

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 7th November, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard);
Aldermen Haire and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Corr, Dudgeon,
Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Mullan, Murphy,
O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development
Lead Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Kingston and Councillor Dorrian.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 26th September and 10th October 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 November.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of the items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Bank Buildings/City Recovery

The Committee noted an update which had been provided by the Strategic Director of Place and Economy on the Bank Buildings/City Recovery Programme, in the context of planning and building control, city animation, environmental and physical improvements and the allocation of the Primark fund. The Committee noted also that it would, later in the meeting, be informed of proposals to establish a City Centre Regeneration Task Force to facilitate, amongst other things, the delivery of the City centre recovery programme.

Belfast Region City Deal

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that £350 million had been allocated within the Autumn Budget to the Belfast Region City Deal. That figure would rise to £850 million with contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive and the six councils and two universities involved in the initiative and would be boosted further by investment from the private sector.

He explained that, over the coming weeks, a Heads of Terms document would be signed off, which would allow for detailed business cases to be formulated for each project and, ultimately, for funding to be released.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Presentations

Enterprise Framework for Belfast

The Committee agreed to receive at its monthly meeting in December a presentation from Steer Economic Development on the draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast.

Growing Business and the Economy

Social Value Procurement and Inclusive Growth

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on current engagement on social clauses and the emerging outcomes from a new approach aligned to the Leisure Transformation Programme.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the report, including the social clause deliverables under the Leisure Transformation Programme investment; and
- ii. consider how the Council's social clause policy might be reviewed, in order to support delivery of Belfast Agenda commitments, including the focus on inclusive growth.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members will be aware that, for some time, the Council has been engaged in a range of activities to support 'social value'. Social Value means measuring investment by using more than just commercial metrics and considering other impacts that have a more 'social' focus. The Social Value approach aligns with the commitments set out in the Belfast Agenda to support inclusive growth.
- 3.2 A range of work is currently being undertaken across the Council to support the delivery of social value through employability activities, support for the development of the social enterprise sector and the integration of social clauses within relevant procurement processes.
- 3.3 The Council has been integrating social clauses as part of its procurement processes for a number of years. The current policy commits the Council to scope out all upcoming tender opportunities (with a value of at least £250,000) to explore opportunities for securing social value by introducing social clauses.
- 3.4 Social clauses have been used in a number projects, mainly construction-focused, however it is recognised that the current approach is a relatively 'blunt' instrument to support Inclusive Growth. As a result, social value opportunities are often restricted to a 'shopping list' of social clauses (e.g. work placement opportunities, work trials) which are not designed specifically for the nature and circumstances of the contract to be procured. This means that opportunities are often missed to derive longer-term benefits for our communities and neighbourhoods.

- 3.5** Recognising the limitations of the current approach, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed, in November 2016, to trial the integration of social value as an evaluation criterion in the Council's procurement activity. The key difference was that there was a series of questions asked at the application stage about how the contract would support the Council's social value agenda, as well as delivering on the supplies and services at the core of the contract. Responses to these questions were then given relevant weighting as part of the tender evaluation process. This approach was undertaken for the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP), recognising the significant opportunity presented from this procurement due to its scale and contract duration.
- 3.6** This approach allowed contractors to present a plan of activities aligned to the specific nature of the contract (i.e. leisure facilities in local areas) and the broader priorities contained within the Belfast Agenda. The contract has a maximum value of £60 million and has been awarded to Heron Brothers Ltd. It involves the redevelopment of three leisure centres, namely Andersonstown Leisure Centre, The Robinson Centre and Brook Activity Centre.
- 3.7** The adoption of the social value approach for this contract has delivered a larger-scale and more comprehensive range of economic and social benefits for the Council and local communities than would ever have been achieved through the previous process (i.e. using social clauses as award criteria). Whilst the construction contract is still ongoing, a summary of the social value impacts achieved by the contractor to date includes:

- **Employment Opportunities** included ring-fenced opportunities for the unemployed/economically inactive, creation of new apprenticeships and paid work experience opportunities. These translate to 2,340 employment weeks across the duration of this contract. To date the contractor has delivered 61% of this target and is on track to achieve 100% performance. A summary of the outcomes achieved to date are included in the table below:

	Actual Weeks	Individuals
Employment for economically inactive and long-term unemployed	302	11
Apprenticeships supported	607	15
Paid Placement/Work Experience	509	14
Total	1418	40

- **Supply Chain Opportunities:** the contractor has committed to develop supply chain links with the local supply chain, specifically micro, small businesses and social enterprises. To date, meet the buyer events have been held with local businesses and over 130 local suppliers have applied for supply chain opportunities, resulting in a 50% increase in the number of local suppliers entering the supply chain for the development;
- **Social enterprise development:** to support the social economy sector, Heron Bros. are enhancing the Council's Go Social programme by providing grant funding of £10,000 to help new social enterprises;
- **Community Engagement:** to connect to local communities in the vicinity of the leisure centre developments Heron Bros have sponsored a number of events and festivals, provided plant, labour and materials to support community activities and are undertaking volunteering projects e.g. they are supporting Reconnect NI, a charity located in West Belfast to lay a new patio and undertake ground works;
- **Sports Development:** Heron Bros have entered into a number of sponsorship arrangements e.g sponsoring Clonduff under 14's FC and the 'Run Belfast Hills' in partnership with North Belfast Harriers and National Trust; and
- **Education and Health Initiatives:** Heron Bros. are working in partnership with Groundwork NI to deliver the 'Grow Bus' to four schools in the vicinity of the sites to educate children on the benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.

3.8 Taking account of the learning and linking in with good practice examples from other locations, there is an opportunity to consider how the Council could develop a more comprehensive approach to social value than is currently the case. This would focus on both the Council's direct investment and activities, as well as its leadership role in encouraging other public sector partners (particularly the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to assume this approach. This is particularly important given the recent announcements around the City Deal and the significant investment that this will bring.

3.9 It is recognised there is a range work already being undertaken including:

- incorporation of social and economic benefits as part of the draft Developer Framework;
- development of an Inclusive Growth Framework, recognising the potential of procurement and developer contributions to support the achievement of the Council’s ambitions around inclusive growth;
- ongoing work to develop a poverty action plan for the City;
- work on the development of the ‘resourceful Belfast’ strategy, focusing on environmental management issues;
- integration of social value approaches in the development of North Foreshore; and
- ongoing engagement on the Innovation Factory contract, ensuring delivery of the ‘social regeneration’ commitments alongside the economic development targets.

3.10 Given all of this activity and the ongoing push to consider how the Council can deliver on its commitment to ‘inclusive growth’, there is an opportunity to review the current social clause policy. The intention would be to standardise the integration of social value as part of the commissioning process and create a delivery mechanism to achieve social value and inclusive growth through the Council’s procurement processes.

3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Social Clause Policy has undergone equality screening. All supply chain and employability activities will take account of access issues for residents and businesses located in rural areas.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

Any future resource implications associated will be highlighted in subsequent reports.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- i. to note the contents of the report, including the social clause deliverables under the Leisure Transformation Programme investment; and

- ii. to adopt the social value approach, as alluded to within the report, to support the delivery of Belfast Agenda commitments, including the focus on inclusive growth, and to extend that approach to the Belfast City Region Deal.

Update on Smart Belfast Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our local universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges, drive public service transformation, and support wider economic development in growth sectors of the city’s digital economy.

1.2 Delivery of the programme is driven by an ongoing ‘pipeline’ of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation Framework agreed by Council in 2017. An update report was presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September, 2018. Given its interest in this area of work, this paper provides the City Growth and Regeneration Committee with an update on the current activities.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector to tackle urban challenges, drive public service transformation, and support wider economic development in growth sectors of the city’s digital economy. It operate at three levels:

- (1) City and regional: Working with partners to develop the digital innovation elements of the Belfast Region City Deal. And supporting partners to bring innovative solutions to challenges identified in the Belfast Agenda (while at the same time supporting our digital companies to innovate);**

- (2) **Organisational transformation: Contributing to the Council's own service transformation by supporting the adoption of user-centric design; innovative procurement; and the application of data science and digital technologies; and**
- (3) **Building the core foundations: Working with partners to build the strategic capabilities of our smart city (including supporting a city data platform, networks, skills sharing, joint delivery mechanisms, etc).**

3.2 The team currently consists of four officers temporarily re-assigned but is in the process of recruiting seven full time staff. Delivery of the programme continues to be driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation framework agreed by Members in 2017. The latest information on the programme is available at <http://smartbelfast.city>

3.3 While the programme's focus over recent months has been in the development of the digital and innovation pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal, the team has continued to deliver the smart city project.

3.4 An update was provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September 2018, and the Committee is asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) on Last Mile Freight Delivery

3.5 The team has been working with Smart Dublin, the NI Department for Infrastructure, Belfast Business Improvement Districts, the NI Freight Transport Association, on a €240,000 SBRI competition to encourage SMEs to develop proofs of concepts to address the challenge of increasing numbers of van and lorry deliveries in both Dublin and Belfast city centres.

3.6 Here in Belfast, successful companies will explore the challenge from a number of perspectives including setting up 'micro-consolidation' centres to distribute goods to retail outlets using electric bikes and autonomous vehicles; creating 'virtual' loading bays that managed remotely via a mobile app; and working with freight companies to jointly schedule freight delivery slots into the city centre.

Amazing Places, Smart Places SBRI challenge

- 3.7 Working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, the Council successfully applied to the Northern Ireland SBRI Change programme for £100,000 to work with digital SMEs to develop innovative ways to support the management of public space in the city (particularly in our parks).**
- 3.8 The competition closes on 14th November and will provide opportunities for up to six companies to work with the city to explore how data science and digital technologies can support better understanding of issues associated with safe open space.**
- 3.9 The competition has attracted substantial local and national interest. For example, the Smart Dublin team may be able to offer complementary funding to allow interested companies to also test their ideas in a number of parks in Dublin city centre.**

Things Connected challenge competition

- 3.10 Working with Ulster University, the UK Digital Catapult, and other NI local authorities, the Smart Belfast team ran an open competition to encourage local companies to explore ways in which the region's new 'Internet of Things' (IoT) radio network can be used to support city centre services and the citizen's experience of the public realm. (The IoT network was established following a £100,000 joint bid to Digital Catapult by Smart Belfast and Ulster University and is free-to-use by local companies – more than 50 local companies have already registered to use the network.)**
- 3.11 'IoT' is expected to be a significant technology for businesses over the next decade, and the competition provides local companies with unique opportunities to build their skills while at the same time working with councils on real-world applications.**
- 3.12 Two SMEs have been chosen to go forward for the Belfast challenge. They will be supported by Ulster University to develop their ideas during an initial proof-of-concept phase in autumn 2018**
- 3.13 Alongside the competition, the Council also arranged free training for over 60 SMEs in managing cloud-based Internet of Things applications.**

Maritime Mile demonstrator project

- 3.14 The Smart Belfast team has also been exploring how IoT technologies could support the development of the city's 'maritime mile' (ie, from the Big Fish to the Pump House) – with a particular focus on how pedestrians and visitors plan their journeys and interact with the public realm.
- 3.15 Smart Belfast is working with the Titanic Foundation and Tourism NI (who have offered match-funding) and IoT company, 'Hello Lamp Post', to co-invest in a small-scale demonstrator project that will use mobile phone technology to encourage pedestrians to interact with 'Artificial Intelligence chat-bots' along the maritime mile. The learning and data from this demonstrator will then be used to inform the future use of smart technologies in public space and in a future smart district.
- 3.16 Hello Lamp Post are also planning to bid to a €3 million 'SynchroniCity' IoT fund to develop this work further in Belfast and in Eindhoven.

UK Space Agency Call For Ideas

- 3.17 Urban air quality and its links to health outcomes is a growing issue at the national and international level. Smart Belfast is currently involved in a UK Space Agency funded project with a consortium of SMEs, the Belfast Health Trust and Department for Health. This Urban Healthy Living project seeks to model Belfast's traffic data and air quality to provide information on air pollution in a near real-time for city planners and citizens.
- 3.18 Building on this work, the SME consortium is now bidding to the Space Agency for an even more ambitious air quality project.

Business Rates Maximisation

- 3.19 Following a £140,000 SBRI competition in 2017 that sought to use big data to identify additional business rates incomes and improve the accuracy of the city's Rates Register (the competition identified over £300,000 of additional Rates income), the Council is now moving to procure a Business Rates data tool.
- 3.20 Two companies that successfully delivered the SBRI have used the experience to develop market-ready products that are being sought by a number of other UK cities. The project also featured in the UK Government's Industrial Growth strategy.

Smart Tourism

- 3.21 Smart Belfast is facilitating a ‘collaborative growth’ network of twelve SMEs that has come together to develop joint innovations that generate and/or utilize that have come together to develop joint innovations to generate and/or utilize tourism data.
- 3.22 Invest NI is providing £25,000 to each network and if they develop sufficiently robust business cases they will be able to access a further £175,000 each.

Data Analytics for Economic Activity

- 3.23 The team has worked with local SME ‘Expand Access’ to successfully bid to a €1 million EIT Digital Call. This project, which includes partners from Helsinki and University of Madrid and Future Cities Catapult, seeks to bring together a wide range of economic, skills, employment and business data to develop comprehensive analyses to inform decisions by both by individual businesses and public policy makers.

Health Analytics

- 3.24 Smart Belfast is facilitating a ‘collaborative growth network of local SMEs that has come together to develop joint innovations that generate and/or utilize health data to incentivize local people to take part in healthy activities.
- 3.25 Invest NI is providing £25,000 to the network and if it develops a sufficiently robust business case the SMEs will be able to access a further £175,000.

Belfast Bikes R and D project

- 3.26 Over the past twelve months the team has been working with local SME, See,Sense, BT, the Department for Infrastructure, NSL, PSNI and QUB on a joint R and D project that deployed 75 sensors on the Belfast Bikes. The data from this project is being used to better understand usage of the scheme and wider cycling behaviour across the City.

3.27 Financial and Resource Implications

The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in November, 2017.

3.28 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on Section 75 groups.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Inner North West Masterplan

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the final draft of the Inner North West Masterplan for approval by Members.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. approve the final Inner North West Masterplan;**
- ii. note the supporting documentation for the Masterplan, including the public consultation report, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Rural Needs Assessment and EQIA Screening; and**
- iii. note that further details of a Delivery Plan aligned to the Masterplan will be brought back to Committee in the near future setting out proposed priorities.**

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1** As per previous reports, Members are aware that, as part of the delivery of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), a number of more detailed plans were to be commissioned to help support and shape city centre developments. The Inner North West (INW) Masterplan is part of the implementation of BCCRIS and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee gave approval in October 2016 for master planning work to be undertaken. Following a workshop with Members in November, 2017, a draft Masterplan was brought to Committee in January, 2018 and it was agreed to go out for consultation on the basis of the draft Masterplan that was brought to Committee. Details of the subsequent consultation is set out below.

Location

- 3.2** The INW area as shown in the Masterplan forms a critical part of the city centre and is bounded by the Millfield/Carrick Hill road to the northwest, College Street to the south, Fountain Street to Fountain Lane to the south and Royal Avenue to the east and covers 17.2 hectares (42 acres). The area is located at the convergence of four different types of land uses: residential to the west and north; retail to the east; education to the north and mixed use to the south, including the new Transport Hub. A location map has been circulated to the Committee.
- 3.3** As outlined to the Committee in October 2017, the purpose of the Masterplan is to guide development in this part of the city. The area is currently underdeveloped and in need of significant investment to ensure coherent proposals come forward as part of wider strategic development of the city. The Inner North West is experiencing significant change, mostly as a result of a number of approved and planned development opportunities in the wider area and will benefit from a more holistic consideration of the key issues associated with these emerging activities such as transport, connectivity, built heritage, mixed-use developments, residential accommodation, and design.

Engagement and Communication Programme

Public Consultation Programme

- 3.4 In January 2018, the Committee agreed to a 12-week public consultation and the 12-week formal consultation period began on 13th February 2018 and concluded on 8th May 2018. Effort was made to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers. The detail of the engagement process and responses was reported to Committee in August 2018. In total, 16 different engagement activities took place and these were attended by approximately 225 people. The consultation report has been circulated to Members.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 3.5 The statutory consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment ran between 9th July and 1st October, 2018. The feedback from this consultation, combined with the findings from the INW consultation, has formed the final Masterplan.

Statutory Partners

- 3.6 Engagement with statutory partners included the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Translink, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Historic Environment Division. The feedback received from them shaped the final document and discussions will continue during the development of the delivery plan. Feedback was also received from Council departments.

Party Group Briefings

- 3.7 As part of the ongoing engagement with Members, Party Group Briefings were held in October on the final Masterplan. In addition to discussion about content within the Masterplan, the following issues were highlighted by Members:

- City centre living important if Belfast Agenda growth ambitions are to be realised but importance of high quality housing and good management highlighted;
- Represents a significant opportunity in city centre for mixed use development;
- Shared and mixed tenure housing to be considered as part of overall development proposals;
- Alignment of city centre living and licensing requirements /night time economy;

- Significant public sector owned land in the area provides public sector the opportunity to drive and shape development in the area;
- Links and connectivity to surrounding neighbourhoods is critical to development in the area and city centre development should not be inward facing;
- Consultation on the Masterplan represents a point in time but there remains a need to react to changing circumstances – as with the Bank Buildings fire;
- Renewed focus to be given to that area most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire;
- Various views expressed on whether or not pedestrianisation of parts of the study area should be considered as part of future development proposals;
- Impact of the inner ring road on air quality and new developments;
- Role of Section 76 agreements to deal with impacts of development in the area;
- Importance of open and green spaces as an integral part of overall development of the area;
- Importance of heritage in regeneration; and
- The University Ulster should have a pivotal role in ensuring that the impact of their proposed development and increases in student numbers is properly managed and reflects the aspirations of the INW Masterplan for those lands adjoining the UU.

3.8 Many of the comments from the Party Group Briefings are also reflected in the Consultation Report, a copy of which has been circulated.

Final draft Inner North West Masterplan

3.9 The final draft Masterplan, as enclosed with this report, reflects the public consultation process on the Masterplan as well as the subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment consultation processes. As set out in the Masterplan, it provides a framework to help shape the emerging opportunities in this part of the city and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development to create a new city centre mixed neighbourhood which:

- incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm;

- takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain;
- reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area;
- promotes 'city centre living', with its social and environmental benefits;
- strengthens the city centre's urban fabric and streetscapes;
- supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods; and
- delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan.

3.10 As a result of the feedback to the public consultation and to the subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment the draft Masterplan has been amended, in particular, the vision has been updated and states:

'The INW will be transformed to create a vibrant place to live, work, shop and relax across a series of mixed-use, shared neighbourhoods. The existing heritage and community assets alongside new investment including commercial, residential and higher education developments will produce a welcoming quarter embodied by creativity, innovation, quality design, culture and well-being in the heart of the city centre'.

3.11 The following objectives as set out in the final draft Masterplan support this vision and largely remain the same from those in the initial draft (except for the first point, which includes a focus on the environment):

1. **Heritage and Natural Environment:** To reuse and integrate the existing heritage and respect the natural environment
2. **Homes:** To deliver a variety of residential accommodation or tenures
3. **Workspaces:** To provide high quality and distinctive work and employment spaces
4. **Retail:** To support city centre retail activity
5. **Leisure and culture:** To improve and support the existing offer and create links to new and existing create and cultural activity
6. **Public realm:** To provide a high quality public realm to create green, walkabout and cyclable space
7. **Well-Being:** To promote sustainable communities, quality urban design and help create a welcoming and attractive place for everyone

8. **Transport**: To upgrade and manage the transport and parking facilities and promote active and sustainable transport
- 3.12 The Inner North West Masterplan is underpinned by robust urban design principles that will help shape proposals coming forward and has at its heart the intention to create a new city centre, mixed neighbourhood. Whilst a number of these have been reworded and the supporting text amended as a result of the consultation the over-arching focus on reducing severance, creating a mixed and vibrant quarter and creating a strong street hierarchy and integrated parking remain. These principles shape the proposals outlined within the ten character areas highlighted in the Masterplan, which include: Queen Street, Castle Street and King Street, North Street and Carrick Hill/Millfield amongst others.

Planning policy context and the Local Development Plan

- 3.13 Members will be aware that the draft LDP Plan Strategy is open for consultation until 15 November. The INW Masterplan is in line with the emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that supports population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda. However, it will still be considerable time before we are in a position to bring forward the site specific Local Policies Plan (LPP) setting out details at a more local level and a providing significant element of the spatial articulation to the adopted policy.
- 3.14 The process for the development of the LPP is likely to involve a review of documents and frameworks, such as the INW Masterplan. The LDP Plan Strategy may then provide a container for such documents to be brought forward as a form of Supplementary Planning Guidance and thereby give weight to the principles or elements of the Strategy as a more detailed articulation of LDP policy. This, subject to a consultation and adoption process at that stage, would provide for more weight to be afforded to the document in the decision-making process for planning.
- 3.15 Until the adoption of the Plan Strategy, the INW masterplan and similar documents have limited statutory weight in formal planning decision making. However, it should be recognised that they can, in common with other documents, still be material to and enhance the consideration of development proposals especially where additional or more up to date data informs the context for a decision.

- 3.16 In recognition of the timing of the approval of the INW masterplan in relation to the public consultation process on the LDP Plan Strategy, the 'Planning Context' section of the Masterplan has been amended with the following text:

'At present the Inner North West Masterplan is a non-statutory document. However, following the adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy, the Council will be in a position to review the INW Masterplan with a view to bringing it forward as a form of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). In order for it to have more weight as a SPG document the Council would have to take it through a formal process involving consultation. Following this, the principles or spatial elements of the Masterplan could then be considered to provide a more detailed articulation of LDP policy.'

Next Steps/Delivery

- 3.17 Development in the INW will be driven by investment from both the public and private sectors. Whilst private sector investment is essential there is also a significant role for the public sector, working with the private sector and other stakeholders, in helping to shape and deliver regeneration in this part of the city. There is also a significant amount of publicly owned land in the area which provides the opportunity for the public sector to influence and drive development in a co-ordinated manner. The Masterplan has been produced in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) with a view towards collaboration in delivering the Masterplan's vision.
- 3.18 Following agreement on the Masterplan, it is proposed to bring forward an aligned INW Delivery Plan setting out proposed priorities and projects (in collaboration with others). The draft Masterplan sets out some proposals in the Delivery Section as to how the Council will work with others to help realise the ambitions in the Masterplan. The Delivery Plan elements remain to be agreed in detail and will be brought back to Committee in the near future but the Masterplan notes the following proposals:
- Work with DfC and the private sector to review their land holdings within the Inner North West, and consider which sites may be brought forward for development;
 - Support DfC and DfI to bring forward additional public realm improvements where funding permits;

- Proposed Infrastructure Study to reflect need for improvements to public transport in and around the Inner North West;
- Utilise this document to inform discussions with developers as they come forward with proposals in the area;
- Use Masterplan to inform drafting of the LDP and LPP.
- Engage with private sector landowners to understand barriers to development;
- Bring forward the development of the Belfast Telegraph building;
- Consider targeted business support and economic regeneration initiatives;
- Explore opportunities for meanwhile or interim uses; and
- Focused action plan for those areas most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire.

3.19 As a result of the recent fire at Bank Buildings, it is recognised that there needs to be a renewed focus on that part of the City. As a key part of the proposed Delivery Plan for the Masterplan, it is intended to bring forward a focused action plan for the area surrounding Bank Buildings to address the shorter and longer-term impacts of the recent fire. Further reports will be brought back to Committee on this.

3.20 It is also worth noting that the Council remains involved with a number of other strategic projects such as Streets Ahead, York Street Interchange, Clarendon Masterplan, Clifton Street Gateway and Belfast Region City Deal, all of which will affect the INW and provide opportunities to increase connections, support coherent development and achieve the aspirations of the Masterplan.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Consultation on the draft EQIA Screening was held as part of the Inner North West Masterplan. The Rural Needs Impact Assessment found that the Masterplan involves the development of an inner city area and will have no direct impact in rural areas.

3.22 Finance and Resource Implications

None directly associated with this report.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the Inner Northwest Masterplan and associated documents were available on the Council's website [here](#).

City Centre Regeneration Task Force

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reminded the Members that significant effort had been put into responding to and managing the impact of the fire which had destroyed the Bank Buildings.

He reported that the Council had, from a public sector perspective, assumed the lead role in the recovery process, which had involved ongoing liaison with a number of Central Government departments and public sector bodies, such as the Departments for Communities and for Infrastructure, Translink and Visit Belfast. That process had had significant staffing and financial resource implications for the Council and, whilst it had been recognised that it would be likely to continue over the coming months, it was essential that the public sector also adopted a strategic view on how to maximise current efforts to revitalise the City centre in the longer term.

He explained that discussions had taken place recently between senior Council officers, the Head of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretaries around the need to adopt a collaborative approach to City recovery. It had been agreed that a City Centre Regeneration Task Force, comprised of Permanent Secretaries, should be established and be chaired jointly by the Council's Chief Executive and the Head of the Civil Service. It was envisaged that the Task Force would provide the strategic oversight and direction to facilitate the delivery of the ongoing City centre recovery and revitalisation plans in both the short and longer terms and a high level forum for considering cross-cutting issues and proposals for collaborative working and co-investment. Its Terms of Reference would require approval by the participants and it was the intention that the inaugural meeting would be held within the next month. In addition to the proposed Task Force, there would continue to be ongoing liaison with businesses, their representative bodies and other stakeholders.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee note the proposal to establish a City Centre Regeneration Task Force, as outlined, and that it would receive on a quarterly basis an update on the work of the Task Force.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Update on International Relations – Nashville

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th October, it had, in receiving an update on the International Relations Action Plan, agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting outlining the rationale behind a decision not to attend the Health:Further conference which had been held in August in Nashville.

The Director of Economic Development drew the Members' attention to the fact that the Council had, in May, hosted a cross sectoral delegation from Boston and Nashville, Belfast's two US Sister Cities. He reported that Mr. Marcus Whitney, one of the Nashville delegates, had visited the City for the first time to explore the life and health sciences sector and identify opportunities for future capital funding. Mr. Whitney had been impressed by the quality of the research expertise and business innovation locally and had felt that there were opportunities for collaboration with Nashville-based businesses and investment potential. Upon his return, he had met with representatives of Invest NI's office in Chicago and had invited Northern Ireland-based companies and economic development players to attend the Health:Further conference, to enable them to meet with their counterparts in Nashville. The Committee, at its meeting on 13th June, had approved the attendance at the event of its Chairperson and the Director of Economic Development (or their nominees).

The Director of Economic Development reported further that, during June and July, officers had met with representatives of Catalyst Inc., Invest NI and potential delegates to explore the potential for attending the conference in Nashville. However, there had not been sufficient interest expressed by individual businesses or by the business support organisations to merit the visit proceeding and, as a result, the Council delegation had not travelled to Nashville.

He pointed out that, since then, Council officers had continued to engage with Mr. Whitney and with representatives of Nashville's economic development team and Invest NI's office in Chicago to examine future opportunities for Belfast companies within Nashville's life and health sciences sector. It was felt that additional research was required to identify potential opportunities, with a view to increasing interest amongst local businesses for future initiatives and visits.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

NI Science Festival 2019

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on a request for sponsorship for the 2019 Northern Ireland Science Festival, based on the success of the 2018 event. This will be the Science Festival's 5th annual event, with activities running from 14th till 24th February, 2019 in venues and locations across Belfast and NI.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the contents of this report; and**

- ii. agree to provide sponsorship of £35,000 from existing budgets for the Northern Ireland Science Festival 2019.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Northern Ireland Science Festival has been taking place annually since 2015. The 2018 Festival which ran for 11 days in February offered a wide range of events focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. During the day, the Festival presented workshops, talks and interactive activities for young people, schools and parents. In the evening, the Festival programme presented an eclectic range of science debates, talks, theatre, comedy, film and music for adult audiences. Overall, the programme held 183 events with local and international input, held across 92 different venues in NI demonstrating a significant increase in outreach from the previous year and exceeding 2018 targets.
- 3.2 The Science Festival is organised by Science Festivals NI and a unique collaboration of major STEM outreach organisations in Northern Ireland. Funding for the event was provided by a number of organisations including the Department for the Economy, Tourism NI, Queen's University, Ulster University, the MCS Group, the Matrix Panel, the British Council, and Belfast City Council.
- 3.3 As cited in previous reports, Science Festivals are a relatively new type of event with global appeal and increasing audience popularity worldwide. New York, Edinburgh, San Francisco and Dubai all host large-scale science events as part of their wider cultural frameworks. In 2015, the inaugural NI Science Festival joined this international group by becoming the largest festival of its kind on the island of Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Since the first Festival in 2015, the event has continued to go from strength to strength with its increasing reputation allowing it to secure globally significant guests such as the astronaut Chris Hadfield and to host the annual internationally acclaimed Turing Lecture.
- 3.4 The 2018 Festival was considered to be a major success, exceeding agreed targets and competing with other established science festivals. Points of note included:
 - 183 events spread across 92 different venues across NI, with the majority of activity taking place in Belfast;

- an increase in audience figures from 63,000 people attending in 2017, to 69,000 people attending in 2018;
- 55% of the audience consisted of children and young people under the age of 18, including participating schools;
- 95% satisfaction rate was recorded from Festival attendees, with 73% stating that participation had increased their interest in STEM;
- development of a strategic partnership with Libraries NI which resulted in a dedicated ‘Science Books’ area in all 98 libraries across the region;
- the BBC ran a NI Science Festival Arts Show specially dedicated to examining the links between arts and science;
- according to media monitoring company Nimms, the total PR coverage generated by the Festival was estimated to be in excess of £200,000. Inclusion of the astronaut Chris Hadfield in the programme also received significant media attention from journalists generating over 100 print articles in newspapers alone. The Festival’s growing international reputation has allowed it to secure some of the top names in science, attracting global media attention on the city

3.5 Proposed 2019 Programme

The 2019 Festival will take place from 14th till 24th February 2019. The core objective of the Festival continues to be a commitment to reaching a broad and diverse audience to increase the accessibility of science and to promote learning. This is in line with the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda to improve skills and employability, make the city an attractive location for investors and to build cultural vibrancy. This will once again be achieved through a series of events and partnerships that link science into different areas of interest. Some key details from the programme which is due to be launched in January 2019 include:

- Professor Brian Cox’s Universal World Tour in the SSE Arena;
- an international exhibition and VR experience from the Science Museum featuring the Soyuz Capsule which carried Tim Peake in to space;

- a specific focus on women in STEM;
- the annual Turing Lecture;
- an ‘artist in residence’ programme in partnership with the British Council;
- several events focused on key issues in tech such as cyber security, smart cities and the internet of things;
- events with key Belfast City Council initiatives including the Tropical Ravine, parks and Belfast Zoo; and
- Titanic Belfast STEM Quest Final which is aimed at school children throughout Northern Ireland at Key Stage 3 Level.

3.6 There will be additional opportunities for a number of the Council’s services to engage with the Science Festival to promote their work in innovative ways, particularly to young audiences, and to engage more residents around key issues for the city. These may include the support programmes on education and skills, community engagement activity, managing waste and food waste in particular, supporting active communities and promoting mobility and encouraging access to arts and culture for all residents. In addition, the innovative nature of many of the events – alongside the flagship events already lined up – will act as an attraction for people coming from outside of the city into Belfast, for the purpose of attending some of these specific events or associated activities.

3.7 A postcode analysis for the Festival continues to indicate that a large proportion of the previous Festivals’ audiences come from outside Belfast. This is reflected in the support from organisations including Tourism NI. It is also in keeping with emerging Council thinking on how events can celebrate the areas for which the city is renowned (engineering, innovation, cyber technology) while, at the same time, driving footfall and spend in the city.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

The overall budget for the event is in the region of £270,000. This is made up by commitments from a range of public and private supporters including:

- £83,000 - from the Department for the Economy
- £5,000 from the British Council
- £20,000 from Queen's University
- £20,000 from Ulster University
- £25,000 from Tourism NI
- £10,000 from the Matrix Panel
- £10,000 from Innovate UK
- £17,500 from Derry and Strabane District Council
- £10,000 from Corporate sponsors
- The Festival anticipates ticket sales to generate around £35,000.

3.9 The allocation requested from Belfast City Council is £35,000, in line with the funding allocations made since 2015. This funding is has been set aside within existing Departmental budget estimates.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no specific equality or good relations considerations attached to this report. Activities will take place all across NI, focusing on Belfast.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Committee Plan 2018/2019 – Six Month Update

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report provides a six month progress report on the key actions contained in the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan, as agreed by Committee in April, 2018. It provides an update on progress with the key actions, in particular highlighting the work undertaken in terms of jobs growth, skills development, cultural investment and regeneration and development.

1.2 In total, over the last six months, 1,868 jobs have been created directly or indirectly, 1,905 individuals have been supported through employability interventions and 1,243 businesses have been supported to either start-up, grow or develop their international profile.

- 1.3 The Plan draws together several annual delivery plans; such as city centre development, support for businesses, employability and skills, tourism and the cultural framework. It sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee if overseeing to maximise the Council's contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda that, at its core, has a commitment to inclusive growth.
- 1.4 The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus on the economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:
- our city is home to an additional 66,000 new residents;
 - our urban economy supports 46,000 more jobs;
 - there will be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods; and
 - every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.
- 2.0 **Recommendation**
- 2.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of the report and that officers are continuing to progress the actions within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2018-2019, as agreed by the Committee in April, 2018.
- 3.0 **Main Report**
- Key Issues**
- 3.1 The 2018-2019 Committee Plan was developed in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth and the importance of growing the local economy to improve the quality of life. The Committee contributes to the delivery of all 4 work-streams; however, Growing the Economy, City Development and Working and Learning are the focus of the Committee's responsibilities. The Committee therefore continues to take the lead in ensuring that there is connectivity between the need for economic growth and the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.
- 3.2 Last month, the Committee noted the progress reports for the Growing the Economy, Working and Learning and International Relations annual work programmes. The Committee also receives regular updates on specific

programmes of work identified in the Plan to ensure progress on delivering the Council's investment and commitments to deliver on the Belfast Agenda.

- 3.3 An update against each of the main action areas in the Committee Plan has been circulated to Members. Key programmes of work will continue to feature regularly on the Committee agenda during the remaining period of the plan.
- 3.4 The Committee will note that significant resource and effort has been redirected to respond to, manage and re-vitalise the city centre because of the recent fire at Primark Bank Buildings. This effort will continue for the remainder of the financial year and into the longer term. Our plans and initial efforts in this will shape our future approach, which is likely to result in a reconfiguration of our priorities for city centre development, regeneration and investment. This will refresh the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

Overview of Progress:

- 3.5 A critical deliverable over the first six months of 2018/2019 has been the production and submission of the Belfast Region City Deal propositions for Employability and Skills, Regeneration and Tourism and Infrastructure. The Committee will continue to receive updates on the City Deal as work progresses.
- 3.6 Particular highlights for the 2018-2019 Committee Plan include:

Growing the Economy

- Created 174 jobs as a result of our engagement with 446 businesses and individuals to encourage them to start new businesses. This includes the creation of 17 jobs in social enterprises / co-operatives.
- Supported 533 indigenous businesses through our initiatives to encourage business to grow and increase their productivity, which has led to 246 new jobs.
- 10 Belfast based high growth start-ups participated in the MassChallenge accelerator bootcamp in Boston
- Launched the Belfast: City for Investment' support service to investors for a 2 year pilot period. 50 enquiries from potential investors are currently being managed.
- Working with Visit Belfast and Tourism Ireland, participated in Belfast's first Tourism Showcase in Shenyang, with 87 attendees from tourism, media and

operators sectors. The Lord Mayor also promoted Belfast at the World Cities Winter Conference.

- Delivered two successful Twilight Markets, with each Twilight Market attracting footfall of around 20,000.
- Contributed to the Members Workshop on developing an Inclusive Growth Framework with a draft Framework to be developed by the end of the year.

City Development

- Completed the East Bank Development Strategy and the Inner North West Masterplan final draft completed (being reported to this Committee), with aligned Delivery Plans being progressed.
- Ongoing liaison with public sector, developers, housing providers, community groups and key stakeholders to shape and influence key city centre regeneration, development and investment projects. Includes a joint BCC/DfC Regeneration Group; a Developers Forum; and various Project Boards & Reference Groups.
- Proposals progressed (including planning application) for the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building as a BCC/Private Sector Joint Venture project.
- City Centre Car Parks Baseline Review of BCC car parks undertaken with a strategic sites assessment of car park sites currently being progressed.
- Destination Hub draft Outline Business Case prepared and incorporated as part of the Belfast Region City Deal proposition
- ‘Meanwhile use’ animation programme commenced for specific areas of the city centre (including Castle Street and North Street) This is now being factored into a wider city centre animation and meanwhile use programme in response to the Bank Buildings Primark fire and city centre recovery efforts.
- Belfast at MIPIM 2019 launched in October 2018. To date, around 20 organisations have signed up to join the Belfast at MIPIM delegation. Work is continuing to build on this and develop the programme.
- Secured agreement to take forward an approach to invest in local areas to support the development of high quality, sustainable local tourism products

Working and Learning

- 139 participants have been engaged in the Employment Academy programmes, with 72 securing employment.

- Completed significant employer engagement to develop a range of new academies in hospitality, tourism, health and social care.
- Awarded match funding to five European Social Fund (ESF) projects, which has led to engagement with 1,766 participants. This has resulted in 577 achieving qualifications and 375 entering employment.
- In total 1,905 individuals have been supported through employability interventions and 1,554 young people engaged through career support activities.

Living Here

- Delivered the City of Music Summer Season animation programme across the city
- Delivered Open Heritage Belfast, a programme of heritage themed activities to coincide with European Heritage Open Days, in partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage that attracted an audience of approx. 1,500.
- Delivered the City Events programme with attendance levels, to date, reaching approx. 135,000 and an estimated economic impact of £1.9m.
- Awarded a total of £330k small grants which benefitted 58 arts and cultural organisations and commenced the Resilience Programme with 14 large scale arts organisations successfully participating

Highlights for the Next Six Months

3.7 The following provides a summary of some of the key deliverables over the next six months. This is in line with the Committee Plan and the annual work plans agreed by Committee in March and April 2018.

- Confirmation on the Belfast Region City Deal and commence delivery on the resultant outworkings, including the Destination Hub visitor attraction
- Develop the Council's Inclusive Growth Framework including the key contribution of City Growth & Regeneration Committee
- City Centre Business Recovery Programme and enhanced animation programme - ongoing implementation and development to assist businesses to remain resilient in the aftermath of the Bank Buildings fire and to drive footfall.
- Deliver a focused regeneration programme to revitalise and accelerate the city centre economy with a particular focus on those areas most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire.

- Agree delivery plans (in conjunction with partners) for projects and initiatives aligned to the Inner North West Masterplan, the East Bank Strategy, Greater Clarendon Masterplan, the Strategic Sites Assessments and other strategic policies and plans.
- Launch and deliver a range of new Employment Academies – hospitality, tourism, health and social care; and the ‘Access to Opportunity’ employability programme, targeting under-represented groups
- Deliver the Friendship Four ice hockey tournament and Basket Ball Hall of Fame competition
- Hold the Eastern Economic Corridor Conference in February 2019
- Establish the Belfast Tourism Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate and integrate public and private tourism programmes in Belfast
- Progress with the refresh of the tourism strategy and priorities identified as a result of the mid-term review
- Build on an agreed cultural narrative for Belfast to deliver the Belfast Culture 2023 programme and a new festival and events strategy
- Agree the Belfast Enterprise Framework
- Deliver a successful pitch and programme for Belfast at MIPIM 2019

3.8 To ensure the continued growth and regeneration of the city centre and to enable the benefits of this growth to be felt by local businesses, people and communities it is essential that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy remains relevant and continues to provide a cohesive framework for development and regeneration. Refreshing the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy will therefore be a priority. This will harness the commitment and response to the initial recovery efforts in order to revitalise the city centre and connections to the surrounding areas to ensure that it delivers on the Belfast Agenda ambitions..

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

Progress is in line with the agreed Committee Plan, annual work plans and associated Departmental budgets.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officers."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Strategic and Operational Issues

Charity Abseiling Events - Belfast Castle

The Committee was informed that requests had been received from Cancer Focus and the MS Society to hold in 2019 a number of abseiling events at the Belfast Castle to raise funds for charity. The requests related to 24th February, 31st March, 14th April, 12th May, 23rd June, 15th September and 6th October, however, due to the popularity of such events, additional dates might be required.

The Director of Economic Development reported that the venue had been selected on the basis of its unique location and marketing potential and that similar events had been held there previously, which had proven to be very successful. He pointed out that Bryson Lagansports, which had over ten years' experience of facilitating abseils, would be deploying highly qualified instructors and using the highest standard of equipment. The company would be required to provide the necessary risk assessments and documentation, including insurance cover.

The Committee granted approval for abseiling events to be held in 2019 at the Belfast Castle to raise funds for charity, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and to the organisers meeting all operational, health and safety and documentation requirements to the satisfaction of the Council.

Schedule of Meetings 2019

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the period from January till April, 2019 and agreed that it should continue to meet at 5.15 p.m. on those dates:

- Wednesday, 9th January;
- Wednesday, 23rd January (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 13th February;
- Wednesday, 27th February (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 13th March;
- Wednesday, 27th March; (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 3rd April; and
- Wednesday, 17th April (Special Meeting, if required).

Additional Item

Annual International Homecoming Conference 2018

The International Relations Manager reminded the Committee that it had granted approval previously for the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) to attend the Annual International Homecoming Conference taking place in Belfast from 28th till 30th November.

She reported that the Council had since been allocated four additional places for the event.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that nominations be sought from those Political Parties not represented by the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson to attend the event.

Chairperson