

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 7th August, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland, McCoubrey and Rodgers; and
Councillors Baker, Canavan, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Heading, Magee, Magennis, Milne, McReynolds, Newton,
and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Sandford and Councillors Armitage and O'Donnell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd July with the following amendment - "That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 5th June, to defer consideration of the matter, under the heading "Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park", being rejected and accordingly the Council agreed to accede to the request to provide a temporary structure, subject to the terms and conditions as detailed within the report.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

Update from NIHE - Belfast Housing Investment Plan 2018

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. S. McCauley (Director of Regional Services), Mrs. J. Hawthorne (Belfast Regional Manager) and Ms. F. McGrath (Programme Manager), representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

Ms. McCauley introduced the members of her team and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to notify the Council of its past year's performance and next year's proposals. She pointed out that, whilst the NIHE was required by statute to present to the Council, officers very much looked forward, in 2018/19, to developing further relationships with councils and other stakeholders. She advised that the NIHE recognised the important role of the Council and stated that the Local Development

Plans (LDPs) would help to provide long-term strategies to support economic and social progress and assist in the delivery of Community Plans.

Ms. McCauley then provided the Members with a presentation on the Housing Investment Plan (HIP) for Belfast. She explained that the HIP was a four-year plan with an annual update in the intervening years, this being the third and final annual update as a new plan would be produced in 2019. She added that in future years it was intended that the HIP would reflect the Community Planning priorities. She advised that the current HIP provided an update on the progress of the Housing Executive and other agencies to achieve the intended outcomes, this included an overview of the housing market in Belfast, including details regarding social housing investment at a local level. She summarised further the five themes as contained within the presentation:

- to identify and meet housing need and demand;
- to improve people's homes;
- to transform people's lives;
- to enable sustainable neighbourhoods; and
- to deliver quality services.

She then proceeded to outline the key housing issues that had been identified for Belfast, as follows:

- an ageing population;
- a slight decrease in waiting list, higher proportion in housing stress
10,136 total applicants – 7,336 in housing stress;
- Increasing homelessness -
5879 households presented as homeless
3940 (67%) accepted as homeless (20% increase);
- 468 new social homes completed 2017/18;
- 424 new social homes started in 2017/18;
- 484 new social housing units programmed 2018/19;
- City centre developments and affordable housing;
- land availability;
- delivery through the Local Development Plan;
- increase in private rented sector; and
- total Housing Executive stock - 25,761 units.

The Committee noted the future housing themes that had been identified by the NIHE as follows:

- to identify new housing requirements;
- to increase the supply of affordable renting to meet the needs of communities;
- to assist home ownership;
- to improve the quality of the housing stock;
- to develop low carbon homes and reduce fuel poverty;
- to provide suitable accommodation and support services for vulnerable residents;

- to ensure that homelessness was prevented or addressed effectively;
- to regenerate neighbourhoods;
- to create safer and cohesive communities; and
- to deliver better services.

Following a query in respect of shared housing, Mrs. Hawthorne advised that the NIHE would continue to facilitate and encourage mixed housing schemes, as far as this was practical, desirable and safe. She detailed that the shared housing ethos would be further embedded via delivery of the target of 200-shared social housing units each year and confirmed that the Housing Executive would continue to work closely with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Housing Associations to ensure delivery. In addition:

- all new schemes would be fully integrated into the local area via development and delivery of the Good Relations Plans for each scheme; and
- the Housing Executive would continue its work to improve segregation in existing Housing Executive Estates via its team of Good Relations Officers across NI and the delivery of its cohesion strategy and associated programmes.

The Members also drew the attention of the officers from the NIHE to several further matters, a number of which are set out hereunder:

- the loss of open space due to the significant demand for additional housing in specific areas and the potential to consider green field sites outside the Council boundary;
- flash flooding throughout the City;
- the cost of private rentals (usually higher than NIHE); and
- delays in undertaking planned maintenance works.

Ms. McCauley concluded the presentation by advising that many of the HIP themes were complementary to the Council's Community Planning themes and could contribute to the achievements of the Community Planning outcomes. She stated that the Housing Executive looked forward to continuing to develop its relations with the Council and other stakeholders and that it intended to build lasting housing solutions that would benefit all communities.

The Chairperson thanked the officials from NIHE for attending and they left the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting - Quarter 4 2017/18

The Committee was updated in respect of the financial position of the People and Communities Committee for Quarter 4, which confirmed an under spend of £848k

for that period. This represented 1.1% of the budget which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee noted that the current under spends related to vacant posts across a number of services and the receipt of additional income from grants and growth.

The report detailed that the year-end departmental position for the Council was an under-spend of £435,514 (0.3%). The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, at its meeting held on 22nd June, agreed to allocate £406k of this to fund area-based festivals, with the remaining balance to transfer to general reserves.

The Committee noted the year-end financial position.

Funding to the Belfast Hills Partnership and Lagan Valley Regional Park

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to provide core funding to the Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP) and Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) in 2018/19.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- **Note the contents of the report;**
- **Approve annual funding of £36,900 to the BHP and £41,055 to LVRP in 2018/19, subject to the relevant funding agreements being updated as per existing revenue budgets.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Belfast Hills Partnership

The BHP brings together a divergent range of partners from local government, environmental groups, quarry and farming representatives and local communities with the joint aim of protecting this valuable resource on the perimeter of North and West Belfast. The Council has supported BHP since its inception in 2003/4 and the Parks & Leisure Committee at its meeting on 14 April 2011, approved its annual funding of £36,900. Provision has been made in revenue budgets at this level since then.

- 3.2 This partnership has in turn generated much needed investment in the landscape and infrastructure within our parks. This ranged from the construction of new paths in Ligoniel and Cave Hill Country Park and an orienteering course in Belfast Castle Estate to heritage interpretation, visitor counters, habitat mapping and numerous events.
- 3.3 During 2018/19, BHP will undertake a number of actions including:
- Undertake surveys for priority and protected species between April and October 2018;
 - Undertake surveys for priority habitats between May and September 2018;
 - Monitor wildfires and their severity, primarily in Cave Hill Country Park;
 - Liaise with Park Managers in the preparation of habitat management plans and work with Volunteers on habitat management or creation projects for priority species and priority habitats;
 - Provide senior management and support for the Landscape Partnership Scheme project and the Belfast Hills' projects of 'Our Environment Our Future' and Wildfire Connections;
 - Continue to monitor and control invasive terrestrial and aquatic alien species as agreed with the Community Park Managers; and
 - Raise awareness and promotion of the Belfast Hills through events, talks, leaflets and website

3.4 Lagan Valley Regional Partnership

The LVRP is a partnership between Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, the Department of Communities and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Belfast City Council has funded LVRP since its inception in 1967 and, along with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, are its main funders. The People & Communities Committee at its meeting on 12 May 2015, approved funding of £41,055 for 2015/16 and provision has been made in revenue budgets at this level since then. The NIEA provides funding to LVRP but at a reduced level and there remains uncertainty around central government funding. As LVRP remains heavily dependent on funding from both Councils, a consultant has been commissioned to identify and secure external funding to ensure its sustainability. Belfast City Council has recently been approached seeking a review to increase funding for 2019/2020. Officers will meet with

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council officers to discuss and a further report will be brought to committee.

3.5 The Council has to date benefitted from the work of LVRP in countryside recreation, biodiversity, promotion, events, additional signage and community engagement. A five year management plan has been developed for LVRP and during 2018/19, the LVRP will undertake a number of actions on Council sites including to:

- Proactively manage, protect and improve the biodiversity in the Regional Park;
- Manage and monitor visitors to the Regional Park and support events and sustainable tourism;
- Encourage involvement of the community and to develop volunteering in the Regional Park;
- Proactively protect and celebrate the character of the Regional Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Protect and celebrate the rich historic and cultural legacy of the Regional Park; and
- Promote the benefits of green open spaces, within the area, for health and wellbeing and to support appropriate recreational activities.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

£77,955 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for funding to BHP and LVRP and both organisations will be required to sign a Funding Agreement.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

There are no known implications.”

The Committee approved annual funding of £36,900 to the Belfast Hills Partnership and £41,055 to Lagan Valley Regional Park in 2018/19, subject to the relevant funding agreements being updated as per existing revenue budgets.

Operational Issues

Street Naming

The Committee approved:

- the naming in respect of Broadway Link, off Broadway, BT12 and Red Hall Lane, off Circular Road, BT4; and
- the proposed continuation of existing roads namely Buttermilk Loney, off Ballysillan Park, BT14 and Glenmachan Park, off Glenmachan Road, BT4

Dual Language Applications

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Forfar Way, Forfar Lane, Millennium Way, Killeen Park, Errigal Park, Comber Gardens and Strand Walk.

Learning City Inter Agency Group

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will be aware that in 2012, Council adopted the Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study. The recommendations of the study were two-fold:

- To grow Belfast’s reputation as a Learning City and destination of choice for students requires a city-wide strategy for student housing that will promote choice and fit-for-purpose accommodation.**
- To restore the Holyland by gradually reintroducing affordable, single household accommodation and improving the quality of the environment, whilst working towards developing a new approach to managing the area.**

1.2 An Action Plan to progress these recommendations was presented with the final Strategic Study Report. Subsequent update reports have been presented to Committee, which have provided Members with progress achieved in relation to the recommendations.

1.3 In summary, the short and medium term recommendations within the Strategic Study have been implemented. The longer term recommendations have been incorporated into Council’s long term (10-15 years) strategies, which are being progressed via the Local Development Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Local Development Plan’s strategic theme of ‘shaping a liveable place’ promotes development to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and place whilst the Belfast Agenda’s strategic priority ‘living here’ focuses on making life better for all our residents. Further information regarding the Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study and its recommendations can be found on Modern.gov

1.4 Through the Learning City Interagency Group (formerly the Holyland Interagency Group), a Programme of Work has been developed to deliver short to medium term projects,

that include actions to restore the physical and social integrity of the Wider University Area.

1.5 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update, on the work of the Learning City Interagency Group during the period 2017 / 2018 and to present the Programme of Work in relation to 2018 / 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the contents of the report.
- Note the progress to date in relation to the work delivered through the Learning City Interagency Group and endorse the future Programme of Work to address ongoing issues on a city wide basis.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Learning City Interagency Group Terms of Reference

3.1 In September 2016 the Learning City Interagency Group revised its Terms of Reference and Governance Model, widening its scope, to make Belfast a Learning City and address the opportunities and challenges faced by communities within new and existing university neighbourhoods across the City. A copy of the Learning City Interagency Group Terms of Reference and a list of current organisations that make up the group can be found on modern.gov

2017 / 2018 Programme of Work

3.2 A number of agreed work streams deliver the operational plans for the Learning City Interagency Group and are captured in a Programme of Work that is overseen by the Learning City Interagency Group.

3.3 The work streams in the 2017 / 2018 were as follows:

- Learning City
- Restoring Integrity (physical) of the Wider University Area
- Restoring Integrity (social) of the Wider University Area
- Delivery and Enforcement
- Communications and Media

3.4 An update in relation to the key actions in the 2017 / 2018 Programme of Work is as follows:

- Through continued, effective partnership working with the higher education institutions across the city, procedures to manage student behaviours have been introduced which include induction and disciplinary procedures.
- Work is being undertaken with partners to review the effectiveness of legislation and byelaws, relevant to addressing antisocial behaviour. On 17 April 2018 the Department of Justice launched an eight week public consultation to review the current criminal legislation framework to tackle anti-social behaviour, including on-street drinking. A corporate Council response has been prepared in relation to this consultation which was presented to Committee on 5 June 2018. Several physical and environmental improvement projects have been delivered or are in the process of being delivered which include:
 - (i) graffiti removal in partnership with Probation Board NI;
 - (ii) tree planting through the Local Investment Fund;
 - (iii) regeneration of the area known as 'Horsey Hill' to develop a corridor to link local green spaces;
 - (iv) capacity support to assist the delivery of community led projects;
 - (v) community clean-ups; and
 - (vi) a South Belfast circular economy project is being considered to encourage recycling rates.
- Multiagency advance activity planning around key dates and events across the city was developed, which included St Patrick's Day planning. This robust planning process supported effective operational management of city wide events. Following monitoring and evaluation, learning from activity planning in relation to events has been incorporated into future planning, to further enhance existing procedures around event management.
- Engagement with licensed premises owners has been undertaken and, where relevant, targeted interventions in relation to problem premises has been carried out.
- Through the development of the Local Development Plan, work continues to ensure that Belfast becomes a more liveable and attractive city to support sustainable, resilient communities.

- Preparations remain ongoing to transfer the HMO function to Council in April 2019.
- Through the development of proactive communication protocols, communications in relation to city events was successfully managed.

3.5 More information on the work completed can be found in the latest update report on modern.gov

3.6 Members will be aware that a Community Campus Regeneration Forum (CCRF) has been established. The aim of this Forum is to support the identification, capture, delivery and monitoring of community, social, economic, equality and environmental benefits and issues resulting from the relocation of the Ulster University Jordanstown Campus to Belfast City Centre. The Learning City Interagency Group has developed close links with the Forum, through liaison between Council Officers and representation at relevant meetings. This has enabled sharing of best practice and learning, and these connections will continue to be applied and reviewed during 2018 / 2019.

2018 / 2019 Programme of Work

3.7 The Learning City Interagency Group has developed a 2018 / 2019 Programme of Work.

3.8 The work streams within the 2018 / 2019 Programme of Work are similar to 2017 / 2018, to reflect ongoing needs across the city, enabling continuity of delivery in relation to ongoing programmes and activities. The 2018 / 2019 PACT Plan is currently being reviewed and will be considered at the Learning City Interagency Group meeting on 14 June, to ensure that it compliments and reflects the work streams contained in the 2018 / 2019 Programme of Work.

3.9 The 2018 UK Town and Gowns Association (UKTGA) biannual conference is being held in Belfast on 19 and 20 November. The core principle of UKTGA is to enhance experience through consistency, ongoing support and improved standards for students and long term residents living in off-campus communities.

3.10 In conjunction with UKTGA and Queens University Belfast, Council has been invited to shape the conference agenda to ensure that key issues relevant to Belfast are included for discussion.

3.11 Human Resources

In terms of supporting the delivery of the Learning City Interagency Group and the associated Programme of Work, this is through existing Council staff, with no additional costs to the ratepayer.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

At this time there are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

At this time there are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the progress in relation to the work delivered through the Learning City Interagency Group and endorsed the future Programme of Work to address ongoing issues on a citywide basis.

Belfast Healthy Cities - WHO Conference

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update in relation to the forthcoming World Health Organisation (WHO) International Healthy Cities Conference being hosted in Belfast Waterfront from 1-4 October 2018 and the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII programme which is due to commence in January 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report.
- Agree that the Committee Chair and Deputy (or their nominees) attends the conference and potentially participate as chair and / or discussant in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.
- Agree that Councillor Copeland, as Chair of the Age Friendly Reference Group attends the conference and participates as chair and or / discussant in the Healthy Ageing side event being held on 1 October.

- Note that a Committee report will be presented to SP&R Committee on 17 August 2018, providing an update in relation to the forthcoming World Health Organisation (WHO) International Healthy Cities Conference being hosted in Belfast Waterfront from 1-4 October 2018 and the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII programme which is due to commence in January 2019.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

WHO International Healthy Cities Conference 1-4 October 2018

- 3.1** In 2018, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, celebrates its 30th year as a network and global movement. The highlight of the celebrations will be the conference, which is being hosted in Belfast Waterfront from 1 to 4 October.
- 3.2** As well as celebrating 30 years of Healthy Cities as a network and a global movement, the conference will focus on the 6 themes established by the WHO European Healthy Cities Network's Political Vision Group, which are people, place, participation, prosperity, planet and peace.
- 3.3** For three decades the Healthy Cities movement has been a pioneering driver of change, creating healthier urban settings that support the health and well-being of the people that use them. It has also inspired Healthy Cities Networks to grow in all other WHO regions, creating a global push for healthy cities and positioning health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments. As a result, city health profiles have evolved as an indispensable tool for informing citizens, policy-makers and politicians about health and also as an evidence base for city health planning.
- 3.4** The conference, which takes place every five years, offers cities the chance to engage with their international counterparts and benefit from the Network's experience. The four day programme in Belfast will provide opportunities to learn from the work of Healthy Cities globally, bringing together politicians and key decision-makers, as well as technical experts. The conference will provide inspiration and insight through multiple examples of innovative ways to improve health and well-being.
- 3.5** Belfast Healthy Cities has taken a lead in the management and organisation of the conference. A Steering Group and Events Team have been established, together with several

Committees to ensure that a successful, well organised and enjoyable conference is delivered on behalf of Belfast City.

- 3.6 Council officers have been liaising with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to conference arrangements and are supporting the programme through the delivery of six specific site visits. Furthermore, Council Officers are proactively working to ensure that the conference is recognised as a conference for the city and that the health and well-being vision and ambitions in the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan, together with the priorities of the Belfast Strategic Partnership are highlighted, thus illustrating a long term commitment to address health inequalities across Belfast. It is hoped that opportunities can be created to demonstrate Council's civic leadership on an international platform and to showcase Belfast as a great place to visit and do business.
- 3.7 Additionally, following Council's Friendly Co-operation Agreement with Shenyang in 2014 and subsequent Sister City Status in 2016, discussions are ongoing with Belfast Healthy Cities to ensure that a conference invitation is extended to the Mayor of Shenyang and consideration is being given to the Shenyang Mayor's involvement in the conference side events.
- 3.8 In February 2018, Belfast Healthy Cities published a call for abstracts, resulting in three hundred and fifty abstracts being received. These have been assessed and successful delegates are in the process of being informed.
- 3.9 Seven side events are being developed that will be held at the start of the conference. These events will provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in a range of off-site seminars, focusing on topics such as healthy aging, healthy places, early years and peace, all of which reflect the vision and outcomes that have been captured in the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.10 Additionally, seventeen sites visits, relating to the conference themes, have been confirmed for the third day of the conference. These site visits will provide delegates the opportunity to learn about good practice examples being delivered in Belfast, in relation to the six key themes as outlined in point 3.2 above. The planned visits will range from physical projects such as the Connswater Community Greenway and the Regional Trauma Unit, to urban governance models and community initiatives. Furthermore, a number of tours taking in different parts of the city, will offer delegates the opportunity to experience Belfast from a different perspective. The site visits include the following:

- **People:** Innovative approaches to medicine Regional Trauma Unit, Royal Victoria Hospital; Diversity in South Belfast.
- **Place:** Shaping the future development of Belfast, a Local Development Plan; Connswater Community Greenway; Supported Housing for people living with dementia and developing Dementia Friendly Communities; Public health tour of Belfast.
- **Participation:** Treating conditions, exercise through prescriptions; W5 Science Centre; Early years intervention approaches in Shankill; Belfast an age-friendly city; Belfast a UNESCO Learning City.
- **Prosperity:** Sustainable growth, a city region deal, Prosperity along the river Lagan; Glider, a new mode of travel for Belfast.
- **Planet:** Institute for Global Food Security, Queens University; Bryson Recycling, leading social enterprise; Devonish Nutrition, Dowth Farm Visit.
- **Peace:** Care Zone in North Belfast; Health and Housing; Creating a shared city; Irish language in east Belfast.

3.11 A copy of the draft conference programme was available on modern.gov

3.12 Dr Janez Potočnik, the Co-chair of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Resource Panel, has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the forthcoming conference. Dr Potočnik is a former Commissioner for Environment and previously Commissioner for Science and Research in the European Commission. In those roles and his current position as the Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, he has played a key role in policy making on natural resources and in the transition to a circular economy. Dr Potočnik will deliver a keynote address during the conference and will also participate in a panel discussion during the event.

3.13 An informal request has been received for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the People & Communities Committee to attend and potentially Chair one of the learning through practice sessions and / or strategic workshops. Further details in relation to these sessions and workshops are expected from Belfast Healthy Cities within the next few weeks.

3.14 An informal request has been received for Councillor Copeland, as Chair of the Age Friendly Reference Group, to attend the conference and Chair or speak at a Healthy Ageing side event session being hosted on 1 October 2018. Further details in relation to this session are expected from Belfast Healthy Cities within the next few weeks.

- 3.15 An informal request has been received from Belfast Healthy Cities, seeking the Chief Executive to possibly deliver the Key Note 2 speech on 3 October and also to participate in the conference closing session on 4 October.
- 3.16 It is also anticipated that there will be opportunities for additional Elected Members and Council officers to be involved in the conference as chairs and / or discussants in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.
- 3.17 Belfast Healthy Cities has also submitted a request for Council volunteers, fluent in European languages (German in particular), to act as interpreters during the conference.

The conference will also provide the opportunity to close Phase VI of WHO Healthy Cities and commence preparation in relation to Phase VII. Details of Phase VII will be announced, together with the new cohort of designated healthy cities.

WHO European Healthy Cities Phase VII (2019 – 2024)

- 3.18 The WHO European Healthy Cities Phase VII expression of interest is expected to be released from WHO in July 2018. The process for completion and submission of an expression of interest from Belfast requires a letter of support from the Lord Mayor. This element of the Phase VII application process will be progressed further when the expression of interest is made available, however will be required before the conference in October.
- 3.19 The goals and framework for Phase VII will be agreed at the conference and will be known as the Belfast Charter.
- 3.20 In order to be re-designated as a WHO Healthy City, and participate in Phase VII, Belfast will need to complete a Phase VII application, including consultation, by December 2018. Details of the application criteria are expected to be released in September 2018.
- 3.21 Belfast Healthy Cities will take a lead on preparation of the Phase VII application. Council Officers have been liaising with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to this application and have highlighted the importance of Phase VII aligning to the priorities in the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan as well as the work of the Belfast Strategic Partnership.

3.22 Historically, Council has provided a funding contribution to support the work of Belfast Healthy Cities which is reviewed on an annual basis. Given Council's ongoing significant organisation change and efficiencies programme, it has been highlighted to Belfast Healthy Cities that it is unlikely Council will be in a position to continue the same level of partnership funding in future years. The introduction of Phase VII is an opportunity to revisit the existing governance and model of funding and delivery.

3.23 Financial and Resource Implications

WHO International Healthy Cities Conference 1-4 October 2018

3.24 At the present time there are no financial implications to report in relation to the WHO International Healthy Cities Conference being held in Belfast from 1 – 4 October 2018.

Ongoing resource commitments in relation to the conference are being progressed within existing resources. Additionally, further council officer involvement during the conference, in relation to practice sessions and workshops, will be delivered within existing resources.

3.25 A request has been received from Belfast Healthy Cities seeking Council volunteers who are fluent in European languages to act as interpreters during the conference. If volunteers are available, this support will be delivered within existing resources.

3.26 The Council has contributed £81,294 in the current year to Belfast Healthy Cities.

3.27 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

At present there are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment issues to report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Film Requests

The Committee was advised that two separate requests to film had been received. The first was from a Company called Raw Cut TV, which was seeking permission for Belfast City Council staff to participate in a BBC One Series called 'The Defenders'.

The Director of City Services advised that officers had carried preliminary discussions with the producers to ascertain the aim of the programme and they had

confirmed that it was to showcase the work of agencies going about their daily work. The producers had indicated that they would be willing to sign a legal agreement with the Council to ensure adequate safeguards and to provide reassurance that the Council's image and reputation would not be jeopardised in any way.

A further approach had been made to the Council by Clean Slate TV, which was investigating producing a show for the BBC which would document 'A Year in Botanic'. This would include detail in respect of the gardens, the Palm House and the Tropical Ravine and information regarding the maintenance and effort required in order to maintain the area.

The Committee:

- agreed that staff from Belfast City Council could participate in a BBC One television series "The Defenders", subject to a robust legal agreement being established between the Council and Raw Cut TV and following detailed discussions between Raw Cut TV, Environmental Health Managers, Corporate Communications and Legal Services; and
- agreed that officers could engage with Clean Slate TV to explore the scope of any proposal that might be realized in relation 'A year in Botanic' and, if deemed appropriate, agreed that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services could grant permission to proceed under delegated authority.

Request for the use of Alexandra Park for North Belfast Magical Festival

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a request had been received for the free use of Alexandra Park to host the North Belfast Magical Festival. She explained that this would be the third year that the festival would take place in Alexandra Park and it had been a great success. This event was a project of the Ashton Community Trust which had, for the past fifteen years, been managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation across communities in North Belfast.

The Members were advised that this would be a family event with tickets costing £2.00 each and she outlined a brief itinerary of proposed events as follows:

- art workshops and street performances;
- an outdoor cinema;
- a lantern parade, that would make its way from Cliftonpark Avenue to Alexandra Park;
- a magical evening event that would include outdoor performances;
- stage entertainment; and
- a fireworks display to close the event.

The Director advised that this year it was proposed that the two-day festival would take place on Monday 29th October from 11.30 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. and on Tuesday 30th October from 11.30 a.m. – 9.00 p.m.

The Committee noted that the event organisers had confirmed that they would undertake to do the following in order to ensure delivery of a safe and successful event:

- employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment;
- employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event;
- ensure that a one-way system for the park was in place;
- ensure that local residents were informed about the event 7 days prior to the event and that there would be no inconvenience or nuisance caused to the residents on the day of the event; and
- work with the relevant Council departments to ensure the effective management of the park and event.

The Members also noted that, to assist with the setup, the organisers had requested that the park be closed to members of the public from 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. on 30th October and that only members of the public with tickets would be permitted entry from 6.00 p.m. until the event had finished.

The Committee granted authority for the free use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Magical Festival on condition that the event organisers:

- liaise with Council officers and ensure that all health and Safety requirements are met to the Council's satisfaction, including an event management plan and risk assessments;
- complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements including entertainment and fireworks licensing; and
- liaise with Council Parks staff.

Pollinators and Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Responses Received

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 5th December, 2017, it had agreed to write to the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to outline the Council's support for the proposed restrictions in relation to neonicotinoids and its agreement that such restrictions should be retained following Brexit.

The Members noted that responses had been received and that both DEFRA and DAERA had outlined that they too agreed that the existing restrictions should be retained following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

The Committee noted the responses received and requested that they be submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Brexit Committee for information.

Waste Collection Update

The Committee was provided with an update in respect of the waste collection service which included a detailed update in respect of the following key areas:

- customer call handling and management interventions; and
- the waste collection improvement plan.

During discussion a Member raised a number of issues in respect of the call-handling centre and it was agreed that more detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting.

The Director informed the Committee that Mr. Jim Ferguson, Cleansing Operations Manager, was retiring from the Council in the near future.

Several Members paid tribute to Mr. Ferguson for the significant contribution which he had made during his employment in the Council and wished him well in his retirement.

The Committee:

- requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting in respect of the call handling procedures used for waste collection issues; and
- noted that the next update would be submitted to the November meeting.

Pride of Place Awards - update report

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 8th May, a report relating to the Council's participation in the 2018 Pride of Place Competition and Gala Awards ceremony had been withdrawn to enable more information in respect of costs to be obtained from Co-operation Ireland.

The Committee was asked to note that, due to the timeframe for nominations, this matter had been considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 22nd June.

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed to Option 2, which was, maximum participation in the awards - five nominated groups plus Council representation.

Request for the use of Falls Park and Falls Park Bowling Pavilion

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a request had been received from Féile an Phobail seeking permission to host the "Draiocht Children's Festival' at Falls Park and Falls Park Bowling Pavilion on 22nd – 26th October, from 12 noon – 2.00 p.m. daily, and Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th, from 12 noon – 9.00 p.m. daily.

The Committee noted that the event organiser had in the past number of years hosted a number of events across various council parks. These events aimed to promote social inclusion and the celebration of diversity by providing opportunities for the expression of Irish Culture in all its forms, encouraging interchange with other cultures and communities through traditional and modern forms of artistic expression.

The officer reported that the proposed event would entail youth diversionary activities such as educational walks, music, storytelling, performance artists, arts and crafts workshops and a lantern procession.

Any reinstatement work carried out as a result of the event would be paid for by the Event Organiser and a reinstatement bond of £5,000 would be required.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a subsequent request had been received from the organisers looking for free use of the Bowling Pavilion.

The Committee granted authority for the use of Falls Park and free use of the Pavilion for the “Draíocht Children’s Festival” on Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October, Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th October, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the event organisers:

- resolve all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction;
- meet all statutory requirements including public liability insurance cover, health and safety, fireworks licensing and licensing responsibilities; and
- consults with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

World Record Plaque at the Waterworks

The Committee was reminded that the Celtic World Spey Casting Invitational Challenge Event had taken place at the Waterworks Park during May 2018. This had been the third year that Belfast City Council had supported the event and it had attracted competitors from all over the world.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that visitors to the event had witnessed the longest ever ‘spey cast’ when a Norwegian angler had sent his line 61.5 meters across the water.

The Committee approved the purchase of a plaque to recognise the longest ever ‘spey cast’ and world record in spey casting that had been achieved. The plaque would be installed in the Anglers’ Cabin at a cost not exceeding £300, which would be met from the existing revenue budget.

Landlord Registration Information Sharing Protocol

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1** The Department for Social Development (now the Department for Communities) introduced the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, which became operational on 25th February 2014. Landlords of any new tenancies created after 24th February 2014 must register with the registrar. Local Councils have the responsibility of enforcing this legislation.
- 1.2** The Department appointed a Landlord Registration Registrar who is in charge of the information and may disclose it, on request, to:
- a district council to enable or assist it to carry out its legal duties;
 - the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland to help it to carry out its legal duties for rating purposes;
 - the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the purposes of administering housing benefit and the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO regulation due to be transferred in 2019)
- 1.3** The offence of the failure of a landlord to register carries a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500. If a landlord is found guilty of providing false information a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500 is applicable. If a landlord fails to provide evidence of registration a maximum fine on conviction of £500 can be given.
- 1.4** Payment of a fixed penalty will discharge any liability for prosecution. These fixed penalties which was determined by the Council were set at £500 for the offence of non-registration and providing false information, and £100 for the offence of failing to provide evidence of registration.
- 1.5** The Landlord Registrar has developed a protocol for sharing data with all Councils in Northern Ireland.
- 1.6** The purpose of this document is to ensure there is a protocol for the sharing of certain personal data collected by the Registrar in its role as Data Controller of the Landlord Registration Scheme, where that personal data is needed for the purposes of enabling or assisting a council in the exercise of its functions under any provision of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and Article 54 of the Rent (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, as per The Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

1.7 The protocol sets out the following areas:

- What data can be shared,
- How the information is going to be exchanged
- Timescales
- How securely the data is to be stored
- Breach of Confidentiality
- Requests for Disclosure of Information subject to legislation.
- Audit Requirement – System Access Check

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is;

- Invited to consider and endorse the Information sharing protocol between the Landlord Registration Registrar and Belfast City Council
- Asked to authorise the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the protocol on the Council's behalf.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The protocol outlines the arrangements between the Landlord Registration Registrar and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department of Belfast City Council.

1. The objectives of this agreement are:
2. To establish the roles of both parties;
3. To establish an agreed level of response and performance targets;
4. To set out the legal responsibilities of both parties

3.3 The document has been reviewed by the Council's Records Management Unit and Legal Services.

3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the delivery of the service level agreement.”

The Committee endorsed the Information sharing protocol between the Landlord Registration Registrar and Belfast City Council and granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the protocol on the Council's behalf.

Boxing Strategy Quarterly Update

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.

She advised that the Council had agreed a total of 37 indicators with the IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes and she confirmed that it had complied with all the reporting requirements.

The Committee noted that the recent recruitment of a Belfast Development Officer through this funding would also contribute to ensuring full delivery in Quarters 2, 3 and 4.

Noted.

Sydenham Bowling Club Facility Management Agreement

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the People and Communities meeting held on 8th August 2017, the Committee had agreed to review the Facility Management Agreement with Sydenham Bowling Club and at this stage the key holding arrangements for the facility had reverted to the Council and the management arrangement fee had been suspended. Since then, all usage and bookings at the facility had been staffed by a Parks Mobile Facilities Attendant.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that, following negotiations with the various stakeholders, the Club had agreed to comply with all reporting requirements which included financial, bowling usage and safeguarding and it wished to, once again, have key holding and all other responsibilities for bowling activities at the facility. The Club had requested that the Council would continue to provide staffing and key holding for all non-bowling activities at the facility.

The Committee was advised that, as there would continue to be a requirement for staffing at the site, it was proposed that the Facility Management Arrangement fee would be amended to £700.00 per calendar month.

The Committee also noted that the Club had accumulated a significant financial surplus during the period of the Agreement and that this would be reinvested back into the facility. A plan of works would be drawn up for the agreement of Council officers.

The Committee agreed a variation to the Facility Management Agreement at Inverary Bowling Pavilion.

Dog Control in Parks

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members’ views on the control of dogs within parks and cemeteries and to present a phased approach to dealing with the issues around this.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Agree the proposed phased approach as outlined in this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Dog walkers are one of the biggest users of our parks particularly at off peak times in the morning and evening and they are also year round users in all weather conditions.

3.2 However the perception among many dog owners is that they can let their dogs off their leads in our parks to exercise and this has caused conflicts with other park users and a growing number of complaints. Dog fouling is also an issue and some dog owners when they let their dogs off the leads are not aware of them fouling and therefore do not clean up after them.

3.3 There has been previous attempts to deal with this issue and a dog off lead enclosure has been developed in Grove Playing Fields. This facility is well used and there are proposals to pilot 3 further areas across the city in Falls, Orangefield and Clement Wilson Parks.

Link to the Belfast Agenda

3.4 The control of dogs within our parks and open spaces fits under Living Here within the Belfast Agenda and feeds into the workstream ‘Maximise the benefit of our natural and built environment’.

Dogs in cemeteries

3.5 Under the Cemeteries Rules and Regulations dogs are not permitted in cemeteries and there is some signage to this

effect. Whilst this is complied with by users in the majority of our cemeteries, as most are closed or as in Roselawn there are very few dog walkers, there is a significant issue in the City Cemetery. Given the location of the cemetery within a built up area and adjacent to Falls Park, many local residents treat the cemetery as a park and use it to walk their dogs. As is common across all our parks, the majority of dogs are allowed off leads by owners and there is a high level of dog fouling. Staff currently receive numerous complaints around this issue and in particular about instances of dog fouling on graves, which is a very emotive issue for the families involved.

- 3.6 Cemetery staff have been in discussions with colleagues in enforcement around co-ordinated enforcement operations against dog fouling in the City Cemetery and they are currently exploring options as to how these can be undertaken.

Proposed approach

- 3.7 Given the emotive nature of this issue and the number of dog walkers who use our parks, it is proposed that the following phased approach be adopted.

3.8 Phase 1

- An education and awareness campaign is rolled out across the city, targeted at hotspots, emphasising that our parks are shared spaces and that dogs need to be kept on leads
- That off lead dog enclosures are piloted in Falls, Orangefield and Clement Wilson Parks
- An enforcement campaign is undertaken in City Cemetery to combat dog fouling and to raise awareness that dogs are not permitted in cemeteries.

3.9 Phase 2

- Enforce the bye laws around dogs off leads in parks and open spaces
- Enforce the rules around no dogs in cemeteries
- Introduce Dogs Control Orders to allow us to prohibit dogs from certain areas and to create zones where dogs would be allowed off leads at certain times.

Timescales

- 3.10 Subject to Members' agreement the timescale for the initial phase of the proposed approach is:

- Commence education and awareness campaign - autumn 2018
- Develop dog off lead enclosures in 3 further parks – autumn 2018
- Commence enforcement campaign re dog fouling in City Cemetery – immediately.

It is proposed that these activities would be monitored for effectiveness for 12 months and an analysis undertaken of the findings which would be used to inform the introduction of Phase 2. A report on the effectiveness of Phase 1 will be brought to committee in advance of progressing to Phase 2.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

There are financial implications in relation to the educational and awareness campaigns and the development of dogs off lead enclosures, but these will be met out of existing resources.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications associated with this report. The introduction of any new Dogs Control Orders would be screened in line with the Council's processes."

Following a number of queries, the Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the Council would be consulting with users and residents regarding these proposals.

The Committee agreed to commence the phased approach which would include consultation with the various stakeholders

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park

Councillor Nicholl reminded the Committee that, the Council, at its meeting held on 2nd July, agreed that the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 5th June, under the heading "Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park", to defer consideration of the matter, had been rejected and accordingly the Council agreed to accede to the request to provide a temporary structure, subject to the terms and conditions as detailed within the report. She requested that the Committee give consideration to the decision of the Council with a view to it requesting it to rescind and not grant permission for the installation of the temporary structure.

Accordingly, it was,

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People and Communities Committee
Tuesday, 7th August, 2018

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor McReynolds,

That the Committee agrees that the Council be recommended rescind its decision of 2nd July, under the heading "Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park", and accordingly agree not to grant permission to install a temporary structure on the Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park.

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

Chairperson