary list were:

- the need for natural turf pitches only;
- the ability of those venues to meet UEFA standard pitch requirements in terms of size; and
- the ability to restrict access to the site or part of the site for a period of up to 17 days during June/July, 2017.

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At this stage the IFA had requested that the Council agree, in principle, to the use of those facilities during the period of the tournament, which had as yet to be confirmed. The Association had submitted a reservation form in respect of each of the aforementioned sites and was requesting the Council to sign those agreements to meet the requirements of UEFA as part of the bidding process.

The Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure explained that that there were a number of issues for the Members to consider, namely:

- (1) this was a significant tournament and would be a high profile event for the city;
- (2) similar competitions had been held in the past and had been successful;
- (3) if the bid were to be successful, there would be operational implications for the Council in providing training venues which would include:
  - a) potential closure of the pitches before the end of the local football season, also pitches might require attention prior to the regular season and might not be available until after the start of the season;
  - b) potential restricted access to each of the sites for members of the public;
  - c) realignment of the pitches to meet the pitch size requirements;
  - d) possible hire of equipment, such as marquees for refreshments pre and post training sessions;
- (4) further discussions were required in relation to points 3 (a) – 3 (d) and it was intended that a further report would be submitted to the Committee at a later date to inform the Members of the success or otherwise of the bid;
- (5) the cost implications had not yet been quantified, however, it was suggested that the Council agree to meet the costs of providing the marquees for hospitality purposes and to agree to the free use of the facilities by the squads; and
- (6) the Committee was asked to note that the City Events Team, based in the Development Department, had been made aware of the bid and a further meeting would be held to explore other ways in which the Council might link in with the preparation of the bid and any subsequent arrangements should the bid be successful.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Parks and Leisure sign, on behalf of the Council, the reservation forms submitted by the Irish Football Association in relation to the five sites which had been identified; and
- (ii) that the Council provide the agreed venues free of charge for training purposes.

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**Amateur Boxing Strategy (Start-up Club Funding)**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 At Parks and Leisure Committee in October 2012 Members approved the draft budget and workplan for the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.**
- 1.2 Members will be aware that within the Strategy, under the theme of Club support and development, an action of providing start-up funding to allow for the development of new clubs across the city was included.**
- 1.3 At its meeting in June 2014 Committee agreed to revisions to the budget area with £10,000 per annum allocated to support and develop new clubs. It was agreed that a further report would be brought to Committee to agree the mechanism and guidelines in providing this support.**

**2 Key Issues and Update**

- 2.1 The support and development of new clubs complementing existing clubs especially in under-represented areas such as East and South Belfast will be an essential element in the successful legacy of the Amateur Boxing Strategy and key to providing a citywide service to all who may wish to enter the sport.**
- 2.2 The programmes being delivered by our Boxing coaches and clubs citywide are increasing the demand for coaching provision and in-turn this will raise the demand for new clubs especially in areas of underrepresentation such as East and South Belfast. It is anticipated that a number of new club start-up requests for support will be received annually. The programme is actively promoting the sport through after schools activities across the city in liaison with existing clubs in each area.**
- 2.3 Recently we have received enquiries for new club start-up support from potential clubs in Oldpark and on the Upper Ormeau Rd. A further enquiry has been received from a Castlereagh Boxing club interested in relocating to the Braniel area. More enquiries are anticipated to be received as amateur boxing develops as a mainstream sport citywide and as such an adopted start-up club fund and criteria for funding is required. A fund of £2500 per applicant has been allocated**

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with £10,000 for new start-up grants in the current financial year.

- 2.4 The application form for funding has been developed by the Steering Group and has been attached as Appendix 1 for new club support funding. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The Steering Group following the support of the Sports Development Officer will assess the applications received within the specified guidelines for funding. The Director of Parks and Leisure will approve the proposed grants to new clubs under delegated authority as is currently the process for Support for Sport grants.
- 2.5 The table below indicates the proposed breakdown of new club funding with some examples of anticipated application requests

Item detail	Available Funding	Notes
Coach Education	£500	Coaching course associated to delivery of Boxing in club. Eg Level 1 /2 /1 star courses
Equipment	£1000	Equipment deemed suitability by IABA for the delivery of Boxing in a club environment
Facility Development	£500	Support for other club goods or equipment necessary for delivery
Other misc	£500	Other items or services required for clubs set up.
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£2500(max)</b>	

- 2.6 The following criteria have been recommended by the Steering Group in order to ensure best practice adherence :
1. Applicants must submit a letter/email of support from County Board or higher within boxing along with this application.
  2. Provide evidence of governance documents (constitution and assorted policies) plus sign-up to Clubmark via IABA and / or BCC prior to acceptance of application.
  3. Identify their catchment area for club and prove that other clubs are not necessarily affected by the new clubs establishment.
  4. Not be established more than 6 months.
  5. Not be a commercial venture of any nature.

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6. **Be established as a Boxing club (not MMA or other activities) and be affiliated to IABA or a recognised Nation GB).**

- 3 **Programme Plan and Resource Implications**

- 3.1 **Financial**

The budget for the Amateur Boxing Strategy has been agreed.

**Human Resources**

There are no Human Resources implications at this stage.

**Assets and Other Implications**

None at this stage

- 4 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

- 4.1 **There are no equality and good relations impacts from this grant scheme.**

- 5 **Recommendations**

- 5.1 **That Members note the content of this report with regard to the current implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.**
- 5.2 **The Committee is asked to agree the proposed mechanism and guidelines for allocation of grants up to £2500 towards the support of new clubs.**

- 6 **Decision Tracking**

**Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Ballysillan Masterplan – Implications for  
Ballysillan Playing Fields**

The Committee was reminded that work commissioned by the Department for Social Development, together with the Ballysillan/Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership and the North Belfast Partnership, was ongoing in the preparation of a master plan, the aim of which was to regenerate the Ballysillan area in North Belfast. Whilst the work on that was continuing no funding had been secured. In the meantime, officers had been approached by elected representatives from the area to request that the Council, within the context of the master plan, undertake some preliminary work with the local community to explore options which would help regenerate the existing playing fields and bowling pavilion and bring it into wider use within the area.

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At this stage it was being proposed that a small steering group be established which would involve officers from the Council, elected representatives from the area and representatives of existing community and sports groups within the area, with a view to working up a series of options which could, in turn, inform a wider discussion within the area as part of the master planning process.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- (i) that a steering group be established, with agreed terms of reference, with the aim of producing concept options for the potential reconfiguration of the Ballysillan Playing Fields;
- (ii) a report on the options and next steps be submitted to the Committee in due course; and
- (iii) the works on the understanding that it did not commit the Council to any expenditure.

**Marrowbone Park and Dixon Park Playing Fields**

A Member requested that the Committee consider duplicating the above mentioned exercise on the Marrowbone Park site.

In response, the Director of Parks and Leisure stated that the proposal for the Ballysillan Playing Fields was being developed in the context of the Ballysillan master plan. However, the Council had undertaken a similar exercise in relation to a development plan for the Falls Park and City Cemetery. That plan had been developed through a number of workshops and meetings involving the Friends of Falls Park and key stakeholders to identify priorities for the site. The development proposals had been worked-up on the understanding that no funding was available. However, if funding did become available, then any development proposals already had community buy in and he suggested that that option could be used in the Marrowbone Park area.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the development proposal scheme which had been used in the Falls Park and City Cemetery be implemented within the Marrowbone Park and also the Dixon Park Playing Fields.

**Landslide at Cave Hill Country Park**

The Committee was reminded that the Hazelwood Nature Reserve was located adjacent to the Belfast Zoo and formed part of the Cave Hill Country Park. There had been sporadic landslides in the area as had been detailed in a previous report which had been submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 12th June. At that meeting a decision had been taken to close the path on the advice from Legal Services, following receipt of an engineer's report on the issue. In the interim Parks Management had been investigating the options available and consulting with relevant stakeholders to inform a decision on the future of the path.

The Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure reported that, at the site in question, there was an existing steep rock face which was generally covered with a thin mantle of overburdened material. That overburden was approximately 0.5 – 0.7 metres

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deep and was heavily overgrown with trees and undergrowth. The slips were occurring at various locations and at frequent intervals and were due to the instability of the overburdened material on the steep rock face of the escarpment. The rock face itself appeared to be stable so the problem was with the overburden. Due to the extent of the overburden material and the heavy undergrowth, it would be impractical to remove it in order to stabilise the slope above the path. Slips would, in the engineer's view, continue to occur and were more likely to occur during or after very wet periods or snowfall. Those events would increase the weight of the overburden and trigger the slippage of the overburden down the rock face.

She reported further that, during subsequent investigations, a further engineer's report had been commissioned on a pedestrian bridge that serviced the closed path. That report had recommended the removal of the bridge due to structural defects and the bridge had subsequently been removed by a contractor and a suitable fence erected. Due to the topography of the area, a suitable replacement path, to avoid the risk of landslides, was not feasible and, therefore, a replacement bridge would not be required. An alternative route, avoiding the former bridge and the risk of slips, was available as part of the sites current infrastructure and would involve walking up through Hazelwood to link with caves path and descending down to the rear of the Zoo past the "Devils Punch Bowl". That had added an average of 30 minutes to the original journey time.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to the permanent closure of the path.

**Cavehill Country Park Entrance Improvement Scheme**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"Relevant Background Information**

**Carr's Glen Linear Park forms part of the wider Cave Hill Country Park. It fronts the Ballysillan Road for a distance of 30 metres incorporating a low level steel barrier and 1.2 metre high bow top fence.**

**The need to improve the visual appearance of the entrance to Carr's Glen Linear Park from the Ballysillan Road has been raised by DSD. The entrance is located within the Greater Ballysillan Master plan area and commands a prominent location on a secondary arterial route.**

**Currently, Belfast City Council does not have available funding to improve the visual appearance of the entrance as part of its capital programme and following discussions with local political representatives DSD put forward a proposal to upgrade and enhance the entrance.**

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**DSD have confirmed that no terms and conditions will apply to the completed scheme although they would anticipate the Council will wish to maintain the facility for the benefit of the local community.**

**The works including the portion within Carr's Glen Park will be carried out by DSD's contractor.**

**The contractor for the works will be procured by DSD using their own processes and governance arrangements. The scheme does not form part of the Councils capital programme.**

**It is envisaged that the park entrance will remain open during the course of the works, with DSD's contractor providing any necessary security arrangements and temporary fencing for the site compound, materials and equipment.**

**Access for DSD's contractor will be regulated by a Licence Agreement to be drawn up by the Town Solicitor. The licence will set out responsibilities for public liability insurance, reinstatement and any adjoining areas of the Park and provide time limits for completion of the works.**

### **Key Issues**

**The scheme comprises a replacement boundary treatment; an estate railing, with new kissing gate and vehicle gate and feature stone wall and pillars with a new sign. The project also includes an area of resurfacing at the entrance and tree planting.**

**The scheme also extends into adjacent Belfast Educational Library Board lands and continues the new estate railing, as a replacement boundary and some tree pruning.**

**The Parks and Leisure Department were consulted on the project at design stage and some changes were made to the original design in terms of signage and the specification for railings.**

**If approval is granted, works could be scheduled to commence on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 with a timeframe of four - six weeks to complete.**

**The proposed Licence Agreement will provide a regulatory framework for the works to be undertaken by DSD's**

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contractor including a requirement for the works to be completed to the Councils satisfaction.

A 12 month defects liability period will be in place for the scheme with the council becoming responsible for the new structures upon satisfactory completion of the works.

Planning approval was not required for the scheme as it falls under permitted development.

#### Resource Implications

##### Financial

There are no financial implications to Belfast City Council other than associated future maintenance costs which will be absorbed into existing budgets.

The cost of the scheme will be approx £64,000 funded by DSD.

##### Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications.

##### Asset and other implications

This investment will greatly enhance the entrance to the park and transform a tired and unattractive frontage into a more welcoming and accessible entrance which fits into the Green Flag criteria for which this park has been awarded.

##### Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the proposed scheme subject to a suitable Licence agreement being in place between the Council and the Department for Social Development and to the approval of the Licence Agreement by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders.

Members are also asked to agree the commencement of works, at DSD's risk, prior to SP&R approval and ratification by Council.

Approval is also subject to confirmation that all works can be completed by March 2015 to ensure that no financial liability transfers to the Council post April 2015."

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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Cherryvale Gate Lodge – Proposed Change of Use  
and Utility Wayleaves**

The Director of Parks and Leisure submitted to the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 By a 999 year Lease dated 18 March 1998 and Supplemental Lease dated 5 March 1999 the Council disposed of the Gate Lodge at 670 Ravenhill Road. The Gate Lodge is situated near the entrance to Cherryvale Playing Fields. The Lease restricts use of the property to residential purposes and preserves the Council's rights of drainage and sewerage across the Gate Lodge site from the remainder of Cherryvale Playing Fields.
- 1.2 The current owners of the Gate Lodge, Conor McGirr and Siobhan McGirr, have made representations to the Council seeking a variation of the Lease to allow the property to be used for office purposes. A copy of a letter from Conor McGirr, dated 7 September 2012, has been circulated.
- 1.3 From investigations on site it also appears that a number of utilities which serve the Gate Lodge appear to cross the Council's land at Cherryvale Playing Fields. It appears the route of these utility services has not altered since the time of the 1998 Lease and that a general right to enjoy the utilities (then) installed, should reasonably have been included within the terms of the Lease.

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 Use of the present building on the site, for residential and/or office purposes appears to be compatible with the use of the adjoining Park. The 1998 Lease will continue to contain covenants which require the Leaseholder to seek Council consent to any external alteration to the property. The Council will retain the power to object to any proposed future development on the site, if that development was of a scale which was incompatible with the Park. The present Leaseholder obtained Planning Approval in September 2013 for a change of use to offices.  
In respect of a proposed variation of the terms of a Lease the Council would be entitled to seek a premium from the Leaseholder if the value of the Leaseholder's interest is increased on account of the Council's consent to the variation. In this case the value of the property for office use

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is considered not to exceed its value for residential purposes and thus no premium would become payable by the Leaseholder to the Council in this instance.

- 2.2 At the time the property was sold by the Council it was not the Council's intention that services, across the Council's adjoining land to the Gate Lodge, would be disconnected or re-routed. It is therefore considered the property should continue to enjoy the benefit of those services which pass through the Council's adjoining property en route to the Leased property. It is also considered the Council should seek to preserve entitlement to any similar services which pass through the Leased property en route to the Council's adjoining land. It would appear reasonable that both these provisions would also exclude the right to install any new services across the respective lands of the other party.
- 2.3 Any proposed variation of the terms of the 1998 Lease would require incorporation within a Deed of Variation. While the balance of benefit from these arrangements may lie with the Leaseholder, it is considered, in view of the reciprocal benefit to the Council, that each side would bear their own legal expenses in connection with the drawing up and execution of the proposed Deed of Variation.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

- 3.1 There are no financial implications to the Council arising from this report.

Human Resources

- 3.2 Legal Services and Estates Management Unit resources required in drawing up and agreeing the terms of proposed Deed of Variation.

Asset and Other Implications

- 3.3 The Leaseholders and the Council may mutually benefit in relation to the proposed formalised arrangements associated with provision of utility services. The Leaseholder would benefit from the flexibility the proposed change of use would bring him and the Council would retain safeguards in the Lease in relation to the future compatibility of any future development with the surrounding Playing Fields.

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**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

4.1 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 Committee is recommended to:

1. Authorise the proposed alteration of the User clause in the Lease dated 18 March 1998 to allow use of the premises for residential and/or office purposes.
2. Authorise the formalisation of arrangements in relation to the grant of rights to the Leaseholder and the Council in relation to currently installed utility services at 670 Ravenhill Road/ Cherryvale Playing Fields.
3. Subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders, to authorise the proposed change of User and Grant of Rights be incorporated within a Deed of Variation to be drawn up by the Town Solicitor with each side bearing their own legal costs.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**BMX Track at Ormeau Park**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1. Relevant Background Information**

The BMX Track in Ormeau Park had been constructed in the 1980’s due to demands for facilities to accommodate what was then a ‘new’ sport. Since that time no further upgrade of the track has taken place and the facility has not kept pace with changes in cyclists’ expectations and the developing sport’s standards. BMX, as a discipline within cycling, is now an Olympic sport with development plans and programmes at the Dublin track leading to Ireland’s first ever BMX world champion last year.

Issues had been raised with the Department about the condition of the track, the need to modernise it and in particular the importance of improving the standard of the surface.

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Therefore as part of the parks routine maintenance programme the Community Park Manager proposed to improve the condition of the track during the 2013/2014 financial year to:

- address concerns that the standard of the track needed to improve
- ensure the continued safety of the existing track for users, addressing any identified risks (Risk Assessment from BMX Ireland 30/11/13 of the track.)
- rectify public interference in the track surface e.g. making jumps.
- meet the recommendation to improve the facility in the Green Flag action plan.

After consultation with BMX Ireland and Property Services a plan was drawn up to undertake modifications to the track to upgrade it. The plan was to remodel the track layout removing any hazards identified and reducing curve angles, this work was to enable the track to receive a governing body certificate for safe use.

The track was to be in the same footprint as before but pulled into a more appropriate shape. The track was to be constructed of clay, (no drainage works were proposed) which when modelled was to be stone dressed with a digger and then dust placed on top. In 2014-15 it was proposed to surface the corners in bitmac.

Work began on site in January 2014 using parks staff and the existing hire of machinery contract. Costs were mainly inclusive of staff time and equipment hire within existing maintenance budgets.

It was estimated that most of this work would be undertaken by Parks staff as part of a winter development work programme. There was a substantial amount of additional work undertaken because of the following issues:

- the amount of recyclable clay material on site for remodelling was less than calculated. To compensate therefore surplus free, material was sourced from other sites.
- wet weather resulted in material having to be deposited nearby and then transported into the site by digger.
- due to poor weather some larger track machinery with operators had to be hired.

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Due to budgetary constraints the work was suspended in February 2014 and the site left in a safe condition. It was planned to finish the track modelling work in April 2014, finally applying a top coat of stone and then dust which would be compacted.

2. **Key Issues**

During a review of the works necessary to complete the project and ensure a more sustainable track, the Park's engineer recommended that a terram membrane is installed to ensure adequate drainage to the facility. This will add to the initial cost but will reduce maintenance and increase the lifespan and durability of the facility.

The Belfast City BMX Club have written to thank the Council for the works so far, stating that this is the first redevelopment of any BMX track in Northern Ireland for 25 years and that it is a great boost to the BMX fraternity. Currently all the riders in Northern Ireland have to travel to Dublin to practice and race. The upgrade of the facility will enable the site to be used for local fun days, community outreach, sports development programmes and coaching sessions.

Following on the completion of the track surface, the Belfast City BMX Club have now formally requested that the Council would raise the standard of the facility to enable the running of safe competitions. (Appendix 2. Letter of request from the BCBMX Club)

The Belfast City BMX Club and BMX Ireland would be keen to help with fundraising for a Phase 2 of further works, if required / permitted. The additions would include the formation of a national 'start hill', a safe start gate, the provision of tarmac on the corners, an anti-vandal proof container and some ancillary services e.g. electricity and water. The organisations would be willing to work with Council officers to advise on requirements and provide other assistance.

To support the investment, it is proposed that a 5 year sports development plan should be developed by Belfast City BMX Club with appropriate performance indicators. This will ensure that sustainable sports development work leads to increased participation and community ownership of the refurbished facility.

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3. **Resource Implications**

**Financial**

To finish the first phase of this refurbishment providing the standard of drainage recommended by the Parks civil engineers would require £26,000. This will be funded from existing budgets.

BCBMX have estimated the cost of the additional improvements they have requested in Phase 2 to be in the region of £25,000. However, a detailed proposal and costing will need to be developed and verified and a budget established. A further report will be brought to Committee on proposals for Phase 2.

**Human Resources**

Outreach, sports development and park staff will work with those using the facility when the works are completed to ensure the facility is well used and that local young people engage with this activity.

**Assets**

The upgrade works will transform the facility into a much improved community and sporting asset.

4. **Equality Implications**

There are no equality or good relations issues at present.

5. **Recommendations**

Members are asked:

- to agree to the completion of the works on the BMX track at Ormeau Park referred to as Phase 1 with associated budget of £26,000 allocated from within existing budgets
- to grant approval for Officers to enter into discussion with BCBMX regarding proposals for further improvement works to the facility (Phase 2) to bring it up to a safe and recognised competition standard. The detailed proposals for the additional improvements will be resubmitted to Committee at a future date for its consideration.

6. **Decision Tracking**

The Assistant Director Parks and Leisure will bring a further report to Committed on the Phase 2 proposals”

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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Request for use of the Waterworks Park for North Belfast  
Magical Festival**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Following on from the success of the North Belfast Lantern Parade and Magical Evening in 2013 this report is seeking Committee approval for the free use of facilities at the Waterworks Park for this year’s event known as the North Belfast Magical Festival which is due to take place on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October 2014.**
- 1.2 The event is a project of the Ashton Community Trust and is managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation working across communities in North Belfast for the past 11 years.**
- 1.3 New Lodge Arts has established an inclusive advisory group that provides advice and guidance on the community outreach and event elements of the programme. The group consists of representatives from a number of Community organisations in North Belfast. Including groups from Tigers Bay, Mount Vernon, Skegoneill/Glandore, Rathcoole, Lower Shankill, Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark, Oldpark/Bone, Whitecity, Greencastle and New Lodge.**
- 1.4 The event has grown over the past 5 years. In 2012 the event attracted over 5000 participants and audience members, including people from across the city and further afield.**
- 1.5 The event has received funding in the past provided by OFMDFM, Irish Government, Energy for Children and Belfast City Council.**

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 This year the event organisers aim to have a two day festival called North Belfast Magical Festival. This will take place on 29 & 30 October 2014. On the 29 October the organisers aim to host a range of art workshops and street performers in the Waterworks park from 12noon – 5pm. On the 30 October the organisers aim to provide more workshops and performances from 12 noon – 4pm with the main event taking place from 6.00pm until 9.30pm.**

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**2.2** The event will be ticketed again this year, however this year tickets will be sold at a cost of £1 each. The event was ticketed for the first time in 2013 and proved an effective way to manage large numbers within the park. It was decided this year to charge for the ticket for several reasons:

**1.** Last year there were many people who took tickets and then didn't attend the event whilst others remained ticketless and unable to attend the event.

**2.** The £1 charge will cover the cost of purchasing the wristbands and any remaining monies will be put back in to the event by way of covering the cost of some of the performers. In order to manage audience numbers the organisers will distribute 4000 tickets/wristbands to members of the public. Details on how these will be distributed are still to be confirmed.

**2.3** The event is aimed at families and will consist of:

- Art workshops and street performances over two days prior to the main event.
- A lantern parade that makes its way from Crumlin Road Gaol to the Waterworks Park.
- A magical evening event that will include outdoor performances.
- Stage entertainment.
- A fireworks display that will close the event.

**2.4** The site build for the event will begin on 29 October and deconstruction will be completed on the morning of the 31 October 2014.

**2.5** The event organisers have requested that 2 fence panels be temporarily removed from the grass picnic area in order to create better access to the site for the duration of the event. The organisers have confirmed they will undertake to do the following in order to make the event as safe and successful as possible:-

- Employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment.
- Employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event.
- Put a ticketing system in place.
- Ensure that a one way system operates within the park for this event.
- Ensure local residents are informed about the event 7 days prior to the event: ensure that there is no inconvenience or nuisance caused to residents on the day of event.

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- **Work with the Parks and Leisure Department to ensure effective management of the park.**
- 2.6 An event management plan will be completed and forwarded to Belfast City Council 14 days in advance with final risk assessments being completed 24hrs before the event begins.**
- 2.7 The event is in line with both the Council's objectives around economic development and Parks and Leisure departmental objectives in terms of animating the city's parks and increasing community activity and access to the parks.**

**The event organisers have always worked closely with the Council and other external partners. The management of previous events has been satisfactory and professional.**

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

**This request is for free use of the Waterworks Park facilities including:**

- **The lower and upper areas of the Park**
- **The Sports pitch/area located in the upper area of the park,**
- **The Park Wardens offices.**

**Financial assistance from existing Parks budgets to carry out the temporary removal of fencing. This is estimated at £1500.00**

**For the event this year organisers have received funding from Department of Foreign Affairs for €10,000 and CFNI for £3,000. Applications are currently being assessed by OFMDFM, Belfast City Council and Hope for Youth.**

**3.2 Human Resources**

**Human resources will be required to facilitate these requests – all managed within the current resources.**

**In the past Parks and Leisure have made park staff available to assist with the event site build and deconstruction. The event organisers have also requested that 4 members of staff familiar with the site are made available to work on the evening of the 30 October 2014 to ensure the safe and smooth running of the event.**

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**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion the organisers have requested that certain areas of park be closed to members of the public on 30 October, until such a time as the event is about to open. All closures will be communicated to the public via notices that will be erected several days in advance.

The organisers also request the removal of 2 fence panels and 1 post within the picnic area closer to the Fire Station. This is to allow for a quick evacuation and for equipment to be delivered on site.

**4 Equality Implications**

- 4.1 The overall aim of this event, and the associated project elements are to build good relations and trust within communities across North Belfast.

**5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the free use of the Waterworks Park and facilities including the temporary removal of 2 fence panels for the North Belfast Magical Festival on condition that:

- The event organisers liaise with the Council's Health and Environmental Services Department and ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to Council's satisfaction including an event management plan and risk assessments.
- Complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing.
- Work closely with BCC Parks staff."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairman

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## Development Committee

Tuesday, 2nd September, 2014

### SPECIAL MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);  
Aldermen M. Campbell, Kingston and Stalford;  
Councillors Beattie, Convery, Kelly, Kennedy,  
Magee, Mac Giolla Mhín, Ó Donnghaile and  
Spence.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

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

### Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Kyle.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Belfast Tourism Strategy 2015/2020

The Committee was advised that Mr. T. Stephens was in attendance in order to provide an update on the development of the Tourism Strategy which he was undertaking on behalf of the Council and he was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Stephens informed the Members that tourism was a major contributor to the City's economy and that Belfast accounted for 35% of tourism spending in Northern Ireland. He highlighted a number of positive aspects associated with tourism in the City, such as, its history of accreditation, the availability of marketing resources and the commitment of the Council and Visit Belfast, in association with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Tourism Ireland. However, there were issues around, for example, limited air access, duplication of roles and responsibilities and reduced capital funding, which demonstrated that a fresh approach to tourism promotion was required.

He reviewed the extent of the work which had been undertaken to date and suggested that the Council should seek to ensure that, by 2020, it could provide tourists with more reasons to visit and stay in the City. That, in turn, would create additional employment and wealth and enhance the reputation of Belfast as a major tourist destination. He pointed out that that would require leadership and vision on behalf of the Council and he highlighted a number of visitor experiences which were unique to Belfast, such as urban sports, its maritime history, signature festivals and events and contemporary visual arts, which could form the basis of the Tourism Strategy. He

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concluded by stating that approximately £425 million of revenue and capital investment would be required to be provided over the next five years by the public and private sectors in order to progress the Strategy.

During discussion, several Members made a number of suggestions on how tourism could be enhanced within the City, including the need to develop a maritime quarter, to enhance the Titanic Quarter, to promote the City's industrial heritage, H.M.S. Caroline and the C.S. Lewis story and to exploit the potential of the Game of Thrones series. It was suggested also that peace building, medical research, literature/music and hospitality, which were synonymous with Belfast, should be promoted and that the potential for creating additional air routes should be explored.

Mr. Stephens confirmed that the points which had been raised by the Members would be used to inform the further development of the Tourism Strategy and he retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that the draft Tourism Strategy 2015/2020 would be submitted to a future meeting for its consideration.

**Belfast Waterfront Hall**

The Deputy Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. G. Fenlon, Interim Managing Director, Waterfront and Ulster Halls, and Mr. G. Thompson, Project Sponsor, who were in attendance in order to provide an update on the Belfast Waterfront Hall refurbishment programme.

Mr Fenlon provided an overview of the proposed exhibition and conference facilities. He informed the Members that the venue would, when completed, be one and a half times larger than at present and that the main auditorium, the studio and the extension area would accommodate in total up to 4,600 patrons. It was envisaged that the facility would, by 2020/2021, create an additional 144,300 delegate days and increase spend within the City by £45 million. That, in turn, would create new businesses and employment opportunities within the hospitality, transport and retail sectors. He pointed out that there were now approximately 35,000 associations worldwide and that their conference requirements were growing in terms of their scale and demands. It was, therefore, important to ensure that the Waterfront Hall was fully equipped to compete with other venues worldwide in terms of attracting high profile conferences and other events to the City.

Mr. Thompson reported that all enabling works had now been completed and that the main contractor for the project had now been appointed. He informed the Committee that work would commence later in the month and that it would be completed by December, 2015, in line with the funding condition stipulated by the European Regional Development Fund. The refurbished venue would host its first event in May, 2016 and, to date, seventeen events had been booked provisionally between 2016 and 2020. He confirmed that the venue would continue to operate whilst the refurbishment works were underway and that programmes would be put in place to

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manage any associated disruption and to prepare for the full operation of the venue, upon completion.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Fenlon confirmed that the technological capacity of the Waterfront Hall would be enhanced to provide for up to 2,000 delegates to connect simultaneously to three communications devices. He advised that a marketing team would be in place early in 2015 and that they would be working closely with Visit Belfast in order to promote the venue and to examine other issues, including signage. He added that an engagement and communication process, involving the local community and businesses, was underway and that the contractor would be engaging with local schools in order to raise awareness of the role played by the construction sector.

The Director of Development informed the Committee that the existing building and equipment would be reviewed and that any required upgrades could potentially be met from within the corporate maintenance budget. He confirmed that an options appraisal, examining the future service delivery arrangements for the Waterfront Hall, would be completed by December and that the views of Members would be sought as part of that exercise. He added that social clauses, similar to those in place in other Council projects, would be inserted into the construction contract.

The Deputy Chairman thanked Messrs. Fenlon and Thompson for their presentation and they left the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive further updates on the project as it progressed.

Chairman

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## Development Committee

Tuesday, 16th September, 2014

### MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);  
Aldermen M. Campbell, Ekin,  
Kingston, Stalford and Stoker;  
Councillors Beattie, Convery,  
Kelly, Kennedy, Kyle, Magee,  
Mac Giolla Mhúin, Ó Donnghaile  
Ó Muilleoir, Spence and Verner.

Also attended: Councillors Attwood and Garrett.

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

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Webb and Councillors Keenan and Reynolds.

### Minutes

The minutes of meeting of 19th August 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 September.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Belfast City Centre Management – Request for Additional Funding

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st July, had acceded to a request by Alderman Rodgers that the minute of the meeting of 17th June, under the heading “Belfast City Centre Management – Request for Additional Funding”, insofar as it related to a request to provide funding to meet a proposed salary increase for Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) staff, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration. At its meeting on 19th August, the Committee had agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a deputation from BCCM to attend a future meeting.

Accordingly, the Committee considered further the undernoted minute of the meeting of 17th June:

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*“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.*

*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.”*

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The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. A. Irvine and Mr. W. McGivern, representing Belfast City Centre Management. Mr. Irvine gave an overview of costs associated with meeting the proposed increase in staff salaries. He indicated that the organisation would be seeking a sum of £13,909, which the Council should consider on a one-off basis.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Spence,  
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy,

That the Committee rescinds its decision of 17th June and agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it re-examines the Council's budgetary underspend to establish if a sum of £13,909 could be identified to meet with the request for additional funding as submitted by Belfast City Centre Management.

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

**St George's Markets Traders' Association – Deputation**

In accordance with its decision of 19th August, the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed to the meeting Mr. P. Dyer, Mr. S. Kerr, Ms. C. McLaverty and Mr. P. Lynn, representing the St. George's Market Traders' Association.

The representatives of the Market Traders requested that consideration be given to establishing a post of Market Manager who would be present during the days on which the facility was open to the public.

The members of the Traders' Association left the meeting.

The Director reminded the Committee that a staff review of the Market was ongoing and that a further report in this regard would be submitted for its consideration in December.

Noted.

**The Rank Organisation – Proposed Casino in Belfast**

In accordance with its decision of 18th February, the Chairman, on behalf of the Members, welcomed Mr. J. Minne of JPR Consulting, together with Mr. D. Waugh of the Rank Organisation, who were in attendance to apprise the Committee of the plans which had been formulated to establish an entertainment centre in Belfast, which would include a casino.

Mr. Waugh reported that the Rank Organisation was one of Europe's largest entertainment companies and was proposing to create a £20 million entertainment

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complex on a site yet to be identified. Such a facility, he reported, would include a mix of attractions, including a bowling alley, a casino, restaurants and a cinema. The development would incorporate also a hotel and would generate upwards of 200 skilled jobs. Mr. Waugh pointed out that any proposal for Belfast would require the Council to seek special dispensation from the Northern Ireland Assembly to grant a gambling licence to allow a casino to operate.

Mr. Waugh suggested that the form of gambling which would take place within the casino would be strictly regulated and monitored. The Rank Organisation would seek to recruit staff locally, specifically from areas of greatest social need. He concluded by pointing out that the Rank Organisation would, if granted permission to operate, extend its responsible gambling programme to Northern Ireland and would seek to engage with parties who may have concerns on the operation of a casino.

During discussion, a number of Members expressed concern in respect of the proposals which had been presented. In particular, it was pointed out that a casino licence could not be granted in Northern Ireland under the current legislation. In addition, Members referred to the negative social and health impacts of compulsive gambling. Mr. Waugh undertook to consider the issues which had been raised, particularly to the research findings which he had referred to regarding the economic merits of such entertainment complexes, and undertook to clarify such issues at a future meeting of the Committee.

Noted.

**City Marketing**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Background Information**

**1.1 In August 2013 Members considered an update paper in respect of an International Marketing Framework for Belfast.**

**1.2 The report considered City Marketing and positioning. Members approved the following;**

- **The development of a city narrative.**
- **A refresh of the City Brand ensuring it reflects the city’s ambitions, its values and narrative, which is collectively owned by the City’s stakeholders.**
- **Agreed target audiences, product development priorities, marketing materials and communications channels, including a strong digital, on-line presence.**
- **Agreement on the optimal structures for co-ordinated marketing of the city.**

**1.3 Members agreed to the recruitment of an external city marketing expert to undertake this piece of work and**

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approved a budget of up to £50,000 from the existing City development budget to carry out the work.

**2 Key Issues**

**2.1 Recruitment of the external agency/ City marketing expert has been delayed due to the need to align this with other related activity taking place in the Council, including the review of marketing and the community planning process. It is also important that this aligns with a similar project being undertaken by Invest NI and NITB given Belfast's importance in a regional context.**

**2.2 This piece of work is now underway and there have been some opportunities for council officers to feed into the development of the draft proposals. This will provide a useful regional perspective to help frame the repositioning work for Belfast.**

**2.3 In parallel, Members will be aware of a range of strategy development activities being led by the council. These include the Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan, the draft Integrated Tourism Strategy and draft Economic Strategy. All of these documents touch on the need to define the city narrative in order to help position Belfast and secure buy-in from partners.**

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 £50,000 has already been set aside within the existing City development budget during financial year 2014/15.**

**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**4.1 No specific equality or good relations considerations.**

**5 Recommendations**

**5.1 It is recommended that Members:**

- Note the contents of this report;**
- Give delegated authority to the Director of Development to approve the most economically advantageous tender for the city positioning work, subject to a form of contract being drawn up by Legal Services."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Council's Support for Employability – European Social Fund**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 **Members will be aware that the European Social Fund (ESF) is an EU fund to address economic inactivity and increase workforce skills. In Northern Ireland, the programme is administered by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). Funding is allocated by means of an open call for projects. Successful projects attract funding of up to 65% of the total project cost and project promoters are expected to find the remaining 35% funding from other sources. Currently, Belfast City Council provides match funding for five projects and supports its HARTE programme – which is delivered by a partnership of local training providers.**
- 1.2 **At the August 2014 meeting of the Development Committee, Members were advised of DEL’s plans to launch a call for projects under ESF. DEL has subsequently advised that the call will be launched in mid November 2014, closing date at the end of December 2014. Projects will be assessed by a range of selection panels and it is expected that approvals will be issued late January/early February 2015 spanning 2015-2018.**
- 1.3 **Members also agreed a proposal to hold an event for training organisations across the city and other relevant partners interested in employability and skills development. The aim of the event was to understand the scale and nature of existing and planned employability support activities across the city, with a view to informing how Council can best use its resources to support those projects requiring match funding and also ensure that a strategic approach is taken to the employability and skills challenges across the city. The event took place on 3 September 2014 and almost 60 representatives from local training organisations attended.**

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 **Members have been updated on difficulties for the Council, presented by the open call process for ESF. Updates have been provided in previous reports on officer engagement with DEL staff to identify a way in which the match funding provided by Council and other public sector bodies can be used to contribute to targeted delivery. While many of the individual projects produce positive outputs in their own**

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right, it is almost impossible to measure the overall impact of the investment in terms of skills development or employment outcomes within the city. In the Belfast City Council area, 44 ESF projects operate (around £35 million over three years) and 18 projects based in Belfast and operate regionally.

- 2.2 The transfer to councils of responsibility for community development and regeneration powers from Department for Social Development (DSD) means that there is likely to be a much more significant and diverse demand on Council resources to match fund projects in the coming financial year as well as in future years. While DEL has signalled that there are a number of ESF measures that will be 100% funded i.e. Family Support Programme and measures to target young people aged 16-24 not in education, training or employment – other measures (e.g. support for economically inactive, lone parents, those with health issues etc.) still require match funding at a level of 35% of overall project costs.
- 2.3 In addition to ESF, there are a range of additional initiatives supporting employability and skills development that are being delivered in specific parts of the city or will commence in 2015. These include the Social Investment Fund (SIF), Peace IV programme, United Youth Programme and Lottery funding.
- 2.4 Given the limited budget available, the assumption is that Council resources should be used to meet identified gaps or target specific activities that are not already planned or underway, or that will complement planned activity, with a view to improving sustainable employment outcomes and building skills levels to meet employer needs. Equally, it will be important to consider how this activity can sit within an overall strategic plan to address economic inactivity and improve skills levels across the city. Consecutive reports have identified the inactivity levels in some communities as the largest drag on the city competitiveness. In addition, the changing skills requirement of the new growth sectors in the city mean that there is a need to ensure that residents have access to the skills that they need to access future employment opportunities.
- 2.5 At the August 2014 Development Committee, Members were advised that work was under way to update Council research on employment, inactivity and unemployment by target group and by area with a view to helping Council identify specific challenges and priorities for intervention. Key

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statistics are included in Appendix 1 and are summarised below:

- Since 2012, the NI employment rate has risen from 67% to 68.4% but this growth has not been matched in Belfast.
- A recent report by Centre for Cities suggests that Belfast remains at the bottom of the league for cities whose residents have no formal skills. 30.4% of Belfast's working age population have no qualifications, while at the other end of the skills spectrum, 26% have a level 4 qualification (census data).
- There are extensive variations in unemployment rates across the city. Levels in the Waterworks and Duncairn are three times the NI average while long term unemployment is over 10% higher than the average in Twinbrook, Poleglass, New Lodge and Colin Glen.
- Economic inactivity as a result of long term sickness or disability is approximately three times the NI average in Whiterock, Falls, Collin Glen, Crumlin and New Lodge wards. Nine of the 10 most severely deprived wards in Northern Ireland in respect to education and skills are in Belfast; Shankill, Crumlin and Woodvale are the top three respectively.
- Oxford Economics' employment projections carried out as part of Council's Integrated Economic Strategy indicates areas with the highest level of job growth opportunities from 2012 to 2022 are in accommodation and food, information and communication, professional, scientific and technical and other service activities. Sectors which fared reasonably well during the worst years of the economic recession included administration and support, finance and insurance and arts, entertainment and recreation.
- Employment rates vary significantly depending on age and skills profile. People with higher skills have a higher employment rate. In the 16 – 44 age group, the employment rate was estimated at just 45.1% for people with no qualifications compared to 91.4% for those with Level 4 qualifications and above. The employment rate again reduces significantly for 45-74 year olds with no qualifications - estimated at 26.4%, compared to 71.4% of those with Level 4 qualifications and above.
- Belfast's role as a hub of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is clear: since 2002 Belfast has accounted for 50% plus of total NI FDI and over 60% of service sector FDI. If lower levels of Corporation Tax are achieved, this will become an increasingly advantageous position for Belfast as accelerated and increased FDI will produce more high quality jobs in the city. However, these are generally

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higher skilled jobs and – given the references to challenges around low skills levels – consideration needs to be given to how those residents can be up-skilled to avail of upcoming opportunities.

- 2.6 At the 3 September event, participants were asked to identify key roles for Council to undertake in supporting employability and skills development initiatives, to consider why some areas remained disadvantaged and identify what could be done to address the significant skills challenges.
- 2.7 Further work is required before a definitive paper with recommendations on priority actions can be presented to Council. However, based on the research to date – some of which is outlined above – as well as a review of current delivery and feedback from the parties attending the event, a number of guiding principles are proposed to steer any future Council decision on this issue.

**1. Need for a citywide approach**

A city-wide approach is proposed to support strategic, partnership-led action and address long term labour market issues that impede the city's economic growth.

**2. Need to consider targeted interventions and differentiated approaches**

A city-wide approach does not mean equal distribution of resources across the city. There are particular areas of need (both geographical and target groups) and resources should be prioritised for those that require greatest support.

**3. Partnership between Belfast City Council, DEL and others**

To improve the service provision for clients, partners identified a clear role for Belfast City Council's role, bringing together the various stakeholders who will help to deliver change across the city. This includes DEL, BMC and others in the community/voluntary and private sectors. Council's role will be a strategic and guiding one, providing intelligence to allow for future planning, supporting greater alignment between skills demand and supply, up-skilling the sectors, sharing and promoting best practice. The Council also has a role to play in raising awareness of upcoming opportunities arising from major development schemes such as University of Ulster, Royal Exchange and North Foreshore.

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**4. Support is needed for older males, lone parents, disabled people and minority ethnic communities**

Although addressing youth unemployment has to be a pillar of any future labour market intervention, many partners at the event suggested that government policy was focusing disproportionately on young people not in education, employment or training. There was a call to ensure that Council and its partners should not forget others within the labour market that are also severely disadvantaged including older males, lone parents, disabled and minority ethnic communities. This targeting should be based on thorough knowledge of how the unemployment figures were composed and what target groups should be identified for specific interventions.

**5. The role of the private sector is critical**

The private sector will remain the main job creation sector and therefore it is important that they have a role in the design and delivery of a future city-wide programme. There were numerous references to the fact that Belfast is a micro-business economy and that consider be given to align employment opportunities within small business needs. Participants recognised the significant efforts that Council had taken over the last three years to improve employment and work placement opportunities for long-term unemployed residents and asked that Council retains this focus by working with other public sector partners to encourage them to adopt similar approaches.

**6. Need to avoid duplication/local competition**

As previously referenced, employability and skills support is provided through a range of statutory programmes, commissioned services and community-based provision across the city. Partners recognised and agreed this can create duplication, generates competition at a local level across the city. Council support should seek to actively avoid local duplication and encourage collaboration among partners, so that efforts do not hamper an already significant and complicated range of local provision.

**7. Need to improve data sources and information sharing**

Sharing information and market intelligence is required. Currently, it is not possible to see the collective impact of skill improvement/job outcomes in Belfast. The resilient nature of deprivation – including skills and education suggests that the combined effort is not being translated into positive outcomes. It is therefore suggested that consideration is given to establishing a management

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information system to allow enhanced data sharing, track progress and set targets to address non-performance before it is too late.

**8. Need to focus on outcomes and tracking progress**

There was significant discussion as to what constituted successful outcomes in the range of employability support. While it was recognised that intervention needs to be flexible to meet the needs of the individual, it is considered that any initiatives which the council decides to support should be based on measuring outcomes in terms of jobs created and skills developed. Although not all individuals will move along the support pipeline at the same pace and will require differentiated support, instances of repeat training at the same level – without any consideration of progression – should not be supported. Projects need to be able to demonstrate the outcomes they will achieve and provide evidence of their ability or capacity to deliver these.

**9. Employability and skills cannot be considered as stand-alone interventions**

Very often, those who are not in work face a range of barriers beyond skills or competencies required and many face health-related issues. It is therefore suggested that any interventions supported need to take account of how wrap-around services can be used to help the individual into employment. This may include consideration by Council as to how its services can support this activity, including community outreach and leisure provisions.

**10. Need for transparency in decision-making around funding**

Council was asked to be clear about its priorities and to establish a transparent decision-making process by which any applications could be assessed. In the case of ESF projects, this may require the establishment of a set of secondary criteria (in addition to the ESF programme criteria). The research under way will help the council identify priority target groups and locations as well as gaps in provision and specific interventions that might be supported. It is proposed that this will form part of assessment criteria. Equality and Good Relations' considerations will be factored into the prioritisation and assessment process.

- 2.8 Subject to agreement by Members on these principles, it is proposed to present a report to the Development Committee in October to agree priority areas for Council intervention and support and to establish a possible assessment process for any applications, in line with these principles. This may

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include Council making a bid to DEL under ESF to lever resources and then commissioning delivery against agreed targets and priorities by third party organisation(s).

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 No specific resource implications at this stage.**

**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**4.1 No specific equality or good relations implications.**

**5 Recommendations**

**5.1 It is recommended that Members:**

- Note the preliminary research findings on employability, unemployment and skills issues in the Belfast City Council area.
- Note feedback from the 3 September 2014 event with training and skills development partners.
- Note and agreed the proposed principles to guide any future Council support for employability and skills development activities.
- Agree to receive a report at the October 2014 Development Committee meeting to agree priority areas for Council intervention and support and establish a possible assessment process for applications, in line with the 10 principles.”

The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations as set out and agreed further that a further report be considered at the meeting scheduled for 21st October.

**Former Visteon Site - Feasibility Study**

(Councillors Attwood and Garrett attended in relation to this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1. Relevant Background Information**

**1.1 In December 2013, Fold Housing submitted a planning application for a mixed-use scheme on the former Visteon site on Blacks Road in West Belfast. The proposed development consists of demolition of existing buildings and development of 244 social and private/affordable residential units with access from Blacks Road. The proposal also involves a non-residential element to include community centre and class B business units with associated parking which will be accessed from Finaghy Road North.**

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- 1.2 Following meetings with various groups on the proposal, an elected member requested that the Council commission a Feasibility Study of the site. The purpose of the Feasibility Study was to consider the optimal use of the site to support future city development.
- 1.3 On 18 March 2014, Development Committee agreed to allocate £15,000 for the preparation of a Feasibility Study on the site. A consultant was subsequently appointed on 1 August to undertake the Study examining the suitability, viability and deliverability of various land use options on the site.
- 1.4 A draft Feasibility Study has been completed which explores the following land use options:
- Option 1: All industrial / Business
  - Option 2: All residential
  - Option 3a: 70% Industrial / Business  
30% Residential
  - Option 3b: 30% Industrial / Business  
70% Residential
  - Option 3c: 40% Industrial / Business  
40% Residential  
20% Other (Community, Creche, Convenience Store, Nursing Home)

2 Key Issues

2.1 Key Development Considerations

2.2 *Ownership*

The site was acquired by Fold Housing Association in June 2013 at a reported cost of £2.4m. It is estimated that the cost of demolition and pre-development investigations undertaken to date is approximately £1m. It is noted that the cost of re-acquiring the site for non-residential use would significantly impact upon the feasibility of any future development options.

2.3 Planning and Policy Considerations

On the 9th September 2014, the zoning status of the site as unzoned white land was confirmed by DOE Planning via its formal adoption of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP). As a result, it is now confirmed that it is no longer designated as an Area of Existing Employment, as previously proposed under draft BMAP. In this regard, there is no longer a presumption under planning that only

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employment uses should be developed on this former industrial site. Rather, the site can be developed for non-employment purposes if it satisfies a number of planning considerations outlined in Planning Policy Statement 4 entitled Planning and Economic Development (PPS 4).

**2.4** Under PPS 4 a range of land uses can be considered feasible for this site. Indeed, judging by the experience of the former Bass Ireland site on the Glen Road, this can also include mainly residential use. On balance, therefore, the percentage mix of uses proposed under the extant planning application would have to be seriously considered by DOE Planning under the adopted BMAP and PPS 4.

**2.5** Environmental Factors

The Feasibility Study examines the potential implications of developing the various land use options. While the Study acknowledges that industrial use poses the least risk to human health compared to residential use which is the most sensitive end use, it concludes that even if the site is redeveloped for industrial use, it would require significant remediation measures and costs.

**2.6** Traffic/Access Issues

A Traffic Review was undertaken to assess the impact of the various land use options on the road network. The traffic review examined the impact of the options identified in 1.4 as well as the conditions when the former factory was operational and traffic conditions forecasted for the current planning application. The Traffic Review deduced that development options based primarily on residential use posed least pressure on the existing accesses and surrounding junctions.

**2.7** Demand /need to retain land for industrial use

The Feasibility Study identifies a number of sites zoned for employment/industrial use across west Belfast. The study notes that land zoned for employment/industrial use is being lost to other, often residential, uses (for example at Glenmona and the former Bass Ireland site). The report suggests that approximately 15 hectares (37 acres) of zoned employment / industrial land remains undeveloped. The Study highlights that this figure is significantly below the figure suggested in the Lisney Property Review (169 acres). The Feasibility Study suggests that the undeveloped zoned land could, in theory, generate over 600,000 sqft of employment/industrial space.

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**2.8 Demand/need for social housing**

The Feasibility Study notes that there are approximately 1,500 applicants for social housing in the Andersonstown area, with over 1000 classified as being in housing stress.

**2.9 Viability**

The viability of each option was estimated on the basis of the return minus the cost to develop the site. Furthermore, the study suggests that a viable proposal would require a standard profit margin of 12.5-15%. The various options produced the following estimates:

Option	Use	Estimate of Development Value	Estimate of Development Costs	Value to cost balance
Option 1:	All industrial/business	£14,187,955	£25,658,438	£-11,470,483
Option 2:	All residential	£30,689,421	£25,415,284	£5,274,137
Option 3a:	70% Industrial/Business 30% Residential	£19,138,395	£25,585,492	£-6,447,097
Option 3b:	30% Industrial/Business 70% Residential	£25,738,981	£25,488,230	£250,751
Option 3c:	40% Industrial/Business 40% Residential 20% Other	£20,542,066	£27,557,472	£-7,015,406

**2.10 The Feasibility Study concluded that due to the high acquisition and high clearance costs, proposals without a high residential element would not be viable. Furthermore, as indicated by the “Value to Cost Balance” in Table 1, the study concluded that funding would be required to secure the viability of industrial uses on the site.**

**2.11 Deliverability and Funding**

The Feasibility Study argues that the ability to deliver the various options is dependent upon addressing acquisition and pre-development costs as well as any future remediation costs. In this regard, residential development is considered feasible in the short term, whereas it is suggested that employment/industry can only be considered as a medium to long term objective if both a demand for the site and funding is secured.

**2.12 In relation to funding, a number of potential sources were identified such as Invest NI and Belfast City Council. It was**

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**noted that the availability of funding from these sources is unlikely due to existing commitments to other projects.**

**3 Recommendations**

**3.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.”**

The author of the Study, Mr. T. Quinn, answered a range of Members' questions. He pointed out that the formal adoption of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan had had a significant influence upon the findings of the Study. He pointed out that the financial viability of each of the options should be considered in addition to the planning-related factors which had been outlined. Given the high costs which would be incurred in the acquisition and clearance of the site, any proposals for development which did not include a significant residential element would be unlikely to be financially viable.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the report would be submitted to the Council's Town Planning Committee for its information.

**Campaign for Attracting Audiences and Participation in the Arts**

The Committee agreed to defer, to its meeting in October, consideration of the above-mentioned report to enable further information to be provided in respect of the proposed costs to the Council in partaking in the campaign.

**Music Laureate Proposal**

The Committee agreed to provide funding in the sum of £7,500, to match fund the sum provided by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland, to enable the appointment of a Music Laureate for Belfast for 2014/2015. It was noted that the Director would undertake to investigate the feasibility of the Music Laureate delivering a number of outreach activities to local schools and community groups.

**Community Oil Buying Clubs Pilot Project – Update**

The Director provided an update regarding the establishment of Community Oil Buying Clubs, a project which the Committee had endorsed at its meeting in June. He reported that officers from the Department, together with representatives of a range of statutory bodies and agencies, had developed a '*practical guide for setting up a club*', which was aimed particularly at community groups and workers within Belfast. It was pointed out that the public launch of that guide would take place in the City Hall on Tuesday 28th October, and that all Members of the Committee would be invited to attend.

Noted.

Chairman

## Health and Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, 3rd September, 2014

### MEETING OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson);  
Aldermen Kingston and McCoubrey;  
Councillors Austin, Curran, Clarke, Garrett,  
Hussey, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Magee,  
McCarthy, McNamee and Thompson.

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

#### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Councillors M. E. Campbell, Kyle and McKee.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th August 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 September.

#### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### Directorate

#### Quarterly Financial Report

The Head of Environmental Health submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which outlined the financial performance of the Department during the first quarter of the 2014/2015 financial year. She advised that an underspend of £144,000 had been recorded due primarily to the receipt of additional income and unfilled posts. She drew the Committee's attention to two performance indicators which related to procurement compliance. The first measured the number of times in which a valid purchase order had been created in advance of goods or services being ordered; and the second determined whether goods received had been recorded on the appropriate system immediately upon their receipt, rather than waiting until an invoice had been

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received. The Council had set corporate targets of 90% and 75% respectively, and it was reported that the Department had achieved compliance rates of 88.3% and 74.7% respectively.

Noted.

**Update on Community Oil Buying Clubs - Pilot Project**

The Head of Environmental Health provided an update regarding the establishment of Community Oil Buying Clubs, a project which the Committee, in partnership with Development Committee, had endorsed at its meeting in June. She reported that officers from the Council, together with representatives of a range of statutory bodies and agencies, had developed a '*practical guide for setting up a club*', which was aimed particularly at community groups and workers within Belfast. It was pointed out that the public launch of that guide would take place in the City Hall on Tuesday 28th October and that all Members of the Committee would be invited to attend.

Noted.

**Building Control**

**Affordable Warmth Project**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 7th April, it was advised of the Department of Social Development's (DSD) wish to engage with local authorities in delivering schemes across Northern Ireland in the next 3 years which will seek to address fuel poverty. This proposed scheme is the third phase of an overall project in the partnership that has been conducted with a number of councils. Belfast was involved in the first scheme and had been part of the group that monitored the second phase which concentrated on one of the rural cluster council area.**
- 1.2 This project is being delivered within the Council by the Building Control Service. This involves the DSD and University of Ulster (UUJ) targeting some areas of the city and providing Building Control with addresses of those people thought to be most at risk of fuel poverty.**
- 1.3 Building Control will visit the properties and carry out a survey of occupants' home and financial circumstances to ascertain their income and subsequent expenditure on fuel. This information is then passed to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for further consideration for grant**

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aided intervention in the dwelling to increase energy efficiency.

- 1.4 If the occupant is eligible they will be notified of the grant funding and the work to be carried out in relation to the grant. The applicant then arranges the works to be carried out, an application is made for the works to Building Control and the appropriate fees paid for the works paid by the NIHE.
- 1.5 Additionally, the Department of Social Development wishes to retain self referral as a means of gaining grants also. Self referral is when a person who lies outside the list of addresses supplied by the DSD, contacts Building Control and asks to be considered for the scheme. A survey is carried out and sent to the NIHE for their attention.
- 1.6 Progress to date:
  - a Service Level Agreement has been drawn up and cleared by Legal Services and signed by the new Chief Executive.
  - DSD has provided fuel poverty likelihood information on all parts of the city.
  - specific addresses for use by the Council have being produced by the DSD.
  - DSD, the NIHE and Council officers have agreed a methodology for the collection of occupant's data.
  - a system of data transfer has been agreed between the NIHE and the Council.
- 1.7 The Building Control Service will:
  - Employ temporary staff to work on the project.
  - Post out letters to occupants.
  - Visit the addresses as provided by the DSD and carry out surveys.
  - Carry out doorstep surveys until 1000 houses are surveyed annually
  - Provide completed surveys to the NIHE
  - Ensure applications for energy efficiency works are submitted to the Council with the appropriate fee for assessment and approval by Building Control.
  - Inspect all building and insulation works.
  - Meet with the DSD and NIHE quarterly to discuss progress and any area of concern arising.
- 1.8 The Council has now agreed job descriptions and salary scales with the Human Resources Unit and we are now in

the process of recruiting staff to carry out this function on temporary contracts.

**2 Key Issues**

**2.1** There are increasing numbers of people in fuel poverty in the city and the Council is working with the DSD and NIHE to alleviate this.

**2.2** This is Phase 3 of the project and will last for three years. Funding has been agreed and Building Control will provide the Council and DSD will regular reports on the progress of the project.

**2.3** In participating in this project the Council can play an active role in partnership with DSD, establishing a methodology to alleviate fuel poverty in the city that may be the model going forward in the future.

**2.4** The Council will in partnership deliver energy efficiency measures which will also assist to reduce the city's carbon emission footprint.

**2.5** Legal Services have been fully involved in the drawing up of the Service Level Agreements.

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

There are no financial implications for the Council. All set up marketing and employment costs are met by the DSD.

**3.2 Human Resources**

Four temporary members of staff will be employed on a 12 month contract basis.

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

There are no implications for assets

**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**4.1** None at this time.

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**5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the work of the Building Control Service in partnership with DSD to alleviate fuel poverty in the city.”**

After discussion, during which the Head of Building Control clarified a number of issues which had been raised by Members, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Naming of Street – John Bell Crescent**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Background Information**

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

**2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 To consider the following application for the naming of a new street in the City.**

<u>Proposed Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
John Bell Crescent	Off Queens Road, BT3	Mr Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd

The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed name. The proposed new name is not contained in the Council’s Streets Register and does not duplicate existing approved street names in the City.

The applicant has advised that the proposed street to be named, John Bell Crescent, is situated off Queen’s Road and bounds the Belfast Metropolitan College building in the Titanic Quarter. This is a presently unnamed road and there are no occupied properties that have entrances onto the road, additionally the land on both sides of the road is owned by the applicant.

The application states that they wish to name the road to recognise the significant global contribution to science and quantum physics of Belfast man, John (Stewart) Bell who died in 1990. John Bell attended the former Belfast College of Technology, now known as the Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) in the 1940s prior to graduating from Queen’s

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University Belfast. There is a Blue Plaque honouring John Bell erected at Queen's.

The policy on naming streets 4.3 states that there should be a social, historical or geographical link in connection with the proposed name. Members would need to be satisfied that that linkage fulfils the requirements of the policy. Additionally, whilst the policy is silent on the use of the names of people, the Council has traditionally avoided using the names of people in the past. On checking our records, there are a very few streets that we believe were named after people, all of these were prior to the mid 1980s. Indeed, since the 1960s, the council has only used real names on two occasions.

**3 Resource Implications**

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

**4 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

- 4.1 There is no direct equality or good relations implications in this decision. However, Members will be aware that to agree this decision could mean revisiting the policy to guide decision-making in that any future names approved by Council should ensure a neutral and harmonious city.**

- 4.2 This would constitute a policy change which would require screening for equality and good relations implications. The potential implications would have to address community concerns of partisan figures that were perceived as representative of one particular section of the community and not promoting shared space in the city.**

**5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Based on the information presented, the Committee may either:**
- **grant the application, or**
  - **refuse the application and request the applicant to submit another name for consideration."**

The Head of Building Control provided an overview of the report and emphasised the following points to the Members of the Committee:

- The Policy is silent on the use of the names of people as street names;

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- In accordance with section 4.3 of the Council's Street Naming Policy, the naming of streets or roads within Belfast should be reflective of a vicinity's history, social history or geography; therefore, it would be expected that the names of streets or roads within the Titanic Quarter would be linked to the area's maritime or industrial heritage; and
- Traditionally, there existed a long-standing practice in Belfast of naming buildings, as opposed to streets or roads, after individuals – in particular, academics - and that was a further option which might be explored by Titanic Quarter Limited or the Belfast Metropolitan College should it wish to honour John Stewart Bell.

After further discussion, it was

Resolved - that the Committee agrees not to accede to the request to name a street within the Titanic Quarter after John Stewart Bell viz., John Bell Crescent, since it would not be considered to be in accordance with the spirit of the Council's Street Naming Policy and the established practice of not naming streets after individuals.

**Northern Ireland Building Control - Annual Convention**

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that the 2014 Building Control Annual Convention would be held in the Templeton Hotel on 13th and 14th November. He reported that the theme of the Convention would be "Building New Communities Beyond 2015 – how new councils will shape the future". He outlined the principal aspects of the programme and gave an overview of the speakers who would address the event.

The Committee approved the attendance at the event, on a day delegate basis only, of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Health and Environmental Services, together with the Head of Building Control (or their nominees).

**Joint Working with Department of Social Development  
on Works to City Centre Buildings**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“ **Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 **Members will be aware at your Committee meeting on 4th June, you gave permission for the Service to engage with the Department for Social Development (DSD) on the possibility of accessing finance to carry out work to buildings in the city centre. This was a result of enquiries from DSD directly to the Service following the successful partnerships established through completion of projects linked to improvement of buildings on route of the Giro. In undertaking**

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these discussions, it was agreed that we would keep the Development Department fully informed, to prevent any duplication, as they also work with DSD on similar schemes and are the Council lead on regeneration.

- 1.2 To test the viability of any proposals we agreed with DSD that we would carry out a pilot exercise to assess the improvement of a vacant building in Castle Street. That pilot exercise was to carry out a detailed survey, specify and price the works to the building and present our findings to DSD a full report. That pilot project has now been completed.
- 1.3 DSD have confirmed that they are completely satisfied with the Services work and they now wish to enter into a more formal arrangement with the Council to carry out this work and other projects within the area of a similar nature.

Key Issues

- 2.1 The project is based on partnership working between the Council (through the Building Control Service) and the DSD, with clearly defined roles. The DSD are committed to reducing dilapidation in the city centre and are seeking the assistance of the Council to carry out that work. The scheme proposed is similar to work successfully carried out in relation to the Giro and indeed the Dilapidations Project carried out in conjunction with the Department of the Environment.
- 2.2 This scheme will be carried out for and on behalf of the DSD. They selected both the area and the buildings to be improved. The Service will be the delivery mechanism as set out in the pilot for each of the projects. The costs of the work to the building and the Services costs in delivering the project will be met by DSD. There is no application from building owners, no grant involved and therefore no financial input by the owner/occupier. It is therefore very similar to the works we previously carried out using DSD funding in North East Quarter prior to the Giro with the exception that these are occupied commercial units.
- 2.3 The projects they are proposing in this phase of the scheme is to buildings in the area alongside the current Public Realm Environmental Improvement works being carried out by DSD in Bank Square. It is anticipated that the projects will raise the overall look of the area, with a view to the works being completed prior to the expected Christmas shopping rush.
- 2.4 In addition to the ongoing Dilapidations Project in March 2012, Council agreed a four year citywide Renewing the Routes

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(RTR) programme that forms part of the £150m Investment Programme. The programme delivers local regeneration along Belfast's main arterial routes by improving the frontages to business, targeting graffiti and addressing derelict space.

- 2.5 The approach to the programme, based on previous experience, is direct delivery rather than through grant support. The RTR programme operated by the Development Department seeks to deliver improvements to commercial properties and associated areas working with the owner/occupier who are required to make a 10% contribution. This requirement arose from the Council consideration of the pilot programme carried out using Urban and BLSP funding.
- 2.6 The broader RTR programme has previously excluded the city centre areas due to the potential for duplication as the DSD has funded such interventions directly. Post April 2015 council will have responsibility for city centre regeneration. As part of the LGR process for the transfer of the DSD regeneration functions, there is currently no budget provision for this type of activity and the participation in this partnership project does not commit the Council to an ongoing programme or commitment.
- 2.7 If we decide to participate in this project the Council will use our contractors as selected through the tendering process for dilapidated buildings and submit final accounts to the DSD following the completion of each project. For the proposed project it should be noted that DSD will prioritise the properties for improvement and we carry out the works to those buildings. Also, in order to provide coherence with the established approach to commercial improvements, it is proposed that further discussions are undertaken with the Development Department and the DSD.
- 2.8 While DSD will identify properties within the terms of the scheme, the Council will be responsible for ensuring that the works are carried out from survey to completion.
- 2.9 The proposed spend and timeframe on the programme is £78,500,00 to be completed before Christmas 2014.
- 2.10 DSD is finalising a Service Level Agreement for the project which will outline the roles of DSD and the Council. Any Agreement will be given to Legal Services for assessment, but given the timescales involved to get the project initiated, it is proposed that Committee and Council authorise the Director of Health & Environmental Services the delegated power to sign the agreement.

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2.11 DSD has confirmed that they will provide funding for any additional staff, including structural or asbestos surveys as required by the Council.

2.12 We have consulted with Legal Services and the Development Department and they are satisfied that we can engage in this scheme. We will bring a full report to Committee in due course outlining the works in this scheme.

**3 Resource Implications**

**3.1 Financial**

DSD provide all funding for the physical improvement works to be carried out to the properties. DSD will also provide funding for council's staffing needs and external consultants to deliver their part of the project.

**3.2 Human Resources**

This project can be delivered using the existing building control staff.

**3.3 Assets and Other Implications**

None.

**4 Equality Implications**

4.1 The Department for Social Development will undertake its own Equality Impact Assessment of any proposed projects.

**5 Recommendations**

5.1 The Committee is requested to agree:

a) that the Council enters into an agreement with the Department for Social Development to deliver this project in the city centre and continues to assess with the Development against the established approach to commercial improvements.

b) that the Lead Operations Officer/Head of Environmental Health be given delegated authority to sign off any Service Level Agreement in consultation with Legal Services, based on the arrangements as outlined above and as agreed by Committee."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Cleansing Services**

**Designation of Land within the Council Area  
for the Free Distribution of Printed Matter**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which came into force on 1st April 2012, introduced new powers to control the distribution of free printed matter in those areas of the city where there is a history of significant littering problems as a result of leaflet distribution. Prior to the introduction of the legislation, the city centre and the university areas had been the subject of sustained leafleting activities by entertainment premises, retail outlets and the tour bus companies resulting in complaints about the increase in litter and the nuisance factor associated with this activity.
- 1.2 Following approval from the Committee, the city centre and the university areas were designated for the purposes of distributing free printed matter. On 1st May 2013, The Free Printed Matter (Belfast) Designation Order came into operation. This required any person wishing to distribute free printed matter on the land in these areas to first obtain consent (in the form of a permit) from the Council.
- 1.3 Once the lands, subject to the Designation Order, had been declared, it became an offence to distribute free printed materials in these areas without a permit. Anyone who is caught distributing leaflets within the designated areas, without a permit, can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for £80 or be prosecuted. In addition, all materials can be seized but may be returned upon proper application to the Court. Prosecutions carry a maximum penalty of £2500 in the Magistrate’s Court. The distribution of free printed matter for political, religious or charitable purposes is exempt from the need to obtain consent in the legislation.
- 1.4 Since the scheme came into operation, the amount of litter caused as a result of leafleting has reduced dramatically. It was agreed that the effectiveness of the scheme would be reviewed after it has been in operation for a year with a view to identifying any necessary changes to the scheme and thereafter bringing a report to Committee.

**2 Key Issues**

**2.1 Permits may be offered on an annual or a temporary basis. The following number of permits were issued from 1st May 2013 to date:**

- **45 Annual Permits (city centre only) (£450)**
- **91 Temporary Permits (city centre and university area) (£75)**

**2.2 From 1st May 2013, letters were sent out to businesses in the city centre to advise about the new controls that were in place to control leafleting. Advice and warning was also given to anybody who was giving out free printed matter within the newly designated areas. Signage was erected within the two designated areas to warn that the areas were designated for the purposes of distributing free printed matter.**

**2.3 There has been a high level of compliance with the legislation resulting in a significant decrease in litter levels associated with this activity in the two areas. The scheme has been closely monitored by the Enforcement Section and the following enforcement activity has taken place within the first year of the scheme:**

- **85 Warnings were given to those who were found to be leafleting.**
- **9 Fixed penalty notices were issued.**
- **Three cases were prosecuted for non payment of the £80 fixed penalty notice.**

**2.4 Now that the scheme has been in operation for over a year, the following amendments have been identified to improve the scheme:**

**(1) Dispensation for Statutory Organisations**

**2.5 It is proposed that dispensation is given to statutory organisations for the distribution of free printed matter that contains public health and safety messages. This includes the following statutory organisations:**

- **NHS (including the Blood Transfusion Service)**
- **Fire Service**
- **Police Service**
- **Health Promotion Agency**
- **Councils**
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

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- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Department for Regional Development Roads Service
- Department for Social Development
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

2.6 These organisations would not be required to apply to the Council for a permit; however, they would be expected to contact the Council in advance of any planned distribution and to have arrangements in place to clear up any litter that is associated with their distribution. This dispensation does not allow any distribution to occur within the prohibited areas (eg see Appendix).

(2) Temporary permits

2.7 Under the existing scheme, a temporary permit is only available for one day at a cost of £75. It is proposed to amend the existing scheme so that there will be two types of temporary permit available:

- A temporary permit for up to three days at £75
- A temporary permit for one week (seven days) at £120

2.8 Enforcement staff will continue to monitor the leaflet designation scheme to ensure that all permit holders are complying with the conditions attached to their permits, as well as pursuing action against individuals and organisations who attempt to distribute free printed materials within the designated areas and who do not have a permit from the Council.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 There was an additional administrative and enforcement resource required to administer and police the scheme. Additional resources had been approved by committee to implement the new powers contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011.

3.2 The income that has been generated for the first year of the scheme amounts to £23,175. The predicted costs of operating the scheme for the first year were £26,202.

3.3 The scheme was designed to reduce the adverse environmental impact of the distribution of free literature within the city and this has been achieved by controlling the activities of those involved in the distribution of leaflets. This has resulted in a reduction in the resources required to keep the streets clean in both of the designated areas and allowed

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**for those resources to be diverted to other city centre hot spots.**

**4 Equality Implications**

**5.1 There are no relevant equality or good relations implications**

**5 Recommendations**

**5.1 The Committee is requested to note the significant reduction in litter and nuisance leafleting as a result of the introduction and implementation of the legislation to control the distribution of free printed matter.**

**5.2 In the light of operational experience, the Committee is requested to approve the suggested changes to the scheme highlighted in paragraphs 2.5-2.8 and approve the attached updated guidance note.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations and approved the associated guidance note, a copy of which was published on the Council’s website.

**Digital Advertising Northern Ireland Awards**

The Committee was advised that the Corporate Communications Section, in conjunction with the Cleansing Services Section, had been shortlisted for the ‘Best Use of Social Media’ category at the Digital Advertising Northern Ireland Awards, which would take place in the St. Columb’s Hall, Londonderry, on 19th September. It was reported that the Council had been short-listed for its ‘Belfast’s Next Top Doggie’ initiative which had sought to raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling and to promote the Council’s “Your Dog, Your Job” campaign. The Head of Cleansing Services reported that the cost of attending the ceremony would be £108 per delegate.

The Committee agreed to authorise the attendance at the awards ceremony of three officers from within the Department who had been involved in the project.

**Environmental Health**

**Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation  
(North Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee was reminded that the North Belfast Area-Based Working Group had, as part of its intervention project, agreed to allocate a sum of £90,000 to provide alley-gates within the area. The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that the Council possessed the power to make Gating Orders under Section 69 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. She reported that the purpose of the Order was to prohibit the use by vehicles and pedestrians of specified entries where alley-gates would be erected. She explained that a Notice of

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Intention to make an Order had been advertised on 11th July in relation to the areas affected.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the Council be requested, at its meeting on 1st October, to pass a resolution to make a Traffic Regulation Order in the undernoted streets and areas which would be included in the Order:

- 1. To the rear of 1-15 Glenbank Parade**
- 2. To the rear of 68-80 Glenbank Place**
- 3. To the rear of 828-854 Crumlin Road and to the side of 834 Crumlin Road**
- 4. To the rear of 2-44 Oakley Street and to the side of 2 Oakley Street**
- 5. To the rear of 1-55 Glenbank Drive and to the side of 1 Glenbank Drive**
- 6. To the rear of 24-45 Farringdon Court**
- 7. To the rear of 2-32 Cranbrook Court and to the side of 32 Cranbrook Court**
- 8. To the rear of 1-22 Farringdon Court**
- 9. To the rear of 1-37 Velsheda Court and to the side of 39 Velsheda Court**
- 10. To the rear of 72-118 Farringdon Gardens**
- 11. To the rear of 73-115 Velsheda Park**
- 12. To the rear of 53-141 Oldpark Avenue and to the side of 83, 117 and 141 Oldpark Avenue**
- 13. To the rear of 162 and 164 Cliftonville Road**
- 14. To the rear of 1-15 Donore Court**
- 15. To the rear of 103-119 Antrim Road**
- 16. To the rear of 105-113 North Queen Street**
- 17. To the rear of 2-16 Little George's Street and to the side of 2 Little George's Street**
- 18. To the rear of 1-6 McCleery Street**
- 19. To the rear of 298-316 Skegoneill Avenue**
- 20. To the rear of 18-40 Northwood Drive**
- 21. To the rear of 1-39 York Park and to the side of 39 York Park**
- 22. To the rear of 43-133 York Park and to the side of 43, 87, 89 and 133 York Park**
- 23. To the rear of 137-185 York Park and to the side of 137 York Park**
- 24. To the rear of 2-24 York Park**
- 25. To the rear of 1-23 York Drive**
- 26. To the rear of 2-44 Veryan Gardens and to the side of 2 Veryan Gardens**
- 27. To the side of 19 and 23 Serpentine Road**
- 28. To the rear of 1-53 Veryan Gardens and to the side of 1 Veryan Gardens**
- 29. To the rear of 2-64 Vandyck Gardens**
- 30. To the rear of 1-37 Vandyck Gardens**

**31. To the rear of 2-44 Voltaire Gardens and to the side of 2  
Voltaire Gardens**

**Horizon 2020 European Funding – Community Safety Projects**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 Horizon 2020 is the largest European research and innovation programme, at a value of approximately £80 billion across Europe during the period 2014 – 2020.**
- 1.2 The overall goal of Horizon 2020 is to ensure Europe produces world-class science by removing barriers to innovation and making it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.**
- 1.3 Horizon 2020 is comprised of a number of work streams to deliver on this goal, with one specific work stream about undertaking the research and innovation activities needed to protect our citizens, society and economy as well as our infrastructures and services, our prosperity, political stability and wellbeing.**
- 1.4 The first applications to Horizon 2020 will be considered over the coming months, with successful projects expected to be announced in spring 2015. Horizon 2020 projects require co-operation across a number of European countries and typically involve consortiums of a range of public and private sector organisations.**
- 1.5 The Police Service of Northern Ireland has asked Belfast City Council for support in relation to two proposals being submitted to the Horizon 2020.**

**2 Key Issues**

**Project Name: Security and Crime Perception Platform (SCRIP2T)**

**This consortium is led by Fraunhofer IAO, a leading European Research and Development company with a range of local authorities and police agencies from across Europe. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has signed up as an end user partner to the project with a view to undertaking a case study as part of the project in an area of Belfast. The PSNI have approached Belfast City Council as the local authority to**

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also be an end user partner, recognising the valuable contribution Belfast City Council makes to working in partnership on policing and community safety issues.

**2.2** The aim of the project is to develop a geo data platform, visualizing the perception of the population regarding crime as well as social media data and police crime information.

**2.3** The expected outcomes of the project are:

- It will reveal and articulate the perception of crime within the population;
- It will help city planners and the police to identify and prioritise security challenges within large urban environments;
- It will combine information in order to enhance the knowledge regarding the perception of crime and insecurity;
- The subjective module will collect user generated content, enhancing community engagement. Further it addresses the bi-directional communication between citizens and the police;
- The project will offer various market opportunities as for example regarding the emotion measurement hardware/software or the geo referenced presentation platform.

**2.4** End user partner commitment will involve full engagement in design and implementation of the project with the opportunity to shape the project to specifically benefit policing and community safety issues in Belfast. It will typically involve staff involvement at a level of between 15-30 days per annum. All staff costs are reimbursed at 100% with an additional 25% allowance for indirect costs such as heating, lighting and HR/Finance costs. All travel and subsistence costs associated with end user partner involvement is reimbursed at 100%.

**Project Name: ACCEPT: Advancing Community Collaboration and Enhancing Policing Transition**

**2.5** The Police Service for Northern Ireland is also acting as lead artner on a consortium to improve co-operation between local authorities and police agencies on community policing across Europe. As part of this project, PSNI have requested that

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Belfast is selected as a case study area and the PSNI has approached Belfast City Council to support the project as an official stakeholder.

- 2.6 The aim of the project is to develop strengthened community policing principles and future technology to deliver enhanced co-operation between law enforcement agencies and citizens.
- 2.7 The expected outcomes of the project are:
- It will strengthen and accelerate communications between law enforcement agencies and citizens on policing issues;
  - It will increase community engagement and reduce feelings of insecurity;
  - It will build an understanding of the case study communities and the policing service they receive;
  - It will increase collaboration between communities and police.
- 2.8 Official stakeholder commitment will involve twice yearly stakeholder sessions with all stakeholders from participating European jurisdictions to shape the development and implementation of the project. It will typically involve staff involvement at a level of 2-3 days per annum. Staff costs are not directly reimbursed as an official stakeholder, however, previous experience of being involved as a stakeholder in European projects has added significant value to the knowledge and networks of Belfast City Council in progressing its policing and community safety work. All travel and subsistence costs associated with official stakeholder involvement is reimbursed at 100%.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are no resource implications at present as proposals have not yet been approved. However, if approved the resource implications will be as follows:

Project Name: Security and Crime Perception Platform (SCRIP2T)

- 3.2 15-30 staff days reimbursed at 100% plus 25% indirect costs also reimbursed. All travel and subsistence will also be reimbursed at 100%.

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**3.3 Project Name: ACCEPT: Advancing Community Collaboration and Enhancing Policing Transition**

2-3 staff days costs of which not reimbursed but which previous involvement in European projects has shown significant added value in terms of policing and community safety knowledge and networks. All travel and subsistence will be reimbursed at 100%.

**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**4.1 There are no equality and good relations implications at present.**

**5 Recommendation**

**5.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to support the Council's involvement at this proposal stage.**

**5.2 The Committee is requested to agree to receive notification in spring 2015 on whether the proposals are successful and at that stage to consider in more detail Belfast City Council's involvement in the projects and associated case studies."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Waste Management**

**Sustainable Ireland Awards**

The Committee was advised that the Waste Management Service had been short-listed in the "Council Award for Excellence in Waste Management" category at the Sustainable Ireland Awards. The Head of Waste Management reported that the award category sought to recognise local authorities which had made significant progress in meeting its recycling targets in recent years. He indicated that the Sustainable Ireland Awards would take place in the Ramada Hotel later that evening. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, together with the Head of Waste Management (or their nominees), be authorised to attend the event. The total cost for three delegates would be £238.00.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Extension to Contracts**

The Head of Waste Management reminded the Committee that it had previously approved contracts for the procurement of various goods and services as set out hereunder:

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- Collection of skips and hook-lift waste containers;
- Stock control, assembly and delivery of all waste containers;
- Inspection, repair and maintenance of roll-on/roll-off skips; and
- Hazardous waste - various lots.

He reported that, due to the high level of work which the Council's Procurement Service had undertaken over the recent period, there had been a delay in the tendering process for the renewal of the above-mentioned services. He, therefore, sought the Committee's approval to extend, for a period of six months, the current contracts and, if necessary, thereafter on a monthly basis.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Waste Management Service Recycling and  
Customer Service Standards Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 On 15th January 2014, the Committee noted the half year update to the recycling and customer service standards. This report presents details at the end of year position in regards to recycling, NI Landfill Allowances Scheme (NILAS) and Customer Service Standards.
- 1.2 As Members are aware, the end-of-year recycling and NILAS figures are subject to external verification by the Dept of the Environment (DoE). This process been just been completed and the recycling and NILAS updates included in this report are the final 2013/14 year-end results for the Council.
- 1.3 The recycling target for 2013 was 40% and the NILAS Allowance was 45,652 tonnes.

**2 Key Issues**

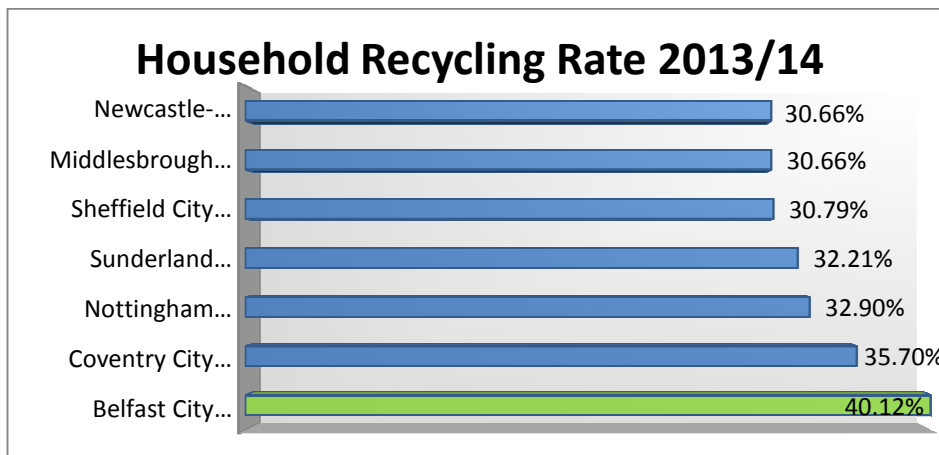
**Recycling Performance Year-to-Date**

- 2.1 The household recycling rate, for end of year 2013/14 was 40.13% (verified); therefore Belfast has achieved its annual recycling target.
- 2.2 This has been achieved against a dramatic backdrop of change within the waste sector and has been managed by successfully implementing various recycling initiatives as outlined in the 'Towards Zero Waste' Action Plan. This report provides a brief update in relation to progress and performance against these initiatives.

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**Bench Marking**

- 2.3** Due to the population, household numbers, housing stock and social deprivation, Belfast has no obvious comparator in NI. To compensate for this, Waste Management has consistently benchmarked against similar post-industrial cities. The implementation of the Action Plan's initiatives has resulted in a significant improvement in Belfast's placing against these comparators.
- 2.4** In 2010/2011, Belfast's recycling rate was ranked fifth out of the benchmark group but, at the end of 2012/2013, the city had moved up to second place (see Appendix 1).



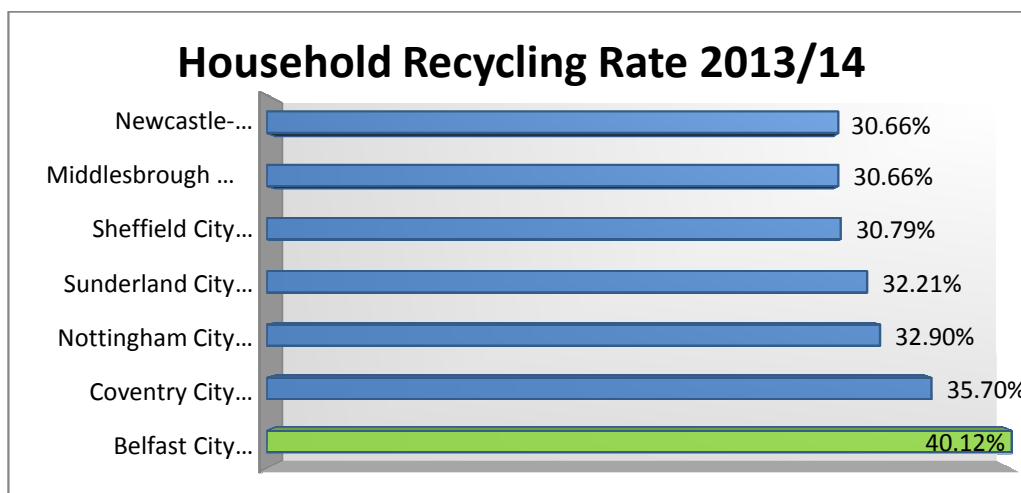
- 2.5** Belfast has now overtaken its benchmark group and is currently ranked first in its group (see above). The Service is considering revisiting its benchmarking cluster to identify a new grouping to compare against.

**Organic Waste**

- 2.6** Almost one third of the household recycling rate in Belfast is made up of organic waste and, as such, it can be heavily impacted on by the weather (a breakdown of the materials for 2013/2014 is included in Appendix 2). Members will be aware of the previous impact of severe cold weather in March 2013 (one of the coldest on record) which resulted in a loss of almost one full percentage point on the recycling rate.

***The Importance of Organics to the Household Recycling Rate***

- 2.7 The end of the 2013/2014 year has seen a strong organic waste performance following a good summer and mild winter which provided excellent growing conditions. Organic waste at the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) was up 24% on the previous year (HRC repairs were completed without any closure in 2013/14), and brown bins up 3% on last year.
- 2.8 In conjunction with the new kerbside box scheme, a new inner city food collection scheme was phased in from August 2013. The data from the first six months of this scheme was encouraging and in line with predictions. For example, the inner-city food waste contributed 1.4% to the recycling rate in 2013/14. As this was a half year implementation it is reasonable to expect that there will be an additional 1.4% added to the 2014/15 recycling rate.



**Dry Recyclables**

- 2.9 The dry recyclables tonnage has increased considerably in comparison to last year. This is despite a decrease in packaging weight across all sectors and the impact of economic downturn continuing to affect householders' disposable income. This applies to both the blue bin scheme and the box scheme, as well as from some additional recycling from residual bins as part of the Landfill Diversion contract.
- 2.10 The new inner city kerbside box scheme has resulted in a significant recycling improvement:

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- Set-out rate is at 53% compared with 29% under the previous scheme
  - Participation rate is estimated as similar in comparison to the blue bin scheme at around 70%. The average yield for dry recyclables is 2.00kg per household compared with 1.02 kg per household under the old scheme.
- 2.11 If the current performance is maintained, the scheme will contribute around 5,300 tonnes of dry recyclables and contribute a further 1% uplift on the recycling rate next year.
- 2.12 It is also worth noting that the recycling tonnages at the HRCs have increased by 15% in 2013/2014, largely attributable to the closure of Palmerston HRC last year for remedial works in the previous year which impacted negatively upon recycling habits. This can be contrasted with the interim arrangements at Blackstaff HRC which remained operational during the 2013/14 re-surfacing works.

**Waste Awareness**

- 2.13 The Education & Promotions team has been an important factor in bringing about the behavioural change required for the public to engage in the various recycling schemes (kerbside, recycling centres, bring sites, re-use schemes, and waste prevention). The team has been focused on delivering projects which specifically build upon and support the Action Plan and deliver a co-ordinated and consistent message to householders.
- 2.14 During the year, the team delivered 1,135 waste awareness and recycling sessions (against a target of 700 sessions) to around 16,000 participants from community groups, businesses, schools and through general public road shows. The team also complemented the work of the new kerbside box scheme by booking awareness sessions in those areas which were due to receive the new scheme.
- 2.15 Additionally, the Resource Advisors (doorstep canvassing team) introduced the new box scheme and, during the communications phase of this project, they visited each of the 55,000 households on three occasions achieving a 'hit' rate of just over 50%. Without this intensive communications and 'after-care' campaign, it is unlikely the scheme would have delivered the results to date.

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NILAS Update

- 2.16 The arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project remains at a critical juncture of its procurement schedule. In order to provide some stability for the forecasting of the NILAS update, the current arrangements for the diversion of residual waste are being assumed for future years (i.e. 70% of all residual waste will be treated and 30% will be directly landfilled). Appendix 3 provides details of the future forecast for Belfast under these conditions.
- 2.17 As reported to Committee last month, the Council landfilled within its allowances for 2013/2014. The actual level of achievement was 8,700 tonnes under the maximum permissible level, which equated to 80% of the threshold tonnage
- 2.18 It is worth noting that if no diversion arrangements had been in place, the Council would have exceeded its allowances by almost 10,000t in 2013/14, and by similar amounts each year going forward; in the absence of any treatment operation or transfer protocol being used, this could result in the DoE applying financial penalties to the Council of around £1.5 million per annum.
- 2.19 For 2014/2015, the Service will continue to actively review the level of treatment available to achieve both NILAS compliance and remain within the Service's budget.

Customer Service Standards

- 2.20 It is noted that the Service's Customer Service Standards continue to have a strong performance in 2013/2014; all standards are either broadly acceptable or meet/ exceed target.

Communiqué on the Circular Economy

- 2.21 Members may be interested to note that, on 3rd July, 2014, the Commissioner for the DG Environment launched a Communiqué on the Circular Economy which introduced new recycling targets, a food waste reduction goal, landfill bans for certain recyclable materials and the desire to 'virtually eliminate' landfill by 2030, and improvements in business resource efficiency. These different items will be progressed through various Directives and other EU policy instruments by seeking to create a circular economy which places resource management central in the development and evolution of an economy.

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2.22 This communiqué contextualises much of the work done by the Service in recent years on waste prevention, the Council's Business Improvement through Environmental Solutions (BITES) scheme, working with contractors and the third sector to develop new approaches to waste management, and the EU-funded research work currently underway with Questor on the Resource Innovation Network for European Waste (ReNEW) project amongst others. As the current '*Towards Zero Waste*' Action Plan is drawing to a close, the next plan will develop actions to deliver many of the points above for the Council.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

3.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

No other implications associated with this report.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There is no Equality or Good Relations Implications associated with this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to note this report.”

After discussion, during which Members expressed satisfaction at the figures which had been reported regarding the Council's recycling rates, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Award of Contracts for Municipal Waste Disposal**

The Head of Waste Management reported that arc21 had undertaken a procurement exercise to renew municipal waste disposal contracts from 1st October 2014, for a nine-month period, with an option to extend those contracts until April, 2016.

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He informed the Committee that, following the receipt of submissions, an evaluation exercise had been undertaken which had recommended that the contracts be awarded as follows:

- Lot 1 - for the disposal of Municipal Waste at the Mullaghglass Landfill Site to the Alpha Resource Management Ltd; and
- Lot 2 - for the disposal of Municipal Waste at the Cottonmount Landfill Site to Biffa Waste Services.

The Committee endorsed the awarding of the contracts as set out.

**arc21 – Response to Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee was advised that arc21 had submitted a response to the Department of the Environment in respect of the above-mentioned consultation exercise, the principal aspects of which were alluded to by the Head of Waste Management.

The Committee noted the arc21 response.

**Review of Waste Management Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To appraise the Committee on progress with the review of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and seek endorsement of the final revised WMP and SEA.**

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Members may recall that, at the April Committee meeting, they considered the initial stages of the WMP, including an update of the SEA, which had just completed its public consultation phase. Taking into account the submissions arising from this exercise, a final suite of documents was drafted and approved by the Joint Committee in March.**
- 2.2 In accordance with due process, the WMP and SEA were presented to the councils for their consideration prior to being submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) for their consideration and final approval.**
- 2.3 Earlier this summer, the DOE, having scrutinised the draft plan, formally responded that it was content that it met the**

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statutory requirements and, in line with the legislative obligations and due process, each council is now required to formally determine the plan.

**3 Key Issues**

**3.1** The Waste Management Plan and associated SEA have been revised and is attached. Members will recall the proposed format of the draft revised WMP remains largely unchanged as have the main strategic aspects. This revised Plan sets out the arrangement for the management of the following waste streams:

- Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (that is the waste collected by or on behalf of District Councils);
- Commercial and Industrial Wastes;
- Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste;
- Packaging Waste;
- Hazardous Waste;
- Agricultural Waste;
- Mining Waste;
- Healthcare Waste; and
- Priority and Other Waste Streams.

**3.2** In terms of municipal waste, the WMP has been updated to include the current and proposed collection and management regimes. It also reflects the current status of the Residual Waste Treatment Project (i.e. it is still in procurement).

**3.3** Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 requires a draft copy of the revised WMP to be formally submitted to the DOE to enable them to check it provides the requisite information as required by the statute. Following due approval of the Joint Committee and councils earlier this year, the draft copy of the WMP was submitted to the DOE which examined the report and is content that it complies with the statutory requirements.

**3.4** Councils are now obliged to finally determine the WMP to complete the statutory process. The provisions require the DOE to be sent a copy of the WMP once this has been done and arc21 will then inform the DOE that this has been done. Once the WMP has been finally determined, councils are also obliged to:

- Take such steps as in the opinion of the council will give adequate publicity in its district to the WMP. This has been met simply by making

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appropriate reference to the WMP on the councils' website, allied to the information contained on the arc21 website.

- Keep a copy of the WMP and to make it available at all reasonable times at its principal offices for inspection by member of the public. They are also required to supply a copy of the WMP upon request and on payment by that person of such a reasonable charge as the council requires.

3.5 An electronic copy of the WMP/SEA will be provided to each council and the full documents will be accessible through the arc21 website. As there are over 300 pages to the final document a copy of the WMP Executive Summary has been appended to this report. As per the April report, a full copy of the revised WMP and SEA is available for Members upon request.

4 Resource Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report but, depending upon the outcome of the procurement exercise, there will be revenue costs. These will be factored into the Service's budgeting process should the project satisfactorily conclude.

Human Resources

4.2 None

5 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 None.

6 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Waste Management Plan and the associated strategic environmental assessment."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Chairman

## Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 17th September, 2014

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor M. E. Campbell (Deputy Chairman)  
(in the Chair);  
Aldermen R. Patterson and Rodgers;  
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Cunningham, Groves,  
Hussey, Hutchinson, Magee, Ó Donnghaile and Spence.

Councillor Mullan attended within thirty minutes of the commencement of the meeting but subsequent to the business having been concluded.

In attendance: Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of  
Environmental Health;  
Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairman (Alderman Ekin) and Alderman McCoubrey.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th August 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 September, 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.

### **THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 1st MAY, 2007 IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 46**

### Licences Issued under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licensing applications which had been granted under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

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**Application for the Grant of a Six-day Annual Entertainments Licence –  
Flame Restaurant, 36-50 Howard Street**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the grant of a Six-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises. The Head of Building Control reported that the premises operated currently as a restaurant and that the applicant was seeking to offer entertainment, in the form of cabaret, within the main ground floor area, in order to enable it to compete on an equal footing with other venues in the City Centre. Whilst the applicant had applied to operate till midnight on each night, it was envisaged that only a Friday and Saturday night would be required.

He drew the Committee's attention to issues which had arisen in relation to the advertisement and provision of entertainment at Flame Restaurant, in advance of an Entertainments Licence having been granted, which had resulted in the Building Control Service initiating legal proceedings against the applicant. She had stated subsequently that the decision to replace background music with a singer and not to charge an admission fee or allow dancing had been taken on the basis of incorrect information which she had obtained, which had advised that those actions were permissible under the terms of her Liquor Licence. She had confirmed that the premises would operate as a restaurant only, until such times as her application had been determined, and had requested the Committee to consider granting an Entertainments Licence prior to the outcome of the legal proceedings being known.

The Head of Building Control reported further that, under the terms of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, in considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, must have regard to any convictions of the applicant relating to an event under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period, immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made. He pointed out that, in view of the fact that there was a prosecution pending in relation to Flame Restaurant, the Committee was required to consider the application.

He informed the Members that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objection. Since the offence had been detected, officers of the Building Control Service had met with the applicant and were satisfied that all of the requirements for the grant of an Entertainments Licence would be met. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that it had received no complaints in relation to noise disturbance or patron dispersal from the premises.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Six-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of Flame Restaurant, 36-50 Howard Street.

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**Application for the Renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence –  
The Annex Bar, 480-482 Shore Road**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises. The Head of Building Control explained that, under the terms of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, in considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, must have regard to any convictions of the applicant relating to an event under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period, immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meetings on 19th September, 2012 and 20th November, 2013, it had, in considering applications for the renewal of the Entertainments Licence, been informed that the applicant had, on 24th April, 2012, been convicted at the Belfast Magistrates Court of an offence under the aforementioned Order. The offence had related to an inspection in October, 2011 of the premises by an officer from the Building Control Service whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had found that an emergency exit to the rear of the ground floor had been locked. The Committee had, on each occasion, agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence.

He reported that, during the past year, two inspections had been undertaken whilst entertainment was being provided, each of which had found that the premises were being managed appropriately. He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objection. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had, during the past twelve months, received no complaints in relation to noise disturbance from the premises.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of The Annex Bar, 480-482 Shore Road.

**Application for the Renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments  
Licence – Red Devil Bar, 194-198 Falls Road**

The Head of Building Control drew the Committee's attention to an application which had been received for the renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the Red Devil Bar, 194-198 Falls Road. He explained that, under the terms of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, in considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, must have regard to any convictions of the applicant relating to an event under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period, immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

He reported that the licensee had, on 11th February, 2014, been convicted at the Belfast Magistrates Court of an offence under the aforementioned Order. The offence had related to an inspection in November, 2012 of the premises by an officer from the Building Control Service whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had found that a roller door covering an emergency exit to the rear of the premises had been locked and that the log book had been unavailable for inspection. He pointed out that,

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since the date on which the offence had been detected, officers had met with the management of the Red Devil Bar to review safety procedures and had been satisfied that appropriate measures had been put in place to ensure the safe evacuation of patrons in the event of an emergency. Three subsequent inspections had failed to identify any issues of concern. He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objection.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the Red Devil Bar, 194-198 Falls Road.

**Application for the Renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence –  
Thompsons Garage, 3 Patterson's Place**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises. The Head of Building Control explained that, under the terms of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, in considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, must have regard to any convictions of the applicant relating to an event under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period, immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

He informed the Members that the applicant had, on 13th May, been convicted at the Belfast Magistrates Court of an offence under the aforementioned Order. The offence had related to an inspection in September, 2013 of the premises by an officer from the Building Control Service whilst entertainment had been taking place. The officer had found that the numbers of patrons on the first and second floors of the premises, including the smoking area, had exceeded those permitted under the terms of the Entertainments Licence. Officers had, subsequently, met with the management of the premises to review fire safety procedures and were satisfied that the appropriate measures were in place to ensure the safe evacuation of patrons in the event of an emergency.

The Head of Building Control reported that, since the date of the conviction, three inspections of the premises had been undertaken by the Building Control Service whilst entertainment was being provided, none of which had revealed any major issues. He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had submitted no objection. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had, during the past twelve months, received no complaints in relation to the premises.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of Thompsons Garage, 3 Patterson's Place.

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**Application for the Variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence –  
Crescent Arts Centre, 2-4 University Road**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide dancing, singing or music or any entertainment of a like kind. The Head of Building Control explained that the premises were licensed currently to provide entertainment till 1.00 a.m. each night, which took the form of theatrical and musical performances. The applicant was now seeking to operate till 3.00 a.m. to facilitate a dance festival, which it was envisaged would become an annual event and be held over two nights. He had indicated that, should that festival be successful, he might wish to offer additional events of that nature to that time.

The Head of Building Control reported that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objection. He pointed out that the premises had, during the past year, been visited on one occasion by officers of the Building Control Service whilst entertainment was being provided and that it had been found to be operating in accordance with the Entertainments Licensing legislation. The Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that, during the past twelve months, it had received no complaints in relation to noise disturbance from the premises.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the Crescent Arts Centre, 2-4 University Road, with entertainment being permitted to take place, in future, till 3.00 a.m. on each night.

**Application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit –  
Twilight Zone, 100-150 York Street**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 An application was received on 24th July 2014 from Mr Samuel Stranaghan, EZE Gaming Limited for the grant of an Amusement Permit under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order)**

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Twilight Zone 100-150 York Street Belfast, BT15 3HF	WK/2014/1182	Mr Samuel Stranaghan EZE Gaming Limited

- 1.2 The Directors of EZE Gaming Limited are Mr Samuel Adam Stranaghan, and Mr Robert Mark Stranaghan.**

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- 1.3 The permit is for a total of 80 gaming machines, all of which are to pay out a maximum all cash prize of £25.00. In the case of premises which have machines with a maximum cash prize of £25.00 admission is restricted to persons aged 18 or over.
- 1.4 The proposed opening hours of the premises, as specified on the application, are:
- Monday to Sunday from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
- 1.5 The premises is located in the Citysite retail complex, (formerly Yorkgate Shopping Complex), which consists of retail units, a multi screen cinema, bingo premises and restaurants.
- 1.6 A location map has been forwarded to Members.
- 1.7 Public notice of the application was placed in the Daily Mirror, Irish News and Newsletter within seven days of the application being made.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Members are reminded that the Licensing Committee is responsible and has full delegated authority for determining all applications relating to the grant and provisional grant of Amusement Permits.
- 2.2 Members may be aware that an arcade has operated at this premise since 1999. A permit authorising machines which pay out a maximum all cash prize of £25.00 was first granted at the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 11th September, 2006.
- 2.3 Members are advised that there is no mechanism within the Order to enable the transfer of a permit from one company to another, as is happening in this case, therefore an application must be made for the grant of an Amusement Permit.

Representations

- 2.4 No objections have been received as a result of the public notices placed in the three local newspapers.

Applicant

- 2.5 The applicant intends to operate the premises the same as it has previously operated, with the same number of machines and under the same hours.

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- 2.6 A representative from EZE Gaming Limited will be available to discuss any matters relating to the grant of the permit at your meeting.

**PSNI**

- 2.7 The Police Service of Northern Ireland has been consulted in relation to the application but at the time of writing this report its response is outstanding. However, we will present a copy of their response at your meeting.

**Health, Safety, Welfare and Technical requirements**

- 2.8 The applicant has confirmed that no changes are being made to the arcade that would require a Building Regulations application.

**Planning Matters**

- 2.9 A planning application was made to the Planning Service on the 17th June 2003 for the 'Retrospective change of use to Amusement Centre' and this was granted on 15th August 2003.
- 2.10 In an important Court of Appeal decision in June 1999, it was confirmed that the Council, in determining applications for Amusement Permits, may take into account planning considerations but should be slow to differ from the views of the Planning Authority.
- 2.11 The Court also confirmed that the Council can take into account matters such as location, structure, character and impact on neighbours and the surrounding area.
- 2.12 A copy of the planning permission and informatives has been circulated to the Committee.

**Environmental Considerations**

- 2.13 Members may wish to consider whether the continued use of the premises for an amusement arcade will impact positively, negatively or neutrally on the existing built environment of the area which is predominately retail and commercial in character.

**Amusement Permit Policy**

- 2.14 Members will be aware that an Amusement Permit Policy was ratified at Council on 1st May, 2013. It outlines those matters

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which may be taken into account in determining any application and indicates that each application must be assessed on its own merits.

**2.15 The key Policy objectives are to:-**

- 1. Promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast;**
- 2. Enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage;**
- 3. Support and safeguard residential communities in Belfast;**
- 4. Protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;**
- 5. Respect the need to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.**

The Policy consists of two components which are considered below:

**1. Legal requirements under the 1985 Order**

**2.16 Members must have regard to the legal requirements under the 1985 Order relating to:**

**(a) The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant:**

**2.17 References and additional supporting information for those associated with the application have been circulated to the Committee.**

**(b) The nature of the premises and activity proposed:**

**2.18 To ensure that the nature of the premises proposed is suitable for this location Members may consider how the premises are illuminated, the form of advertising and window display, and how notices are displayed on the premises. Whilst the appearance of amusement arcades is considered a Planning matter, Members may still wish to be satisfied that the façade integrates with adjacent frontages.**

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(c) Opinions of the Police Service:

- 2.19 The Police comments have been sought and reference is made in paragraph 2.7 of the report.

(d) Submissions from the general public:

- 2.20 No objections have been received as a result of the public notices placed in the three local newspapers.

**2. Assessment criteria for suitability of a location**

- 2.21 There are five criteria set out in the Policy which should typically be considered when assessing the suitability of a location for an amusement arcade. These are detailed below as they relate to this application.

(a) Retail vibrancy and viability of Belfast:

- 2.22 The application premises are located outside of the Primary Retail Core and City Centre limit, as defined by the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (dBMAP). It occupies a first floor unit in the Cityside retail complex, with primary access provision located nearest to the York Street entrance. The unit is an existing amusement arcade occupying a corner within the complex. Therefore, it cannot be concluded that this existing premises would break up a continuous shopping frontage.

*Application complies with this criterion.*

(b) Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location:

- 2.23 The existing amusement arcade that occupies the unit to which this application applies is the only amusement arcade situated in the Cityside Complex. Accordingly, this application does not exceed the permitted number of amusement arcades per shopping centre.

*Application complies with this criterion.*

(c) Impact on the image and profile of Belfast:

- 2.24 The application premises has no neighbouring property deemed to be a tourism asset, nor is it located at a key entrance junction (Gateway) to the City Centre, as identified in the dBMAP 2015. Within this context, the application cannot

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be considered as having a negative impact on the image and built heritage of the city.

Application complies with this criterion.

(d) Proximity to residential use:

(i) - predominantly residential in character

2.25 The application premises is located at first floor level, within the Cityside retail complex, where there are a mix of uses including a bingo hall, restaurants and retail units. It can therefore be viewed as a 'mixed use' commercial and leisure environment, and not one that is residential in character.

(ii) – non-residential property that is immediately adjacent to residential property

2.26 Being located in a retail complex, there are no residential properties immediately adjacent to the application premises.

*Application complies with this criterion.*

(e) Proximity to schools, youth centres, and residential institutions for vulnerable people:

2.27 There are no schools, youth centres, or residential institutions for vulnerable people within 200m of the application premises.

*Application complies with this criterion.*

Conclusion

2.28 The application premises comply with all assessment criteria for the suitability of the location as laid down in Belfast City Council's Amusement Permit Policy.

2.29 In addition to the above legal requirements and assessment criteria Members may take into account any matter which is deemed relevant. Members may also depart from the Policy where it is appropriate to do so, although it is envisaged that this should only happen in exceptional circumstances.

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**3 Resource Implications**

**Financial**

- 3.1 Administration of Amusement Permit applications is included in current budgetary estimates.**

**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 Recommendations**

- 5.1 The current policy, dictated by the governing Order, is that the Committee, in considering the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit, shall have regard to:**

- a) The fitness of the applicant to hold a Permit having regard to his character, reputation and financial standing,**
- b) The fitness of any other person by whom the business is to be carried on under the Permit would be managed, or for whose benefit that business would be carried on,**
- c) Representation, if any, from the sub-divisional commander of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in whose sub-division the premises are situated, and**
- d) Representation, if any, as a result of the public notices of advertisement.**

**You are then required to make a decision based on the following options set out under the Order.**

- 5.2 You must refuse the application unless satisfied that:**

- a) The applicant is a fit person to hold an Amusement Permit; and**

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- b) The applicant will not allow the business proposed to be carried on under the Amusement Permit to be managed by, or carried on for the benefit of, a person other than the applicant who would himself be refused the grant of an Amusement Permit.

**5.3** Thereafter:-

1. You may refuse the application after hearing any representations from third parties, or
2. You may grant the application, subject to the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character, and

**5.4** In the case of premises, that have machines with the maximum cash prize of £25.00 where admission is restricted to persons aged 18 or over that –

- no persons under 18 are admitted to the premises; and
- at any entrance to, and inside any such premises there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the premises is prohibited to persons aged under 18, and in addition
- you may also grant the application subject to discretionary conditions outlined in the Order relating to the illumination of the premises, advertising of, and window displays on the premises and the display of information notices.

**5.5** Should you be of a mind to refuse the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit or grant the Permit subject to any discretionary conditions, you are required to advise the applicant of your intention so to do. In this case you must afford the applicant the opportunity to make representations at a specified Licensing Committee meeting on the matter before making a final determination of the application.

**5.6** If, subsequent to hearing the applicant, you refuse the application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit or decide to grant the application subject to discretionary conditions the applicant may appeal that decision to the County Court.”

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The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant an Amusement Permit in respect of Twilight Zone, 100-150 York Street, subject to:

- (i) the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character;
- (ii) no persons under the age of 18 being admitted to the premises; and
- (iii) at any entrance to, and inside the premises, there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access is prohibited to persons under the age of 18.

**Review of a Mobile Street Trading Licence**

The Committee was advised that Mr. Angelo Morelli had, since 2006, held a Mobile Street Trading Licence permitting him to sell ice cream, confectionery and non-alcoholic beverages in the Ardoyne, Cliftonville, Duncairn, Falls, Fortwilliam and Oldpark areas of the City. The Head of Building Control reported that Mr. Morelli had, upon obtaining his Licence, agreed to pay the associated fee by cash on a monthly basis and that he had made regular payments between 2006 and 2012. However, in July, 2013, his payments had ceased and his account had fallen into arrears. Despite being issued with invoices and reminder letters by the Council's Central Transactions Unit, Mr. Morelli had made no further payments until June, 2014, at which time he had signed an agreement to pay off his arrears at a rate of £60 per week. However, only one such payment had been made and the licensee's debt had continued to accumulate, to the extent that it now stood at £969. He added that routine inspections by Council officers of the areas covered by Mr. Morelli under the terms of his Licence had found no evidence of him trading and that they had been unable to contact him regarding the matter.

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that Section 10 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 stipulated that, at any time after being granted, the Council could, in certain circumstances, revoke a Licence. Such instances would include, as in this case, the non-payment, without reasonable explanation, of fees and charges due to the Council. He explained that, should the Committee be minded to pursue that course of action, the aforementioned Act required that Mr. Morelli be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make written representation to the Council or to attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Trading Licence held by Mr. Angelo Morelli permitting him to trade in the Ardoyne, Cliftonville, Duncairn, Falls, Fortwilliam and Oldpark areas and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision.

Chairman

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## Town Planning Committee

Thursday, 4th September, 2014

### MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Hanna (Chairman);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson);  
Alderman M. Campbell; Councillors Curran,  
Garrett, Haire, Hutchinson, Jones, McCabe,  
McCarthy, Mullan and Newton.
- Also Attended: Councillor Johnston  
(Belfast District Council - Shadow).
- In Attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Ms. K. Mills ) Divisional  
Ms. C. Reville ) Planning Office.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron), Aldermen McCoubrey, R. Patterson and Rodgers, together with Councillors Austin, Beattie, Campbell and Carson.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 7th and 26th August 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 September, subject to the omission of those matters which had been delegated to the Committee by the Council and to the amendment of the minute of the meeting of 26th August under the heading "Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Belfast District Housing Plan 2014/2015", which, at the request of Alderman Stoker, and with the consent of the Council, it was agreed that comments on the Housing Plan would be sought from the Housing Forum with those comments being presented to the Committee for its approval prior to them being submitted to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Request for Deputation

The Committee agreed to receive, at its meeting on 9th October, a deputation from local residents in respect of proposals for the redevelopment of the Science Library at Chlorine Gardens by The Queen's University of Belfast.

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**Routine Correspondence**

The Committee noted the receipt of the undernoted items of correspondence:

**Transport NI/Roads Service**

- Notification of changes to waiting restrictions for coaches at Chichester Street and High Street;
- Notification of the proposed abandonment of land at Thorburn Road;
- Notification of the proposed abandonment of rights-of-way at footpaths on Templemore Avenue, Ainsworth Avenue, Boyne Court, Andersonstown Road, 31 Moltke Street and Village URA; and
- Notification of the provision of a blue badge parking bay at 12 Sinclair Street.

**New Planning Applications**

The Committee noted a list of new planning applications which had been received from the Planning Service from 19th till 25th August.

**Streamlined Planning Applications – Decisions Issued**

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been issued by the Planning Service between 29th August and 7th September 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, together with the comments of the Divisional Planning Officer thereon.

**Reconsidered Item Z/2013/0785/F  
37 - 43b Upper Lisburn Road**

The Committee considered further a planning application in relation to the development of 16 semi-detached terraced houses, with an associated road and landscaping at the above-mentioned site, in respect of which the Divisional Planning Manager had offered an opinion to approve.

The Committee agreed, with one Member voting against, to adopt the opinion of the Divisional Planning Manager.

(As the decision was not unanimous, it was subject to ratification by the Council.)

**Appeal Decisions Notified**

The Committee noted the outcome of a number of recent planning appeals.

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**Reconsidered Items – Applications Withdrawn**

At the request of the Planning Service, the undernoted items were withdrawn from the list of reconsidered items to enable further information to be provided by the applicants:

<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Opinion</u></b>
1 Hill Street	Self adhesive vinyl advertisement with clear self adhesive laminate	Refusal
12 Deramore Park	Existing outbuilding to rear to be demolished	Refusal
12 Deramore Park	Demolition of outbuildings, retention and conversion of garage with new build extension as two dwellings	Refusal

**Application Withdrawn from the Planning Schedule**

The Committee noted that the following application had been withdrawn from the schedule to enable further information to be submitted:

<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Opinion</u></b>
Lands to the side and rear of 1 Earlswood Road, Ballyhackamore	Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached two bedroom dwelling	Refusal

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL.**

**Reconsidered Items**

The Committee considered further the undernoted planning applications and adopted the recommendations of the Divisional Planning Manager thereon:

<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Opinion</u></b>
Lands to the east of 60 Quarry Road	Proposed new dwelling (in substitution of dwelling granted permission under Z/2009/0413/F) (Amended description) *(It was noted by the Committee that the Planning Service was in the process of revoking permission Z/2009/0413/F)	Approval

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The Chippie 133 Stranmillis Road	Retrospective change of use of ground floor to restaurant with hot food take away	Refusal
Forsythe House Cromac Square	Office occupier signs	Consent
448a – 450 Shore Road	Conversion of existing first floor premises to 2no apartments	Refusal
Lands at 406-420 Donegall Road and 1-3 Glenmachan Street	Furniture showroom and ancillary site works	Approval
104 – 108 Barnetts Road	The proposal is for a 2 detached dwelling and 10 semi-detached dwellings (amended scheme)	Approval
Kincora Mews 10 Kincora Avenue	Erection of 3 apartments (1 no 2 bed and 2 no 1 bed) in substitution of 2 no 4 bedroom houses with parking from previous approved application Z/2001/3270	Approval

**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:

<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Proposal</u></b>	<b><u>Opinion</u></b>
170 Upper Malone Road	Proposed nursing home – specialist elderly mentally infirm unit with ancillary works. (Reduced scheme to 45 bedrooms) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4].	Approval
72 Knockbreda Road and Nos.1,3,5,7,9 and 11 Flush Drive	Proposed demolition of derelict flats and garages at Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 Flush Drive and erection of a new boundary wall and erection of two covered storage areas forming an extension to the existing building supplies storage yard. (Further information received) [Deferred at the request of the	Refusal

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	Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	
2 Claremont Mews	Proposed apartment block for 6 apartments with ground floor parking (Amended Scheme) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
Land south of 2 Mill Valley Place and 11 Mill Valley Crescent	Erection of 12no dwellings, landscaping and associated site works [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
36 Belmont Road	Ground floor restaurant – application for change of use and addition of extract flue to rear of property. (retrospective) (Acoustic Report received) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4].	Approval
22 – 23 Shaftesbury Square	Change of use of ground floor of No. 23 to amusement arcade including extension and frontage alterations to allow for amalgamation with no. 22 (Amended description of plans) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Approval
Lands on McClure Street to include land south of railway and north of Powerscourt Place between 10 Cameron Street and 85 Ormeau Road	Construction of 20 5 person 3 bed and 7 3 person 2 bed social housing dwellings with associated landscaping [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
Queen’s University Science Library at 12 Lennoxvale dwelling (vacant) at 14a Lennoxvale and service access to south	Demolition of Science Library, 14a Lennoxvale, sub-station, associated steps and ramp and Science Library boundary wall on St. Ives Gardens, relocation of external fire access from side to rear elevation of	Approval

**Town Planning Committee,  
Thursday, 4th September, 2014**

<p>and east of Queen's University Architecture Building 15 Chlorine Gardens</p>	<p>Architecture Building and development of new School of Biological Sciences Building (providing 11.165m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace on 3-5 levels for teaching, research, offices, study areas and laboratories), landscaped pedestrian link between Chlorine Gardens and Lennoxvale, new, relocated service access to basement level from Lennoxvale and associated operational development including cycle parking, lighting, CCTV and landscaping. [Deferred to enable deputations to attend the Committee]</p>	
<p>Site comprising the Queen's University Science Library at 12 Lennoxvale dwelling (vacant) at 14a Lennoxvale and service access to south and east of Queen's University Architecture Building 15 Chlorine Gardens</p>	<p>Demolition of Science Library, 14a Lennoxvale, sub-station associated steps and ramp and Science Library Boundary wall on St. Ives Gardens (for the development of the School of Biological Sciences) [Deferred to enable deputations to attend Committee]</p>	<p>Consent</p>
<p>86a Tildarg Street</p>	<p>Proposed erection of a single block of 7 Apartments including car parking and landscaping [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4].</p>	<p>Refusal</p>
<p>Adjacent to 1 Farnham Street on the gable of 144-146 Ormeau Road</p>	<p>Retention of 1 non-illuminated advertisement [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]</p>	<p>Refusal</p>
<p>Unit 11 Ormeau Bakery 307-341 Ormeau Road</p>	<p>Proposed change of use from convenience and retail services use to charity shop [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]</p>	<p>Approval</p>

**Town Planning Committee,  
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4 Brandon Parade	Proposed 3 storey dwelling [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
2 Marguerite Park	Proposed rear 2 storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling house [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Approval

Chairman

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**Carl Frampton**

Councillor Spence to move:

“This Council congratulates the new IBF Super-Bantamweight Champion of the World, Carl Frampton, and recognises the contribution which he has made to the sport of Boxing”

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