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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 9th April, 2018 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council of 5th and 27th March, 2018 (Pages 1 - 12)
5. Request to Address the Council

To consider requests from representatives of Amnesty International UK, the FPA and Both Lives Matter to address the Council in relation to the motion on Criminalisation of Abortion being proposed by Councillor Nicholl.

To consider a request from Mr. Healy to address the Council in relation to Autism Awareness.

To consider a request from Mr. Rodgers to address the Council in relation to the motion on Special Schools being proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland.

6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd and 27th March, 2018 (Pages 13 - 68)
8. People and Communities Committee of 6th March, 2018 (Pages 69 - 104)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th March, 2018 (Pages 105 - 166)
10. Licensing Committee of 21st March, 2018 (Pages 167 - 178)
11. Planning Committee of 13th and 15th March, 2018 (Pages 179 - 198)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 12th March, 2018 (Pages 199 - 200)

13. Notices of Motion

a) Criminalisation of Abortion

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,

Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

"This Council notes the increasing number of women who are accessing abortion pills via the internet, which leaves them vulnerable to prosecution.

The Council further notes the impact on healthcare professionals who, under Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967, may have a duty to provide information to the Police Service. Therefore, if a woman requires medical assistance after accessing these pills, the threat of prosecution and life in prison is likely to act as a real deterrent, thus potentially having a detrimental impact on her health.

Accordingly, the Council believes that abortion should be regulated like any other medical care and not by criminal law, while still enabling incidents of malpractice to be addressed, as with any other health service, through the general criminal law or medical disciplinary procedures.

A woman who has an abortion is not a criminal, nor are healthcare professionals who care for them, and the law should not treat them as such."

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Hyponatremia-Related Deaths

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,

Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

"This Council notes the shocking and heartbreaking findings in the Report Inquiry into hyponatremia-related deaths (IHRD), led by Mr. John O'Hara.

The Council notes that the family of Raychel Ferguson, who died after being fed the wrong type of saline drip following an appendix operation in Altnagelvin Hospital in 2001, have called for the establishment of a "Raychel's Law of Candour" as a fitting tribute to their daughter.

The Council supports the family in this call and, accordingly, agrees to write to the Department of Health calling on it to bring forward legislation to establish a new statutory duty of candour that would compel health care organisations to be open and honest and impose criminal liability on anyone in breach of the duty."

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Special Schools

Proposed by Councillor Copeland,

Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

"This Council expresses its grave concerns at the plans by the Education Authority in Northern Ireland to close a number of special schools and also to amalgamate others in the city of Belfast.

The Council believes that if the plans go ahead they will have a devastating effect on staff and on pupils and their families, many of whom have serious physical and mental health problems.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to request the Chief Executive and members of the Board of the Education Authority to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council to discuss this as a matter of urgency."

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Childcare Strategy

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara,

Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

"This council agrees to explore options and take practical steps, including through the Belfast Agenda and City Deal, with a view to creating a childcare strategy for the city that will encourage greater maternal employment, redress gender inequalities in the workplace, increase GVA in the city and, most importantly, improve educational and social outcomes for our children."

**(To be referred, without discussion, to
the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)**

e) Greenway Strategy

Proposed by Councillor Dorrian,

Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

“That this council will support the further development of the Greenway strategy in Belfast, including assessing the benefits of a Sydenham Greenway, linking East Belfast and Holywood.

Council will engage with potential partners to assess how such a strategy would be implemented, with focus on improving connectivity and benefiting health and well being in our community.”

**(To be referred, without discussion, to
the People and Communities Committee)**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Wylie".

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 5th March, 2018
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Bunting, Garrett, McCusker, Milne and Nicholl.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and

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

Official Announcements

Welcome

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Canavan, who had replaced former Councillor McVeigh, to her first meeting of the Council.

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council welcomed Ms. L. Hamilton-Sturdy, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, to her first meeting of the Council.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Congratulations

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor McDonough-Brown and his partner, Daniella, on the birth of their daughter, Aoife.

She extended congratulations also to Councillor Nicholl and her husband on the occasion of their recent marriage.

Best Wishes

The Lord Mayor reminded the Members that this Council meeting would be the last at which Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development, would be in attendance and thanked Mr. Durkan for the contribution which he had made to the work of the Council.

Councillor Hutchinson expressed his thanks Members for the get well messages he had received from Members and officers following his recent operation.

At the request of Alderman Spence, the Lord Mayor agreed to forward a letter to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games team which would, in April, be competing in the Commonwealth Games 2018 in the Gold Coast, Australia, extending the Council's best wishes to the athletes participating in the Games.

Change of Membership on Committee and Outside Body

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Sinn Fein indicating that it wished Councillor Canavan to replace Councillor Baker on the Licensing Committee and Councillor Nic Biorna on the Belfast PCSP.

The Council approved the aforementioned changes.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from the BBC seeking to film part of the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. C. Mac Giolla Bhéin from the organisation Conradh na Gaeilge to address the Council in the context of the motion which Councillor Collins would be proposing later in the meeting on the Irish Language Act.

The Council agreed to accede to the request and Mr. Mac Giolla Bhéin was welcomed to the meeting.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Mr. Mac Giolla Bhéin outlined the need for an Irish Language Act and advised that broad support existed for the development of an Irish Language Act from a diverse background to protect the Irish language. He explained that Conradh na Gaeilge sought political party support for the Irish language which belonged to everyone. He suggested that, over 200 years ago, important work had been undertaken by Presbyterians to revive the language and ensure that it would be passed on to future generations and that the tradition was being maintained by the East Belfast Mission and the tourist project organised by Linda Irvine.

He informed Members that, last year, Conradh na Gaeilge had met with leaders of the Political Parties to discuss how the Irish Language could be accommodated and progressed, however, the events of the last few weeks had extinguished the hope that this could be resolved by the Northern Ireland Executive in the short term. He indicated that their campaign would continue and had gained cross party support.

He confirmed that an Irish language community already existed and had grown in the last few years. He advised that Irish Medium Education had grown, with four thousand children being educated in the medium of Irish, and the Gaeltacht Quarter in West Belfast had recently been awarded Network Status. He informed the Members that an Irish Language Act had been promised, as part of the St. Andrews Agreement which had been endorsed by the British and Irish Governments.

He stated that three public consultations had been undertaken, however, an Act had not been implemented. He advised that the most recent consultation had received over 13,000 responses, with 94.7% of responders supporting the implementation of an Irish Language Act. He suggested that an Irish Language Act would afford official recognition to the Irish language and to the Irish speaking Community. As no current legislation existed, the language, community, funding, schemes, schools and classes were dependant on the decisions made by Ministers and Department officials. He suggested also that legislation was required so that those who wished to use the Irish language had the choice and provision to do so. He made the point that that the Council should celebrate diversity over exclusion, celebrate rights and respect, and provide leadership on this issue.

Mr. Mac Giolla Bhéin was thanked by the Lord Mayor.

The Council noted the information which had been provided and that it would have an opportunity to discuss the issue later in the meeting.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th February be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Amendment

Northern Ireland Local Government Association – Forward Work Plan

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th February, under the heading “Northern Ireland Local Government Association – Forward Work Plan”, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees not to pay the annual subscription fee of £71,467 to renew its membership of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

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

Amendment

Motion – Transparency of Council Funding

Moved by Councillor McDonough-Brown,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th February, under the heading “Motion – Transparency of Council Funding”, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to progress the actions as outlined in the motion.

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

<u>For 15</u>	<u>Against 37</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Collins, Corr Johnston, Heading, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long, Lyons, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds and O’Neill.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey, Johnston, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O’Donnell, O’ Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th January were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Alderman McCoubrey,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 31st January and 6th February be approved and adopted.

Affordable Warmth – Consultation Response

At the request of Councillor Carson, the Council, in relation to fuel poverty and the cuts to the neighbourhood renewal budget, agreed that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities requests that the Department ring-fence the 2018 - 2019 budget to maintain the current level of spend for neighbourhood renewal, in line with the decision that had been made by the previous Minister, the direction given by the Acting Head of the Civil Service, and its legal obligations.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 31st January and 6th February were thereupon approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Donnell,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th and 21st February be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 14th February, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 13th February, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.
Shareholders' Committee**

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 19th February, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Criminalisation of Abortion

In the absence of Councillor Nicholl, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the notice of motion standing in her name be withdrawn from the agenda.

**Review of the Council's Code of
Practice on Smoking at Work**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Reynolds proposed:

"This Council will review and revise its Code of Practice on Smoking at Work on the use of e-cigarettes, in light of the new research published by Public Health England."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

Epilepsy Support

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Dorrian proposed:

"This Council acknowledges this year's 'Purple Day' on Monday, 26th March, and recognises the challenges that many people in Belfast, of all ages, face living with epilepsy in all its different forms.

The Council will commit to ensuring that proper information is circulated to its staff and through its network of centres and offices, to promote a better understanding of the condition and provide advice on how to react if an epileptic situation arises which requires assistance."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

Establishment of a Brexit Standing Committee

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Canavan proposed:

"The referendum result to leave the European Union presents unprecedented political, social and economic challenges for our city, for the North of Ireland and indeed the entire island.

Belfast, as a city, as demonstrated in motions adopted by this Council, supported remaining within the EU whilst also supporting the provision of special status for the North and remaining in the 'single market'.

As one of the world's one-hundred resilient cities, with economic resilience being a key focus, it is imperative that we understand the full implications that Brexit could bring.

To enable this, the Council will immediately establish a formal Brexit Standing Committee, made up of Elected Members, with appropriate officer support, to undertake all necessary work required to bring forward a report with recommendations to explore the impact of Brexit on Belfast and its citizens."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

All-Ireland Boxing Championships

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Murphy proposed:

“Belfast has produced world class athletes through the sport of amateur boxing who have consistently succeeded through every level of the sport and brought recognition to the city of Belfast through their successes.

We, as a City, are very proud of the achievements of boxers from this City and should seek to build on these successes by showcasing the talent this vibrant sport has to offer across Ireland.

This Council agrees to engage with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association to explore the possibility of bringing the All Ireland Boxing Championships to the City of Belfast.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Irish Language Act

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Collins proposed:

"This Council notes the positive revival of the Irish language in Belfast over the past number of decades. Today, the city of Belfast has a historically large concentration of Irish speakers, which includes a growing number of Irish medium schools, providing for thousands of pupils and thousands more residents who speak the Irish language on a daily basis.

The Council also recognises the impressive grassroots movement that has developed in recent years calling for an Irish Language Act, in order to safeguard and strengthen rights for the Irish language community, a call that has received widespread political support.

The Council believes that such a move is crucial in delivering fair and proper treatment for the Irish language community and supports the introduction of an Irish Language Act."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

On a recorded vote, thirty Members voted for the motion and twenty-two against, and it was declared carried.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 5th March, 2018**

<u>For 30</u>	<u>Against 22</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); Alderman Convery; Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O' Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Kyle, Johnston, Newton, Pankhurst, and Reynolds .

Neighbourhood Renewal

In the absence of Councillor Milne, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the notice of motion standing in her name be withdrawn from the agenda.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 27th March, 2018
at 12.00 o'clock noon, pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Convery, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Hargey, Heading, Johnston, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey and R. Patterson and Councillors Baker, Craig, Dorrian, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, McDonough-Brown, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, Pankhurst and Reynolds.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from the BBC and UTV seeking to film part of the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27th March be approved and adopted.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd March, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, Long, McDonough-
Brown, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillors Armitage, Canavan and Heading

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Resources;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th March.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of items 6a Capital Programme Update and 6b Area Working Group Update insofar as they related to the King George V Playing Fields in that he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club. As these items did not become subject of debate Alderman Rodgers remained in the meeting.

Presentations

Director of Community Protection, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

In pursuance of the Committees decision of 15th December, it was reported that Mr Alan Walmsley, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Director of Community and Protection, accompanied by Mr Bobby Anderson, Stage Commander, Protection Department,

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd March, 2018**

NIFRS, was in attendance to discuss the Service's capacity to enforce the Fire Services Order.

Mr Walmsley provided the committee with an overview regarding the Service's fire safety duties; fire safety audits; the protection and fire service delivery model; enforcement performance and capacity; and overview of the Service's actions post-Grenville.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer then answered a number of questions from the Members, following which the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

Noted.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the following four reports 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 these 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.

City Centre Investment Fund –Update

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the City Centre Investment Fund in terms of applications proceeding to the next stage, being held in reserve and being declined.

Community Development Grants Programme 2018-19

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme (CDGP) 2018/19 and which offered a range of options for consideration to mitigate against any delay and/or a reduction in the Council's Department for Communities income allocation.

The Committee agreed to adopt Option 3: Business Continuity - to extend the current contract to all groups until 30th June, 2018; and proceed to the allocation, in advance of notification of the Department for Communities income, against the current budget of £231,689 for Summer Scheme and Projects based on assessment recommendations.

Welfare Reform

The Committee considered a report which provided information on pending developments in relation to support for generalist advice services and Welfare Reform.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd March, 2018**

The Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report in advance of pending formal correspondence from the Department of Communities regarding the Council's 2018/19 funding contract;
2. agreed to a further report outlining detailed proposals in April 2018 and to include an update on the Eileen Evason report; and
3. pending receipt of a letter of variance to the Council's Community Support Programme 2017/18 contract, agreed to accept further additional in-year funds for 2017/18, which would facilitate an extension of the Citywide Tribunal Service into 2018/19 through the existing Council commitment.

Organisational Development – Update

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to enable Party briefings to be held.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls

The Committee noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be considered at the special meeting to be held on 27th March.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion - Audio Recording of Council Working Groups

The Committee deferred consideration of the matter to enable further information to be obtained and to enable the views of the external representatives on the Audit and Risk Panel and the Shared City Partnership to be obtained also.

Motion – Room of Reflection in the City Hall

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st February, in accordance with Standing Order 13 (f), had referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Mullan, to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council believes that Belfast should be a place where everyone feels welcome and safe, where they are treated fairly and with respect in a shared City that values diversity and encourages civic participation.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to provide in the City Hall a quiet room/room of reflection which can be used by persons of all faiths and none to facilitate those citizens of Belfast and further afield who wish to have a private time out of the hustle and bustle of City life."

The Committee agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd March, 2018**

Motion – Inter-Faith

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Lyons, in accordance with Standing Order 13 (f), had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council recognises the long history of all faiths in Belfast. The Council also appreciates the positive investment that each faith has placed in the City and celebrates the diverse cultural heritage that has been produced by all faiths and acknowledges the role of social justice that has enhanced Belfast.

As a City, we are keen to recognise the equality of all faiths, as well as those who describe themselves as atheists or agnostic.

It saddens this Council to see recent anti-religious actions, especially against the Jewish Faith and the Islamic Faith, and so we would like to honour the work of all faiths by inviting them to attend a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor.”

The Committee agreed that a civic reception, as set out in the motion, be held.

Motion – Review of the Council’s Code of Practice on Smoking at Work

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council of 5th March, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Reynolds and Seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the Committee for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 13 (f):

“This Council will review and revise its Code of Practice on Smoking at Work on the use of e-cigarettes, in light of the new research published by Public Health England.”

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the Council’s Code of Practice on Smoking at Work and the use of e-cigarettes.

Motion – Establishment of a Brexit Standing Committee

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To consider a Notice of Motion on the establishment of a Brexit Standing Committee which, in accordance with Standing Orders, was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 5th March.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 At the meeting of the Council on 5th March, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown:

'The referendum result to leave the European Union presents unprecedented political, social and economic challenges for our city, for the North of Ireland and indeed the entire island.

Belfast, as a city, as demonstrated in motions adopted by this Council, supported remaining within the EU whilst also supporting the provision of special status for the North and remaining in the 'single market'.

As one of the world's one-hundred resilient cities, with economic resilience being a key focus, it is imperative that we understand the full implications that Brexit could bring.

To enable this, the Council will immediately establish a formal Brexit Standing Committee, made up of Elected Members, with appropriate officer support, to undertake all necessary work required to bring forward a report with recommendations to explore the impact of Brexit on Belfast and its citizens.'

3.1.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred to the Committee for consideration.

3.1.3 The establishment of Committees in a Traditional Committee-Style Governance system is dealt with in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. The Council has previously agreed that the quota greatest remainder system will be used for the purpose of identifying the Party(s) entitled to nominate Members to a Standing Committee.

3.1.4 The Council already has 6 Standing Committees. All of those Committees have a membership of 20, with the exception of the Planning and Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committees, which have a membership of 14.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd March, 2018**

- 3.1.5 The Committee is requested to consider the motion. If it agrees to adopt the motion, then the Committee is requested to indicate how any Members should be appointed to the Committee. For information, the following political breakdown would apply to a Committee with a membership of 14 or 20:**

14 Members

**SF – 4
DUP – 3
ALL – 2
SDLP – 2
UUP – 2
PUP – 1**

20 Members

**SF - 7
DUP – 5
ALL – 3
SDLP – 2
UUP – 2
PUP – 1**

- 3.1.6 If the motion is supported, then a further report will be presented to Committee covering the following issues:**

- 1. The allocation of positions of responsibility for the Committee**
- 2. The re-allocation of the Special Responsibility Allowances to accommodate a new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**
- 3. The revision of Standing Orders to accommodate the establishment of a new Standing Committee**
- 4. The revision of the Scheme of Delegation (if necessary) to accommodate the new Committee**
- 5. The remit for the Committee**

3.2 Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.2.1 There will be increased costs on an ongoing basis in relation to the support for an additional Standing Committee but it is considered that such costs can be met from within established budgets.**

3.3 Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.3.1 None associated with this report.”**

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Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees to the establishment of a Brexit Committee, consisting of 20 elected Members, and that a report be submitted on the remit for the Committee and those other issues as set out in paragraph 3.1.6 of the report.

On a vote by show of hands eleven Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that it be deferred to enable Party briefings to be held followed by a Workshop for all Members.

**Corporate Plan 2017-21 Year 2 Update
and Improvement Plan**

The Committee was reminded that the Corporate Plan was a key governance document, cited in the Council's constitution, as the means by which the Committee set the strategic direction of the Council. It set out what the Council wished to achieve for the City and the key priority actions to make that happen.

A four-year Corporate Plan (2017-21) had been approved by the Committee on 23rd June, 2017, with the agreement that it would be updated annually.

The Chief Executive reported that the Year 2 updates to the draft Corporate Plan reflected a range of organisational and city-wide planning led by the Members over the last year and built upon the four-year plan already agreed. Since the original four-year plan was published, the Belfast Agenda had been finalised and many of the changes reflected the published version of the Belfast Agenda. A number of the programmes of work had progressed over the last year and the Year 2 update reflected these developments.

In addition, The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 had introduced a duty on councils to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. The Council, therefore, had a statutory obligation to publish an Improvement Plan setting out the Council's Improvement Objectives. The Northern Ireland Audit Office was responsible for overseeing the implementation of that duty and would undertake an examination of the planning process the Council used to derive its improvement objectives and its progress against them.

The Corporate Plan therefore incorporated the Council's improvement plan, which set out explicitly the Council's improvement objectives. Those improvement objectives cascaded from the Council's priorities as informed by a wide body of evidence, including

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a far reaching consultation process which informed the development of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan.

It was pointed out that the performance measures and associated targets, a key component of the improvement plan, were currently under year-end review and therefore not contained within the draft improvement plan. Following the year-end review, those would be inserted in the final draft which would be submitted to the Committee in June for approval.

The Chief Executive reported also that, as part of the aforementioned Act, the Council was required to consult on its improvement objectives every year before publishing a final improvement plan by June. In order to meet that timeframe, it was necessary to commence an eight-week consultation period on the six improvement objectives contained within the Corporate Plan for 2018/19. Any changes to the improvement objectives, following the consultation, would be submitted to the Committee for approval.

The Committee:

- granted approval to commence a public consultation exercise on the draft Improvement Objectives for 2018/19;
- granted approval for the draft Corporate Plan to be published alongside the consultation of the Improvement Objectives for understanding and context; and
- noted that the final Year 2 Update of the Corporate Plan would be submitted to the Committee in June for final sign-off.

City Region Growth Deal – update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on recent progress, emerging infrastructure proposals within the Belfast City Council area and next steps on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note;

- the update on progress and the emerging infrastructure proposals
- the next steps in the development of the Belfast City Region Proposition

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Department for Communities and Local Government, is now in full operation. There are now approximately 10 active workstreams working towards fulfilment of the requirements for the next major milestone in the City Deal process. This will involve, before the end of April 2018, the production of a further proposition paper providing detailed analysis of the region, its economy, emerging growth sectors and the case for investment in emerging projects.

3.2 The programme is being developed to fulfil the agreed objective for the BRCD of *'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'*. Development of the programme based on the agreed pillars of infrastructure, innovation and skills is overseen by a Board comprising the Chief Executives of the six Councils in the Belfast Region and Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive, has been appointed as the SRO for the programme. The Joint Engagement Forum, comprising Councillors from each of the BRCD partners met on 12 February and were updated on progress in developing the City Deal proposition. Councillors also had the opportunity to discuss the lessons learned during the Glasgow City Deal with Gordon Matheson the leader of Glasgow City Council when their City Deal was agreed.

Programme Update

3.4 In the past month key areas of progress include:

- Production of the first draft of an industrial strategic framework;
- Future City Catapult commencing work to develop a vision for digital infrastructure for the region and a series of costed digital infrastructure proposals that complement the wider City Region Deal bid;
- Appointment of consultants to create a business case for investment in infrastructure for the Belfast Region;
- Production of a specification for the development of Tourism Product Framework for the Region;
- Qualitative assessment of potential infrastructure projects by KPMG;

- Development of outline proposals by Queens University and Ulster University for innovation projects for potential inclusion in BRCD;
- Development by Further Education Colleges and Council Partners of an outline proposition on an integrated programme for employability and skills;
- In addition, to the work on the development of the BRCD proposition, Council Chief Executives and members of the Programme Team have continued to engage regularly with key partners, including officials from DCLG, the NIO, DfE, DoF and DfI to continue to build support for the Deal and to ensure that the proposition is developed in accordance with the requirements of financing partners. Representatives of the business sector and anchor institutions have also continued to be engaged both through local Economic Forums and by direct consultation on the development of specific workstreams, such as the workstreams on digital infrastructure and employability and skills.

Emerging Infrastructure Proposals

- 3.6 A number of elements of the BRCD proposition, such as the programmes being developed in relation to Innovation, Digital Infrastructure and Employability and Skills will mainly be developed at a Belfast Region level. In relation in the infrastructure programme, which is likely to include proposals for tourism infrastructure, as well as transport and economic regeneration projects, Council partners have identified potential projects for inclusion, based on existing priorities identified in their Community Plans, Investment Strategies, Tourism and Economic Development Strategies. KPMG have been working with Councils to assess potential projects to ensure that they are suitable for inclusion in a City Deal in that there is the potential to deliver measurable benefits in relation to productivity, employment or inclusion which represent value for money for the level of investment proposed.
- 3.7 In relation to infrastructure proposals in Belfast, potential projects for inclusion include:
- The Belfast Story- Anchor visitor attraction for the City which would tell the city's story through music, art, literature, film and interactive experiences and incorporate exhibition space and a shared space for cultural, digital and media skills development.
 - Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- Linking the north & south of the city, providing vital links across a number

of health facilities (Mater & City Hospitals) and Education Centres (QUB & UU).

- Lagan Bridges and Links- investment in infrastructure and place-making to overcome key barriers to the city centre, which have been created by link roads, enabling inner city communities to benefit from investment in the city centre and enabling better connectivity across the Lagan.
- Transport Hub phase 2 (Weavers Cross) -transport-led regeneration opportunity adjacent to the proposed £175m regional Transport Hub which aims to connect disadvantaged neighbourhoods into the economic opportunities of the city centre and related services and open spaces.
- York Street Interchange- Replacement of the last signalised junction on the Trans-European Transport Network.

3.8 It is important to recognise that the value of the infrastructure projects being identified by Council partners has a value far in excess of even the level of financing that could be available through a £1billion BRCD. There are therefore a significant number of steps, including discussions with DCLG and NI Government Departments on both financing and deliverability, still to be worked through in relation to the emerging infrastructure projects. Consideration will also to be given to how such infrastructure projects fit with the overall BRCD proposition.

3.8 It is also important to recognise that even in priority areas for investment such as tourism, financing through BRCD will only finance specific capital elements and will not necessarily fully deliver on our inclusion objectives without further investment. It is for this reason that The City Growth and Regeneration Committee has agreed to provide funding of £25 000 to test the viability of local tourism products, which could assist in delivering direct benefits in areas outside the City Centre.

Next Steps

3.10 Councils will continue to consult with the NI Executive Departments to test the emerging project list and develop an updated proposition paper for discussion with DCLG at the end of April. It is anticipated that further prioritisation will form part of this process as well as the need for more information to take projects forward including detailed financial modelling with funding streams and development of individual business cases.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.11 Finance for the development of the Belfast City Region Deal has been included in the revenue estimates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 To be considered in preparation of Belfast City Region Deal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Smart Belfast Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Following its successful twelve-month development phase, Members agreed in November 2017 to embed the Smart Belfast programme within the mainstream work of the Council. The programme is designed to support the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda by fostering collaborative innovation amongst city partners and by encouraging greater innovation within the Council itself. Members have already approved a budget for this programme and this paper now identifies the Innovation team resource required to deliver the programme going forward.

- 1.2 During its first year Smart Belfast ran a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition to develop new tools to help better identify sources of Business Rates income. Following the successful completion of this competition. Members are now asked to approve a procurement exercise to purchase an innovative Business Rates tool.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. To note progress on a number of key projects in the Smart Belfast programme
2. To agree to the procurement of a Business Rates maximisation tool.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 Smart Belfast aims to bring collaborative innovation to bear on urban challenges and public service transformation. The emerging programme will operate at three levels:

- (1) **City and regional: Working with partners to inform the City Deal and the Belfast Agenda; supporting foreign direct investment, local entrepreneurs and high growth sectors, etc.**
- (2) **Organisational transformation: informing Council service transformation by supporting the adoption of agile, user-centric design; innovative procurement; and the application of data science and technologies.**
- (3) **Building the core foundations: working with partners to build capability by setting in place the long term foundations (including a city data platform, skills programmes, delivery mechanisms, etc).**

- 3.2 **As Members will be aware, delivery of the framework is driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen because they are able to demonstrate their contribution to the Belfast Agenda and the Smart City foundations. Given the collaborative nature of such work, a number of these projects are identified in-year and, as such, a successful Smart Belfast programme will be dependent on the agility and responsiveness of the team to such opportunities.**

Members are asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

3.3 **Business Rates Maximisation project**

The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition to find innovative methods to identify sources of Business Rates income supported two SMEs to develop proto-types which together during an initial pilot phase were successful in identifying year-on-year Business Rates revenue of £589,000 for the city.

- 3.4 **In addition to this increased Rates income, the project allowed both companies to develop new products, hire new staff, and promote their work both nationally and internationally. The project was also highlighted as a best practice example in the UK Industrial Growth strategy and both companies have been invited on UK international trade missions.**

- 3.5 **The project has also provided substantial learning beyond the scope of the initial competition. The data techniques that were used could potentially be deployed across a range of other scenarios including economic modelling, skills forecasting; identifying vacant properties, etc. Based on the learning from this successful SBRI competition, Members are now asked to agree to the procurement of an innovative Business Rates**

identification tool for an initial twelve-month period. (This twelve-month period would ensure that any solution will align with the outcomes of a twelve-month review currently under way at Land and Property Services to develop new data management systems and processes.)

3.6 Last mile freight challenge

Working with the Smart Dublin programme, Belfast City Council have been successful in a joint bid to Enterprise Ireland for €200,000 which will be used to fund an SBRI challenge that seeks to address the issues associated with last mile freight deliveries. ‘Last mile freight’ refers to deliveries to homes and businesses by small vans and couriers. Such deliveries have increased substantially in Dublin, Belfast and other European cities and can contribute to congestion and air pollution, and may have an impact on the effective management of public transport.

3.7 Working with Smart Dublin, the NI Department for Infrastructure, UPS, local retailers, the NI Freight Transport Association and others, this SBRI competition will encourage SMEs to better understand the issues and to develop prototypes that address the last mile challenge in both cities. The competition will be launched on 26th April 2018. The Smart Belfast team will work with Invest NI and others to ensure that Belfast SMEs are supported to bid for this challenge fund.

3.8 SBRI challenge for managing open space

Working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, the Council successfully applied to the Northern Ireland SBRI challenge programme to support a £40,000 project to work with SMEs to develop innovative ways to manage public space in the city (including parks and other managed open space).

The project will bring together a range of partners and communities to explore how data science and technologies can support better understanding of the issues associated with safe open space, and to proto-type tools for managing such space. It is expected that, subject to final approval on the NI Government budget, the competition will be announced publicly in late April 2018.

3.9 Things Connected NI

Following the successful £100,000 consortium bid to the Digital Catapult’s Things Connected competition, the Council

is working with Ulster University and a number of other NI councils to develop a 'Things Connected Northern Ireland' programme.

- 3.10 The programme will provide local SMEs with free access to a state-of-the-art wireless network that can control a vast range of low-cost sensors and Internet of Things devices. Smart Belfast is working with the University, Invest NI, and an international cloud computing company, to offer additional wraparound support for SMEs in terms of training, cloud storage and tools and business development support.
- 3.11 Belfast City Council is providing £30,000 to support a Belfast-based competition that will encourage SMEs to utilise these next generation IoT technologies to support the creative management of open space in the city. The Things Connected competition, including challenges set by other Northern Ireland councils, will be launched publicly in April 2018.
- 3.12 Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund

Sixty-eight SMEs submitted seventeen scoping proposals to the Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund which has provided £25,000 funding to networks of SMEs to come together to address issues identified in the Belfast Agenda.

- 3.13 The Smart Belfast team are now working with the five successful SME networks which are preparing business cases that include: exploring movement of people to inform transport planning; citizen reporting on environmental issues; and rewards system to promote healthy life styles. Three networks will focus on the tourist sector to better understand visitor behaviour to plan and manage tourism in the city. If successful networks will be able to apply in Phase 2 for up to £170,000 (per network) to develop a commercial proposition.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.14 The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by SP&R Committee in November 2017.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.15 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 recommendations.

Local Full Fibre Networks Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Spring Statement 2018 allocated the first wave of funding from the Department of Culture Media and Sport’s (DCMS) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme, providing over £95 million for 13 areas across the UK. Belfast City Council has been awarded £11.5 million subject to due diligence tests.

1.2 The Council understands that the future of telecommunications infrastructure in Belfast is vital to our economic growth, and full fibre connectivity is the key to ensuring high-speed connectivity for current and future generations. This award will allow Belfast City Council to future proof its network connectivity requirements for the next 20 to 25 years through the ‘Belfast LFFN Programme’. Our LFFN programme will result in the installation of an extensive fibre network connecting the entire Belfast City Council estate, and covering areas of the city where intensive local regeneration plans have been prepared.

1.3 The aim of the programme is to maximise the availability and benefit of gigabit capable broadband services to public sector, business and residential users, and support Belfast’s Smart Cities ambitions and growth in 5G.

1.4 This report provides a summary of our successful bid and outlines next steps in the delivery of the Belfast Local Full Fibre Network Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

Note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Whilst 95% of UK premises can now get superfast broadband, only 3% have access to gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure. With the need for faster connectivity expected to increase dramatically over the coming years, the LFFN programme aims to leverage local and commercial investment in full fibre across the UK. It will do this through funding a

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series of projects that seek to stimulate the market by making the deployment of gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure more commercially viable.

3.2 The delivery of the Belfast LFFN Programme has the potential to:

- **Increase innovation and productivity in business,**
- **Open new markets for business, by exploiting full fibre infrastructure,**
- **Provide better access to public services,**
- **Improve infrastructure to support Smart Cities initiatives and 5G rollout.**

3.3 A summary of the Belfast LFFN award is outlined below.

	Public Sector Anchor Tenancy (PSAT)	Public Sector Asset Reuse (PSAR)	Gigabit Voucher Scheme (GVS)
What?	Installation of dark fibre network across Belfast, connecting approx. 100 council buildings.	Re-use of (Streets Ahead) ducting that has already been laid in the city centre.	Voucher scheme to make full-fibre more affordable to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
Why?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future-proof the council network for 20-25 years. 2. Provides an opportunity for a telecoms provider to install a new fibre network infrastructure across the city. The successful supplier may then choose to provide fibre services to residents and businesses. 	Significantly reduce the disruption, cost and timescales for fibre deployment.	Help organisations get connected, or improve their current broadband connections.
Where?	All of Belfast	Belfast City Centre – specifically the redeveloped 'Streets Ahead' zones	Available to SMEs in all council areas.
Procurement required?	Yes	Yes	No
Funding request	£11,359,200	£206,000	Funding to be managed centrally by DCMS

3.4 A BCC 'Dark fibre' network provides us with:

- **Additional control to manage our network in the way we determine is best to meet our business requirements,**

- A more secure purpose built point-to-point network,
 - Almost unlimited bandwidth potential of optical fibre.
- 3.5 In addition, the successful supplier has the potential to maximise the availability and benefit of gigabit capable broadband services to public sector, business and residential users using any spare capacity they build into the network. The geographical coverage of the proposed public building fibre network is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 DCMS has now indicated that awards for the Gigabit Voucher Scheme will not be provided to individual projects, but will be managed centrally by DCMS. The impact of this decision will need to be worked through to determine what resources will be required by Belfast City Council to ensure local SME's can maximise benefits from the new Voucher scheme.
- 3.7 Funding of £360,000 is also being sought from Invest NI for a digital transformation programme. This will help maximise take-up of fibre services and realise the potential of the gigabit voucher scheme for Belfast. The programme will raise awareness of digital transformation opportunities and provide an in-depth diagnostic on each business, along with tailored one to one mentoring support to establish and implement digital transformation. The focus of the programme is to increase turnover to drive sustainable growth and create higher-level jobs within the city.
- 3.8 The programme will provide up to 320 participant businesses with an opportunity to access events and workshops throughout the duration of the programme. Participants will be recruited on a rolling basis. It is anticipated that the engagement with businesses will begin from January 2019 and will run for 3 years.
- 3.9 As already agreed the next key step in the delivery of the Belfast LFFN Programme will be a tender exercise to procure expert Technical and Procurement Advisors with telecoms expertise to assist with the procurement of the PSAT and PSAR projects. Core elements of this support will be procurement, technical design, market analysis, modelling and contracts. The procurement of expert Procurement and Technical Advisors will assure quality and value for money through best practice design, procurement and contract development. Key to receiving value for money for the PSAT procurement will be the use of competitive tendering processes that are open to all technically and financially capable service providers in the market.

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- 3.10 Regular updates will be provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as the project progresses.**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.11 The Council has been awarded £11.5 million subject to due diligence tests from the Department of Culture Media and Sport's (DCMS).**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 None.”**

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Capital Programme Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th February, it had agreed to refer back to the East Area Working Group the proposal to replace the 3G pitch project at the King George V Playing Fields on the Capital Programme by a 3G pitch at the Blanchflower Playing Fields to enable representatives of the Glentoran Football Club and NI Water to attend the next meeting of that group.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that, following discussion at the East Area Working Group on 8th March, the Members had recommended to the Committee that the King George V proposal be replaced on the Capital Programme by a 3G pitch at the Blanchflower Playing Fields and that that project be moved to Stage 3 - Committed on the Capital Programme.

Also, in keeping with the agreement last month on the Ulidia Playing Fields proposal, it was recommended also that that project be held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the final tender return price.

The Committee adopted the recommendations of the East Area Working Group and agreed also that officers undertake research into the provision of suitable and convenient pitch facilities for the Glentoran Football Club, including its youth academy and a report thereon be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Area Working Group update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To seek Members approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the most recent round of Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes (*West – 22nd February; South – 26th February; North – 27th February and East – 8th March*) as attached at Appendix 1.

Local Investment Fund

- *West AWG* - approve the recommendations from the West AWG as laid out at 3.2 below in respect of LIF

Belfast Investment Fund

- *East AWG* - approve the recommendations from the East AWG as laid out at 3.3 below in respect of the ringfenced BIF allocation for Outer East

Social Innovation Challenge Fund

- *South AWG* - approve the recommendations from the East AWG as laid out at 3.4 below in respect of the ringfenced Social Innovation challenge Fund which has been established to support projects under the Locality Planning pilots

3.0 Main report

KEY ISSUES

AREA WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- 3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*West – 22nd February; South – 26th February; North – 27th February and East – 8th March*) as attached at Appendix 1.**

WEST AWG

- 3.2 *Local Investment Fund* - The West AWG, at its meeting on 22nd February, made the following recommendation for the**

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consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF allocation

Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	To be allocated the underspend amount from WLIF2-07 – Forthriver Bowling and Tennis Club which has recently completed (£28,212)

EAST AWG

- 3.3 *Belfast Investment Fund* - The East AWG, at its meeting on 8th March, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to the ring-fenced BIF allocation of £2m for projects in Outer East. These projects are all at Stage 2 – Uncommitted so it is recommended that they are progressed to Stage 3 - Committed. It should be noted that all are on the basis of a maximum budget allocation, going through the Council’s due-diligence processes and are subject to the return of satisfactory tenders.**

PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS
Braniel Church	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £390,000 - Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project
TAGIT Boxing Club	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £434,000 - Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender, confirmation of any match funding and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project
Hanwood	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £396,000 - Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project
Castlereagh Presbyterian	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £382,000 - Subject

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Church	<i>to the return of a satisfactory tender and confirmation of match funding from the Church and/or other sources and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project</i>
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SOUTH AWG

- 3.4 Social Innovation Challenge Programme - The South AWG, at its meeting on 26th February, were reminded that the Council had agreed to carry out Locality Planning Pilots to investigate how Community Planning might be applied at a local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Four areas had been selected with Belvoir and Milltown the selected area in the South. Under the pilots, each locality planning area had funding for up to four projects, with a maximum of £15,000 available for each project. The South AWG at its meeting made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their ring-fenced allocation under the Social Innovation Challenge Programme.**

Project	Group	Amount
Doing it for ourselves	Belvoir Community Association	£15,000
Intergenerational Gardening Project	Belvoir Area Residents Group	£14,998
Mini Men's Shed	Belvoir Area Residents Group	£14,990

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.5 Financial – There are ring-fenced allocations for LIF, BIF and the Social Innovation Challenge Programmes**

Resources – officer time in working with Groups

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.6 No implications.”**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Area Working Groups as follows: West Area Working Group, 22nd February; South Area Working Group, 26th February; North Area Working Group, 27th February; and East Area Working Group, 8th March; and adopted the recommendations as set out in the report in relation to the Local Investment Fund, the Belfast Investment Fund and the Social Innovation Challenge Fund.

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Directors of Property and Projects and City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- **note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1-3.3**
- **note the feedback from the Stage 2 consultations for Templemore and Avoniel as attached at Appendix 1 (see 3.4)**
- **in light of the professional advice from the Council's Integrated Designs Teams (as outlined at 3.5 and 3.6) agree the sequencing of the builds at Templemore and Avoniel with both facilities to close following the opening of the new Robinson in 2019 – this will enable the opening of the new Avoniel in 2020 with Templemore following in 2021. In agreeing this Members are asked to note that the Council is already working on business continuity plans, similar to those developed for Robinson, Andersonstown and Olympia, to ensure continued provision for all users of both Avoniel and Templemore and officers are confident that all users can be accommodated in other centres including the new Robinson**
- **note the revisions to the proposed facilities mix at Templemore following the consultation feedback to allow for a greater focus on heritage/interpretation space and a consequent reduction in the size of the spa facilities – this proposal has been endorsed by the East AWG at its meeting on 8th March and by the HLF**
- **note that an options appraisal in respect of the future management arrangements for Templemore is currently underway following legal advice which has been received that the Council cannot directly award a contract for the running of the new facility to the Templemore Users Trust (TUT). Members are asked**

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to note that this must be considered by Committee in April in order to ensure that the Council can meet the strict HLF funding deadline which requires the application to be submitted by October.

3.0 Main report

Programme level

- 3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council's £105m leisure programme which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –**

CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre completed. Works underway on outside phases. Due for completion May 2018
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Demolition works completed. Site works underway
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20m	Site works underway. Steels are in place
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works commencing on site 20th March
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Stage 2 consultation undertaken.
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Stage 2 consultation undertaken. Options appraisal on the future management arrangements currently underway
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

Olympia, Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson

- 3.2 Members will be aware that Phase 2 of the works at Olympia Regeneration Project includes the construction of a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road and the development of two commercial sites at the front of the site. Works are well underway and Phase 2 is due to complete in the spring time with an official opening at the end of May. Further details on this event will be brought to Committee next month. As part of this Members are asked to note that a public naming process is currently underway in respect of naming**

the new road that will lead from Boucher Road to Olympia Leisure Centre. This road will provide access for cars and pedestrians to the new 3G pitches, play park area and multi-use games area together with providing access to the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park and Linfield Football Club's pitch at Midgley Park. This naming process is following a three-stage process and is in keeping with the process used for Connswater Community Greenway. Members will be kept up to date with the process.

Members are also asked to note that the two sites which front onto the Boucher Road are now ready for marketing. These sites will be accessed via the new Boulevard. The combined area is in the region of 2.35 acres. These sites formed part of the initial master plan for the sports village and the marketing campaign will place particular emphasis on uses which would be complementary to the sports village such as a hotel or leisure. Any deal would be subject to Planning and the purchaser(s) would be expected to develop within an agreed timeframe. Members are asked to note that a report will be brought to Committee following receipt of offers.

- 3.3 Members are asked to note that the steel works at Robinson are well underway and that the demolition works have now been completed at Andersonstown with full build works commencing on site. Photos of both projects are attached at Appendix 2. Works are due to commence on site at Brook week starting 19th March. All three centres are on track for opening in 2019 as per programme. The artist's impressions for the new centres (attached at Appendix 2) have recently been publicised on the Council website, Facebook and via social media and have received extremely positive feedback. A full communications plan is in place for the programme and both Members and the public will continue to be updated on the progress of the new builds.

Templemore and Avoniel –Stage 2 consultation feedback and sequencing

Stage 2 consultation – Feedback

- 3.4 Regular communication and engagement is central to the success of the leisure programme. In June 2015 Members agreed that a three stage approach to consultation and engagement would be used for the capital redevelopment element of the LTP. In line with this approach, officers recently completed the Stage 2 consultations for Avoniel and Templemore. The purpose of the Stage 2 consultation is to test the concepts to ensure they reflect need and demand and to help develop the final design.

In total 9 consultation sessions were undertaken along with a range of focused meetings and an online survey via CitizenSpace. The Council’s Equality Forum has also been kept up to date. During the consultation respondents were presented with concept designs for the new centres and asked to give their comments. A summary of the feedback is outlined below with a detailed breakdown attached at Appendix 1. Overall the results from the consultation were very positive

<i>Templemore</i>	<i>Avoniel</i>
<p>344 responses in total with 97% expressing support</p> <p>Most common comments included – preserving the heritage of the building; preserving swimming provision in East Belfast; request for phased approach to construction and reducing the size of /removing the spa facilities</p>	<p>50 responses in total with 84% expressing support</p> <p>Most common comments included – welcoming the investment in east Belfast and focus on football pitches and objections to the proposal to remove the pool</p>

Sequencing

- 3.5 As outlined above one of the common issues emerging from the Stage 2 consultations on Templemore and Avoniel was ensuring continued pool provision in the East. Members have already been clear in their desire that the delivery of the Robinson, Avoniel and Templemore Baths projects in East Belfast are phased to ensure continuity of swimming provision. It was therefore previously agreed that neither Templemore nor Avoniel would close until Robinson was opened and fully operational. As above works on the new centre at Robinson are well underway and once opened in Autumn 2019 this new centre will have 2 main swimming pools providing 12 lanes of swimming and a toddler pool. This is an enhancement on the capacity of the old Robinson.**
- 3.6 Through the consultation, there were a number of requests for the Council to consider phasing the build works at Templemore. The Leisure Project Team, in conjunction with the Integrated Design Team, has assessed what the implications would be for the Council should it proceed with a phased approach. Templemore is a listed building and is in a confined site and their professional advice regarding phasing the project is that this –**

- would cause a delay to the project of at least 12 months meaning the new centre would not open until 2022
- would add additional costs in the region of £750k to £1 million – for which there is no budget allocation
- The Principal Designer has health and safety concerns relating to phasing the works which would likely add to the cost and time if these were to be overcome

Members are aware that Andersonstown, Robinson, Olympia all had to close completely to facilitate works on the new centres. In addition, Members are asked to note that it is standard practice for other buildings to have to close completely while redevelopments are undertaken e.g. City Hall, Ulster Hall and Tropical Ravine. These facilities were also all listed buildings.

- 3.7 Members will be aware that the decision to make Avoniel a dry facility has already been taken with the agreed USP for the new centre being a focus on outdoor 3G provision reflecting the under-provision of these facilities in the East of the city. Council officers have also considered the potential of keeping Avoniel open for the duration of the build at Templemore and/or checking if works could be sequenced to keep the pool facility open during this time. Given the location of the current building, the professional advice from the Design Team is that it would not be possible to sequence any development on the Avoniel site and still build the new pitches. Keeping the facility open while works are undertaken at Templemore would therefore mean that works at Avoniel could not commence until late 2021 meaning the new facility would not open until late 2022. If the centre is closed following the opening of the Robinson this will mean the new facility, including the new pitches, will be open by late 2020. Given the professional advice from the Council's Integrated Design Teams, it is recommended that both Templemore and Avoniel are closed once the new Robinson opens - this will enable the opening of the new Avoniel in 2020 with Templemore following in 2021.
- 3.8 It is however recognised that the closure of any facility causes inconvenience and given this Council officers are already starting to look at the business continuity plans for both Avoniel and Templemore. This will be developed with all users of the facility and will be communicated to clubs and users in advance. Members will be aware that these types of plans have already been successfully implemented at Andersonstown, Olympia and Robinson and that one of the central uses for the £2m Leisure Mobilisation budget is to support business continuity arrangements. Members are also asked to note that, as highlighted above, the new Robinson

will have two main pools with 12 lanes and a third pool for toddlers – Avoniel and Templemore between them currently have 10 lanes so there will be additional capacity at Robinson to support business continuity plans. Officers are confident that all usage can be accommodated in other centres including the new Robinson. It should also be noted that there will also be enhanced swimming capacity throughout the city as the new facilities at Andersonstown and Brook will also be open. Members are asked to note that further updates on the business continuity arrangements will be brought back in due course.

Templemore – Designs and facilities mix

- 3.9 Members will be aware that the agreed USP for Templemore is spa/heritage and that £5m of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under their Heritage Enterprise Grant is being sought for the scheme. The Baths are currently the last surviving Victorian Baths in Ireland and one of very few across the UK. Reflecting this, the importance of the heritage of the building and the need to preserve and enhance this emerged strongly in the consultations. A number of comments were also received in relation to the proposed size of the spa area and reducing/removal of this element.
- 3.10 Taking on board this feedback, officers and the design team have re-looked at the facilities mix and floor layouts for Templemore and it is proposed that the size of the spa area within Templemore is decreased. This will enable an increased focus on heritage and interpretation and will enable the opportunity to fully capitalise on the key heritage features within the centre including the historic slipper baths, the original learner pool and chimney. Importantly this will also allow the opportunity to have more space to tell the wider story of the Baths, their unique role in the history of Belfast and the linkages with the local area and the wider city. Members are asked to note that this does not cause any changes to the overall size of the facility and it does not change the agreed facilities mix as a small spa area will still be incorporated within the facility. The revised designs were endorsed by the East AWG at its meeting on 8th March and have also been presented to HLF who have welcomed the revised mix of space. Members are therefore asked to note this revised layout.

Templemore – Future management arrangements – Options appraisal

- 3.11 Members will be aware that the Templemore Users Trust (TUT) manages the existing Templemore Baths – this is currently done by way of a lease which is due to expire in 2019. The SP&R Committee agreed in February 2017 to take forward a service delivery contract approach with TUT subject to a sustainable management model being established for the new facility and the group passing a range of due diligence health checks.

However, the management of Templemore on behalf of the Council constitutes the provision of a Service to the Council, which in turn means that the provision of this Service is subject to the EU Procurement Rules. Changes in procurement rules means that the Council cannot simply provide a contract to TUT to run either the existing or the future facilities. The Council has sought legal opinion on this and the advice is that a direct award to TUT would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

- 3.12 At the same time however, there is a recognition of the significant work that the Trust has done over the years to keep the existing Baths open. The East AWG members have highlighted that they would like to ensure that the TUT continue to have an active role in management of the facilities. It has been highlighted this needs to be balanced against the fact that the new facility is an entirely different proposition to the existing centre and that the new centre is a core part of the city's overall leisure offering. The Council has therefore commissioned an independent appraisal in respect of the management options that are available and a key aspect of the commission has been to establish the potential role of the Trust within each of the identified options. (i.e. if they could they be sub-contracted to run an element of the centre) Members are asked to note that this work is currently underway and the consultants have already held a number of meetings with Council officials, the East AWG and the Users Trust. This work will continue over the next few weeks.

- 3.13 Members will also be aware that the Council is seeking £5m of HLF towards the redevelopment of Templemore. Without this funding the current proposals for Templemore cannot be achieved within the Council's budget provision of £12m for the centre. The timescales for the HLF funding are extremely tight and in order to fulfil the HLF requirements the Council is required to have a management contract, business plan and management and maintenance plan for the new centre in place

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by August before the final submission to HLF in October. HLF have already advised that there will be no opportunity for an extension to this date.

- 3.14** Given this there is a very tight timescale for the completion and consideration of the options appraisal to ensure that the Council can submit its Stage 2 application for funding to HLF. Members are therefore asked to note the critical dates for the options appraisal as outlined below and Members will note that the options appraisal will be brought to Committee next month for consideration and agreement.

WHO	WHEN
East AWG Special	Tuesday 10th April
Budget Panel	Thursday 12th April
SP&R Committee	Friday 20th April
Council	Tuesday 1st May
East AWG	Thursday 7th June

Any slippage in these dates and/or any other issues which may cause a delay to this programme will seriously jeopardise the potential of securing HLF funding. It should be noted that this will not only impact the Templemore project but will also have a consequential impact on Avoniel as the two projects are inextricably linked.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council’s electronic procurement system; and

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- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to award the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by month extensions where contracts were under review:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Provision of a Taxi Service (T1869)	Gerry Millar	3 years
Repair, installation and removal of bonfire beacons.	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Delivery of Fertilisers, Pesticides, Grass Seed and Line Marking Paint	Nigel Grimshaw	Extend to 31 August 2018 and monthly thereafter to allow for new tender exercise

CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Indicators 2018-19

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the supporting Prudential and Treasury Codes produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), require the council to consider the affordability and sustainability of capital expenditure decisions through the reporting of prudential and treasury management indicators.**
- 1.2 This report provides information for Members on the prudential indicators for Belfast City Council for the period**

2018/19 to 2020/21 and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note and agree:

- The contents of this report and the prudential and treasury management indicators included within the appendices to the report.
- The Authorised Borrowing Limit for the Council of £192m.
- The Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19, which has been included as Appendix 2 to this report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In doing so, the Council is required to agree a minimum revenue provision policy annually and set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators, the key objectives of which are to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

3.2 At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 9 December 2011, Members approved the Council's Treasury Management Policy which is based on the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The Treasury Management Policy requires that a Treasury Management Strategy be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on an annual basis and that it is supported by a mid-year and year end treasury management reports.

3.3 The prudential indicators are included as Appendix 1, while the treasury management strategy and treasury management indicators have been included as Appendix 2.

3.4 The comparison of 'Gross Borrowing' to 'Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)' is the main indicator of prudence when considering the proposed capital investment plans of the Council. Estimated gross borrowing should not exceed the CFR for the current year plus two years. The Council's estimated gross borrowing position, illustrated in Table 3, Appendix 1, is comfortably within the CFR in the medium term. The Director of Finance and Resources therefore considers the estimated levels of gross borrowing as being prudent.

- 3.5 Table 4 and 5 (Appendix 1) shows the estimated financing costs for capital expenditure as a percentage of the estimated net revenue stream for the Council, based on the medium financial plan, and the incremental impact on the rates of the Investment Programme. These illustrate that in the medium term, capital financing costs will represent 14.01% of the Council's net running costs. On this basis the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the level of capital expenditure is affordable.
- 3.6 The Finance Act requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit, relating to gross debt. The Prudential Code defines the affordable limit as the 'Authorised Borrowing Limit' and gross borrowing must not exceed this limit. Table 6 (Appendix 1) sets out the recommended 'Authorised Borrowing Limit' for the Council as being £192m.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.7 As detailed in the report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.8 None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances

The Committee considered a report in relation to a proposed increase in the basic allowance and asking it to consider whether it wished to apply a revised allocation of the special responsibility allowances.

The Committee agreed not to increase the basic allowance nor to apply the revised allocation of the special responsibility allowances.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 5th March, 2018 and agreed to the following recommendations:

- That a letter is forwarded on behalf of the Shared City Partnership to the Department for Justice Permanent Secretary endorsing the Community Attitudes to Peace Walls Survey findings and requesting an update in respect of what provision has been made to support action plans which would assist the target of removing barriers by 2023;

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- To note the update on PEACE IV and approve that delegated authority be assigned to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services in respect of PEACE IV contracts;
- To agree the recommendations in relation to the Review of the Shared City Partnership as outlined in the minutes;
- That approval be granted for the provision of up to £1,500 to the Corrymeela Community to support its 'Inspire Peace' at the City Hall on Friday, 9th November;
- That the Council provide up to £100 towards the cost of hospitality for up to 40 people at an event in the Reception Hall on the day of the 'Abandoned, Not Forgotten' exhibition; and
- That approval be granted for officers to commence the procurement exercise for the provision of beacons for use in 2018, at an approximate cost of £50,000 - £60,000 and agreement that this exercise could be halted should a subsequent decision be taken not to deliver any beacons in 2018.

Operational Issues

Affordable Warmth Scheme Resourcing

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **Members will be aware that Belfast City Council is engaged in a partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS). The scheme aims to address fuel poverty for the most vulnerable households in the city.**
- 1.2 **The purpose of this report is to update members of the Strategic Policy and Resources committee on the current position of the Scheme following the proposal from People and Communities committee that the issue of providing additional resourcing of the council Affordable Warmth (AW) team be considered by the SP&R committee.**

Performance in relation to current target levels

- 1.3 **Each year the DfC set a target number of referrals to be provided by councils to NIHE and provide a set amount of funding based upon a unit cost per referral, which is used to resource the AW team within the Building Control Service.**
- 1.4 **The team has been unable to transfer the targeted number of referrals to NIHE in 2017-2018.**

This is due to:

- the reduction of funding from DfC, resulting in the loss of staff with the team now having 1.5 members of staff
- the additional duties taken on from the NIHE where we now carry out financial checks which can involve considerable time to take householders through the process
- the significant volume of self-referrals being made to the scheme.

1.5 This is also despite reallocating internal business support resources (circa 1 FTE) within the Building Control Service as a stop gap measure to help manage the number of phone calls being received. At present the service is covering the costs of these business support staff, management, HR and finance costs and the range of overhead costs for the team, in the region of £40,000.

1.6 Therefore it has been put to the DfC that additional funding is required to recruit additional staff to meet the current target with the assumption that the target for next year will be similar. The increase in unit cost per referrals required was provided to DfC at a recent manager meeting. (an increase from £181 to £290 to cover the costs outlined above)

Referrals					
Month	Target	Actual	Month	Target	Actual
April	25	25	September	40	24
May	25	25	October	40	44
June	25	25	November	40	25
July	40	40	December	40	23
August	40	27	January	30	20
			February	30	21

1.7 **Potential to tackle waiting list**

The Business support staff have been reallocated to deal with the significant number of calls being received regarding the scheme, where people are self-referring or being referred by health professionals or elected members. These self-referrals are reviewed based on need, with many being without heating or with heating systems in poor repair, with these being prioritised. There are currently in the region of 600 people on a list awaiting a visit to determine eligibility and provision of financial documentation.

- 1.8 In order for this quantity of self-referrals to be taken through the council part of the process in a timely fashion, the AW team would need to have further additional resource to carry out the full site visits. However if the council exceeded the requested number of referrals per month to reduce the waiting list, it is likely that these will not be processed by the NIHE as they are only resourced to meet the target number of referrals. In addition, it is unlikely that the allocation to Belfast from the DfC capital budget for grants would have resources to meet the number of measures that would result from the additional referrals. This could have the effect of raising expectations without possibility of delivery. Therefore confirmation is required from DfC that additional referrals can be made from Belfast. At the meeting with members on 26th February when members raised the issue of additional funding for Belfast, it was confirmed that this would be discussed at future council / DfC workshops that DfC are convening. A workshop is planned for the 27 March 2018.
- 1.9 The DfC have not confirmed funding or target number of referrals for 2018-2019 but have written to councils on 13th March to inform them that funding of sufficient scale to allow the AWS to continue in 2018-2019 (Appendix 1). On the basis of this assurance the current team has been extended until the end of quarter 1 2018/19 and we are hopeful that the detailed budget will be provided by DFC at the meeting on the 27 March 2018 to enable the full year position to be considered.
- 2.0 Recommendations
- 2.1 Members are reminded that the Committee agreed at its meeting on the 16 February 2018, that no further financial re-allocations would be made until the year end position was considered at the June meeting of the Committee, given that the uncommitted forecast represents less than 0.2% of departmental expenditure.
- 2.2 Members are also asked to note, that the DFC workshop will take place on the 27 March 2018, when it is hoped that the Council will receive the detail of the DFC commitment for 2018/19.
- 2.3 In view of the above, it is recommended that a further report on the additional resource requirements is provided to the Committee in April 2018, following the workshop.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The People and Communities committee are kept updated on the scheme. In the report brought to the People and Communities committee in November 2017 this included efficiency proposals made by the DfC, the number of referrals provided to the NIHE and the ongoing pressures to deliver the service given the significant amount of self-referrals being made to the scheme. Members agreed that the scheme should continue to be fully funded by the DfC on an 11 council model.

3.2 Subsequent to the committee meeting it was agreed at the full Council meeting in December 2017 that the council would write to the Head of Fuel Poverty within the DfC requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the funding arrangement for Belfast.

3.3 Members from the P&C committee met with the Head of Fuel poverty within the DfC, Martin McDermott on 26th February 2018 where he gave an update on the position of the scheme and potential future implications and where members raised concerns over the future of the scheme and the funding issues.

This included:

- No confirmation of funding at that point in time
- The proposed creation of a working group to consider future efficiencies within the scheme.
- The working group to also look at the current model of equal funding for all councils and the potential to change this to model based on need within council areas.

3.4 At the P&C committee on 6th March it was proposed that the council provide additional resource to the Affordable Warmth team to process the waiting list of self-referrals either by:

- Re-deploying staff from within the council
- Providing a job role for a staff member returning from sick leave
- Providing financial resource to allow for the recruitment of additional staff

The matter was referred to the SP&R committee for consideration.

3.5 Targeted nature of the scheme.

The scheme is designed to target the most vulnerable households and those most affected by fuel poverty. The University of Ulster (UU) provide streets which the council can visit through door knocking to offer the support of the scheme. Given the quantity of self-referrals to the scheme in Belfast, these self-referrals can be processed as targeted on the basis of being within one of the targeted areas.

3.6 The UU have provided additional lists of addresses in a revision of their algorithm using more up to date data. It is proposed that within Belfast we will continue dealing with the self-referrals as before, using the revised priority matrix for addresses that UU have provided.

3.7 Self-referrals

The Service has received over 1700 calls from July 2017 (on average 52 per week) regarding the scheme. When we receive the details from a phone call we assess if the person is likely to be eligible for the scheme, and prioritise their case on the basis of need. The team is finding that approximately half of the referrals that are sent to NIHE involve households which have no heating or intermittent heating, and work to prioritise these cases.

3.8 The need within Belfast is clear due to the number of self-referrals received which are eligible for the scheme. The overall referral targets set are inadequate to meet this need and the associated funding for the AW team means that the reduced level of staff cannot visit the number of properties required to process referrals and cannot return calls in a timely fashion regarding queries.

3.9 It should be noted that in many cases the people that we are working with can be very vulnerable, some in distressing situations. It also takes considerable time for each household to explain the scheme and collate the required documentation. This takes its toll on our staff and they have been provided with support from employee counselling both relating to their own welfare, but also in terms of signposting vulnerable people to other agencies.

3.10 Given the interest and number of calls, we are having to manage customer expectations in terms of timeframe for response as we balance this with the ability to carry out site visits. It will be the case that people who are eligible for the

scheme will have to wait considerable time for measures while those in greater need are considered, within the referral target.

3.11 In the absence of confirmation of funding for next year the financial estimates for 2018-2019 include the same funding we have received for this current year.

3.12 Finance and Resource Implications

The DFC workshop is planned for the 27 March 2018 at which it is hoped that the detail of the DFC budget allocation for 2018/19 will be confirmed. It is therefore recommended that a further report is brought to the Committee in April 2018.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds for Events

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will be aware that requests for the use of the City Hall grounds are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Property & Projects, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the requests set out below fall into this category.

1.2 Several requests have been received for events which have previously been approved by the Committee and have run successfully and without incident. In previous years due to the relatively small scale and nature of these events, delegated authority has been used for granting use of the City Hall grounds. However due to the success of the events and the increased scale of the proposed activities this year it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.

1.3 As these are likely to be annual requests the Committee is also invited to consider the granting of approval for a 3-year period as has been done with other similar events (e.g. Orangefest). The events in question are as follows:-

1. A 'Family Fun Day' organised under the auspices of the Belfast Pride Festival which takes place in the city from 28th July to 6th August 2018. This proposed event would take place on 28th July 2018;
2. A music event requested by Feile an Phobail in respect of their annual 'City Hall Rocks Back' event which is part of the Feile calendar of events, proposed to be held in the grounds of the City Hall on the 4th August 2018;
and
3. A family event as part of the Culture Night programme of events which will include a number of food stalls and family friendly work- shops and performances which takes place in venues all over the city on 21st September 2018.

1.4 In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan etc. The organisers may need access to electricity and water supplies and if either is required the cost of providing these services will be passed on.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- Approve the requests as outlined above by the various event organisers in respect of the proposed events in the grounds of the City Hall in July, August & September 2018.

It is further recommended:

- That approval is also given for similar events in 2019 & 2020.

3.0 Main report

The key issue is whether the Committee is minded to grant approval for the events listed herein to take place on the scheduled dates during 2018.

3.2 As the various events have already successfully taken place in previous years and are likely to involve repeat requests each year, the Committee may also wish to grant approval for any requests received from the organisers for the 2019 and 2020 years. Some further detail on each of these requests is given below:-

3.3 1. Belfast Pride Family Fun Day

This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow by Q Radio, a rugby demonstration by the Belfast Azlans Rugby team, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12noon to 5.00pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs.

3.4 The event would be free and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. The event would take place on the front lawns only and consequently areas such as the Titanic garden and Cenotaph would remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall itself would not be affected.

3.5 2. Feile an Phobail – 'City Hall Rocks Back'

The 'City Hall Rocks Back' events feature local young and emerging bands performing on stage. The event showcases bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae.

3.6 The organisers require use of the grounds between 8.00am and 7.30pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people.

3.7 The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. The events are free to enter and no other charges are made by the organisers. The organisers would be providing, staging, sound systems, toilets etc.

3.8 Culture Night event

The Culture Night activities which take place under the auspices of the Cathedral Quarter Trust would take place in the City Hall grounds and would include a number of food stalls and family friendly work- shops and performances. The activities, which are free, would take place between 1.00pm and 8.00pm and it is anticipated up to 8,000 would be in attendance during this time period. The event would take place on the front lawns only and consequently areas such as the Titanic garden and Cenotaph would remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall itself would not be affected.

3.9 Finance & Resource Implications

In terms of the main event there would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature.

There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities and obligations.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Equality Unit has been consulted in respect of the various proposed events set out herein and have indicated no issues with any of the requests.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Request for the use of the City Hall grounds –
Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition**

The Committee was reminded that requests for the use of the City Hall grounds were normally dealt with under the delegated authority of the Director of Property and Projects, using the criteria agreed for that purpose. Occasionally, however, it was necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee and the following fell into that category.

The Director reported that a request had recently been received from the organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) to have a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall between 1st and the 24th June 2018. The BPF was the visual arts festival of Northern Ireland and one of the leading photography festivals in the UK. It had been launched in 2011 and the festival attracted 85,000 visitors across 24 city venues and was one of the city’s major art events.

The Committee approved the request to hold a photographic exhibition in the City Hall grounds between 1st and 24th June 2018.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to February, 2018 as set out in appendix 1 below:

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NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Three Faith Forum N. Ireland	April 2018 <i>Final date tbc</i>	Launch of 3 Faith Forum Events – launch event of new venture of Belfast Islamic Centre, Belfast Synagogue, Clonard and Christian leaders to understand each faith better, educate the public and co-exist peacefully. Numbers attending - 80	D	No, Voluntary	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Club Aontroma GAA	11 April 2018	Launch of Belfast Plan the biggest initiative of GAA in Belfast. An event to introduce the ethos, values and sporting activities of GAA at primary level. Funded by BCC with the aim to transform the GAA in Belfast.	D	Yes, £115	No	Approve No Hospitality
St Joseph's PS Slate St and Black Mountain PS	1 May 2018	Celebration event of Peace 1V initiative – Cross community project between the two schools – exhibition of project work and speeches about Peace 1V initiative. Numbers attending - 300	C	Yes, £300	No	Approve Charge £300 No Hospitality
Belfast Photo Festival	9 June 2018	Launch and Introduction to Photogrammetry – Event to celebrate the use of and demo new photo-grammetry technologies to young people. This launch is part of the city wide Photo Festival with an exhibition in City Hall grounds throughout June.	A & C & D	No, charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality

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		Numbers attending – 12				
Royal National Institute for the Blind Northern Ireland	26 September 2018	150th Tea RNIB Supporter Recognition Event – to showcase and reflect on work of RNIB in NI and raise profile of future projects. Numbers attending - 120	C	No, Charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Irish Football Association Foundation	12 November 2018	IFA McDonalds Community Football Awards – Celebrating the volunteers who help deliver their programs – reception, dinner, entertainment and awards. Numbers attending - 190	C & D	No, Charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Belfast Trust Family Nurse Partnership	19 November 2018	Family Nurse Partnership Graduation – celebrate event for this organisation and its participants who are first time mothers. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No, Charity	No – government body	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Mothers Union Connor Diocese	26 November 2018	Vigil against Gender Based Violence – event in support of “16 Days of Activism” campaign launched by the UN comprising speeches, candle vigil and prayers and refreshments.	D	No, Charity	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Flax Trust	6 December 2018	Flax Trust Inter-Community School Choirs Award ; competition event of 9 choirs from 18 schools to win a trophy and monetary award. Numbers attending -	C & D	No, Charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality

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		550				
2019 EVENTS						
Cancer Focus NI	17 January 2019	50th Anniversary Party – celebration of Cancer Focus’s work over past 50 years supporting people effected by cancer and providing preventive messages – entertainment, speeches, video montage and lunch. Numbers attending – 350 - 400	C	No, Charity	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
NI Regional Anesthesia Society	16 May 2019	RA-UK Annual Scientific Meeting 2019 – Gala Dinner for specialists in the field of Anesthesia – main conference at Waterfront Hall. Numbers attending - 120	A	Yes, £300	Yes	Approve £300 Charge Wine Reception

The Committee authorised also the use by the Lord Mayor of the Reception Room for holding a public meeting on the issue of the closure and amalgamation of special schools and noted that all Parties would be invited to attend the public meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 6th March.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 8th March.

Minutes - Active Belfast Limited Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 15th March.

**Consultation Response on the Safeguarding Board
for Northern Ireland Strategic Plan 2018-2022**

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 make Members aware of the Safeguarding Board for NI's consultation on their Strategic plan (2018-2022) and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Consider the draft response and approve its submission to SBNI subject to any comments or amendment noting that the response is subject to full Council approval at its meeting in April 2018.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland are currently consulting on their Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. The closing date for response was 6th March 2018 and officers have submitted comments in draft noting this was in advance of committee consideration and subject to amendment.

Members are also advised that officers have been approached by the National Children's Bureau acting on behalf of the Safeguarding Board to facilitate an engagement with members of the Belfast Youth Forum to obtain their views on the Strategic plan. This consultation will be facilitated before the end of March 2018.

3.2 Summary of draft SBNI Strategic plan 2018-2022

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) was established in 2012 following the publication of the Safeguarding Board Act (2011) and replaced the Regional Child Protection Committee (RCPC) with an extended role to include the wider remit of safeguarding as well as statutory child protection. The aim of the SBNI is to support organisations to work in a more coordinated and effective way to better protect children and keep them safe from risk and harm.

The SBNI is made up of key partner organisations from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and the representatives on the Board aim to work together to improve learning in child protection across all agencies, enhance practice and ensure that children's voices are at the centre of all that is done by the organisations and systems that make up the child protection system. Councils are represented on the SBNI by the Chief Executives of Mid & East Antrim Council and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

The draft SBNI strategic plan sets out the strategic direction and context of the work of the Safeguarding Board over the next four years to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

3.3 Draft Response

A copy of the draft response to the consultation is attached as Appendix 1 and a summary of the key issues are outlined below. As noted the closing date for responses was prior to Council meeting and, as such, this draft response was submitted to SBNI with the caveat that that it is still subject to amendment pending committee consideration and ratification at the full Council meeting.

3.4 The response notes that Council welcomes the strategy and agrees with its proposed aim, key principles and the new structures that will oversee its delivery. Officers noted that this approach fits closely with the Belfast Agenda and the work we are doing within Council to support children and young people to achieve their potential and live in safety and stability. The draft response highlights the work of the Belfast City Council Youth Forum on the issue of mental health in particular and suggests how the SBNI can make use of the Youth Forum's findings from the mental health survey and use this information to further develop their strategic priorities.

3.5 The consultation is divided into two sections: SBNI Mission, Visions and Values and the Strategic Priorities

3.6 SBNI Mission, Visions and Values

The SBNI mission is detailed below and organisations are asked if the mission clearly states the purpose of SBNI.

Our mission is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people by working together in partnership to prevent and protect them from risk and harm.

Council agrees that this reflects the purpose of SBNI.

The SBNI vision is detailed below and organisations are asked if the vision clearly sets out what the SBNI is trying to achieve.

Our vision is that all children and young people are seen, heard and protected in order that they grow up in safety, thrive and fulfil their potential

Council response is that the SBNI vision should also commit to acting upon the views of children and young people and support their participation in the delivery of the plan including a commitment to provide feedback to children and young people regarding their suggestions. It is also proposed that the vision would include a commitment to families as well as children and young people.

SBNI Values:

- We listen to children and young people, their wishes, feelings and experiences and place them at the heart of what we do.
- We work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.
- We develop, empower, respect and value those who work for us as we strive for excellence in what we do.
- We are open, honest and transparent in our dealings with children and young people, our members, partners and staff and we respect diversity and promote equality in all that we do.
- We are all accountable to one another and to those we safeguard and protect.

- 3.7 Organisations are asked if these values meet the expectations of a modern safeguarding public service for children and young people.

Council agrees that these values meet the expectations of a public safeguarding service.

- 3.8 The second part of the consultation focuses on Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Priority 1: To provide leadership and set direction in the safeguarding and protection of children and young people.

- 1.1 To disseminate and facilitate the embedding of the 2017 Regional Core Child Protection Policies and

Procedures to protect and safeguard children and young people to ensure greater consistency and standardisation of practice.

- 1.2 To develop, disseminate and facilitate the embedding of the 2018 Regional Practice Guidance of the 2017 Regional Core Child Protection Policies and Procedures to ensure greater consistency and standardisation of practice in order to protect and safeguard children and young people.
- 1.3 To raise awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues by developing an engagement and communication strategy to ensure that children, young people, families and communities are more aware of these issues and how to get help if concerned.
- 1.4 To ensure the SBNI Safeguarding Panels engage with children and young people, parents and practitioners to hear their views on the child protection and safeguarding system in order to improve practice.

Organisations are asked if this priority and the aims are correct for SBNI

Council agrees Strategic Priority 1 and with its aims.

3.9 Strategic Priority 2: To provide a voice to children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

- 2.1 To work with government departments and their agencies to prevent domestic and sexual violence and abuse (DSVA) from occurring and to tackle child sexual exploitation.
- 2.2 To work with partners engaged in the DSVA arena to raise awareness among parents/carers and professionals of the effect of DSVA on children and young people.
- 2.3 To work with partners engaged in the DSVA arena to promote training for children and young people in how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to DSVA.

Organisations are asked if Strategic Priority 2 and its aims are correct for the SBNI.

- 3.10 Council has suggested to SBNI that the aims under this priority need to be expanded to ensure that parents/carers and professionals know how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse.

Strategic Priority 3: To improve outcomes for children and young people affected or potentially affected by neglect through promoting the early recognition and improvement of agency responses.

- 3.1 To promote early intervention with the aim of preventing children and young people experiencing neglect.
- 3.2 To increase awareness of neglect with children and young people, their parents/carers and staff.
- 3.3 Through the Safeguarding Panels ensure the views of children and young people, parents/carers and staff inform practice in relation to neglect.
- 3.4 To work with partner agencies to provide training in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing neglect.

Organisations are asked if Strategic Priority 3 and its aims are correct for the SBNI.

- 3.11 Council has highlighted that it may be helpful for the SBNI to make reference to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) as part of the work on neglect and to commit to exploring ways in which neglect might be addressed across partner organisations.

Strategic Priority 4: To provide a voice to children and young people affected by mental health issues.

- 4.1 To work with government departments and agencies to reduce the incidence of those affected by mental health issues.
- 4.2 To work with partners to raise awareness among parents/carers and professionals of the effect of poor mental health on children and young people.
- 4.3 To work with partners to promote awareness for children and young people in how to recognise, respond and seek help in relation to mental health.
- 4.4 To work with partners to promote training in how to improve the recognition, assessment, and responses to children, young people and families experiencing the impact of mental health issues.

Organisations are asked if Strategic Priority 4 and its aims are correct for the SBNI.

- 3.13 Council has highlighted that if this priority is about providing a voice to children and young people affected by mental health

issues then it will be important to include an action to ensure that the voices of children can be directly heard and acted upon.

In the response to SBNI the work of the Belfast City Council Youth Forum on young people's mental health issues is highlighted and it is suggested that the findings of this survey could be used further inform the Strategic direction of SBNI and the priorities in this area.

3.14 The consultation invites organisations to identify any other strategic priorities and / or aims for the SBNI

Council has highlighted the issue of young people being subject to community beatings or shootings and has highlighted this issue as a form of physical abuse on children. Council would welcome an acknowledgement by SBNI of this issue and asks for a commitment by SBNI to address this issue with relevant partners as part of the Strategic plan.

3.15 Finally the consultation asks if the draft strategic plan is easy to understand and Council's response was that a format which would meet the needs of children and young people and people with literacy difficulties or who have English as a second language would be useful.

3.16 At the time of writing this had not been completed but Council does acknowledge that the SBNI has produced a young people's version of the consultation and this is welcomed.

3.17 Financial & Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with this report. SBNI have completed an associated equality and human rights policy screening exercise."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Civic Lunch

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Craig proposed the following:

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“To recognise the historic achievement of securing the Six Nations Grand Slam on St Patrick's Day 2018, Belfast City Council will host a civic lunch for Rory Best, Ireland Captain, and the other members of the Ireland team. This lunch should take place before the conclusion of the current Rugby Football season.”

The Committee agreed to the proposal.

Hillview Market

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Long requested that a report be submitted to the next monthly meeting of the Committee in relation to allegations made in respect of the Hillview Market.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 27th March, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, Long, McDonough-
Brown, O'Neill, and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillors Dorrian, Dudgeon, Magee and McGimpsey.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Resources;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Reynolds.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the following reports 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 these 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.

Report on the Investigation of the Collection and Storage of Bonfire Materials by Belfast City Council and other Bonfire Related Matters

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, 2017, had approved the Terms of Reference for the investigation and review on the issue of the collection and storage of bonfire materials by the Council and the future approach to

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bonfires across the City. The Chief Executive explained that the final report had now been completed and was being submitted for the Committee's consideration. She also pointed out that the Terms of Reference agreed by the Council included a specific reference to staff details, namely: "Any report of the investigation identifying individuals will be restricted and the information treated therein will be treated as confidential".

It was reported that Dr. Tom Frawley, who had been appointed as the independent investigator, was in attendance to present the report and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Dr. Frawley proceeded to review, in detail, the main findings and recommendations contained in the report, following which himself, the Chief Executive and the City Solicitor answered a number of questions which had been raised by the Members.

After lengthy discussion it was

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees that the full report should be published and made publicly available, subject to the redaction of any references to staff or the ability to identify staff; and, in addition, a summary paper of those two sections of the report which contained that information be prepared and signed-off by the independent investigator.

On a vote by show of hands thirteen Members voted for the proposal and two against and it was declared carried.

Bonfire Governance Arrangements

The Chief Executive tabled for the Committee's consideration a paper which outlined possible future Bonfire Governance arrangements. She stated that the paper was a work in progress and that a further report on this would be brought back to the Committee for approval.

The Committee noted the contents of the paper and agreed that authority be delegated to the appropriate Council officers to undertake a number of specified "Interventions" in line with the July/August, 2017 arrangements.

Options for the Delivery of Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2018

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services tabled for the Committee's information a proposed option for the delivery of a Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme in 2018.

After discussion, the Committee agreed the following:

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“The Council will deliver a Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme which seeks to promote positive cultural expression through better bonfire management and cultural celebrations.

Constituted groups can access funding for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity.

Those who are awarded funding will agree to take practical steps to ensure that sites which are linked to funded events would be managed in accordance with the following criteria:

- 1. No collection of materials before 1st June 2018.*
- 2. Tyres or other hazardous materials should not be collected or burnt on the bonfire.*
- 3. Groups should not display paramilitary trappings such as flags or symbols on bonfires or at any funded activities.*
- 4. Bonfires should be sited in a clear unenclosed space at a safe distance from buildings and overhead cables and should conform to a 1:5 ratio. Safety risks should be assessed and managed, and appropriate advice and guidance sought from the NIFRS and other relevant agencies.*
- 5. Groups should not burn or display any items such as flags, emblems or election posters which are likely to cause offence or could be considered a hate crime.*
- 6. Groups must comply with Council health and safety and events management guidance, as well as meeting relevant licensing and insurance requirements.*

The Council will provide the following resource through the programme:

- 10 bonfire beacons which will be allocated on agreed criteria (or more if requested subject to availability/deliverability)*
- Up to £1,750 for community events and activities that promote engagement on issues of cultural expression and diversity. (£500 will be ringfenced for engagement activity)*
- Introduce a revised application process which will include the need to meet safety and good relations outcomes with strict opening and closing dates.*
- Convene a review panel to consider the participation of groups on the programme.”*

The Committee agreed also, in line with its decision in 2017, to approve an incentivised approach for the delivery of the Programme.

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**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited
Catering Contract**

The Committee considered a report on the current position of the Catering Contract at the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall and agreed to the recommendations in the report.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th March, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Armitage, Baker, Carson, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Heading, Lyons, Magennis, Murphy, McCusker, McReynolds,
Nic Biorna, Newton and Pankhurst.

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

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Milne and Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting of 31st January and the meeting of 6th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st March.

Declaration of Interest

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) declared an interest in agenda item 6. (g) V Youth Forum and Ur City 2 Update, in that her daughter was employed by the Greater Village Regeneration Trust.

The Chairperson declared an interest in the same agenda item in that he was associated with the East Belfast Community Development Agency.

Item Withdrawn from Agenda

Proposal to bring disused pitch at Wedderburn into use

The Committee noted that the above item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion – Epilepsy

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st March, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Dorrian and seconded by Councillor Heading, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

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"This Council acknowledges this year's 'Purple Day' on Monday, 26th March, and recognises the challenges that many people in Belfast, of all ages, face living with epilepsy in all its different forms.

The Council will commit to ensuring that proper information is circulated to its staff and through its network of centres and offices, to promote a better understanding of the condition and provide advice on how to react if an epileptic situation arises which requires assistance."

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

Committee/Strategic Issues

ARC21 Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members may recall that, at the November Committee meeting, an offer was made from Covanta to visit the new waste treatment facility in Dublin. After a discussion, Members decided not to take up this offer and took the opportunity to request an update on developments from arc21. This report has been drafted to provide an update and the three Members who represent the Council on arc 21's Joint Committee have been invited to attend this evening's meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 arc21 was originally incorporated and established in 2003 after a process of ever-closer co-operation between its eleven constituent councils. Following local government reform (LGR) in 2015, it was reconstituted as the waste management group representing the 6 councils in the east of Northern Ireland. arc21 works on behalf of its constituent councils with their officers to procure contractors to assist the councils in meeting their statutory obligations and to develop innovative approaches to waste management.

3.2 Prior to being incorporated, in February 2002, arc21 issued a draft Waste Management Plan for public consultation which

considered various options and proposed a series of recommendations regarding how a series of waste management treatment/disposal facilities could be procured for the region in an integrated manner to ensure that the region's waste could achieve compliance with the statutory waste targets which had been timetabled until 2020.

- 3.3 The Plan was subsequently approved and adopted by the councils in 2003. The Plan was reviewed in 2006, following further public consultation, and was approved by the Minister of the Environment and by the councils. In early 2014, the latest update of the Waste Management Plan was consulted upon after which the Minister approved it in June 2014 before councils ratified this in October 2014. In 2015, this version was amended to incorporate the geographical changes arising from LGR (see Figure 1). This Plan takes account of the NI Waste Management Strategy entitled '*Delivering Resource Efficiency*' published by the DOE in 2013. A copy of the arc21 Plan is available at <http://www.arc21.org.uk/download/1/arc21%20WMP%20Sep%2015%20wv.pdf>

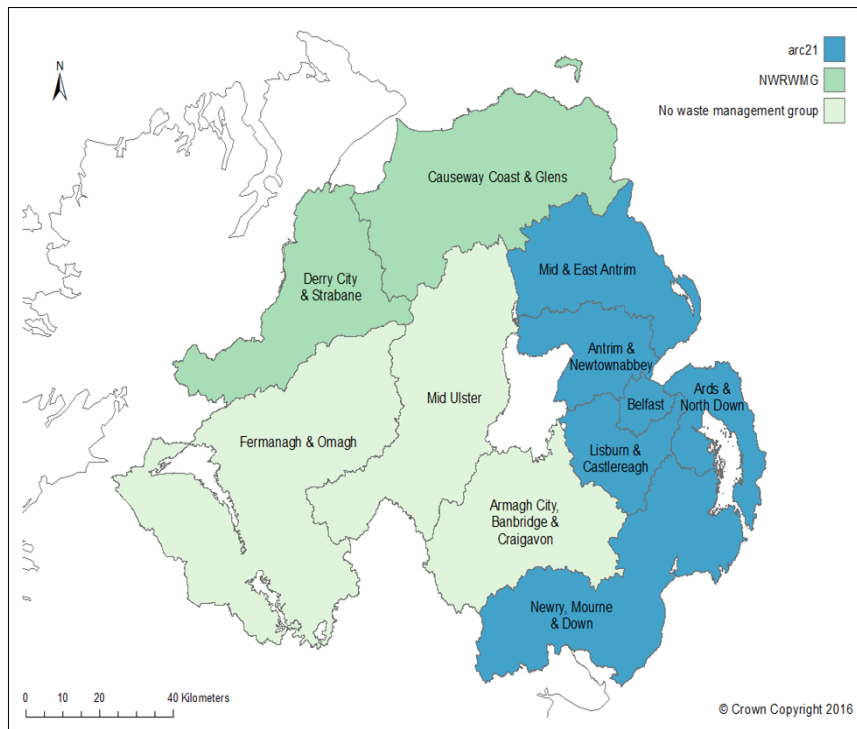


Figure 1: arc21 and its constituent councils

- 3.4 Since its formation, arc21 has awarded and managed contracts worth over £260M on behalf of the constituent councils which

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cover (i) organic waste (compost) from brown bins, (ii) a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for the recyclates from blue bin (iii) landfills (iv) glass and textile banks (v) street sweeps (vi) supplies contracts (corn starch bags, bins, &c) and (vii) services contracts (H&S reviews, &c).

- 3.5** The work of arc21 has been developed by a Steering Group composed of a small secretariat and Directors, senior staff from the constituent councils which is then considered and approved by a Joint Committee comprised of 3 Members nominated from each of the 6 constituent councils (see Table 1). This gives the Joint Committee a total of 18 Members. Since its formation, this Committee has met over 155 times to discharge arc21's work which is governed by a legally binding collaborative agreement between the councils.

Council	Name
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Councillor Brian Duffin
	Councillor Mervyn Rea MBE
	Councillor Matthew Magill
Ards and North Down Borough Council	Alderman Angus Carson
	Alderman Robert Gibson (Vice Chair)
	Councillor Alistair Cathcart
Belfast City Council	Councillor Georgina Milne
	Councillor Jolene Bunting
	Councillor Matthew Collins
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Councillor Owen Gawith
	Councillor Luke Poots
	Alderman James Tinsley
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Councillor Beth Adger MBE
	Councillor Declan O'Loan (Chair)
	Councillor Ruth Wilson
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Councillor Stephen Burns
	Councillor Dermot Curran
	Councillor Garth Craig

Table 1: Constituent councils' representatives

- 3.6 While arc21 has focused on delivering contracts to maximise the opportunity of waste by '*Reducing, Re-using and Recycling*', it's not possible to do that for all councils wastes yet and a considerable amount of non-recycled/composted '*residual*' (black bin) waste remains. At present, this is sent for treatment or disposal but, in line with ever-reducing annual targets, the amount of waste sent to landfill must fall until by 2020 only 35% of the amount disposed of in 1995 is disposed of in this manner. Failure to achieve this could lead to fines which would ultimately have to be paid for by ratepayers.
- 3.7 Recognising this risk, the Plans adopted by the councils set out detailed proposals to use Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) and Energy from Waste (EfW) – technologies already widely used in GB and Europe – to manage this residual waste. arc21 started a procurement exercise in 2008 to secure a contractor to develop these facilities to manage residual waste using an MBT, where some recyclates could be recovered, before the remaining material would be prepared as a '*fuel*' with which an EfW plant could produce heat or electricity.
- 3.8 Following submission to the DOE of a planning application to develop these waste treatment facilities at Hightown Quarry, in September 2015 the Minister issued a Notice of Opinion that, if not responded to, would have resulted in permission being refused. The Joint Committee subsequently endorsed a request for a Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) hearing to be called which was supported by arc21's constituent councils. This was held in October 2016 following which some additional information was requested. In March 2017, the PAC report was issued to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) following which the Department granted planning permission for an MBT and EfW facility on 13 September, 2017.
- 3.9 A local objector group was subsequently granted leave for a judicial review of this decision and this has just concluded (14 February). The judge is currently considering the case but is expected to provide a ruling shortly.
- 3.10 Financial & Resource Implications
- None
- 3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications
- None.”

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The Committee noted the update provided.

**Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and
Crematorium Development Working Group**

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 28th February, the following key items had been considered:

- update on the report of a fatal accident at Craighton Cemetery, Glasgow;
- update in respect of the new Crematorium Development;
- update in respect of the permanent memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery;
and
- it was noted that three water bowsers had recently been installed in those areas of the cemetery which had been most adversely affected by the disruption to the mains water supply at Roselawn Cemetery.

At the request of a Member, the Assistant Director explained to the Committee the process around memorial safety inspection. She advised that officers were aware of the importance of ensuring that the public were kept informed of the process that was being undertaken and of working with families to try and remedy any headstones which had been identified as being unsafe.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 28th February.

Committee Plan 2018/19 Update (tabled at the meeting)

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to a Workshop Feedback report that provided a brief overview of the discussion that had taken place at the recent Committee Planning Workshop which had been held on Tuesday 27th February.

The Committee noted that the purpose of the Workshop had been:

- to review the performance and achievements of the Committee Plan in 2017/18;
and
- to translate the priorities of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan into a work plan for the Committee to deliver in 2018/19.

A Member highlighted that, at the recent briefing session held on Monday, 26th February, which had been held for the Committee Members to discuss the Affordable Warmth Scheme with the Head of Fuel Poverty in the Department for Communities, it had been highlighted that the Building Control Section was currently in receipt of over six hundred self-referrals to the scheme that were waiting to be processed. He highlighted that there was insufficient funding from the Department for Communities for the Building Control Section to allocate enough staff to deal with the volume of self-referrals

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being made to the scheme and he proceeded to outline various operational measures that could potentially be implemented which might help progress this backlog.

The Committee noted that this would be a matter for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Assistant Director advised that the Northern Ireland Assembly currently held the budget for the Affordable Warmth Scheme and reiterated that at this stage there had been no confirmation of funding for 2018-2019 but a reduction to the budget was anticipated, therefore, whilst additional staffing resources might help speed up the processing of the applications, it would not assist with the overall delivery of the scheme.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:

- that officers would proceed to compile a revised Committee Plan for 2018-19, for consideration at the April meeting; and
- to refer to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the consideration of additional staffing resources to assist with the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 3 Finance Update

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of a report which presented a Quarter 3 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 3 position for the Committee which showed an under-spend of £1,229k or (2.1%) of the budget, with the forecast year-end position being an under-spend of £807k (1%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Director advised that the corporate departmental forecast position at Quarter 3 was an underspend of £557k (0.4%). He reminded the Members that, as part of the Revenue Estimate setting process for 2018/19, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 15th December 2017, had agreed that non recurrent funding of £147k for Community Grants and £70k for Twilight Markets would be made available for 2018/19. The forecast surplus position at the year-end was therefore an underspend of £340k.

The Committee noted that, given the £340k forecast surplus, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had also agreed that no further re-allocations would be considered until the year end position had been reported to its Committee Meeting in June 2018.

The Committee noted the report, the associated financial reporting pack and the update in respect of the Council's corporate position.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Proposal to Mark Out a Temporary Pitch at Stranmillis Embankment

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th November, 2017, it had agreed, 'in principle', to mark out a temporary Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) pitch at Lower Botanic Gardens for Bredagh and St. Malachy's Gaelic Clubs to use while Cherryvale was unavailable.

The Assistant Director advised that this agreement had been subject to discussion with the local Residents Association and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, and that the temporary pitch would be for the period up to the end of September, 2018, subject to favourable site conditions to be determined by the Community Park Manager.

The Committee was advised that an information session had been held on 9th January at St Bartholomew's, Stranmillis Road, to provide residents with an opportunity to hear about the proposals and to complete a short survey. In summary, she advised that, whilst the residents had reservations about the proposal, given that it was a temporary solution, there was no significant objection to it and this had been subsequently reported to the South Area Working Group.

The Committee noted that the cost of marking out the temporary pitch and the erection of the posts was estimated to be in the region of £5,000 which would be met from existing budgets.

The Committee agreed to the request from Bredagh and St Malachy's Gaelic Clubs subject to:

- a restriction on the level of use during any given week and an agreed programme of use with the two Gaelic Clubs;
- the facilities only being available for use to those GAA Clubs that had been displaced at Cherryvale; and
- a portable toilet facility being provided during the period of temporary use.

Operational Issues

Public Access Defibrillator Pilot Programme Update

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Committee on the progress with the public access defibrillator pilot programme and seek agreement on priority sites for future provision in Council assets, where money becomes available.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the update on the pilot programme;
- Agree that future provision of public access defibrillators will be undertaken where money becomes available to fund the purchase and installation of devices;
- Approve the proposed locations for future provision of public access defibrillators in Council assets.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Update on Phases 1, 2 and 3 of public access defibrillator provision

Members will be aware the Council has been undertaking a public access defibrillator pilot programme. As part of this programme defibrillators were initially installed in 6 parks in May 2016, namely:

- Victoria Park
- Waterworks Park
- Fullerton Park
- Tullycarnet Park
- Boucher Road Playing Fields
- Falls Park

3.2 A second phase of installation took place in September 2017 across a further 8 Council sites, namely:

- Grove Playing Fields
- Cherryvale Playing Fields
- Blanchflower Stadium
- Wedderburn Playing Fields
- Woodvale Playing Fields
- Henry Jones Playing Fields
- Woodlands Playing Fields
- City of Belfast Playing Fields

3.3 Installation at Botanic Park is also due to take place as part of the second phase. The installation at Botanic Park has been delayed due to the ongoing project at the Tropical Ravine.

3.4 A third phase of installation is due to take place shortly across a further 8 Council sites thanks to the kind donation received

from the family of the late Mark Murphy, which covered the cost of buying the 8 defibrillators for these sites.

The locations for the third phase of the programme were agreed through the Area Working Groups in January/February as:

- Ormeau Park (public toilet area facing into the park)
- Orangefield Park
- Shore Road Playing Fields
- Suffolk Playing Fields
- Strangford Playing Fields
- Loughshore Playing Fields
- Musgrave Park
- Ulidia Playing Fields

3.5 Proposal for future phases of public access defibrillator provision

It is proposed that future public access defibrillators are installed in priority Council sites as money becomes available to fund the purchase and installation of the devices. The focus for public access defibrillators on Council sites continues to be on recreational facilities and those sites with significant public access or high footfall.

3.5 Proposed locations for the installation of future public access defibrillators in Council Parks/Playing fields include:

- Dunville Park
- Sally Gardens
- Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
- Blythefield
- Dixon Playing Fields
- Alderman Tommy Patton Park
- Clarendon Playing Fields
- Glenbank Park

3.7 It was agreed at the People and Communities Committee meeting held on 5th December 2017 that consideration would be given to the potential of extending defibrillator provision to other Council assets such as Community Centres.

3.8 Priority proposed locations for the installation of future public access defibrillators in Community Centres include:

- Cregagh Community Centre
- Dee Street Community Centre
- North Queen Street Community Centre

- Ardoyne Community Centre
- Hammer Community Centre
- Highfield Community Centre
- Morton Community Centre
- Markets Community Centre

3.9 The provision of defibrillators at all sites would be subject to the identification of a suitable location with an electrical supply and confirmation with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) that there are no other public access defibrillators within a short distance.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost of purchasing a defibrillator, an external cabinet, paediatric pads and ancillary items is approximately £1400 per site. The costs associated with the installation of a defibrillator is dependent on a site specific survey for each site. It is proposed that future installation of defibrillators at Council sites will be undertaken when money becomes available.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Council's Good Relations Unit have advised that proposals for extending the deployment of defibrillators will have a positive effect on the Health and Wellbeing of people who work, live and visit Belfast and that this is a positive equality action."

A Member advised that he had previously highlighted that defibrillators were not available in the Council's community centres and he asked that consideration be given to funding this programme of works from any in-year departmental underspend.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:

- the future phases of the defibrillator programme as outlined in the report; and
- that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be requested to consider the installation of a defibrillator in each of the Council's Community Centres with the money for this programme of works to be met from year end underspend.

Provision of Grit in Snow/Ice Conditions

The Committee considered a report in relation to the provision of grit in snow/ice conditions.

A Member noted the dedication and hard work of the staff who had been involved in the recent snow clearance/gritting during the recent spell of bad weather and asked that, on behalf of the Committee, thanks be conveyed to all the members of staff involved.

Following detailed consideration, the Committee agreed:

- to defer consideration of the report in respect of the provision of grit in snow/ice conditions to enable officers to obtain a legal opinion should the Council agree to assume additional responsibility for this function;
- that the demand and potential location of grit boxes would be considered at the Area Working Groups;
- that the Director would forward an e-mail of appreciation to all staff who had been involved in the recent snow clearance/gritting; and
- agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

St. Patrick's Day Update and Alcohol Legislation Review

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 update Members on the planned Council and inter-agency operations to promote the positive participation in St. Patrick's Day celebrations across the city.

1.2 Furthermore, the report will update Members on the progress of the review of the existing legislative framework in addressing on street drinking and possible additional powers to enhance those powers currently available in Northern Ireland requested at Committee on 7 June 2016. This followed a Notice of Motion tabled at Committee which read:

'Belfast City Council is concerned that it's Bye-Law prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on the city's streets, is on its own proving wholly ineffective in deterring this problem and criminalises those with an addiction.

Accordingly, Belfast City Council would ask the Department of Justice to commence Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 which gives powers to the PSNI to confiscate alcohol and extend those powers to Council Officers. The Council also asked the Department of Justice to extend the power to issue fixed penalty notices for offences under the Council's Bye-Laws so that the Council can adopt a more flexible approach to those detected consuming alcohol in designated places.'

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **consider the contents of the report.**

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- consider if they would like the possibility of additional primary legislation to be more formally explored with central government, PSNI and other local authorities.

3.0 Main report

3.1 St Patrick's Day Operation 2018

Members will be aware of the complex multi-agency operation and strong partnership working that exists in planning and delivery of services around St. Patrick's Day. The multi-agency operation for 2018 is being co-ordinated from the Silver Command Room Musgrave Street PSNI Station (including the parade and concert).

3.2 The City Events Manager, Gerry Copeland, will be available for queries about the parade and concert and the Safer City Manager, Alison Allen, will be available for queries about the Holy Land and citywide parks/open spaces operation.

3.3 Operation Objectives

- To reduce anti-social behaviour in the Holy land area
- To reduce the number of people attending the Holy Land area
- To reduce the amount of alcohol being brought in to the Holy Land area and being consumed
- To provide effective clean up to all parts of the city
- To reduce anti-social behaviour and consumption of alcohol in parks and open spaces

3.4 Council Activities

In order to achieve our objectives Council Officers will carry out the following activities:

Dates	Times	Location	Activity
15/03/18	14:30–21:30	Holy Lands and Wider University Area	Proactive patrolling, advice, warning and enforcement
	09:00-17:00	Citywide	Day Time Noise Services
	20:00-04:00	Citywide	Night Time Noise Services
16/03/18	14:30–23:30	Wider University Area (WUA)	Proactive patrolling, advice, warning and enforcement
	09:00-17:00	Citywide	Day Time Noise Services
	16:00-04:00	Citywide & WUA	Night Time Noise Services

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17/03/18	10:00–00:00	Holylands and Wider University Area	Proactive patrolling, advice, warning and enforcement
	07:00–00:00	Parks and Open Spaces	Static proactive patrolling, advice, warning and enforcement (roaming from 19:00 – Midnight)
	10:00-20:00	Holylands and Wider University Area	Noise Patrolling
	20:00-04:00	Holylands and Wider University Area	Night Time Noise Services (prioritised calls for Holy Land area)

3.5 Council Mobile CCTV Services will be deployed to monitor high risk parks and open spaces across the city on 16 March 2017 and on St. Patrick’s Day. Deployment of these services will be managed by Council’s Safer City Manager Alison Allen.

3.6 Council Cleansing Services will support all operations with post city centre events cleansing and storage facilities for items (such as bottles) removed in the wider university area.

3.7 Council Building Control Service will be involved in inspections of premises and other events during the operation as detailed below:

- **Officer visits to pubs and clubs to remind them of their licensing obligations in the run up to St. Patricks Day and providing additional support where needed to potentially problematic premises;**
- **Building Control Licensing will be undertaking day time inspections across the city in the days before St. Patricks Day;**
- **On St. Patrick’s Day they will conduct daytime performance inspections, as well as attending the event at Custom House Square;**
- **Proactively address illegal street trading**
- **Officers have issued a joint letter to private hire bus/coach companies (with PSNI and DVA) reminding them of their legal obligations in relation to consumption of alcohol on buses**
- **Officers will issue a joint letter with PSNI and DVA to private hire bus/coach companies reminding them of the law regarding the consumption of alcohol on their vehicles**

Positive Animation of Parks/Open Spaces

- 3.8 Members will recall that at People and Communities Committee in January 2018, positive animation of parks/open spaces was discussed as part of a wider strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- 3.9 In support of this, three parks/open spaces have been identified as having the potential to have challenges with anti-social behaviour on St. Patrick's Day and positive animation and activities are being planned to encourage positive community use of those spaces on 17 March.

They are:

Falls Park – Community Fun Day being planned

Marrowbone Park – Family Fun Day and Football Tournament being planned

Dunville Park – Family Fun Day being planned

Partner Activities

- Queens University Belfast** - Queen's University has been visiting a number of students in the run up to St. Patrick's Day to remind them of appropriate levels of behaviour. On St. Patrick's Day they will deploy a team of volunteers from mid-morning to nightfall; they will proactively engage with the students to prevent ASB from happening and deteriorating.
- 3.11 **Ulster University** - Ulster University has also been visiting students in the run up to St. Patrick's Day and they will deploy a team of volunteers and officers on 17 March. They will proactively engage with the students to prevent ASB from happening and deteriorating.
- 3.12 **City Church** - City Church is the being used as a base for briefings and joint working on the day
- 3.13 **Street Pastors** - Street Pastors will be volunteering around the wider university area on both 16 March and on St. Patrick's Day. Their role will to be engage with the students as well as proactively be helping to clean up litter, discarded bottles etc.
- 3.14 **SOS Bus** - SOS Bus will deploy their normal big bus service in Shaftesbury Square and at the request of Council will deploy their two mini buses to support Council Officers around parks and open spaces.

- 3.15 **Landlords** - A number of landlords will be in the wider university area to help manage St. Patrick's Day, their role is to speak to students causing ASB in their properties. A number of landlords have already communicated with their tenants in the local area to warn of the potential implications of rowdy ASB.
- 3.16 **PSNI** - Police operations will be coordinated from Musgrave Street Police Station. Police will work proactively in partnership with Council (and other partners) in the run up to and on St. Patrick's Day 2018 and there will be a significant police presence in the Holy Land area and wider city. The policing operation will focus on public safety and minimising any negative impacts of celebrations on the wider community, whilst still allowing people to safely and lawfully enjoy the day.
- 3.17 **Alcohol Recovery Centre** - The Alcohol Recovery Centre (ARC) run by the Belfast Trust will operate out of the bowling pavilion in Botanic Park. The ARC will have medical professionals available to deal with minor injuries and issues associated with over consumption of alcohol. More serious injuries/illness will be brought straight to hospital. In 2017 the ARC dealt with approximate 30 individuals who would have otherwise been taken to Emergency Departments.
- 3.18 **Spring Gathering Event (South Belfast Partnership Board)** - South Belfast Partnership Board will be running a positive family friendly event in the grounds of the Theological College on the day.
- 3.19 **Alcohol Legislation Review**
The Department of Justice, PSNI and Belfast City Council Officers have completed the review of existing legislation and bye-laws and have also examined comparable legislation in GB and ROI.
- 3.20 The following pieces of legislation have been examined:
- Belfast Improvement Act 1845
 - Town Police Clauses Act 1847
 - The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907
 - Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act 1908 (drunk in charge of an animal or child)
 - The Local Government Act (NI) 1972 – section 90 (Alcohol Bye Laws)
 - Criminal Justice (NI) Order 1980
 - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 - Entertainment Licence
 - Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and PACE Codes of Practice

- The Licensing Order 1996
- The Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996
- The Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997
- Public Processions (NI) Act 1998
- The Police (NI) Act 2003
- Anti-social Behaviour (NI) Order 2004
- The Violent Crime Reductions Act 2006 (England and Wales Only)
- The Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 (Part 5 not commenced in NI)
- Policing and Crime Act 2009
- The Justice Act (NI) 2011
- Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act (NI) 2011 (not yet in force)
- Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (England and Wales Only)
- Public Service Vehicles Regulations (NI) 1985
- Section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

3.21 Individual organisations have ensured they are operating to their full legislative capability as the legislation stands at present. However, the ongoing discourse regarding the role of alcohol in crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder demonstrates that improvements in the legislative landscape may be required.

3.22 Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 – (ss.68-72 not yet commenced in NI) states that:

- a. PSNI has the power to confiscate alcohol in designated places if a constable reasonably believes that a person is, or has been, consuming intoxicating liquor in a designated place or intends to consume intoxicating liquor (s.68(1))
- b. Article 70 defines ‘designated public place’ as a public place in the district of a council; and identified in an order made by that council and that it satisfied that nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public; or disorder has been associated with the consumption of intoxicating liquor in that place
- c. A constable may require that person not to consume intoxicating liquor: to surrender intoxicating liquor or a container for such liquor
- d. A constable can dispose of anything surrendered as he considers appropriate.
- e. If a person fails to comply with requirements – the constable will inform that person he is committing an

- offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 (£500) on the standard scale
- f. The constable may issue a fixed penalty notice to that person (not exceeding £125)
 - g. If a person fails to pay the fixed penalty notice within 21 days, then proceedings in the Magistrates' Court may be instigated
 - h. Existing byelaws would no longer apply.
- 3.23 The Notice of Motion as outlined above in June 2016 requested the Department of Justice to commence Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008; extend those powers to Council Officers and create the power for Officers to issue fixed penalty notices for offences under the Council's alcohol bye-laws.
- 3.24 Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 provides that PSNI officers can confiscate and dispose of alcohol when it has been surrendered to them. The current provisions do not provide the PSNI with the power of seizure and disposal and PSNI has stated that it is therefore operationally unworkable for them. If the Council wished to enforce this legislation, the Order would require amendment to extend the provisions to council officers and in addition to this, the Department of Justice has advised that Regulations would also have to be drafted and this would require agreement from the Executive. It is therefore unlikely that a commencement order for Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008 will be issued. In relation to creating the power for officers to issue fixed penalty notices for offences under the Council's alcohols bye-laws, this would require an amendment to the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 which would require regional consultation together with Ministerial approval.
- 3.25 As part of the wider review of the legislative framework to deal with anti-social behaviour, Departmental Officials have advised they are considering the issues surrounding on-street drinking and the powers available for both Police and Council Officers to deal with such matters.
- 3.26 The review also identified that the National Consortium of Police and Crime Commissioners in England identified in 2016 that national best practice in the mitigation of negative impacts of alcohol was individual centred and multi-agency support and education initiatives. This is reflected in a similar approach being in Dublin and recognises that the negative impacts of alcohol consumption are reflective of wider health and well-being issues and need to sit within a multi-disciplinary strategic framework.

3.27 Given the absence of Ministers and current situation in the NI Assembly, amendments to, and the creation of additional legislation is not an available option at present, however, Officials will continue to work in the background as far as possible on available options, should this situation change. However, please be aware that additional legislation can take a significant period of time to process.

3.28 Finance and Resource Implications

As outlined above, the multi-agency operation managing negative issues around St. Patrick's Day is significant. However, the operations are well developed and the Council resource requirements (both financial and staff resource) are considered as part of the annual revenue budgets. Additionally, Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership are providing financial assistance for the Alcohol Recovery Centre, the SOS Bus and the use of City Church.

3.29 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will be monitored on an ongoing basis."

Following a query from a Member, the Assistant Director undertook to submit an update report in respect of the transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation regulations to a future meeting.

The Committee:

- agreed that officers proceed to formally explore the possibility of additional primary legislation with central government, the PSNI and other local authorities; and
- agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting on the progress of the transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation regulation.

Suicide Prevention in Public Places

(Mrs. V. Brown, Environmental Health Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the ongoing work in the city associated with suicide prevention in public places and to seek endorsement from Committee regarding this work and the Council's role in it.

1.2 Protect Life Strategy

The Council works closely with the health trusts, the police, the Public Health Agency and community and voluntary sector organisations in suicide prevention work in the city. It is a member of the Belfast Protect Life Implementation Group and while the Public Health Agency takes a lead in implementing the government's Protect Life Strategy all partners are fully engaged in the work to minimise the impact these tragic deaths have on families, communities and local areas.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the information contained in the report and to agree the proposed approach for Cavehill Country Park, in particular consulting with local stakeholders and organising a spring programme of activities to promote the positive image of the Park.
- grant approval for the free use of Ormeau Park for the Darkness into Light event subject to the organisers meeting all legal and statutory requirements and providing an event plan.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Work to improve mental health and emotional resilience is well publicised but suicide prevention work less so. This is because reporting on suicide and work directly associated with it can be difficult. Harmful reporting by the media and speculation and inaccurate posting on social media can bring damaging attention to a death which is not only extremely distressing for family members but can increase fear and anxiety for individuals and communities. This can lead to further deaths by similar methods or at the same or similar locations and is why some of the work directly associated with suicide prevention and response is not widely publicised.

3.2 Following a number of public incidents in recent years involving open space in the city, the Council trained its Park Wardens and Safer Neighbourhood Officers in the internationally recognised 'SafeTalk' training to enable them to provide support to anyone they come across who may be feeling anxious or distressed. More recently the Council and a number of other partner organisations started working on a project specifically aimed at preventing suicide in public places.

- 3.3 The project team has been using the practice resource 'Preventing Suicide in Public Places', published in November 2015 by Public Health England (PHE). It contains a useful step by step guide to identifying locations and taking action. This involves the systematic collection and analysis of local data and developing an action plan for priority locations. The publication also contains practical examples and evidence of effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide in public places.
- 3.4 The project team began by reviewing the information on deaths by suicide in public places in Belfast over a number of years. However, to enable a more comprehensive understanding of locations and necessary preventative work it determined that information on attempted suicides and additional information on how far people had travelled to a location, etc. should also be collected. This proved difficult as there was no single data collection system for this type of information. Partner organisations have been working together on sourcing the relevant data within established information sharing protocols and the project will connect with other work streams in informing a future data collection system.
- 3.5 However, rather than let the data collection issue hold things up it was decided to consider opportunities for suicide prevention work in certain public places as part of other planned development work; for example, the refurbishment of Marrowbone Park. The connection was made between the development of the park and a community based 'Care Zone', which has been designed and led by local people and continues to work with numerous agencies and organisations to build hope in that particular area of the city. This connection gives local people the opportunity to consider how the park can be reimaged and used in the future but it also takes into account the sensitivities associated with its past. Another similar opportunity has been identified with the development of Falls Park and the City Cemetery, where there is potential to incorporate some of the physical measures identified in the PHE publication, for example improved lighting, restricting access to low level branches and creating a positive bright and well used space.
- 3.6 Other public locations have also been considered by the project team including Cavehill Country Park, however the physical measures and deterrents mentioned above are unlikely to be relevant to a park of its size and characteristics. The PHE publication refers to other measures such as increasing opportunities for help seeking by suicidal individuals; for

example, by placing signs in strategic locations; it also refers to improving the public image of the site. The project team is considering these measures but given recent events it recognises that a safe and balanced approach is required. A starting point therefore will be to work with local groups such as the Belfast Hills Partnership, the Cavehill Conservation Group and local residents' groups to emphasise the positive image of the park, reminding people that it is a beautiful and interesting place, safe for children and a good place to support positive mental health. The Park's Outreach team is exploring a spring programme of activities promoting the Country Park's 'Green Flag' status and opportunities for putting into practice the Take5 steps to emotional wellbeing. The potential for signage will also be considered during consultations with local groups, residents and other stakeholders. The PHE publication strongly advocates early public consultation and engagement before implementing any such measures.

- 3.7 One of the case studies mentioned in the PHE publication is Taxi Watch, a proactive approach to suicide prevention by taxi drivers. PSNI identified a similar scheme in Kilkenny and, working with the Public Health Agency, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Council, organised a meeting in January to engage with local taxi drivers. A taxi driver from the Kilkenny scheme attended and following the meeting one of the large Belfast based taxi companies with over 900 drivers volunteered to pilot SafeTalk training for a group of its drivers and a group of control room operators. The training will be provided by BHSCCT and if successful will be rolled out to other drivers and staff.
- 3.8 The Council has been asked to support a Darkness into Light event on Saturday 12th May by facilitating the free use of Ormeau Park to start the event. This is an international event highlighting the issue of suicide awareness and the associated process of bereavement, grief and reflection. It involves a 5K walk or run starting at the same time in all venues before dawn.
- 3.9 Members are reminded that the Lifeline crisis response helpline number will continue to operate even though the existing contract is coming to an end. Anyone in distress or seeking help should be encouraged to contact the lifeline number, 0808 808 8000, it is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It is free of charge for all calls (including mobiles) and is answered by trained counsellors.
- 3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

This work is undertaken within existing revenue budgets.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report although any future action plan will require to be equality screened.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**24 hour International Running Championships
in Victoria Park**

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from a Local Organising Committee seeking permission to use some areas of Victoria Park to host the World 24 hour International Running Championships 2018, on 23rd and 24th June.

The officer detailed that, with the help of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and a Local Organising Committee, Belfast had successfully hosted this event in the summer of 2017. Forty nations including competitors, their management, family and spectators had attended which had contributed greatly to the local economy.

She advised that this had demonstrated that Belfast had the ability to host a successful World Championship with high levels of participants, spectators, logistical support and media coverage. The local organisers wished to build on this legacy by staging the International in June, which would also incorporate the National Championship.

The Assistant Director reported that the Local Organising Committee were now meeting regularly with officers from Parks and City Events. She reported that an event management plan had been developed and the Parks Event 24 Point Plan had been submitted.

The Committee was advised further that, due to the scale of the event, there would be some minor disruption to some of the existing activities within the park which she reported as follows:

- the car park would be required to close for the setup of the race headquarters, marquees etc. in advance of and during the event (Topaz had offered use of their site for car parking on Airport Road West);
- bowlers would be requested to arrange no home matches that weekend;
- the tunnel would need to close to prevent access of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians onto the race circuit;
- alternative through access would be provided across the park to the Sam Thompson Bridge;
- the Park Run would go ahead at 9.30 a.m. with the race starting at 1.00 p.m. on the Saturday afternoon; and
- no other park bookings would be taken.

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The Committee agreed to grant limited access to some areas of Victoria Park for the safe and successful management of the International event subject to the organisers meeting all the statutory health and safety requirements.

Review of Football Leagues

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the Council operated grass pitches through direct management, Facility Management Agreements and Partner Agreements. She detailed that, because of the seasonal nature of association football, the highest level of use was usually over the winter period. Leagues that were supported by teams from across Belfast and beyond made a significant proportion of these bookings. She advised that extended periods of winter weather often rendered pitches to be unplayable due to health and safety concerns or the requirement to try to protect the pitch to the end of the playing season.

The Committee noted that calling off pitches was the responsibility of Parks Management and match referees. Obviously, cancellations in advance impacted on teams and leagues through cancelled bookings and rearranged fixtures, cancellations on the day only added to the problem, with the additional expense of unnecessary staff, payment of officials, unnecessary travel for teams and officers, to name but a few.

The Assistant Director detailed that across Europe winter breaks were often a common feature. She explained that a winter break would require extending the playing season into the summer months and the impact of this would need to be considered and taken into account, as all pitches required a rest period each year in order to sustain them from season to season.

The Committee granted officers authority to consult with stakeholders to develop options for a potential winter break period during which no grass pitch bookings would be available for league fixtures.

Youth Forum and Ur City 2 Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update the Committee on the most recent work of the Belfast Youth Forum, including recruitment for the new 2018-2020 Youth Forum, and to provide an update on 2017/18 Ur City 2 monies.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to;

- note the content of this report highlighting the work of the Belfast Youth Forum and agree to the new phase of Youth Forum recruitment.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 This paper is an update on:

- i. Outline arrangements for Youth Forum 2018-20 recruitment plan;
- ii. the main activities of Council's Youth Forum (YF); and
- iii. funding awards under 'Ur City 2' programme 2017/18.

3.2 Youth Forum Recruitment

Young people on the YF serve a 2-year term and in June the current 2016-18 cohort will end their term and a new cohort of young people will begin. Recruitment for the 2018-2020 YF will start on 26th February with an open application process which will last for four weeks and close on 26th March. Applicants will then be invited to a recruitment session in City Hall in April and will also take part in an interview with two outgoing YF members and a member of staff. A total of 40 places will be allocated to young people aged 13-18 (four from each of the DEA's).

3.3 Votes at 16 campaign

In November 2017, Cllr O'Hara sponsored a Notion of Motion on behalf of the YF calling on Council to endorse voting rights for young people aged 16 and above and calling on the UK government to extend voting legislation to all 16 and 17 year olds in time for the next local government elections. The YF made a deputation at this meeting advocating voting rights for 16 and 17 year olds and the motion passed by an overwhelming majority. While already linking with the UK campaign, the YF want to start to build links with the official 'Votes at 16' campaign in the South. The YF is currently planning a trip to Dublin for April 2018 to meet young people working on the campaign in the South and to visit Seanad Eireann to meet with the Seanadoiri who are currently working on a Bill to legislate for votes at 16 in southern Ireland. The YF hope that by making these connections they can help to create a linked campaign working towards votes at 16 across all four jurisdictions.

3.4 Mental Health Campaign

The YF, along with young people from the Children's Law Centre and NI Youth Forum, have formed a youth mental health steering group to run a joint mental health campaign called- 'Elephant in the Room.' (EITR)

3.5 Background to campaign

EITR is informed by the NI Young People's report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: 'Our lives in our words.' This report represented the views and experiences of 900 children and young people (aged 7-17yrs) who participated in the research on the extent to which they were enjoying their rights. Under the theme of mental health the findings showed that:

- 27% of young people reported having a mental health concern
- Most young people felt uncomfortable seeking help due to stigma
- Only a third of those who reported having a mental health concern said they received help.

3.6 In July 2016, informed by evidence in the young people's report, the UN Committee recommended that the NI Government:

'Rigorously invest in child and adolescent mental health services and develop strategies at national and devolved levels, with clear time frames, targets, measureable indicators, effective monitoring mechanisms and sufficient human, technical and financial resources...'

(UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations and Recommendations to the UK Government, July 2016; 60(b))

3.7 At a follow up UNCRC youth event in City Hall organised by our YF, Children's Law Centre and NI Youth Forum, 100 young people called for the UN Committee's recommendations on mental health to be fully implemented. This event gave young people on all three forums a clear mandate from their peers for further engagement in rights based campaign work on mental health issues. Consequently, the young people from each Forum began planning a regional, youth-led mental health campaign.

Purpose of campaign

3.8 Through their work outlined above, young people found there was an urgent need to name the 'elephant in the room' when it comes to mental health, namely:

- The ongoing stigma despite years of high profile campaigns;

- Lack of knowledge about where young people access information on mental health and how reliable this information is;
- Failure to adequately fund mental health services despite evidence of how big an issue it is.

3.9 As part of their campaign young people have designed their own questionnaire for 14-17 year olds which is running from January to March 2018. They will follow up this survey with in-depth focus groups with young people in Belfast, Newry and Derry throughout March 2018. With the help of Ulster University, young people will then analyse the data and create a research report that they will launch in late June 2018. From September 2018 onwards, young people will begin to lobby decision makers on the recommendations in their report and will also run an awareness raising campaign to challenge mental health stigma.

3.10 Intended outcomes of campaign

By using the evidence gathered from their own peer research, the youth steering group are aiming to achieve the following outcomes, on behalf of all present and future generations of children and young people:

- *Change* public perceptions of mental health i.e. challenging the myths, supporting the facts and reducing the 'stigma'
- *Encourage/support* more young people to talk about mental health and by doing so increase the likelihood that they will seek help if and when they need it
- *Engage* with key decision makers at Departmental and Ministerial level on young people's recommendations for the change needed to improve mental health education programmes, young people's access to early intervention support, using evidence gathered from the survey, focus groups and conferences and the social media campaign
- *Advocate* for increased funding for CAMHs and make it more accessible to young people in line with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's 2016 recommendations to Government (see above).

3.11 As part of their mental health campaign the Youth Forum made a presentation on their work to the Belfast Safeguarding Panel in February 2018. This group includes representatives from GP services, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Education and CAMHS as well as Council and a range of other voluntary organisations including Barnardos, VOYPIC, NSPCC and

Women's Aid. It is hoped that the findings of the mental health survey will influence the strategic direction of the work of the Safeguarding panel at a local level and help to improve young people's mental health services across the city.

3.12 Poverty Campaign

The YF launched its 'Poverty: It's not a choice' report in May 2017 and since that time the young people involved have been building allies and presenting their findings to organisations in the public, statutory and voluntary sector including to community planners at Belfast Agenda events and to the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. The YF has arranged a meeting with party leaders in City Hall on 5th March to engage with Members around the recommendations in their report and to explore ways they can work together to push these forward and have them implemented by Council.

3.13 World Aids Day

To mark World Aids Day on 29th November in City Hall the YF, in partnership with Positive Life NI, organised and ran a young people's event called 'Let's talk about HIV.' Over 80 young people attended and took part in youth-led workshops that included discussions on HIV/AIDS, safe sex and young people's views on the standard of sexual health education they receive. Young people then took part in a question and answer session with decision makers from political parties and the Northern Ireland's Children's Commissioner. Positive Life NI will use the information gathered by young people at the event to inform work on a regional sexual health strategy.

3.14 Nashville Mayors Youth Council

In November 2017, members of the YF and the Mayor's Youth Council in Nashville held a meeting via Skype. The meeting was facilitated by Council staff and Brandon Hill, who is a member of staff on the Nashville Youth Council. The meeting was very positive and the agenda (as set by the young people) included

- A summary of both Forums/Councils;
- Discussion of the work we are each currently involved in;
- Lobbying and influencing decision makers
- Representation of both groups
- Discussion on shared issues including mental health and healthcare provision, policing, youth participation, poverty and votes at 16.

3.15 The groups also discussed how they can work together in the future and have committed to having another meeting in Spring 2018 to further this.

3.16 Ur City 2 Programme 2017/18

The Ur City 2 programme involves a linked city initiative for children and young people which has been formulated and delivered in conjunction with the fourteen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (NRPs) in Belfast. Relatively modest amounts of funding of up to £5,000, are made available to each of the NRPs to enable them to give impetus to programmes or projects that have been identified as priorities within their action plans but for which funding is not otherwise secured. We have rolled out the 17/18 funding to all 14 NRPs and a total of £69,962 was awarded.

3.17 A summary of the current breakdown of grants follows:

Greater Shankill Partnership - £5,000

Money used to fund an education programme that will support the transition of P7 children from primary to secondary school and will then follow up with a personal development programme for these children. The programme will be delivered in partnership with Belfast Boys Model and Belfast Model School for Girls and will target children in the BT13 area working to reduce anxiety and increase their readiness to learn.

East Belfast Community Development Agency - £4,980

Money used to deliver ten developmental and outreach programmes to children and young people linked to health and well-being, promoting learning, community safety, improving the environment, children's rights, the arts, community pride and contributing to the community.

Ashton Community Trust - £5,000

Money used to deliver 9 area wide arts projects to children and young people linked to promoting young people's rights and to improving health and well-being. These arts projects will also help to increase creative skills and access to cultural activity, promoting learning, improving the image of the NRP area, the promotion of health and well-being, and the promotion of social cohesion and good relations.

St. Oliver Plunkett F.C - £5,000

Money will be used to deliver a series of community wide developmental programmes including Halloween and Christmas events, healthy living programmes, a soccer festival and the development of a community garden that will also be used as an outdoor classroom for local primary school children.

Greater Village Regeneration Trust - £5,000

Money will be used to deliver a number of community wide developmental projects to children and young people. These include health and well-being programmes (fitness classes and healthy eating) and mindfulness workshops.

Ligoniel Improvement Association - £4982

Money will be used to deliver to children and young people a variety of Halloween and Christmas themed events to promote intergenerational practice, community engagement and participation and healthy lifestyles. The projects will also tackle the isolation that children and young people from the community often feel as a result of living in an area on the outskirts of Belfast.

Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - £5,000

Money will be used to deliver a range of activities linked to promoting health and well-being, and emotional resilience including boxing programme for boys and girls, a 'Cook It' programme in primary schools, swimming lessons, a couch to 5k programme and a music programme.

Upper Springfield Resource Centre - £5,000

Money will be used to deliver to children and young people a variety of Summer, Halloween and Christmas themed events to promote intergenerational practice, community engagement and participation, healthy lifestyles, and building civic pride and to combat social deprivation and isolation.

Blackie River Community Group- £5,000

The money will be used to fund a literacy programme for newcomer children for whom English is a second language as well as nursery school children at the early stages of reading. The money will also be used to fund after schools sports

coaching for primary school children in order to reduce health inequalities and improve the physical, mental and emotional health of children.

Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group- £5,000

The money will be used to complete a youth led audit of existing youth services in the NRP area and to create a Youth Action plan and a framework for the establishment of an inner south youth forum.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises- £5,000

The money will be used to fund a cross community Valentine's Day themed event that young people will plan and deliver in partnership with each other. Ten young people will also be trained in digital camera skills to film the event and edit and produce a film.

Benview Community Centre- £5,000

The money will be used to fund five youth development programmes in the area linked to promoting self-awareness, identity, reaching full potential, being healthy and skills and knowledge development.

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership- £5,000

The money will be used to deliver a cross community music programme called 'Crescendo' in two primary schools. The programme will be run in partnership with the Ulster Orchestra and will help promote community cohesion, community engagement and participation, healthy lifestyles, and building civic pride.

Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Collective- £5,000

The money will be used to deliver to children and young people a variety of Halloween and Christmas themed events, a youth engagement programme for young people currently not engaged in youth provision and a young people's community newsletter that will all help promote active citizenship, learning, achieving and contributing positively to the community.

Applications for the 2018 Ur City 2 monies are expected to open in June 2018.

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no resource implications at this time.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications to consider at this time.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Request for use of facilities - Cherryvale Playing Fields

The Assistant Director advised that in 2006 a Belfast City Council Gaelic Football Team had been formed. The team had competed in inter firm leagues from 2006 to 2010 which had included representation from other organisations such as the PSNI, City Bank, Northern Ireland Water and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Its greatest success came in 2010 when they won the Ulster section of the competition and were narrowly defeated in the all-Ireland semi-final.

The officer reported that, due to a number of factors, the team had not competed in the competition since 2010. She detailed that, unfortunately, a former member of staff who was one of the founder members of the team was now ill and a reunion match had been organised to raise funds for the Northern Ireland Hospice.

The Committee granted permission for free use of pitch 3 and the changing rooms at the Cherryvale Playing Fields to host a charity reunion Gaelic football match in aid of the NI Hospice on Friday, 23rd March.

Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise Committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 (EBA2020) into Year 3.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to the continuation of the delivery of the Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 programme to 31 March 2020 in partnership with our delivery partners, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**
- **To agree to some additional programming to be coordinated by Council officers (Programme Manager and Coordinator) where there is identified any potential**

underspend in budget or underperformance against any of the KPIs by our delivery Partners.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Sport NI programme

Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Everybody 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

3.2 Belfast’s programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public process to deliver Belfast’s Everybody Active 2020 targets. Officers have once again commissioned a diverse range of partners with consideration to developing programmes which prioritise participation for women/girls in the 14-25 age group, during which drop off levels are greatest.

3.3 Participation Targets 2018 – 2019

AREA	Total participants	women/girls	People with a disability	high social need	Sustained participants
Belfast	22,512	13,057	3,827	7,654	6,979

3.4 Programme delivery will be linked to other investments including workforce development, outdoor recreation infrastructure, small grants and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA2020.

3.5 Sport NI has recently indicated a budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 in Belfast for Year 3 (2018/19). We expect to receive our letter of offer by mid-March 2018.

Partner Organisation	Main Target Group
Ulster Rugby-Disability Participation	Disability
Ulster Rugby-Female Participation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need -

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	Disability
Irish Football Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls - Disability Inclusion
Ulster Squash	Women and Girls
Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need - Disability Inclusion
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (North and West)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (South and East)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls – Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport NI- Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

3.6 Current position

EBA2020 Strand 1 provides Council with a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes throughout the City and within the Belfast Agenda framework.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

Sport NI has recently given an indicative budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 Strand 1 in Belfast for Year 3 (2018/2019).

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the performance frameworks for providers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tri-Cities Golf Event

The Director reported that since 2002, the cities of Edinburgh, Dublin and Belfast had participated in the annual Tri-Cities Golf Event. He advised that this event rotated round each of the three cities on an annual basis and the 2018 event was scheduled to be held in Belfast.

The Committee noted that the event was a golf competition between Elected Members and senior officers from each of the Councils. The teams would all travel at their own expense and would meet their own accommodation costs. No subsequent allowance or expenses of any kind would be paid to any of the participants.

The Director outlined that each year the host city met the cost of green fees for the visitors and also provided prizes and a meal in the clubhouse following the competition. The first day of the event would be held at Malone Golf Club and the second day would take place in Dunmurry Golf Club.

The Committee agreed to host the Tri-Cities Golf Event in Belfast from 30th – 31st August and to meet the costs of the green fees, prizes and a meal in the clubhouse, estimated to be in the region of £6,000.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 7th March, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Graham, Hargey, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle,
Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown,
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Regeneration
and Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from The High Sheriff, Councillor Howard.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 7th and 21st February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th March.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest in Item 8a, Addressing Educational Inequality – "Right to Succeed", in that she worked for an early intervention service. It was not deemed necessary that she should leave the room as the report provided the Members with an update on a successful lottery funding application.

Mr. D. Durkan

The Chairperson informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee which would be attended by Mr. D. Durkan in his capacity as the Director of Development.

On behalf of the Members, she thanked Mr. Durkan for his services to the Committee and for the work which he had undertaken on behalf of the Council and wished him well.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee
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Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure
re: Taxis using bus lanes

The Chief Executive tabled a letter from the Department for Infrastructure, in relation to the Committee's response to the Department's consultation on the Bus Lanes Orders NI 2018.

The Department stated that it was important that the definition of 'permitted taxis', in relation to bus lane legislation be the same across all bus lanes in Belfast, in order not to create confusion with different classes of taxis being able to use the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) bus lanes.

The correspondence stated that a large number of people had made representation on the issue, calling for all taxis to be permitted to use all bus lanes in the city. While any permanent change required ministerial approval, the Department stated that it had since decided to carry out a further, more extensive trial whereby Class A taxis would be permitted to access all bus lanes which were available to permitted taxis for 12 months.

The Committee noted that the trial would be introduced under Article 5 of the Road Traffic Regulation Order as an Experimental Scheme and would come into operation prior to the commencement of BRT services in September 2018.

Presentation

Visit Belfast - 2018/19 Business Plan and 2018/22 Strategy

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. G. Lennon, Chief Executive of Visit Belfast, and Mr. H. Hastings OBE, Chair of Visit Belfast, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Hastings advised the Committee that tourism was key to the city and to the Belfast Agenda, with Belfast having created more new hotel rooms than Dublin in the past year. He highlighted to the Members that tourism would become a £1billion industry for Belfast for the first time in 2018.

He outlined that Visit Belfast aimed to increase the overnight visits and visitor spend, increase visitors' lengths of stay, continue to build a positive profile as a place to visit and improve visitor satisfaction and encourage repeat business.

The Committee was advised that the role of Visit Belfast was to act on the Council's vision for the City and the more that the Council invested, the more Visit Belfast could return. He outlined that, for every £1 which the Council invested, Visit Belfast was able to make a return of £34.

Mr. Hastings reminded the Members that Belfast had won the Lonely Planet's Number 1 Region award 2018, in conjunction with the Causeway Coast, and that the City had also won the National Geographic Traveller Readers' Award for Rising Star of 2017 and he presented the National Geographic award to the Chairperson for its display in the City Hall.

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Mr. Lennon pointed out that Northern Ireland's reputation as a tourist destination was going from strength to strength but that there was still significant potential for growth, particularly when compared with the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. He advised the Members that September 2019 would see the first Disney Cruise arrive into Belfast.

The Members were provided with an overview of Visit Belfast's draft Business Plan 2018/2019 and the Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

He reported that, through two of the key priorities of the Belfast Agenda, namely, City Development and Growing the Economy, Visit Belfast was seeking to strike a balance between targeting business and social tourists and highlighted that sports tourism had become an important sector. He emphasised that the development of the proposed Belfast Story/Hub was crucial in adding a significant second attraction to the City.

In response to a number of Members' questions regarding the potential of golf tourism, Mr. Hastings advised the Members that the majority of hotels in Belfast were fully booked for The Open which would be held in July 2019 at the Royal Portrush Golf Club.

A number of Members congratulated Visit Belfast on being "China Ready", with a number of staff in the information centre having learned key phrases in Mandarin.

A further Member stated that the recent employment academies which the Council had run in conjunction with the hospitality sector had been a great success and that numerous people were gaining employment as a result.

In response to a Member's concern regarding the local universities having recently cut language courses, Mr. Lennon stated that languages would be extremely important for the upcoming generations and that he felt they should be higher up the agenda in terms of the curriculum.

A Member stated that he hoped that other Councils would consider contributing more towards Visit Belfast, as the city was the economic driver for the region.

After further discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee:

1. noted the draft Visit Belfast Business Plan 2018/19, the Strategic Plan 2018/22 and the areas where Council funds would be applied. (The overall funding agreement with Visit Belfast was built into the revenue estimates);
2. agreed the funding allocation of £1,902,465 for 2018/19 expenditure, subject to the development of a funding agreement establishing priority areas of activity and agreed targets; and
3. agreed the additional areas of investment for the next financial year in line with the 2018-2022 strategic plan, and noted that the collective budget allocation would not exceed £95,000; and

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4. noted that the investment would be measured as part of the ongoing activity monitoring work undertaken with Visit Belfast and would be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

All-Ireland Boxing Championships

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 5th March, had considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Garrett:

“Belfast has produced world class athletes through the sport of amateur boxing who have consistently succeeded through every level of the sport and brought recognition to the city of Belfast through their successes.

We, as a City, are very proud of the achievements of boxers from this City and should seek to build on these successes by showcasing the talent this vibrant sport has to offer across Ireland.

This Council agrees to engage with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association to explore the possibility of bringing the All-Ireland Boxing Championships to the City of Belfast.”

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a report, including proposed costings, would be submitted to a future meeting on the Council’s engagement with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association to explore the possibility of bringing the All Ireland Boxing Championships to Belfast.

Request to Present to a Future Meeting

Shopmobility

The Committee considered a request to present from Shopmobility, which wanted to raise awareness of its service and to request Council backing and financial support.

A Member requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting detailing the history of the Council’s contract with Shopmobility.

After discussion, the Committee acceded to the request and agreed that Shopmobility would be invited to present at a future meeting.

Restricted Item

The Information contained in the following report 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 following item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure

City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Wednesday, 7th March, 2018

of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

City Centre Investment Fund – Update

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an update on the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF). She reminded the Committee that, as part of the CCIF, the Council had requested applications from developers with planning permission for the development of develop significant office developments within the Belfast City BMAP boundary.

She explained that a number of applications had been received and that a two stage High Level Due Diligence process had been completed, involving an assessment, scoring and ranking of applications by the Council's Evaluation Partner, GVA Real Estate Finance (GVA).

The Committee was advised of the number of applications which had been successful in proceeding to the next stage but was reminded that this did not represent a commitment to invest as there was a further stage to consider.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

City Centre Engagement Plan

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the City Centre Engagement Plan report to allow the Members to consider the detailed proposals.

The Committee subsequently agreed:

1. that information be provided on the UK Government's plans to overhaul the national planning policy framework to tackle NIMBYism, which would make it more difficult for residents to object to housing developments in their area, and specifically whether the proposed change would have implications for Northern Ireland; and
2. that consideration be given towards how the Council could support those communities living outside of the city centre, in relation to the provision of technical advice.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

City Events and Festivals Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the key findings and recommendations from the recent review of Council-funded**

Events and Festivals undertaken by Festivals and Events International (FEI) and to secure Committee agreement on a development plan for moving forward, taking account of FEI's recommendations.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the key findings of the review of Events and Festivals undertaken by FEI**
- **Endorse the findings and consider the recommendations set out in sections 3.13-3.14 as the broad direction of travel**
- **Agree to proceed to engagement with key partner organisations on the basis of the current findings and recommendations and to consider a draft Events and Festivals Strategy – taking account of external partner input as well as an ongoing engagement across Council departments – in June 2018**
- **Commission further analysis work on the potential to attract sponsorship funding to support additional investment in Events and Festivals.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 In July 2017, Festivals and Events International Limited (FEI) were commissioned to develop a new Events and Festivals Strategy (2018-2023) for the Council, its partners and other stakeholders across the City. The brief included:

- **A review of current portfolio**
- **Consultation with stakeholders, Events and Festivals (via Festivals Forum)**
- **Benchmarking how Events and Festivals are funded and delivered in other cities**
- **Consideration of pre and post event impact modelling**
- **Consideration of future structures for delivery**
- **Making recommendations for the identification, securing, funding and delivery of Events and Festivals in Belfast.**

3.2 FEI undertook an extensive round of consultations with stakeholders. These included face to face meetings; telephone interviews and workshops with Events and Festivals organisers and cultural organisations. They also drew up a survey for completion by festival organisers. In total there were 36 face-to-face interviews; 11 telephone interviews; 2 workshops covering 45 groups; and 14 survey returns.

3.3 FEI also undertook engagement with Members of the Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the Council's Corporate Management Team. In addition, they attended meetings of the Council-supported Festivals Forum Steering Group as well as a meeting of the Festivals Forum. Following completion of the draft report, Officers undertook Party Group Briefings with all parties to update on the key findings and recommendations.

3.4 **Funding and Delivery of Current Festivals and Events in Belfast: Current Portfolio**

As part of their review of the existing provision, FEI looked at the current portfolio of Events and Festivals in Belfast. Overall, FEI indicated that while Belfast has a strong reputation in organising, managing and delivering very successful Events and Festivals, is not currently recognised, nationally or internationally, as an Events and Festivals destination. If the Council has ambitions to sell the City in this way, FEI suggested that there will be a need to work with partners to re-focus investment in Events and Festivals, particularly those that have the potential to drive visitor numbers and spend. FEI did acknowledge that there was a broad programme of activity undertaken. However, they noted that the objectives for many of the activities focused on supporting community cohesion and social development. They recognised the value of these events to local communities but considered that the Council and partners should take a differentiated approach to investment in events that aimed principally at supporting community cohesion and those aimed at generating economic value and profile for the City. In that way, FEI advised that funders could be clear about what outcomes they expected from their investment and project promoters could be clear about what deliverables were expected of them, in turn.

3.5 FEI identified around 200 Events and Festivals and categorised these according to an industry standard segmentation process (see Appendix 1 on modern.gov). These categories are:

- **Mega events**
- **Major events**
- **Signature events**
- **Growth events**
- **Local events**
- **Neighbourhood events** (an additional category to capture some of the Council's Neighbourhood-level funding streams).

3.6 Using this categorisation, FEI concluded that, if the Council wants to maximise the economic return on investment from its events, it may need to look again at the balance of investment across the various event ‘categories’. FEI identified the following breakdown of Events and Festivals in Belfast by number:

- 5 Signature Events/Festivals
- 17 Growth Events/Festivals
- 88 Local Events/Festivals
- 90 Neighbourhood Events/Festivals.

3.7 It should be noted that there are currently no Mega or Major Events identified within Belfast’s Events and Festivals portfolio. Belfast is not likely to ever host a Mega Event (such as the Olympics), given the scale of the infrastructure required. The City has hosted Major events in the past, such as Giro d’Italia and MTV EMAs and is currently bidding to host the UEFA Super Cup in 2020. Given the significant investment and resources associated with hosting these events, they don’t tend to happen every year. If the City was to secure Major Events on a more regular basis, consideration would need to be given to investing appropriate levels of resources on an ongoing basis in order to meet the significant financial commitments associated with these events.

3.8 Funding and Delivery of Current Festivals and Events in Belfast: Current Funding Mix

FEI noted that the funding of Events and Festivals in Belfast is exceptionally complex. The Council is one of a number of funders – other major funders include Tourism NI, Sport NI and Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI). In the financial year 2016/17, the Council invested around £3.42million in Events and Festivals, supporting 200 events.

3.9 The analysis suggests that the return on investment (ROI) for Events and Festivals in Belfast ranges from £9 to £25 across the different funding streams. In other benchmark cities – such as Edinburgh – public investment can lever up to £43 for every £1 invested. Although Edinburgh is widely acknowledged as a Festival City, other comparator cities also appear to drive a significant return on investment – at the higher end of the Belfast figure and above. FEI point out that the impacts of many of the Local and Neighbourhood Events are qualitative as well as quantitative – and it is important that the Council is clear about its metrics in supporting the range of Events and Festivals. FEI recommends that the smaller Neighbourhood Events should be separated out from other Events and Festivals funding and managed through the City

and Neighbourhood Services Department, in order to ensure alignment with wider investment in Community Safety and Community Services. All Events and Festivals – as with all Council activity – needs to align to agreed metrics within the Belfast Agenda.

3.10 Benchmarking

FEI undertook benchmarking against five European cities: Aarhus (one of the 2018 European Capitals of Culture); Edinburgh; Galway; Liverpool and Rotterdam. From this analysis, they concluded that Belfast could achieve a higher return from its Events and Festivals investment if a more strategic approach was taken to investment in some of these activities. The benchmarks provided a number of useful lessons for Belfast to consider, namely:

- There is an opportunity to generate significant commercial income if the right structures are put in place and if a more commercial approach to event delivery is taken (lesson learned from Liverpool)
- Independent Events and Festivals can make a huge contribution to the City's cultural and tourism offer, with the right approach to investment (lesson learned from Galway)
- There are a range of operating models across the benchmark cities for delivery of Events and Festivals. These range from in-house (current Belfast approach) to fully independent delivery, with City support (the approach in Rotterdam).

3.11 Key Findings

FEI found that the Events and Festivals portfolio showed a great deal of creativity, innovation and passion. However, they noted some weaknesses in the current approach to funding, principally the fragmented approach across a range of funders. Given that the various funding streams have evolved over time and have not been reviewed in recent years, there is no process to ensure strategic alignment to the key documents driving Council investment, particularly the Belfast Agenda. In addition, there is limited co-ordination across funders on mechanisms for supporting Events and Festivals. This can make the application process complicated and reduces opportunities to invest at the appropriate levels in those events that have the potential to grow and contribute to the cultural and economic life of the City in a meaningful way.

3.12 FEI also concluded that securing funding for Signature and Growth Events is particularly challenging and that, because of this fact, the ability of these events to reach their growth potential can be inhibited. FEI have proposed a longer-term investment in a number of targeted events to support their development and give them the time to focus on building the event without having the concern of applying for annual funding. In addition to the funding support, FEI note the important developmental role that Council Officers can play in supporting events, helping them to consider their artistic development, supporting them with their sales and marketing and considering their organisational development needs. This, in turn, will support the longer-term sustainability of the sector. It also means that, with the right support, Growth Events may become Signature Events in time. Likewise, Local Events may grow into Growth Events.

3.13 Key Recommendations from the FEI report

Given the issues identified, the consultancy team's key recommendations focused on a number of areas including Funding Streams, Capacity Building Support, Evaluation and Measurement and Governance and Delivery. A summary of their recommendations is set out below. A note has been added where Officers consider there would be a potential practical difficulty with implementation in the short-term, or where Members have already expressed alternative views through the Party Briefings.

Funding Streams

- Need to adopt the standard classification of Events and Festivals as Major,
- Signature, Growth, Local and Neighbourhood (see Appendix 1 on modern.gov). This is used by most other locations and by many other funders. Adopting this will make it easier to develop a joined-up approach to events funding with other partners;
- Need to re-position investment to maximise return by supporting a smaller number of Signature, Growth and Local Festivals to a greater value, aligned to the Belfast Agenda. Note: it is recognised that Belfast City Council also invests for social as well as economic return and that this is an important aspect of the Belfast Agenda. It is acknowledged that the circumstances in Belfast at the time that a lot of the Events and Festivals were developed (particularly in Neighbourhood and Local Events and Festivals) were very different to those being experienced in other benchmark cities used in this study. FEI do make the point, however, that if Belfast

wants to be recognised as an Events and Festivals City, and if it does want to generate a higher level of economic return from Events, there will need to be a higher level of investment and more focused support for Major, Signature and Growth Events and Festivals;

- Need to consider the implications of the ongoing Grants Review for the funding of Events and Festivals;
- Need to separate the funding and reporting of Neighbourhood Events from Major, Signature, Growth and Local Events and consider relevant metrics for measuring impact of these events (which should be different from the other events);
- Need for greater engagement with partners from government e.g. Tourism NI, Sport NI to bid for major events that offer a proven investment, using agreed investment/evaluation criteria, and Visit Belfast in terms of Event marketing.

Capacity building support

- Need to develop a 'portfolio' approach with all Signature and Growth events. This will involve Council Officers developing a 'client management' relationship with these Events and considering how they can bring together packages of support, training and capacity building appropriate to the scale and ambition of the respective Events and Festivals, in order to help them achieve their growth potential and ambitions;
- Need to consider multi-annual funding arrangements for Signature and Growth Events and Festivals (four year agreements for Signature Events; two year agreements for Growth events, with five year and three year business plans respectfully)
- Need to consider bidding for at least one Major event every third year;
- Need to support at least six Signature Events each year (those events with budgets of £800k+);
- Need to support at least twelve Growth Events each year (those events with budgets of £50k+);
- Need to develop a programme of support and development for Local Events and Festivals at an appropriate level. This support should include opportunities to consider how some of the Local Events and Festivals can become Growth Events and Festivals.

Evaluation and Measurement

- Adopt the proposed investment/evaluation criteria for all Events and Festivals funding and simplify annual

evaluation based on demonstrating value against the Belfast Agenda, ensuring that the level of evaluation is commensurate with the scale of the event;

- Introduce standardised reporting in line with relevant indicators set out in the Belfast Agenda.

Governance and Delivery

- Need to improve internal co-ordination across Council for those working on events. FEI proposed simplification of the internal structures and sub-sections who deal with Events and Festivals in the City, particularly to ensure integration between the City Events Team, Parks Events Team and the Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts team. This may include merging elements of existing activity at the appropriate time;
- Need to consider moving towards commissioning for certain events – this will support the development of the cultural sector by providing long-term sustainability and improved partnership working;
- Establish an internal Events and Festivals Coordination Group to consider how events can be better planned and how Council can engage with external organisations to support the delivery of Events and Festivals;
- Consider the establishment of a Members Working Group to monitor the work of the internal group (above). Note: Members have expressed a view that the practicalities of this need to be considered and reports may need to be brought back directly to Committee;
- Given the need for greater partnership with other major funders of Events and Festivals, need to establish a 'Strategic Events Partnership' to coordinate Events and Festivals strategy and funding across Belfast City Council, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and other relevant funders;
- Consider the potential of moving towards joint agreement by the key funding partners (as set out above) on the City approach to Events and Festivals with a view to possibly establishing an independent organisation to deliver the annual events programme and support collaboration across Events and Festivals at a future date. Note: It is recognised that there is unlikely to be a political appetite to take such a radical step at this stage.

3.14 Feedback from Member briefings

Following completion of the draft report, the Director of Development undertook a series of Party Briefings to provide insight into the key findings and the recommendations within the report. A summary of the key issues identified by Members included:

- Wide-ranging support for the current investment in Events and Festivals and recognition of the value of this support within local communities;
- Need to secure alignment with other major funders (Tourism NI, Sport NI, ACNI) in taking long-term approach to investment in events – otherwise the Council approach will be undermined;
- Support for simplification and streamlining of existing processes, commensurate with the level of investment;
- Support for additional openness and transparency in the process for supporting Events and Festivals;
- Need to give consideration to opportunities for generating revenue through Events where appropriate. At the September 2017 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members agreed that the Council should take a commercial approach to more activities, including sponsorship/events, to generate additional income. Approval has been given to create a new post of Commercial Manager, funded from Invest to Save, to support this approach;
- Need to consider how Events and Festivals can support delivery of Belfast Agenda ambitions, including inclusive growth;
- Support for making the distinction between Signature/Growth/Local events and Neighbourhood Events – agreement with proposal to transfer Neighbourhood Events to City and Neighbourhood Services Department to ensure alignment with core service delivery and wider investment;
- Recognition of the impact and role that Neighbourhood and Local Events and Festivals can play in local communities;
- Acceptance that further/additional investment is required in Signature and Growth Events if these Events and Festivals are to generate the return on investment that other cities are experiencing
- Lack of agreement around the establishment of a Members Working Group on this issue – consideration that there are too many meetings and structures and that it may be better to update through the regular Committee process.

- 3.15 During the course of the Party Briefings, Members were also updated on the key findings of the report from Féile an Phobail regarding future opportunities for the development of the St Patrick's Day celebrations in the City. It is recommended that the report recommendations are considered as part of the implementation plan for the Events and Festivals Review recommendations.
- 3.16 Alignment with European Capital of Culture Activity
- Members will be aware that, since the European Commission's decision in November 2017 that the participation of the UK in the European Capital of Culture in 2023 is still under dispute, Officers have been in discussions with the other four bidding cities and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Work is ongoing to resolve this issue and agree on a clear way forward for the cities involved.
- 3.17 Officers are also considering how, regardless of the outcome of these discussions, an effort is made to ensure that the energy, enthusiasm and work undertaken by the cities and partners is harnessed and mobilised. Any future developments in this activity will be considered in light of the recommendations set out in this report to ensure a joined up approach across Council.
- 3.18 Regardless of the outcome, plans are being made to deliver some of the ambitious cultural projects considered during the first phase of the bidding process with a view that these would be linked to the desire to grow the number of Signature Events and Major Events. It would still be the ambition to build up this strategic programme from now to 2023, which could culminate in a significant year-long programme.
- 3.19 It is recommended that the financial planning process initiated to deliver the European Capital of Culture is aligned to this framework which would then allow a series of Major Events and programmes to be delivered between now and 2023 and provide more sustainability beyond 2023 as well. However, a more detailed report will be brought back on this following Member meetings with DCMS and the European Commission
- 3.20 The proposals in the report on a City of Music (see separate report) are also part of this more strategic approach to Events and Festivals, focusing on our unique strengths and building our reputation internationally, using local talent.

3.21 Proposed Implementation Plan

Subject to Member feedback on the key recommendations, it is proposed that the implementation plan for the revised approach to Council support for Events and Festivals will involve a number of key steps in order to ensure that this renewed approach is in place for the 2019/20 financial year. In line with any policy change, the draft strategy will also need to go to public consultation, in keeping with guidance from the Council's Equality and Diversity Team. Feedback from this consultation exercise will also be critical in the development of the final approach. Consideration will need to be given to the establishment of a specific improvement should be given to the establishment of a dedicated Project team to oversee and manage the implementation of this important area of work.

3.22 A draft implementation plan, focusing on activities in the coming year, is set out in Appendix 2 (on modern.gov). The key actions will include:

- Engagement with other key funders (Tourism NI, Department for Communities, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Sport NI) to secure agreement around re-alignment of existing funding streams in line with the report recommendations and engagement with Visit Belfast to consider opportunities for enhanced marketing of Events and Festivals
- Securing appropriate levels of financial support to ensure delivery of the relevant funding programmes across the Council departments and exploring opportunities to lever additional resources through other public or private partners
- Development of and agreement on assessment criteria for each of the funding streams
- Development of an engagement programme with the cultural sector to advise of proposed changes, update on consultation outcomes and advise on changes to funding streams, in order to enable them to plan for future investment proposals
- Consideration of staff resource implications of the proposed approach, including any skills development support issues
- Establishment of the Internal Officer Events and Festivals Co-ordination Group in order to improve co-ordination and planning across the various teams involved in Events and Festivals delivery and support and consideration of any potential Member Engagement mechanisms.

- **Creation of a Strategic Events Partnership Group with key City stakeholders in order to improve co-ordination and forward planning in attracting Major Events.**

3.23 Following the public consultation process, a report will be brought back to the Committee highlighting progress made to date; updating on feedback from the public consultation exercise and the engagement with key partner organisations and making final recommendations on the way forward for the Council in supporting Events and Festivals from the financial year 2019/20. This emerging framework for investment will align to the Belfast Agenda and, given that the aspiration is that the final approach will lead to agreement on a City Strategy for Events and Festivals as opposed to a Council approach, it will be essential that the other funding partners are in agreement with the proposals put forward.

3.24 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The Council's current investment in Events and Festivals is around £3.4 million annually with £295,000 of that amount met through a variety of external funders. A significant proportion of this budget is allocated via grants at a local and neighbourhood level and some of the funding is from external partners. The consultants' recommendations are based on maintaining the current budget, but re-focusing resources to maximise return on investment. However, when the implementation plan is brought forward, it is likely to recommend that further allocation is made to ensure the delivery of more Signature and Major Events, and that this aspiration is met through additional sponsorship and other forms of revenue raising from the private sector, as well as aligning the financial allocations for European Capital of Culture.

The budget is subject to annual agreement, as part of the rates setting process.

3.25 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

The development of a strategically-directed programme of Events and Festivals will assist in creating a City that is open to all and as such has the potential to promote good relations and equality by bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds.

3.26 The consultation process will allow further consideration of any equality and good relations implications and these will be addressed in the final report to Committee."

City Growth and Regeneration Committee
Wednesday, 7th March, 2018

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Tourism Workplan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Members with an update on the key issues emerging from the mid-term review of the Integrated Tourism Strategy (2015-2020)
- Seek Members’ approval to progress a number of priority actions in the 2018/19 financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report, in particular the role of tourism as a key priority for City Development and Growing the Economy themes of the Belfast Agenda
- Note the key findings of the mid-term review of the Tourism Strategy and the priority areas of focus for the coming years
- Consider and agree the priority actions for 2018-19, as set out in sections 3.17-3.27
- Agree a budget allocation of £170,000 towards local tourism development support activities. A further report on this matter will be brought back to this Committee for information and approval
- Agree to proceed with the data challenge in order to improve data capture and enhance the level of intelligence on visitors to the City, in order to support future marketing investment within the budget allocation of £50,000.
- Agree to continue the budget allocation of £200,000 towards the Tourism Conference Subvention Scheme as in previous years, in order to support the growth of the business tourism sector in the City. This was built into the budget during the rate setting process.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Integrated Tourism Strategy was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in May 2015. The Strategy was developed in tandem with the City Centre**

Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan and the proposals are aligned to support the future development, economic growth and profile of the city.

- 3.2 The vision is to develop Belfast as a City that wants to welcome the world and share its history by creating a destination that the world wants to experience first-hand. The strategic goal is to double the value of tourism by 2020 with the focus on achieving this by generating discretionary tourist overnight stays, especially higher value leisure and business tourism.**
- 3.3 Since the publication of the Strategy, the tourism economy has continued to grow in the City and in Northern Ireland as a whole. Statistics published by NISRA on 1 February 2018 show that, in the 12 months to September 2017, tourism trips in Northern Ireland generated circa £951m to the local economy with 72% coming from external visitors, making tourism worth £679m as an export business. This is an increase of 18% in overall visitor spend and a 17% increase in external visitor spend when compared with the 12 months to September 2016. Overall visitor numbers increased by 11% to 5million compared with the 12 months to September 2016. Increases in bed nights and spend have been driven by a continued growth in external visitors, particularly from ROI, GB and overseas.**
- 3.4 In terms of Belfast's performance in 2017, the rise of tourism was clearly evident through:**
- 81.6% room occupancy in our hotels throughout the year, with occupancy levels exceeding 90% at some points**
 - 94 cruise ships docked in Belfast, bringing 158,000 cruise visitors to the City (+10%)**
 - The City hosted 71 conferences in 2017 - these conferences generated 79,300 bed nights for our hotels – up 7% on the previous year – and generated more than £45million for the local economy**
 - More than 837,000 visitor enquiries were handled at the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre, visitor information points at the two airports, and self-service kiosks at key locations, showing an increase of 16% on 2016.**
- 3.5 The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive economic growth. 'Growing the Economy' and 'City Development' are the two pillars that set out our ambitions for growing tourism in the City. Under these pillars, the priority is to increase tourism spend as well as the number of bed nights.**

3.6 Additionally, the importance of tourism as a priority business sector is evident in a number of key documents including the draft Programme for Government. One of the indicators in the PfG is 'to improve Northern Ireland's attractiveness as a destination'. This relates to improving the profile of the region as a business and tourism location, as well as improving the quality of life for those that live here. While the draft Industrial Strategy was limited in its reference to tourism and hospitality as a key growth sector, this oversight was identified by many commentators and by the tourism sector itself. The UK Industrial Strategy does identify tourism as a key growth sector and – along with other key growth sectors – commitments are made around a 'Sector Deal' which will underpin investment in the infrastructure, skills, product development and marketing to realise the potential growth prospects.

3.7 Mid Term Review of the Integrated Tourism Strategy

Members will be aware that one of the activities agreed as part of the Tourism Action Plan last year was a commitment to undertake a mid-term review of the Integrated Tourism Strategy to ensure that it provided a relevant framework for co-operation between the key partners responsible for tourism development and promotion in the City. The review also took account of factors such as:

- The potential impact of Brexit on the tourism economy, including currency fluctuations
- The recent growth in hotel developments in the city and the continued push to grow the tourism accommodation provision in Belfast
- The ongoing investment in the City Centre and the buoyant private sector investment profile, illustrated by the recent public-private partnership approach of MIPIM.
- Council proposals for a new City Centre visitor attraction to complement the existing infrastructure.

3.8 The review was completed in February 2018. It provides a series of independent, evidence-based recommendations against the backdrop of Council's target of doubling the value of tourism by 2020.

3.9 Integrated Tourism Strategy Review: Summary Findings and Key Recommendations

The report reinforces the growth of tourism globally. The UN World Travel Organisation (WTO) highlights that tourism

accounts for 7% of global exports, that there has been a 50% growth in tourism over the last 10 years and tourism accounts for 1 in 10 jobs globally. Global trends highlight the importance of unique and authentic experiences, the growth of city-based tourism, business travel and emerging markets e.g. China, as well as the increasing role of technology (analytics and data, augmented and virtual reality, etc.) in the tourism industry and visitor experience. On a local/UK level, issues such as Brexit have changed tourism demand as a result of currency fluctuations (positive for the NI market at this stage) and wider concerns about future travel and accessibility.

- 3.10** At a local level, the review notes the absence of strong political and industry leadership for the tourism industry. Members will be aware of the commitment to support the newly-formed Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance – an industry body that will take responsibility for improving the profile of the sector. It is interesting to note that, despite the recent growth of the sector, it still account for only around 6% of jobs in the City – as opposed to the 10% global average.
- 3.11** Capital development is significant in the City. The surge in hotel investment (over 1,000 additional hotel rooms during 2018), the extension to the Belfast Waterfront to provide additional conference and exhibition space and the ongoing investment by Visit Belfast, Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland in getting the product to market means that the City’s global presence across a number of key target markets has improved. However, there are deficits: there is a need, in particular, for additional high quality visitors experiences and products to encourage spend and dwell-time in the City. The positive plans for Destination Hub (Belfast Story) as well as commitments to new product developments across the City and within the neighbourhoods can help redress the deficit. The opportunity presented by the recent City Deal announcement to help bring forward new visitor experiences is very positive.
- 3.12** The review suggests that tourism development is essentially made up of two elements: supply side and demand side interventions. The supply side covers issues such as:
- Research/data/insights
 - People and skills
 - Product development
 - Experience development
 - Destination development
 - Enabling infrastructure
 - Public realm improvements.

- 3.13** The demand side covers issues such as marketing, sales and visitor messaging. This is, in essence, the role that Visit Belfast plays on behalf of the City – working with partners in Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland as well as the private sector and industry partners.
- 3.14** The supply side is much less cohesive and there is no one organisation in the lead for the City. Tourism Northern Ireland does play much of that role at a regional level but the review notes that there is a need for committed leadership to join up the various elements of the supply side of the tourism industry in Belfast in order to derive maximum benefit and to ensure that Visit Belfast, Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland have a clear, fully-aligned, high quality proposition to take to market. While there has been some recent progress on issues such as skills development and product development, the ability to make inroads in some of the other areas has been more limited. The review recommends a strategic partnership involving – in the first instance at least – Belfast City Council, Visit Belfast, Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI – in order to get a handle on the relevant ‘supply side’ elements and consider how each can be brought forward to enhance the Belfast tourism offer. This is likely to require a much more ‘involved’ role by Belfast City Council – moving from coordination of activities towards stimulating interesting and building new partnerships to make things happen.
- 3.15** A review of approaches to tourism support in other cities echoes the need to move from a tourism marketing approach towards a more holistic approach that takes account of both supply-side and demand-side measures. One interesting evolution in global tourism has been the recognition that it is necessary to ensure that tourism is a positive experience for locals as well as tourists. The UNWTO (UN World Tourism Organisations) notes that ‘only a city that is good for its people can be good for visitors’. Belfast still generates significant interest from the ‘culturally curious’ who come to visit the City’s unique cultural offer. That offer exists not only in the City Centre but also in the City’s communities. The Council has undertaken some early engagement work around the opportunities for local tourism development and it is clear that there is significant interest in developing this further in the coming years. This is one of the key areas of investment that is proposed for 2018/19.
- 3.16** The review concludes that, if Belfast is performing strongly on promotion and marketing (the demand side), the City needs to strengthen activity on product and experience development as well as the development of people and skills to bring this

up to a comparable level. It identifies a number of areas in need of targeted investment and partner engagement, namely:

- People and Skills
- Product Development/ Quality and Standards
- Data, Insights and Innovation
- Infrastructure Development.

3.17 People and Skills

Members will be aware of the scale of investment in the sector in recent years (particularly in the hotel sector) and the ongoing industry concerns about potential skills shortages at all levels across the industry. The Council has already engaged in a range of Hotel and Hospitality Academies but it is recognised that there is a need to take a much wider approach to addressing this issue. It will involve considering the attractiveness of the sector to potential new entrants (including those just thinking about their future careers at this point). This needs to be a collaborative approach – leveraging resources and support from other public and private sector partners.

- 3.18** It is proposed that the Council will continue to work with key strategic partners such as Tourism NI, Department for Economy, Hospitality Ulster and the Hotels Federation and local schools and colleges to develop a joint plan which will tackle the skills shortage within the industry and improve its profile and reputation. The funding for these activities will come from the Employability and Skills and Economic Development budgets – these will be brought to the April meeting of this Committee for endorsement.

3.19 Product Development/Quality and Standards

If Belfast is to be internationally competitive, it needs to invest in the visitor experiences that attract more people and gives them reason to stay longer and spend more. The Destination Hub including the Belfast Story can be a real ‘anchor’ and there are also opportunities for new developments in a number of areas including maritime heritage, screen tourism and the ‘Beyond Peace’ narrative.

- 3.20** As tourism is becoming increasingly accessible, and the global industry becomes more competitive, it is critical that the City endeavours to differentiate itself on a number of levels. Ensuring high quality standards must be a key driver for investment in the local tourism industry. This will require investment to ensure that individual products and the overall

city offer remains ahead of the curve in meeting and exceeding visitor expectations.

- 3.21** In order to respond to these challenges, it is recognised that there is a need to focus investment on the key tourism assets and the development of new assets (including the planned City Centre visitor attraction). This will also include support for the development of local tourism products across the City in order to ensure that the benefits of tourism growth are felt across Belfast. Members will be aware that the SP&R Committee has recently approved up to £4million of Council resources from the Social Outcomes Fund to support a series of local tourism investments, subject to them meeting a series of feasibility tests. In addition, at the February meeting of this Committee, it was agreed that the Council would commit resources to test the viability and feasibility of new and emerging tourism products across the City with a view to improving the volume and quality of local tourism products and exploring new mechanisms for investment. This piece of work – alongside learning from some earlier investment in local tourism product in the east and west of the City – will help inform the opportunities for development for the coming year. A budget of £25,000 has already been approved for this work.
- 3.22** In terms of support for new product development opportunities that emerge, these may include the development of tourism trails, support for marketing, improvements in Quality Standards and management of online presence. A budget of £170,000 has been set aside with Departmental budgets for this work and Officers will also engage with partners including Tourism NI to lever additional budgets to increase the investment. Further work will be undertaken to consider how this funding is distributed and managed and a report will be taken back to Committee in due course. The development work on the City Deal will also consider opportunities for leveraging resources for additional investment in local tourism product.
- 3.23** **Data, Insight and Innovation**

Like most cities, Belfast struggles to get valuable visitor insights which can inform future investment and track the impact of previous investment. As the tourism and hospitality sector in the City grows, the need for improved research and analysis, including real-time data becomes more critical. The Council has been working with partners including Tourism NI, Visit Belfast and the Smart Cities team to develop new technology-based solutions to improve data collection in order to provide the tourism industry with improved insights

into visitor numbers as well as qualitative feedback on their experiences of the City. Following engagement with the private sector through a range of technology-based challenges in 2017/18, additional investment will be made to bring forward some solutions to improve insights in the coming financial year. A budget of £50,000 has been set aside for this work. Resources will also be levered from other public sector and research partners to support delivery of this activity. Officers will take this project forward with strategic input from the Smart Cities Team, together with Visit Belfast (to ensure statistics are available at a city level), Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland (to have corresponding but related statistics at a regional level). This initiative will also ensure that tourism statistics will be available at a City Region level to support investment decisions related to the City Deal. Officers will engage with colleagues in the other five Councils that are party to the ongoing City Deal negotiations to ascertain if they are willing to provide some additional funding to support this important area.

3.24 Infrastructure development

The original Strategy identified that access was one of the key challenges for the City. While we have access to two airports (with easy access to Dublin airport for international visitors), there is a concern that it may be viewed that Belfast is difficult to get to. The City Deal offers an opportunity to look at new investment opportunities in infrastructure. It will be important to maintain a focus on air route access to the City's airports, given that the majority of the GB and European visitors (who make up the most of our overnight stays) will access the City by air. This is likely to be one of the key areas of engagement for the proposed Belfast Tourism Co-ordination Group (see below). There are no specific financial requirements for the Council on this matter at this point.

3.25 Governance

The review considers that current governance and management around tourism and proposes the establishment of the Belfast Tourism Co-ordination Group (BTCG) with the Council as Chair. The group should oversee, co-ordinate, facilitate, and integrate all action programmes being undertaken by public and private agencies in support of tourism development in Belfast. Given the importance of the issue to the City's future growth, it proposes senior level representation on this group.

3.26 Maintaining a focus on City Marketing

Members will be aware from the presentation by Visit Belfast (at this Committee), that the organisation receives an annual financial contribution from the Council of £1.9million. This funding levers resources from the private sector as well as other public sector partners. It is recommended that the Council continues to support the organisation (see separate report) and that it uses its influence to ensure that there is ongoing engagement between Visit Belfast, Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland in order to maximise the impact of the collective investment. Tourism marketing is likely to be another priority area for engagement by the Belfast Tourism Co-ordination Group.

3.27 Supporting Business Tourism Investment

Members will be aware that the Council and Tourism NI have, for a number of years, co-invested in a Conference Support Scheme for the City. This has been a key element of the business tourism support activity over recent years and will be critical if the growth ambitions are to be achieved in the coming years. It is proposed that the Council makes an investment of £200,000 in this scheme for 2018/19. This allocation will be matched by investment from Tourism NI. In addition to the Conference Support Scheme, the Council will continue to provide access to City Hall for key functions such as conference receptions as this is a critical element of added value and a unique selling point for the City.

3.28 Financial & Resource Implications

Activities identified will be resourced from the agreed Departmental budget allocations for the current financial year. These have already been approved by the Committee as part of the estimates process.

3.29 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Tourism Strategy was screened out and any major projects will be taken forward in consultation with the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer."

During discussion it was agreed that the Managing Director of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. would be invited to attend a future meeting to provide the Committee with an overview of the value of the Tourism Convention Subvention Scheme to the City.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Cultural Framework and Action Plan: Delivery Plan 2018/2019

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that the Cultural Framework had been launched in October 2012 and that it had been created in consultation with the culture, arts and heritage sectors across Belfast.

The Committee was advised that the four main priorities within the framework were Distinctly Belfast, Attracting Audiences, Inspiring Communities and Strengthening the Sector. He provided the Members with an overview of the proposed actions across each of the four themes for 2018/2019.

The Director highlighted that the successful delivery of the framework relied on working with city stakeholders including government agencies and the cultural sector itself. He explained that the sector was under considerable financial pressure and that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) had recently advised that it was likely to face funding cuts from the Department for Communities (DfC), which would mean that it would have to cut the funding to the organisations that it supported.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th April 2017, it had agreed to make a strategic investment in a small number of the larger cultural organisations in order to improve their resilience and make them more sustainable. He advised the Members that delivery of the three-year programme would commence shortly.

The Members were advised that one of the key areas for consideration in the 2018/2019 delivery plan was how the sector could be mobilised and brought on board as part of the legacy plans arising from the development work which had been undertaken for the European Capital of Culture bid for 2023.

The Director reported that a Creative Europe funded study visit to Belfast had been carried out in June 2017 by four international cultural and city development experts. As a result, Belfast had been given a series of recommendations in terms of how to maximise its potential by using culture as a key city driver. He added that the Belfast Agenda had also identified the contribution that culture and arts could make to the City, helping to improve quality of life, drive economic regeneration and make Belfast a shared, and welcoming City.

He advised the Committee that the Core Cities Group had developed a proposal for a joint research project, an "Inquiry into the Cultural Resources of the UK's Cities", to examine how to make the most effective use of cultural resources and explore innovative approaches to enable smarter investment in culture in UK cities. The Members were advised that the inquiry would work with leading cities across the UK to address the issue of investment and to enable the cities to realise the full the benefits that culture could provide as part of effective local growth strategies.

The Members were advised that the inquiry would be developed and delivered by a Board comprising representation from a range of sectors including local government, Arts Councils and major cultural institutions, and would be chaired by Jayne-Anne Gadhia, CEO of Virgin Money.

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The Director explained that Belfast had been invited to be a partner in the Inquiry and, if the Committee agreed, Belfast would be expected to share information with the Inquiry Team and host an event during the course of the programme, between February and September 2018. He pointed out that the work would be completed by September 2018, and would help to inform investment plans for the 2019/2010 financial year and beyond.

The Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report;
2. agreed the year 3 delivery plan (2018/19) of the 2016/2020 Cultural Action Plan, including the associated budget requirements, noting that required funding had been set aside in the departmental budget for 2018/19; and
3. noted the planned inquiry into the cultural resilience of UK cities and agreed to participate, at a cost of £10,000 towards the research work, noting that all required funding had been set aside within existing departmental budgets.

International Relations Update and Workplan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **Update Members on the delivery of the International Relations Framework, focusing on activity over the last six months since September 2017**
- **Seek approval for the delivery of the 2018/2019 Action Plan.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the range of activities and associated outputs of International Relations actions over the course of the second half of this financial year**
- **Approve the International Relations Action Plan outlining activity and budgetary commitments for 2018/2019, as set out in sections 3.7-3.12.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.

- 3.2** The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage with other stakeholders as a place to invest, work, visit and study. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through our Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, and developing relationships with Dublin, and with the City of London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.
- 3.3** Members will be aware that, at the 13 September 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were set out for endorsement. This report provides an update on the activities and associated outcomes over the six-month period from October 2017 to March 2018, and outlines an Action Plan for international activity and associated costs for 2018/2019. These activities have, for the most part, been led by Belfast City Council working in partnership with stakeholders in government, education, tourism, business, culture, legal sector and sport.
- 3.4** Members will be aware that the International Relations activity set out in this report focuses principally on our focused relationships with our Sister Cities and partner cities. The Council is also involved in a range of additional engagement activity in international markets. These include:
- Support for Visit Belfast to promote the city as a vibrant tourism destination – for both leisure and business tourists. The Council investment in additional conference and exhibition space at Belfast Waterfront has meant that the venue is now able to attract additional national and international conferences and events – thereby increasing visitor numbers from new markets.
 - Promoting the City for international real estate investment: a Council-led delegation will take part in the annual European property investment showcase in Cannes in March 2018 – MIPIM. The public-private partnership will promote the City as an investment location, focusing on attracting both investors and end-users in the key FDI sectors as well as hospitality and international education and training opportunities
 - Supporting local companies to export and develop an international presence: Members will be aware of the City’s presence at the annual music, digital and convergence event in Austin, Texas – SXSW. The Lord Mayor will lead a delegation of local businesses and musicians and will host a number of promotional

events to showcase the best of 'Creative Belfast'. Through our business support, we are also helping local companies to access new export markets and to develop new products and services in order to enhance their competitiveness.

- 3.5** This range of activity is delivered in collaboration with Council's Private and Public Stakeholders represented on the various stakeholder groups set up to support international framework delivery. This includes key agencies such as Invest NI. Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov) outlines some of the key activities and outputs for the last six months. By their nature, these activities often take some time to deliver on outcomes so it can be difficult to track the impact of the Council's investment over a short period. However, through our partnerships and stakeholder arrangements, we have taken a collective approach to developing linkages and activities in our priority areas of focus and have a shared investment in activities. In the coming year we will improve how we demonstrate outcomes on business tourism and education.
- 3.6** With regard to the key activities for 2018/2019, it is proposed that these will be driven by a number of the priority outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda. Activities will be assessed in order to consider how they can deliver on these outcomes before making investment decisions. The key outcomes will contribute to the 'Growing the Economy' theme of the Belfast Agenda. The Council's national and international relationships are also an important foundation for the developing City Deal, harvesting investment and collaboration for skills, innovation and infrastructure. Outcomes will focus on:
- Building the City's position as a magnet for FDI
 - Maximising the City's connections worldwide to drive growth
 - Positioning the City internationally as a key tourism, education and business destination
 - Helping local companies to internationalise their business and increase business connections and exports
- 3.7** While many of the activities are still under development, it is proposed that the 2018/2019 Action Plan will focus on the following priority areas in order to maximise the return on investment, given the limited resources available:

3.8 China/Shenyang

- **Development work to support the delivery of a Belfast/Shenyang tourism showcase in Shenyang. The opportunity for this event was identified during the China-UK Summit held in Belfast in December 2017. An indicative date of September 2018 has been set for this event, subject to agreement with relevant partner organisations, including Tourism Ireland and Visit Belfast. The costs associated with this event will not exceed £25,000**
- **Ongoing support to the Chinese Consulate Team to support relevant civic or political visits**
- **Supporting additional engagement by the local tourism industry in the ‘China Ready’ programme – helping them to benefit from the growing visitor numbers from China. Tourism Ireland estimates that there were around 65,000 Chinese visitors to Ireland in 2016 and this number has the potential to grow significantly**
- **Supporting the work of the local universities and FE college in developing their teaching and research links with partner institutions in China**
- **Development work to explore the potential for a Fintech mission to Shenyang, subject to agreement and support of Invest NI. This work is at an early stage. As it develops, further information will be brought back to the Committee for information and approval if required**
- **Work will continue to develop partnership projects on Smart Cities, involving research and industry partners from Belfast and Shenyang**
- **Support for the 2019 Chinese New Year event in Belfast, at a cost not to exceed £5,000.**

3.9 Boston

- **Belfast City Council will undertake a civic mission led by the Lord Mayor in April 2018. The purpose of this visit will be to:**
 - **Launch the 2018 Friendship Four tournament with Mayor Walsh**
 - **Support the Belfast Bridge to Mass Challenge entrepreneurs pilot programme – this will involve 8 local tech businesses attending a Boston-based bootcamp helping them secure investment and new business partnerships**
 - **Finalise details for a Belfast philanthropy fund with Boston investment**

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- **Seek agreement for a Boston led business mission late in 2018 and define sectors**
 - **Discuss further engagement with Harvard around arts and theatre**
 - **Continue discussion to develop a joint pilot city Economic Resilience project (Boston is also a member of the 100 RC Resilient Cities network).**
 - **The visit will incur a maximum cost of £5,000 for Belfast City Council.**
-
- **Belfast who will host an inward mission led by the Mayor of Boston’s international team, comprising businesses, business support organisations and representatives from the education sector. The delegates will undertake a programme developed by Belfast City Council in partnership with key stakeholders, including the universities, Belfast Metropolitan College, the US Consulate, the Venture Capital sector and the NI Chamber. The visit will take place in early May 2018. The above will incur a maximum cost of £5,000 for Belfast City Council.**
 - **Belfast City Council will support the 2018 4th Annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey tournament in partnership with the SSE Arena. This event will build on the success of the previous events and will attract new teams, thereby increasing its profile in the US Market**
 - **Belfast City Council will also support the 2018 2nd Annual Basketball Hall of Fame tournament. This event will build on the success of the inaugural event and will involve eight teams from across key US locations. This represents an opportunity to profile Belfast in each of the locations. The development work this year will focus on increasing the involvement of colleges, schools and the community sector in these tournaments to promote study abroad and scholarship opportunities. Both the Friendship Four event and the Basketball Hall of Fame event will require a financial contribution from Belfast City Council of up to £50,000 maximum each. Planning work for both events is currently well underway. Future updates will be brought to the Committee to provide more detail on teams involved, funding levered and promotional opportunities**
 - **Belfast City Council will continue to work with the tourism sector to co-host familiarisation visits to promote the City as a business and leisure destination, and will explore opportunities for future tourism showcases, in partnership with Tourism Ireland.**

3.10 Nashville

- **Belfast City Council will deliver the ‘Nashville in Belfast’ week in April/May 2018 (budget already secured). This will involve a series of cultural performances as well as a range of partner activities to support business linkages, promote tourism and encourage student exchanges**
- **Belfast City Council will work with Invest NI and the US State Department along with the Nashville Economic Development Team, to host a business mission to Belfast in 2018/2019 linking Nashville businesses to potential Belfast partners and companies seeking to do international trade. A budget of £20,000 towards the cost of hosting this event was approved by the Committee in December 2017.**
- **Belfast City Council will continue to support the FE college and both universities as they develop their education linkages in Nashville with Belmont and Vanderbilt Universities**
- **Belfast City Council will support educational exchanges between schools in both cities, including hosting work placement opportunities as required (as we have done recently).**

In addition to involvement with our Sister Cities, Belfast also works in a number of additional locations that have relevant business, educational or tourism links. These include:

3.11 Dublin

- **Work has been ongoing with Dublin City Council and other over the last number of years to develop joint activities and programmes for initial interest both on a City to City basis and along the economic corridor.**
- **The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mícheál Mac Donncha, will visit Belfast in March 2018. The purpose of the visit is to consider areas for future engagement between Belfast and Dublin in the coming year. A report on any proposed actions will be brought back to this Committee for information and approval, if required**
- **Given that one of the priority strands within the emerging City Deals work is on infrastructure, there has been recent engagement between Dublin City Council and its neighbouring Councils along with the six Local Authorities in the Belfast Region City Deal area, to consider whether Belfast-Dublin infrastructure links might be considered as part of this investment package. Arising from the issues identified during**

presentation and discussion at the Members Brexit workshop held on 21 November 2017 and reported on 6 December 2017, Officers are exploring the potential for a Belfast–Dublin Economic Conference with support from public stakeholders including Invest NI and Intertradelreland, private partners and potentially impacted neighbouring Councils. It is anticipated that the Conference will be hosted in May 2018 (tbc). The programme is currently under development but likely discussion topics include Infrastructure (e.g. Rail Connections and Fibre), Trading Relationships, Migration, education and Innovation. Innovation will include place shaping and how we can influence the creation of an Innovation hub across Belfast and Dublin. The Conference will be high profile presenting two cities open for business and investment. It is anticipated that it will be held over two days, one in Belfast and the other in Dublin. It is proposed that a series of business seminars are developed alongside the Conference. Topics may include: City Leadership Skills for SMEs, Workforce Scenario Planning, impact of Brexit on Future Sector Growth, International Trade and Export Post-Brexit and the Changing Funding Landscape

- To encourage trade between Belfast and Dublin, it is proposed that consideration is given to working with local companies to develop business leads that may generate new partnerships, joint ventures, sourcing relationships or market development opportunities. The maximum Council contribution to the Conference (above) and the business support is £40,000.
- To encourage joint inward and outward business investment activities between Belfast and Dublin for example in the coming months a Lead Development Agency is managing an inward Trade Mission from Luxemburg to Dublin relating to Professional Services such as Asset Management. Officers are exploring opportunities for Belfast to also feature in the Trade Mission. The timescale for the Trade Mission is still to be scheduled.

3.12 City of London

- Members will be aware that there has been ongoing engagement between Belfast and the City of London. At present, a member of Council staff is seconded to the City of London Cooperation in order to explore opportunities for further collaborative engagement.
- One of the areas of particular joint interest that has emerged is support for the financial services sector

post-Brexit. There is both a sectoral ecosystem which should be promoted between London and Belfast as well as Belfast and Dublin.

- Members will be aware that the City of London now has a regional strategy for financial and professional services which features Belfast and that the Lord Mayor of London is promoting this internationally.
- Members will also be aware that Belfast City Council has been supporting the Belfast Partners network in London for the last two years. Belfast Partners is a network of London-based companies with an interest in Belfast – focusing on the city as a business and investment location. As part of our engagement with the network, we have now hosted two major receptions in the City of London (the last one took place in the Mansion House on 23 November 2017) and organised a business mission for six local tech companies to engage with London based partners on 22 and 23 November 2017. As a result of this mission, the businesses were each able to meet four high profile prospective customers in Central London. Post-programme evaluation will be undertaken in April 2018 but initial feedback suggests that the businesses all made valuable connections with significant potential for new business. An inward investment visit for 10 Venture Capital companies based in London is scheduled in Belfast for 6 and 7 March 2018, in collaboration with Belfast Partners and the British Business Bank as well as local partners including Invest NI, CSIT, Novosco and KPMG. The delegates will participate in an organised visit programme, designed to showcase Belfast’s technology sector. Local companies will have an opportunity to engage directly with Venture Capitalists to explore opportunities for leveraging Venture Capital finance to grow their business.

The Council and partners also engage in a number of international profiling events and support Belfast-based activities aimed at attracting international audiences to the City. Planned activities for 2018/2019 include:

3.13 New York - New Belfast: 6-9 June 2018

- Members will be aware that, for the last number of years, the Council has supported the New York – New Belfast Conference. This annual event takes place in New York in June. It attracts Belfast-based business and tourism leads and provides an opportunity to profile developments and investment opportunities in

the City and to encourage greater levels of US investment and visitor numbers

- In previous years, the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee has attended along with one Officer. The Chair is given significant profile as part of the Conference programme. It is proposed that the Chair and one Officer attend the June 2018 event. This will provide the Chair with an opportunity to profile the City's new investment opportunities, using the new City narrative and brand. The costs associated with attendance at this event will not exceed £7,500 – comprised of sponsorship (£5,000) and travel/accommodation (up to £2,500 in total).

3.14 Belfast International Homecoming: 3 – 5 October 2018

- Members will also be aware that the Council has supported the Homecoming Conference which takes place each year in Belfast in October. The Conference attracts the diaspora who have significant business networks and connections in the USA and looks at how they can lever this social capital to support economic growth in Belfast and among Belfast-based businesses.
- The event will present a significant opportunity for the Council to set out its vision and leadership ambitions in promoting inclusive economic growth in Belfast. There will be a number of speaking opportunities for both Elected Members and senior Officers. It is proposed that the Council agrees to sponsor the event at a cost of £5,000. As part of the sponsorship, there will be opportunities for attendance by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or nominees).

3.15 Support for Eurocities network

Members will be aware that Belfast has been a member of the Eurocities network for some time. Eurocities is a network of more than 140 major European cities, made up of the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. Eurocities is structured through a range of working groups on issues such as Culture, Social Affairs, Knowledge Society and Environment. Belfast has participated in a number of the working groups and has developed collaborative projects with other cities facing similar urban challenges. The City has also shared learning on a range of topics and has availed of the network to engage with the key EU institutions in order to influence policy.

In order to maintain access to these networks and to ensure that Belfast retains the insight and high-level contacts in Brussels and other cities, it is proposed that Belfast City Council renews its annual subscription to Eurocities at a cost of €16,000.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

It is proposed that Members approve and agree to provide financial support to the range of activities and events set out in sections 3.7-3.15 above. These allocations have been included in the budget estimates which were approved by the Council in February 2018. They include:

Shenyang/China

- Development work to support the delivery of a Belfast/Shenyang tourism showcase in Shenyang. The costs associated with this event will not exceed £25,000
- Support for the 2019 Chinese New Year event in Belfast at a cost not to exceed £5,000.

Boston

- Support the development and delivery of a civic and business mission to Boston in April 2018. The costs associated with this visit will not exceed £5,000
- Support the delivery of an inward business mission from Boston in early May 2018. Costs will not exceed £5,000.
- Agree to support the fourth annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey event in November 2018 at a cost not to exceed £50,000.
- Agree to support the second annual Basketball Hall of Fame Tournament to take place towards the end of 2018 at a cost not to exceed £50,000.

Dublin

- Support the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor Conference and the cross-border business development activity (subject to further engagement and partner support) at a cost not to exceed £40,000.

London

- Agree to set aside a budget of up to £40,000 to undertake a series of Belfast-based visits and events to attract London-based investors and Venture

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Capitalists to the City as well as developing a business mission programme for Belfast companies to explore new business opportunities in London.

New York-New Belfast Event

- **Agree to sponsor the June 2018 New York-New Belfast conference to a value of £5,000. Travel and accommodation costs not to exceed £2,500.**

International Homecoming Event

- **Agree to support the October 2018 Homecoming Conference at a maximum cost of £5,000.**

Eurocities

- **Agree to renew the Council's annual membership of the Eurocities network at a cost of €16,000.**

3.17 Equality and Good Relations Implications

The International Relations Framework was equality screened."

A number of Members placed on record their gratitude to the staff in the International Development team for the great deal of work which had been undertaken over the past six months towards the aims of the International Relations Framework.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. adopted the recommendations within the report; and
2. agreed that, in recognising the amount of work which was being carried out, a report be submitted to a future meeting to consider additional finance or staff resource for the International Development section.

City of Music

(Ms. E. Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Cultural Regeneration Manager advised the Committee that, while the bid for Belfast to become European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 2023 was still under dispute, one aspiration under the ECoC proposals was to apply for a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) City of Music designation. She highlighted that this remained an aspiration for the City, regardless as to whether or not the ECoC application went ahead.

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She reminded the Members that significant music related activity was due to take place throughout 2018 and 2019, including numerous BBC Music Events, Gradam Ceoil, Other Voices, Féile an Phobail, EastSide Arts Festival, the UK Pipe Band Championships and the Belfast Tattoo.

She highlighted that music was recognised as a distinctive element of Belfast's cultural profile, with audience research having indicated high levels of engagement locally as well as strong links with the City's international profile.

The Members were advised that the current planned activity amounted to a series of standalone events but that there was a significant opportunity to increase the impact by branding the events 'City of Music', building on Belfast's cultural reputation.

In relation to the support for local infrastructure and artists, she stated that an open call would be facilitated to allow local organisations to outline how their proposals would fit with agreed criteria to include audience development and profile.

The Members noted that a specially curated programme of pop-up music events would take place over the summer season to animate public space by showcasing local talent.

The Cultural Regeneration Manager explained that it was proposed that an award winning interactive musical experience called "Mix the City", which had been delivered in a number of cities such as Moscow, Istanbul, Mumbai and Hamburg, would be delivered in Belfast. She outlined that participants became DJs by mixing the music of local musicians with locally generated video content of the city.

The Committee was advised that, to become a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, required a long-standing commitment which involved a participative process and a forward-looking approach. The Cultural Regeneration Manager highlighted that, as with Liverpool, which had already achieved UNESCO City of Music designation, work in the lead up to and after the designation would focus on cultural policy and activity in relation to music across the City.

The Committee was advised that the total budget for the programme was £200,000, and could come from the budget which had been set aside for the ECoC, as it was anticipated that the programme would be built from 2018 on.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report and approved the proposed 'City of Music' programme of activity and budget allocation; and
2. agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting to provide an update on the three-pronged approach which the Council had agreed upon, in relation to the European Capital of Culture 2023 bid, to engage with the U.K. Government, the Irish Government and the European Commission.

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Ciclovia

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that Ciclovia was a health and community based initiative whereby a part of the City was closed to traffic on a given day, for a specified period of time, allowing cyclists to cycle in a completely traffic-free zone. He explained that it also created a mini festival environment which attracted and encouraged people to come into the City centre, on their bikes, to enjoy the freedom of the City and a sense of community.

He reminded the Members that Belfast's first Ciclovia had taken place in October, 2015, where the Council had contributed £15,000 towards the event. He outlined that it had subsequently taken place in the Autumn of 2016 and 2017, with a Council contribution of £10,000 each year.

He reported that the first Ciclovia, held in 2015, had attracted over 1,500 participants, while the 2016 and 2017 events had doubled the participant numbers to more than 3,000. The Members were advised that Ciclovia Belfast had quickly become established as an important event on the local calendar as well as being recognised around the world as a ground breaking initiative which reflected positively on Belfast as a City.

The Committee was advised that the event had a direct economic impact on the businesses which were located on or near the route, with feedback illustrating significant increases in trade on the day of the event.

The Members were also advised that the event attracted significant media attention in the run up to the events and on the day, which showcased the city, and were advised of the event's various funding and delivery partners.

The Director also advised the Members that the event was now centrally linked to the wider cycling activity programme across the City and that it also linked to the Council's Local Development Plan in terms of cycling provision. He outlined that it was proposed that officers would work with the event organisers to link the event to the Belfast Bikes Scheme as part of the ongoing drive to increase the number of subscribers.

He advised the Committee that a Council contribution of £10,000 was recommended for the 2018 Ciclovia event, which would take place in the Autumn.

The Committee:

1. noted the update on the Ciclovia 2018 event; and
2. agreed the allocation of £10,000 from the existing Development Department budget to support the Belfast Ciclovia 2018 event.

Belfast - City for Investment

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed direction of travel for a Council-led City for Investment support service for indigenous businesses and new investors, focusing on actions to be delivered in the 2018/2019 financial year. An accessible user-friendly business service titled ‘Belfast: City for Business’ will consolidate the Councils business support offer. This report concentrates on one strand of this support titled ‘investment’ (refer to Appendix 1 on modern.gov). This report was originally tabled to Committee on 7 February 2018 and deferred to Party Group Briefings for discussion.

1.2 This report sets out the thematic work under ‘Belfast: City for Investment’ which aligns to the NI Programme for Government, the draft Industrial Strategy for NI, the Belfast Agenda and the developing City Deal. The work programme significantly contributes to the Council’s priorities of Growing the Economy, Working and Learning, City Development and Living Here. This report seeks Committee’s approval for a phased approach to developing an Investment Service over time. An initial service will be developed to co-ordinate investor enquiries in April 2018 in partnership with Invest Northern Ireland and other key business partners and stakeholders across the city.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the proposed strategic direction for the development of a Belfast City Council Investment Service.**
- Note that the phased approach may require additional finance or staff resource in future which will be tabled back to relevant Committee’s for consideration.**
- Note that any requests for subvention from the Investment Service will be dealt with under existing Council Standing Orders. Any exception to this will be tabled to SP&R Committee.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Officers have been prioritising programmes and activity for the 2018/2019 financial year to deliver against key performance indicators identified in the Programme for

Government (PfG), the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland and the Belfast Agenda. Primarily these indicators relate to business Start-Up, Jobs, Business Productivity and Foreign Direct Investment. Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda four-year stretch goals to 2021 aim to;

- **Create 15,000 new jobs**
- **Attract £1 billion private sector Foreign Direct Investment**
- **Support 4,000 small business start-ups;**
- **Double the economic value of out of state tourism; and**

- **Welcome 1.5 million overnight tourist stays per year.**

3.2 The Council currently delivers a range of business support activities focused on Investing in Belfast, Starting a Business and Growing a Business. These initiatives are supported by Employability and Skills programmes and initiatives targeted towards businesses and individuals. The approach detailed in this report aims to consolidate the Council's business services and make it easy to do business in Belfast. This is one of the key principles listed within 'Growing the Economy' theme of the Belfast Agenda. Over the last two years, Belfast has been ranked as the number one business friendly city of its size. In an increasingly competitive global environment, it is important to retain focus on improving service delivery and ensure that we are aligning our services to meet business needs.

3.3 Developmental Stage – Investment Service

In order to shape a future Council led Investment Service, the Council commissioned a research piece to identify the optimal approach and structure. OCO/ Webb Advisory completed their report and officers have been working cross-departmentally to scope out an implementation plan to consider the viability and phased timing of their recommendations.

3.4 The OCO/Webb Advisory commission included analysis and benchmarking of other UK and ROI cities and consultations with stakeholders across the city including business and public sector organisations. Key learning points were identified from the benchmarking exercise which fed into the development of options and one clear recommendation specific for Belfast City Council.

3.5 The recommended option was to develop a dedicated single point of contact for indigenous and inward investors in relation to all business strands such as enterprise, investment, employability and skills, start-ups, growth, and

innovation. Located on the Belfast City Council website it is suggested the landing platform be called; *'Belfast: City for Business'*. Appendix 1 (on modern.gov) summarises the categories of support available from Council under this promotional banner, the key messages under each and a summary of the support available to businesses and individuals. *'Belfast: City for Investment'* is just one service area under the suite of support promoted as *'Belfast: City for Business'*.

3.6 The recommended option is for a 'flexible responsive service' – responding to various types of enquiries relating to start-up, growth and investment in Belfast. It is envisaged that this service will evolve depending on the level of demand and the type of support service requested by businesses. For specific investment opportunities, the Council will retain the ability to commission support to secure investment. This may include international prospecting, commissioning research to meet investor needs or considering sub-letting incentives for the provision of test trading and/or soft landing space across the city. Officers will obviously work closely with Invest NI and other business support organisations as part of this work.

3.7 There are three elements of the proposed Investment Service in development: These are;

- Relocation / Soft landing support – helping new businesses and their employees make professional and personal connections to quickly embed and grow in the city.
- Investment Attraction – City Centre Development investment portal and international positioning.
- Belfast Proposition for FDI and indigenous investors – Key initiatives acting as attractors being developed for future consideration.

3.8 External Stakeholder engagement

The OCO/Webb Advisory report recognised the significant value that the Council provides to Investors, in particular the Civic Leadership, and the importance of the Council in terms of Strategy Development, aligned to its new statutory functions (Economic Development, Planning & Community Planning).

3.9 It is important that the Council's Investment Service complements the Invest Northern Ireland proposition, adds value and minimises duplication of effort. Council Officers presented our draft ambition to the Director of International Investment and Regional Director at Invest Northern Ireland

on 6 December 2017. The feedback received was positive and included some of the following points;

- Recognised the value in a Relocation and Soft Landing Service that Belfast City Council could bring to a pre-investment and investment enquiry.
- Offered the opportunity to collaborate and pilot this approach with a number of pre-investment clients.
- Sought confidence that confidentiality requirements would be met in line with GDPR regulations which will be in force from May 2018.
- Offered the opportunity to agree a protocol for inward collaborative visits or how we could engage with their pre-investment clients and ensure client expectations are understood and met.
- Opportunity to ensure harmony of data and presentation of statistics and sectoral intelligence across both organisations consistently.

Further meetings with Invest NI have led to the development of a draft protocol being prepared. Invest NI has given a commitment to provide a sample of pre-investment clients for the first phase of the Investment Service Relocation and Soft Landing Service.

3.10 Implementation Stage

It is anticipated that a Phased approach will be adopted to ensure the successful implementation of Belfast: City for Investment in order to minimise reputational risk, and gather an evidence base of enquiries and client types which will inform the future direction of the service.

3.11 Phase I – Relocation and Soft Landing Service

The '*Relocation & Soft landing Service*' will include a Welcome Service, Access to networks, PR, relocation support, advice with housing and education, market intelligence, access to local customers, and ongoing one to one client support from the start-up to the aftercare stage. This service will be resourced via the existing Economic Development Unit and resource requirements kept under continuous review. The initial service will also include:

- Personal client-managed approach by Economic Development Officers.
- Help to build the business case for expansion or relocation, providing up to date statistics and market information in relation to customers, suppliers, labour, recruitment, infrastructure, and property.

- Property and site prospecting – with access to a comprehensive database of available property and sites helping to find the right place to do business, including hot- desking and accommodation offers at a choice of locations to assist with the set up and transition to a permanent accommodation.
- Help with planning and pre-application discussions and information and practical advice and guidance to support the client through any relevant planning and regulatory processes.
- Tailored skills academies or recruitment support services for significant investments.
- Support to families and dependants who move with the company, arrangement of pre-move visits to the area to show the quality of life on offer and provide help with the first steps of relocation.
- PR and support for a launch of the business in the local area including introductions to the key networking and business membership organisations in the city.

3.13 Enquires will be logged and followed up with a client managed diagnostic approach to tailor our support to the client needs. Client interventions will be evaluated and client feedback shall be sought to inform the future direction of the service. We are working with colleagues in City Centre Development to ensure the Council's investment attraction website (www.investinbelfast.com) promotes the relocation and soft landing support available. We are populating the website with consistent sectoral data and tailored support and initiatives by sector. The outward investment promotion by the EU & International Relations Teams and the City Centre Development Team as well as Invest NI will be key elements of Council's relocation and soft landing service. Performance of this service will be reported to the cross departmental operational governance structure noted below. Marketing to promote the availability of the service will be measured throughout 18/19 to ensure existing resources can meet demand during this pilot phase.

3.14 Phase II – Defining and Promoting Belfast's specific proposition

In parallel to Phase I, Officers are scaling an enhanced Belfast proposition, which will be a defined menu of tailored support to investors. This is being developed cross-departmentally and an internal implementation plan and governance structure is being put in place for the future delivery. Key services across the Council contributing to this including;

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- **Smart Cities**
- **City Centre Development**
- **EU and International Relations**
- **Planning & Policy**
- **Property & Projects**
- **Employability & Skills**
- **City Deal & Resilient Cities**

- 3.15** Initially, a Project Board will be put in place to oversee the Project and regular operational team meetings will take place in order to develop or broaden Belfast City Council offering and proposition to investors. For example, an enhanced proposition may include Fast Track Planning, Simplified Planning Zones (subject to Committee approval), access to Vu City and Growth Mapper systems, Energy Support, alternative Clean Tech solutions for sites, benefits of locating in UK, R&D tax credits, access to networks and contacts in Universities and Centres of Excellence dependant on the sector. Each of these need considered further internally and will be reviewed by the Council operational team before being tabled to Committee.
- 3.16** It is envisaged this developmental work will continue to October 2019 and will be reviewed and evaluated on an ongoing basis internally in relation to work processes, financial and human resources and impact of the service. Evaluation will take the form of follow up one to one's and evaluation surveys with businesses who have availed of the service. This will inform the future roll-out.
- 3.17** Members will also be aware of a wider programme of work across the Council to improve customer service standards and to enhance our customer focus. The Council's 'Blueprint for Customer Focus' themes of service quality, customer contact, focus on the customer, accountability and consistency across Council and Business Areas will be adopted for the Belfast; City for Investment Service.
- 3.18** Input from Party Group Briefings regarding the Service was very beneficial and informative. There is support for the proposed approach as a learning pilot with Members keen to be kept informed on progress and on the outcome of any initial evaluation planned for Sept / Oct 18. There was the suggestion at Briefings about forming a Belfast Investment Development Agency. It is anticipated that the proposed immediate approach will further test the level of demand and type of service required moving forward before such a resource investment is made. Members also echoed the need for:

- **Inclusive growth across the City;**
- **Party Group Leaders to actively support delegations to communicate political stability at Local Government and support for ongoing investment;**
- **Maintaining a balance between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and indigenous investment;**
- **Ensuring a separation of decision making between the Investment Service and Council's Planning Function;**
- **Consideration to be given to retail investment subventions so to avoid displacement but actively encourage a strong and diverse retail offer;**
- **Working positively with partners;**
- **Independent evaluation of the service to gauge customer opinion and value.**

3.19 Equality and Good Relations Implications

The service shall be open to both indigenous and new investors to the city. We have undertaken research to inform levels of under-represented groups in entrepreneurship and business start activity across Belfast. Marketing activity and support will be targeted to encourage participation from under-represented groups. Tailored support will be adopted where possible including interpretive services, translation services and specific support for persons with disability as necessary.

3.20 Financial and Resource Implications

- **The initial Relocation & Soft Landing Service launching in Spring 18 will be resourced from Economic Development and Employability and Skills existing staff portfolio and 2018/19 budgets. This element of the service will be reviewed September 2018 to initially consider strategic direction, financial and resource implications for 2019/20.**
- **Investment Attraction will continue to be financed and resourced via the City Centre Development Team and EU & International Relations budgets and resources.**
- **As the specific Belfast Proposition is developed further, reports concerning work process, staff and financial resources will be tabled back to the relevant Council Committee for consideration.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Charity Abseiling Events at Belfast Castle

The Committee was advised that a number of requests had been received from charities which wanted to use the Belfast Castle for fundraising abseiling events to take place on various dates between April and October 2018.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that the abseiling events would be organised and carried out by Bryson Lagansports which had been running charity-abseil events for over ten years. The Committee was advised that they would provide all the necessary risk assessments, documentation and had the relevant insurance policy applicable to such events.

She outlined that consideration had and would be given to the health and safety implications and environmental issues involved with the event.

The Committee agreed to grant authority for a number of charity abseiling events to take place at Belfast Castle, subject to the satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, and on the condition that:

1. the event organisers would meet the operational and health and safety issues to the Council's satisfaction; and
2. the event organisers would ensure that all health and safety requirements were met to the Council's satisfaction including risk assessments, safe systems of work, equipment, appropriate insurance and site inspection information.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Addressing Educational Inequality 'Right to Succeed'

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **Advise Members of a successful funding application made by Right to Succeed – a UK-based charity set up to address educational inequality – for delivery of a three- year pilot initiative that supports young people at risk of exclusion from school in North Belfast schools. An allocation of up to £500,000 will be made available towards delivery of the work in North Belfast, over a three-year period.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the success of the recent Lottery funding application by Right to Succeed. This will include a three-year support package for up to 100 young people from North Belfast who are at risk of becoming excluded from school. Delivery will commence from September 2018, and Council Officers will work with Right To Succeed to support the project.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

The Belfast Agenda, along with the supporting Employability and Skills Framework for the City, sets ambitious targets around improvements in employment rates and skills levels for Belfast residents. There are significant correlations between deprivation, educational attainment and economic inactivity. Currently, around 30% of school leavers do not attain 5 GCSEs, A* - C (including Maths and English). For those in receipt of free school meals, the figure is 53%. Given that these are generally the basic building blocks for any future employment or to support people moving into further education and training, it is essential to consider how this figure can be reduced. As part of the commitment to inclusive growth set out in the Belfast Agenda, one of the key population indicators is the proportion of school leavers entering employment, education or training. This is part of the commitment to ensure that everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential.

3.2 As part of our intelligence gathering into providers of support to address educational attainment issues and educational inequality, the Council became aware of the Big Lottery funding application being made by the charity Right to Succeed. Right to Succeed is a charity that works across a number of UK cities to develop, pilot and scale solutions to address educational inequality. The Council asked the organisation to consider Belfast as one of the three locations for programme delivery. The funding request was made by the organisation to the Big Lottery under its Preventing Exclusions Programme and was successful.

3.3 Right to Succeed have secured £1.4million to work with 30 primary and post-primary schools across three locations: Blackpool, Doncaster and North Belfast. The funding will be split evenly across the three locations, meaning that there will be an allocation of up to £500,000 for the project in north Belfast. The Project will be delivered on a pilot and scale basis, focusing on North Belfast as the area of greatest need in terms of educational attainment. It is hoped that the learning

from this pilot can then be applied to other schools across the City.

- 3.4** PEP aims to protect young people from being excluded from schools. It will focus on supporting schools that have high rates of exclusions to forensically identify the needs of the pupils most at risk of exclusion. It will work with the schools and relevant local partners to embed targeted interventions and strategies that have been demonstrated to be effective in supporting this group.
- 3.5** A smaller pilot in Blackpool was extremely successful with 97% of young people staying on in education, as opposed to 50% without the intervention. Outcomes from this programme will include:
- Reduction in the number of pupils at risk of exclusion across target schools
 - Improvements in literacy and numeracy
 - Improvement in well-being and social emotional development
 - Increase in decision making, self-regulation and resilience
 - Better supported transitions, signposting and referrals experience
 - Better overall school quality of experience.
- 3.6** Right to Succeed identified the opportunity to focus on North Belfast for a number of reasons. The area is among those with the most significant educational and socioeconomic challenges. These include:
- Educational attainment (for numbers achieving at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent) within North Belfast is the lowest for school leavers in Northern Ireland (out of all 18 constituencies in Northern Ireland)
 - Almost half of the 22 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are in North Belfast. Deprivation in this part of the city is extremely high with over 36% of children living in low income households, compared with an NI average of 23%
 - Free School Meals – there are 10 post-primary mainstream schools (7 of these are non-selective) and all have Free School Meal Entitlement (FSME) of at least 50%. Within the Primary sector there are over 22 Primary Schools and a substantial majority have Free School Meals Entitlement of over 50%.
- 3.7** The area has an engaged and proactive Area Learning Community – the partnership of schools in the area working

together on key challenges with the aim of improving educational outcomes for young people. These close linkages will support effective programme delivery and maximise impacts. The project takes an evidence-led approach, and all interventions and approaches will also provide intelligence that will support scalability and expansion of interventions citywide and beyond. This intervention will also provide the opportunity to work with statutory agencies demonstrating value for money and providing details on savings to the public purse from interventions. This is an approach that has worked effectively to date on other Council-led Employability and Skills initiatives. Given the Council's engagement with the schools and the charity, there is an opportunity to consider how this learning and the targeted approach might be expanded beyond the original pilot area in North Belfast.

- 3.8 To date, 13 primary and post-primary schools (plus one Alternative Education Provider) have signed up to take part in the programme. They are:**

Name of School	Primary / Post-Primary
Currie Primary School	Primary
Seaview Primary School	Primary
St Vincent de Paul Primary School	Primary
Sacred Heart Boys' Primary School	Primary
Carr's Glen Primary School	Primary
Holy Family Primary School	Primary
Blessed Trinity College	Post-Primary
Belfast Royal Academy	Post-Primary
Hazelwood Integrated College	Post-Primary
Belfast Boys' Model School	Post-Primary
Belfast Model School for Girls	Post-Primary
Mercy College	Post-Primary
Loughshore Resource Centre	Alternative Education Provider

- 3.9 Right to Succeed will engage with schools before the Easter break to confirm whether they all still wish to participate in the programme. If they do, delivery will commence in September 2018. For all participating schools, the support will include:**

- Needs assessment to help staff to assess and analyse the needs of their pupils in terms of learning, social and emotional wellbeing
- Professional development support for teachers and teaching assistants in a range of approaches to social

and emotional development, communications, and literacy

- Intervention design/delivery – teachers will work with children and families to design an appropriate pathway for each child. This will involve close engagement with parents. Progress will be monitored using a digital tracker developed by Right To Succeed. As part of this approach, there will be a focus on peer learning across all participating schools in the three locations (and the potential to extend the learning to other locations)
- Monitoring progress – there will be reporting against a series of agreed metrics on a six-weekly basis. Impact will be measured annually against baseline data
- Embedding learning – the project will establish local learning groups to share knowledge and ensure ongoing review to improve delivery and outcomes. There will be opportunities for the Council to engage in order to inform future interventions and support knowledge dissemination, in line with the emerging approaches to area working across the Council.

3.10 Given the Council’s commitment to exploring area-based planning and delivery, there is an opportunity to work with colleagues from other parts of the Council including Community Services, Community Safety and Regeneration in order to explore how public services can be better aligned around this key challenge.

3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications

No specific Equality or Good Relations considerations.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

No specific Financial or Resource Implications at this point. The project is being funded by The Big Lottery Fund at a total cost of £1.4million. Schools will be expected to commit staff resources to support programme implementation.”

A Member stated that, while she was pleased to see that funding had been secured for this type of project, a number of the organisations which were mentioned within the report were already involved in intervention projects and that, in general, she would like to see a more strategic approach taken.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the success of the recent Lottery funding application by “Right to Succeed”, which would include a three-year support package for up to 100 young people from North Belfast who were at risk of becoming excluded from school; and

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2. noted that delivery would commence from September 2018, whereby Council Officers would work with “Right To Succeed” to support the project and with other partners and agencies working in the area of education to ensure that all support measures were fully integrated and aligned.

Belfast Facts and Figures 2018

The Director of Development reminded the Members that the “Belfast Facts and Figures” publication was designed to be a user-friendly resource for Members.

He advised the Members that the 2018 publication included updated and refreshed statistics and accolades reflecting the key areas of strength for the city, in line with the Belfast Agenda and key publications such as the Belfast Crane Survey, and that the design had been refreshed to reflect the new city brand.

A Member requested that, in the future, officers would look to include data comparisons with the Republic of Ireland.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the updated Belfast Facts & Figures 2018 publication; and
2. agreed that, going forward, officers would look to include other data comparisons where relevant.

Growing the Economy – Working and Learning

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to identify the priority activities to be delivered in the coming financial year as part of the Committee’s ambitions to support delivery of the targets under two of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda: Growing the Economy and Working and Learning.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the priority issues raised at the Committee workshop on 21 February 2018**
- **Agree to the Forward Work plan to support delivery of the Growing the Economy and Working and Learning strands of the Belfast Agenda**
- **Agree to receive a further report in April 2018 outlining the specific detail of activities.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that the Committee Workshop which took place on 21 February 2018 aimed to agree the broad programme of work for the Committee in the coming financial year. Officers made a number of presentations to seek feedback on proposed activities and Members indicated their support for the general approach.

3.2 The key discussion points included the following:

- Supporting inclusive growth through economic and city development should be a key driver for the Committee and the Council – it is essential that consideration is given to clearly articulating what inclusive growth means, how it aligns to the vision and priorities contained in the Belfast Agenda, how it is measured and how it can apply across all areas of business
- Creating jobs and improving skills were the key drivers articulated during the public consultation exercise for the Belfast Agenda. They should remain the top priority for the Committee in the coming year, working towards the agreed stretch targets set out in the Belfast Agenda
- City Deal offers an opportunity for additional investment in a number of the Committee's priorities including Employability and Skills, Tourism Infrastructure, City Investment and Regeneration.

3.3 Members will be aware that the key targets and ambitions relate to job creation, improving competitiveness, increasing business start-ups, addressing economic inactivity, increasing the overall job numbers in the City, improving skills – particularly for those with no or low skills – and increasing levels of investment into the City.

3.4 Growing the Economy: achievements in April 2017-February 2018

Since April 2017, Council has developed and delivered a range of activities to address the challenges around low levels of start-up, innovation, competitiveness and productivity. These include:

- 301 entrepreneurs supported through the Go for It programme supporting the creation of 213 jobs;

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- **Support for 34 Social Enterprises and 10 Co-operatives contributing to 9 new business starts already creating 32 jobs;**
- **Support for 32 university/FE college student entrepreneurs to develop their own new businesses while still in education. We are working with the colleges and universities to look at how this support can be enhanced – and how entrepreneurship can become more embedded in the curriculum for all students;**
- **Ongoing investment in the Innovation Factory – the tenant occupancy rate at the Innovation Factory is 27% representing 103 jobs and 37 business tenants. A more detailed report on progress will be presented to the April 2018 Committee. The Innovation Factory is performing on target, Council’s initial investment is now offering the opportunity for more engagement through the recent PEACE IV approval and the decision by Invest NI to further develop the infrastructure around the site. Other investment opportunities are now being considered across the wider site.**
- **Provision of business mentoring support for 110 small businesses in Belfast (programme launched in September 2017). Businesses have received support on a range of topics including marketing, digital strategy, sales development and cash flow management. A further 19 businesses have been supported through the retail and hospitality programme which provides small businesses with advice and support to enhance their customer experience.**
- **Business Accelerator and Investment support: as previously agreed by this Committee, the Council is to support 10 small Belfast businesses to go through the MassChallenge Bootcamp programme in Boston. Companies will receive intensive support around pitching, targeting investment and partnership development and they will be able to network with other Boston-based companies to develop new partnership arrangements and collaborations. The Boston Bootcamp will take place w/c 21 May. The Council is working closely with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI on this programme;**
- **Launch of a new high-growth start-up programme supported by ERDF (European Regional Development Funds). The first intake is currently being recruited. 20 new businesses will access support through this initiative by April 2018;**
- **We have supported the creative and digital sector by supporting The Great Escape, Output Belfast, AVA**

Music Festivals and SXSW representing 1,150 visitors and 455 Belfast businesses. We have also worked with the Smart Cities Team in the development of the Immersive Tech Lab and are supporting the development of a number of new tech challenges focusing on tourism growth and new product development.

**3.5 Emerging Opportunities and direction of travel 2018/19:
Growing the Economy (business start-up and growth)**

Taking account of recent Member comments and of the existing Belfast Agenda Vision targets and ambitions, it is proposed that the programme of work for the coming year will include the following broad areas of activity under the banner 'Belfast: City for Business':

Enterprise Awareness/Business Start-up:

- A programme will be designed to encourage enterprise within education and the youth sector to help young people considering setting up their own business as a career choice. This support aims to engage approximately 600 young people across the city in 2018/19.
- Graduate entrepreneurship: Officers have been working closely with partners in UU, QUB, Belfast Met and Invest NI to develop a new intervention, following on from the current Belfast Enterprise Academy programme. Invest NI have now agreed to provide a time-bound salary payment for student entrepreneurs who commit to starting their business when they graduate.
- Female Entrepreneurship: we are developing an initiative with the 10 other Councils in partnership with Invest NI and Women in Business designed to encourage females to start a business.
- Start-up incentives: Officers are working with Legal Services and Audit, Governance and Risk to consider an approach to financial incentives aimed at removing barriers to entrepreneurship
- Ongoing investment in the Go for It programme, with partners across the 11 Council areas.

Business Growth

- Officers are applying for funding (ERDF and Invest NI) to provide specialist support and advice to businesses focusing on integrating digital technology into their business models. The programme aligns directly to

the proposed DCMS Full Fibre Project (2018-2020) to be delivered through Digital Services. The funding application for this is currently with DCMS for consideration;

- **Cyber Security and Business Resilience Programme –** development activity is underway to bring forward a programme to test the cyber resilience of Belfast businesses. This arises from the Northern Ireland Cyber Security Strategy which Council funding helped develop;
- **International & Export Development:** we have put in place a support programme to increase the number of Belfast businesses involved in export activity. In the course of the year, 15 businesses who are not currently exporting will develop export plans to enter new markets;
- **Advanced Engineering Sector:** We are developing a support programme for the advanced engineering and manufacturing sector. It will deliver accreditations and standards to enable businesses within this sector to meet quality standards and industry performance requirements. It is anticipated that the programme will support up to 15 business participants towards skills development, increased competitiveness and securing contracts. There may be an opportunity to showcase some of this collaboration in future at the North Foreshore site as a meanwhile use;
- **Music Development Programme:** Building on the success of Output and SXSW Officers are developing this further to create a Belfast specific Music Development Programme supporting local artists and indirectly supporting the music infrastructure of the City;
- **Circular Economy –** We plan to pilot interventions to influence and create circular economy models across businesses operating in Food, Fashion, Electrical Goods and Furniture. An initial pilot in 18/19 will work with up to 10 restaurants across the city to assess their existing supply chain model and efficiency. The programme will implement improvements towards more profit and less waste;

- 3.6 In addition to the development of these new initiatives, the team will continue to work with Digital Catapult to encourage and support access to the Immersive Lab facilities by a wider section of businesses and interested organisations. Businesses across the City will benefit from We will continue to offer our Trade Association support and range of programmes to support retailers. An outline of the 18/19 annual service Plan for Innovation Factory will be presented

to April Committee and our plans regarding 'Belfast: City for Business' were discussed recently at Party Group Briefings.

3.7 The business start-up and growth environment is a particularly complex and confused marketplace. In order to avoid duplication, we have convened a partnership of more than 30 stakeholders involved in the delivery of enterprise support. The partnership has recently agreed the terms of reference for an Enterprise Framework which will be developed by August 2018 and which will help shape investment decisions from 2019 onwards.

3.8 Working and Learning: achievements in April 2017-February 2018

Over the past year the Council has worked with partners to develop a number of collaborative initiatives to address some of the challenges identified above. Some of the headline outcomes include:

- 4,070 residents have accessed Employability and Skills interventions of whom 1,247 have entered into employment/self-employment (876 through ESF, 40 through early engagement initiatives, 15 through Employment Academies, 213 Business Start-Up and 103 through Innovation Factory)
- Over 1,219 training accreditations have been supported and 714 people have progressed to education and training
- 290 jobs are in the pipeline through Employment Academies across a range of employers, including hotels, construction, health and social care and transport.

3.9 Emerging Opportunities 2018/19: Working and Learning

Following engagement with Members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at the 21 February workshop, as well as Stakeholder engagement with the relevant partners working in this field, a number of strategic opportunities for investment have emerged. These include:

- Significant support for additional investment in Employment Academies, expanding on existing sectors and developing Academies in new growth sectors
- Ensure direct alignment between the investment in City regeneration and opportunities for upskilling or job creation – working with some of the City's major

investments such as the Transport Hub and Ulster University

- Support for increasing engagement and early intervention with schools and young people, particularly those with low skills levels or those that risk leaving skills without basic skills
- Pilot new approaches to increase engagement and opportunities for reskilling, retraining and Apprenticeships for all ages – including Apprenticeships for new vocational areas
- Deliver and further develop the phased approach to the Belfast Employability Pathway (Belfast Workplace) – ensuring that participants and employers are clear about the Employability and Skills offer available to them – and ensuring that the offer is designed to meet their needs
- Develop new governance and management arrangements to support joint planning and investment on Employability and Skills
- Support enhanced alignment of service delivery across the Council to maximise the job and employment opportunities from planning and major redevelopment in the City
- Explore opportunities for co-commissioning of new Employability Programmes, in line with the contract duration for some of the major programmes (e.g. Steps to Success, Training for Success etc.)
- Need to ensure that interventions is targeting those groups and localities most in need of investment – drilling down to very localised engagement approaches
- Explore how the City Deal investment can attract additional resources to secure long-term investment in this area of work – including investment from private sector and government partners.

3.10 The Council's investment in Employability and Skills continues to be driven by the principle of inclusive economic growth. Therefore, support interventions are based on ensuring that structural inequalities are addressed with regard to educational attainment, skills, employability, working poor, under-employment etc. To underpin this work, it is proposed that the Council adopt the following guiding principles to inform all future programme planning in this area:

- Approach must be principally employment-led focusing upon identified employment opportunities and gaps in provision;

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- Needs-led approach must be applied in order to deliver against the principles of ‘inclusive growth’ targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or client groups while being accessible and open to all;
- Our approach must be ambitious, we need to increase visibility and awareness of Council’s role within this environment and strategically build our position in this area;
- Our approach should be both intelligence-led and evidence-based;
- Council’s intervention must add value, not duplicate existing provision and have an in-built partnership approach;
- Flexibility of approach is one of the main strengths of the Council allowing for interventions to be developed around emerging market needs/opportunities;
- The interventions delivered will be scalable and delivered seamlessly across the City, in line with need and opportunity.

3.11 In addition to direct interventions, we will continue to work to drive maximum social and economic benefit of investment decisions by the Council and other Anchor Institutions by exploring opportunities for ‘social return’ from our spend and considering the potential for Employability and Skills support to be levered through Developer Contributions as part of relevant planning decisions. Officers are currently working with colleagues in the Planning and Building Control Service with a view to establishing the viability of these mechanisms and looking and good practice from other cities to see what might be transferable.

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The recommended budget allocations for the Growing the Economy programme activity based on contractual commitments, pending funding applications and priority areas identified above is summarised below:

Starting a Business	£522,000
Business Growth and Sector Development	£500,000
Investment Support	£80,000
City Centre Development (Includes City Centre Management and initiatives such as Festive Lighting)	£210,000

- 3.13 The recommended budget allocations for Employability and Skills programme activity based on contractual commitments and priority areas identified above is summarised below:**

ESF Match Funding – match funding of ESF employability projects	£240,000
Employment Academies and Skills Development Support for Job Opportunities	£500,000
Career Development, Early Intervention and other Research Activities	£175,000

- 3.14 The total investment of £915,000 within Employability & Skills is an increase of £250,000 compared with the previous financial year where £665,000 was invested in Employability & Skills. We would envisage that, in order to increase the impact that Members have supported through the Belfast Agenda, this investment in Employability & Skills is further increased in subsequent years. This will be subject to discussion as part of the future rates setting process for the coming financial years.**

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and considerations given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity.”

In response to a Member’s question regarding the occupancy rate within the Innovation Factory, the Director of Development advised the Committee that it was currently 27% occupied, which was ahead of target.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 3 Finance Update

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the 2017/18 Quarter 3 position for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee was an underspend of £244,000 (2%) which included additional income. He outlined to the Members that the forecast year-end position was an underspend of £109,000 (0.7%) which was well within the acceptable tolerance of 3%.

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He reported that the main reasons for the Committee underspend related to a reduced spend on supplies and services and vacant posts across a number of services which were offset by less income received than budgeted.

The Committee was advised that the Departmental year-end forecast was a net year-end underspend of £557,000, which represented a variance of 0.4% of the annual net expenditure budget. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 15th December, 2017, that non-recurrent funding of £147,000 for Community Grants and £70,000 for Twilight Markets would be made available for 2018/2019 which meant that the forecast surplus at the year-end was £340,000.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 21st March, 2018

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Collins,
Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson,
McConville, McReynolds and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Miss N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th March, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Consideration of Entertainments Licences where the Applicant has been convicted of an offence – Bootleggers and Dukes Hotel

The Committee considered the following report:

**Licensing Committee,
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“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider applications for Entertainments Licences where the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (NI) Order 1985 (the Order) within the previous five years.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented, you are required to consider the applications and to:-

- **Approve the applications, or**
- **Should you be of a mind to refuse any of the applications, or approve any applications with additional special conditions, an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the Committee must be given to the applicants.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which are not the subject of objections is that the licence will be granted as provided for in the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

3.2 However, as each applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council, you are required to consider the following applications.

Premises and Location	Applicant	Application Type	Offence Details	Date of Conviction & Penalty
Bootleggers 46 Church Lane, Belfast, BT1 4QN	Mr Christopher Wolsey Quay Street Merchants Ltd	Renewal	May 2016 Breach of a special condition to ensure minimum width through the rear yard to the final exit maintained. Pre-event checks and Log Book not completed.	21 Feb 2017 £500 and £69 Court costs.

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Premises and Location	Applicant	Application Type	Offence Details	Date of Conviction & Penalty
Dukes Hotel 65-67 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL	Mr Eamon Diamond Dukes Belfast LLP	Renewal	August 2015 <u>The Chester Park Inn</u> Providing entertainment without an Entertainments Licence in an outdoor area	22 March 2016 Conditional Discharge and £69 Court costs

- 3.3 Notwithstanding the possibility of refusing an Entertainments Licence on any other grounds, the Council may refuse an application on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of an offence under the Order.**

Application history

- 3.4 Previous applications for the aforementioned premises were considered by the Committee as follows:**

Bootleggers

- 3.5 This application is being placed before Committee because the applicant was convicted of offences under the Order at Belfast Magistrates' Court on 21 February 2017, after a during performance inspection carried out in May 2016, found that the required minimum clear distance through a rear escape route was not being maintained and the appropriate pre-entertainments checks were not carried out prior to the entertainment taking place.**
- 3.6 This is the second time an application for this premises have been brought before Committee as you previously considered the application at your meeting of 15 March 2017 and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the licence.**
- 3.7 Since the previous renewal the premises has been subject to one further during performance inspection as well as the recent renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of the breach or any other safety issues. We have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.**

Dukes at Queens

- 3.8 This application is being placed before Committee because the applicant was convicted of offences under the Order at Belfast Magistrates' Court on the 22 March 2016, regarding one of their other premises; namely the Chester Park Inn. During an inspection it was found that entertainment was being provided in an outdoor area, without a valid entertainments licence being in place.
- 3.9 This is the second time an application for this premises have been brought before Committee as you previously considered the application for the Dukes Hotel at your meeting of 16 August 2017 and, after consideration, you agreed to renew the licence.
- 3.10 Since the previous renewal the premises have been subject to two further during performance inspections as well as the recent renewal inspection to ensure that there has been no recurrence of the breach or any other safety issues. An inspection in December 2017 identified a minor breach at the premises as the log book was not filled out.
- 3.11 A further inspection, which was carried out recently, showed no recurrence of this or any other safety issues and we have found that management procedures are being implemented effectively.

Representations

- 3.12 Public notice of the applications has been placed and no written representations have been lodged as a result of the advertisements.

PSNI

- 3.14 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that they have no objections to the applications.

NIFRS

- 3.14 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to each of the applications and confirmed that they have no objections.

Applicants

- 3.15 The applicants and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to their applications.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.16 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment which is catered for within existing budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licenses in respect of both the Bootleggers, 46 Church Lane; and the Dukes Hotel, 65-67 University Street.

Application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm within a Marquee at Custom House Square for the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will run their annual musical arts festival over eleven nights within a marquee at Custom House Square from Thursday 3rd May to Sunday 13th May 2018. This report is to consider a request from the organisers to permit entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on two of those nights.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either:

1. Agree if either or both of the two proposed nights should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or;
2. Refuse either or both of the extended hours as requested.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and they currently hold both a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a 7-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Square.

3.2 The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- **Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.**

3.3 In addition, the following conditions are attached to the Entertainments Licence:

- 1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals.**
- 2. Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council.**
- 3. Any requests to provide entertainment later than 23:00hrs must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event.**
- 4. Should the Council receive a significant number of noise complaints for any event which has successive nights of entertainment permitted beyond 23:00hrs or if a complaint about an event beyond 23:00hrs is of major concern, then those successive nights with later hours may be subject to reduction and the promoter should have appropriate arrangements in place should this occur.**

3.4 The Cathedral Quarter Arts festival has been taking place for the last 18 years and includes a wide programme of events of local, national and international music, literature, comedy and drama. The event is also regarded as being an integral part of the arts and cultural calendar in Belfast.

3.5 Members will recall that in previous years the Committee has granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival. This was last considered by the Committee at your meeting on the 15 March 2017 when the organisers requested that entertainment be permitted beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on three nights of the event.

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After consideration you agreed to grant the request to extend the hours.

- 3.6 Members will also be aware that the Committee has previously granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for other events and festivals at the venue. The last such request was in June 2017 when permission was granted for the Oktoberfest to operate its event beyond the permitted hours of 11.00 pm on each of their six nights.
- 3.7 Whilst recognising that such music events contribute to the overall 'vibrancy' of the City it is also the case that noise from these events has the potential to cause widespread disturbance to those living and working in the vicinity.
- 3.8 Before granting any extension the Committee has always carefully considered the financial and commercial benefits of such events against the interests of residents within the area and has, on occasions, agreed with respective promoters to reduce the number of nights they had originally intended to go beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm in order to reduce the impact the event may have upon them.
- 3.9 The organisers are still in the process of finalising the programme of entertainments for this year's festival but they have confirmed that the type of entertainment will be similar to previous years consisting of mainly local talent mixed with some headline acts.
- 3.10 The organisers have requested that you give consideration to permitting two nights of the event to run beyond 11.00 pm as follows:
- Friday 4 May 12.00 am
 - Saturday 5 May 12.00 am

Rationale for additional hours

- 3.11 A copy of the letter from the organisers outlining the background to the festival and reasons for requesting the extended hours to 12.00 am is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.12 A Location Map is attached as Appendix 2.
- 3.13 The organisers have advised that the two weekends of the festival are regarded as the busiest evenings and they see more visitors from outside the city and further afield attending these festival events.
- 3.14 They hope that the extended hours will provide their visitors with a memorable festival experience and value for money and

allow them to 'make a night of it' by availing of the many other venues and local restaurants before attending the event.

- 3.15 The organisers have also advised that the extra hour enables them to add local support acts to the bill and give them the opportunity to raise their profile and support a headline festival act.
- 3.16 As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Marquee Entertainments Licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition; there is no requirement to advertise the application.
- 3.17 Officers have also discussed the resident's notification and how this is essential to the success of events at the venue, particularly if hoping to operate beyond 11.00 pm. We will continue to liaise with organisers to ensure that the letter is issued to the correct addresses prior to the event taking place.
- 3.18 Representatives of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival.

PSNI

- 3.19 The PSNI have been consulted regarding the event and their request to operate two nights of the event to 12.00 am. Their response will be reported at your meeting.

NIFRS

- 3.20 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have also been consulted about the application and confirmed that they have no concerns about the event.

Health, safety and welfare issues

- 3.21 Officers from the Service have carried out inspections for previous festivals and have always found the organisers to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of each individual event during that time.
- 3.22 A pre-event planning meeting will be arranged with the organisers, PSNI and NIFRS to ensure that everything is being done to protect public safety, review traffic management and wider operational issues for the event.

Noise issues

- 3.23 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on two of the eleven nights at the venue.
- 3.24 Due to the cumulative impact of the consecutive nights proposed and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents Officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
- 3.25 However, considerable work has been done with organisers of various events and festivals at the venue and, as a result, the level of complaints and noise issues has been reduced.
- 3.26 Last year's festival did not generate any complaints.
- 3.27 Officers will work with the organisers and their representatives on appropriate noise management plans and procedures for the festival to ensure that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to both the commercial and residential premises of the area.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.28 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.29 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report."

The Building Control Manager reported that, subsequent to the report having been issued, the applicant had submitted a request to have entertainment permitted to run beyond 11.00pm to 12.00am on a third night, that is, on Saturday 12th May.

He reported that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had been consulted and had offered no objection. In addition, the Environmental Protection Unit had been consulted and had indicated that the same comments as set out in paragraphs 3.24-3.27 of the report would apply if the Committee was reminded to agree to a third night.

The Committee agreed to permit entertainment to take place beyond the standard hours of entertainment to 12 midnight on three nights, that is, Friday, 4th May, Saturday, 5th May and Saturday, 12th May.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following report 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Accordingly, all persons seated within the public area of the room, including the applicants and their legal representative in connection with the following item were excluded from the room.

Applications for the Grant of 7-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences for South 13.

The Building Control Manager pointed out that, at this stage, the Committee would not be considering the application but would do so when the applicants and their legal representatives were re-admitted to the meeting.

He then proceeded to outline to the Committee the rationale for restricting the report and that this related to a previous event at the venue in respect of which there was currently an internal disciplinary investigation against a member of staff.

The applicants, Mr. G. Flynn and Mr. L. Lynch, and their legal representative, Ms. M. Lowry, were at this stage re-admitted to the meeting. The Building Control Manager reiterated to the Members of the deputation the reasons why they had been excluded for a short period and the Committee had not, as yet, commenced consideration of the applications.

The Building Control Manager then proceeded to review the applications which were for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the former B&Q building, now known as South 13, based on the Council's standard conditions to provide indoor music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind, theatrical performances, a circus and outdoor musical entertainment.

The applicants and their legal representative were thereupon invited to the table to address a number of the issues which had been raised within the report.

Ms Lowry, solicitor for the applicant, stated that the applicant wished to reserve its position in relation to some of the contents of the report as it was factually incorrect. The Chairperson advised that there was a disciplinary investigation ongoing and the Committee could not do anything which could prejudice that investigation. The Chairperson pointed out that this was the first time the Committee was aware there was an issue with the contents of the report. The Committee was advised that the report had only been shared with the applicant recently and the applicant would probably take issue with some of the contents. Ms Lowry advised the Committee that the report should not

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detract from the rights of the applicant and that, subsequent to conviction, the applicant had been granted a licence for other premises on 3 occasions. The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and they retired from the table.

Proposed by Councillor McReynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the applications until the internal disciplinary investigation had concluded.

As there were no amendments to the proposal, the Chairperson permitted the deputation to again address the Committee to outline the effects a deferral would have on their business.

Ms. Lowry advised the Committee that the proposal for the deferral would have a serious impact on the company as to whether or not it could continue to trade. It was suggested that the Council could grant a temporary licence for a period of three months to allow the disciplinary investigation to be completed. The applicants stated that they would be willing to contribute to the investigations.

Mr Lynch stated that the deferment would be detrimental to the enterprise and would seriously compromise its relationship with the existing and potential future clients. He pointed out that the music events were only a small percentage of the events run at the venue but the revenue raised at those enabled the other events to take place.

The Chairman again thanked the deputation for their presentation and they retired from the table.

Some members pointed out that they felt they were dealing with the matter without all the information and therefore could not consider the application until the disciplinary investigation was concluded. Others felt that the applicant was not the subject of the Council's disciplinary investigation and as such a decision on the application should be made.

Upon a request for advice from a Member, the Council's solicitor advised the Committee it had to take into account the rights of the applicant, which should only be interfered with when it was proportionate and necessary to do so. The Committee also had to consider whether the evidence gathered in the investigation could be a material factor in determining the application. She advised that was a matter for the Committee and the Courts were usually slow to interfere in such decisions.

The proposal standing in the name of Councillor McReynolds and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson to defer the applications was put to the meeting.

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On a recorded vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and two against, with three no votes, and it was declared carried.

For 13	Against 2	No vote 3
Aldermen Spence and L. Patterson: Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Groves, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, McConville, McReynolds and O'Hara.	Councillors Craig and Hussey	Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Copeland and Councillors Collins and Dudgeon

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 13th March, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Johnston, Magee,
McAteer, McDonough-Brown and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Bunting and Hutchinson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th March, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 7.g) LA04/2017/1787/F - Amendments to site entrance to Olympia Drive on lands at Olympia Leisure Centre, Councillor Mullan declared an interest, in so far as a family member had been involved with the original application in relation to the development.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 13th February, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken the following site visits:

- 21st February - in respect of planning application LA04/2017/2126/F - Redevelopment including the construction of a new six storey building on the existing surface level car park and part change of use to create a mixed use development comprising retail units, restaurants and cafes, residential units, offices, church and related community floor space, new streets and public realm works. Demolition of 53 Royal Avenue and 27- 31 Rosemary Street and restoration of Central Halls (37-39 Rosemary Street), Masonic Hall (15 Rosemary Street), 43/43a Rosemary Street and retention of 30-34 North Street. Lands bound by North Street Royal Avenue Rosemary Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street

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located approximately 400m west of Laganside bus station 300m northeast of City Hall and 1km northwest of Central Train Station; and

- 7th March - in respect of planning application LA04/2017/1394/F - Supported accommodation for older people comprising 32 apartments in total on land East of Harberton Park to the south of 25 Harberton Park and LA04/2017/1505/F - 15 residential apartments at 1 - 3 Eia Street.

Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Notified

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under delegated authority by the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 6th February and 5th March, 2018.

Departmental Performance Update

The Development Planning and Policy Manager tabled a report in relation to the departmental planning performance. He highlighted that the figures outlined were internally sourced and not official statistics from the Department for Infrastructure, and therefore, might be subject to change once the official statistics were subsequently released.

In the circulated report, he provided a breakdown of the monthly performance up to 28th February, 2018 as follows:

Planning Applications

- 199 applications had been validated in February, 2018;
- 179 applications had been validated in January, 2018; and
- 2299 applications had been validated since 1st April, 2017.

Planning Decisions

- 167 decisions had been issued in February, 2018;
- 124 decisions had been issued in January, 2018;
- 92% approval rate; and
- 98% decisions had been issued under delegated authority.

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 961 live applications were in the system at end of February, 2018;
- 949 live applications were in the system at end of January, 2018; and

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- 5 legacy applications were outstanding.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager highlighted that there were 26 live major planning applications, seven of which had been approved by the Committee but were awaiting the execution of Section 76 agreements. He advised that 13 applications were currently within the 30-week target for processing applications and would be brought to the Committee for consideration in the future.

He pointed out that, in relation to Local Applications, the latest available figures from the Department for Infrastructure, up to 28th February, 2018, indicated that the average processing time was 15.4 weeks, with 49% of applications being processed within the 15 week target. He highlighted that overall numbers of Local Application decisions issued were outperforming the number of applications which had been received. The situation which would be monitored to ensure the department remained on target to consistently achieve the statutory targets by the end of quarter 1 in 2018/2019.

He informed the Committee that, up to 28th February, 2018, the latest figures available from Department for Infrastructure showed that 72% of enforcement cases had been concluded within the target of 39 weeks, 2% above the statutory target.

He reminded the Committee that the quarterly meetings of the Planning Committee to focus solely on performance, would commence on Thursday, 19th April.

Noted.

Miscellaneous Items

Listed Buildings

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeking the Council's views in respect of proposals which had been formulated for the listing of a number of properties in Belfast.

The Committee was reminded that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

It was reported that the second survey of all of Northern Ireland's building stock was currently underway, to update and improve on the first list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest which began in 1974 and was due to be completed in 2016.

It was reported that, since the agenda had been published, the NIEA had withdrawn the proposal for the David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Queen's University.

After discussion, the Committee agreed with the Agency's proposals to list the following properties:

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- Post Box, Agincourt Avenue, near corner of Rugby Road;
- Post Box, Windsor Park (facing Windsor CT);
- Post Box, outside No.20 Derryvolgie Avenue;
- Post Box, outside No.73 Ulsterville Avenue;
- Post Box, Knock Eden Park, Rosetta;
- Post Box, outside 124 Haypark Avenue;
- Post Box, Sunnyside St near junction with Rushfield Ave;
- Post Box, outside No.2 Lockview Road;
- Post Box, outside 49 Balmoral Avenue;
- Post Box, Upper Malone Road, opposite Malone Meadows;
- Post Box, Malone Road, opposite Deramore Drive;
- Post Box, Bristow Park;
- Post Box, Maryville Park;
- Post Box, Osborne Gardens;
- Post Box, Lisburn Road, near Cranmore Gardens;
- Post Box, outside 712 Lisburn Road;
- Post Box, Malone Park Central;
- Post Box, Lisburn Road outside King's Hall;
- Post Box, Myrtlefield Park;
- Parliamentary Boundary Post, outside 1D Church Road;
- Parliamentary Boundary Posts, in the garden of 49 Queensbury Park;
- Parliamentary Boundary Post, outside 97 Knockbreda Road;
- Parliamentary Boundary Post, Lagan towpath;
- Boundary Post, Meadows Park – Lagan Meadows;
- Boundary Post, nearby Newforge Lane carpark;
- Boundary Post, near Shaws Bridge; and
- Boundary Post, outside 450 Ormeau Road.

Local Development Plan Update

The Committee was provided with an update on the engagement which had been planned in relation to the draft Plan Strategy, prior to consideration by Committee.

The Committee was reminded that the Local Development Plan would comprise of two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy - the strategic policy framework for the plan area which encompassed a range of topics. It would set out the ambitious vision for Belfast as well as the proposed strategic policies required to deliver that vision; and
- The Local Policies Plan - the next stage which would set detailed policies and site specific proposals concerning the development and use of land in Belfast. It would consist of the local policies, including the site specific proposals, designations and land use zonings essential to deliver the Council's vision, objectives and strategic policies, as set out in the wider Plan Strategy.

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Once adopted, the complete LDP would supersede the current development plan and Planning Policy Statements produced by the Department.

It was reported that a workshop had been held with the Planning Committee on 12th January 2018, to present a summary of the working version of the draft Plan Strategy policies for consideration and a further workshop on 15th February for all Members. Party Briefings had also been scheduled in March for the draft Plan Strategy discussion. Members were advised that the draft Plan Strategy would be submitted to the Committee for consideration in April, 2018, with the view to publish the Plan Strategy for public consultation (12 week public consultation, followed by 8 week consultation on any representations).

The Committee noted the contents of the report and the draft Plan Strategy policy summary.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) Training Plan

The Development Planning and Policy Manager advised that NILGA sought two Planning Committee members to participate in the NILGA's 2018 Pilot Local Planning Programme.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Planning Committee, or their nominees, to participate in the full programme.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following report 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 this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Judicial Review - Stephen Street

The Divisional Solicitor provided an overview of the outcome of a judicial review which had taken place in respect of a decision by the Planning Appeals Commission to grant planning permission for purpose built managed student accommodation on a site bounded by Library Street, Stephen Street and Kent Street. She highlighted that a copy of the Judgement which had been delivered by the Court on 23rd February was attached as Appendix 1 of the report.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that an update be provided at a future meeting to include key learning on the issue.

Planning Applications

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)

LA04/2017/2412/LBC - Erection of accessible ramps, partial replacement of steps, new railings to Korean War Memorial and associated works, Cenotaph, Gardens of Remembrance, City Hall

The Case officer outlined the application for Listed Building Consent.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Craig. He outlined his support for the proposal and the benefits it would bring for attendees at the annual remembrance ceremonies. He welcomed the maintenance and addition of accessible ramps, replacement of steps, and new railings for the memorial structures.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted Listed Building Consent to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/0112/F - Change of use of nursing home into 12 apartments and construction of 9 apartments including 3 storey rear extension, associated alterations and site works at 5 - 7 Connsbrook Avenue

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the change of use and extension of the existing nursing home to form 21 apartments (13 two bedroom and 8 one bedroom) with associated alterations to the elevations which included recladding and rendering and other associated site works.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/1394/F - Supported accommodation for older people comprising 32 apartments in total on land East of Harberton Park to the south of 25 Harberton Park

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, given the issues which had been raised regarding parking, height of the building and proximity to the broader King's Hall development, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received on behalf of the applicant, citing exceptional circumstances. He advised that the agent, on behalf of the applicant, had already made a presentation at the Committee meeting on 13th February. The Committee having considered the cited

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exceptional circumstances, agreed not to receive the deputation, however, noted that the agent was in attendance if the Committee required any points of clarification.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/1505/F - 15 residential apartments at 1 - 3 Eia Street

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, given the issues which had been raised by the objector's, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that a second request to speak had been received on behalf of the applicant, citing exceptional circumstances. He advised that the agent, on behalf of the applicant, had already made a presentation at the Committee meeting on 13th February. The Committee having considered the cited exceptional circumstances, agreed not to receive the deputation, however, noted that the agent was in attendance if the Committee required any points of clarification.

The case officer reminded the Committee that there was an extant planning approval for 'Demolition of existing 2 storey commercial warehouse building and construction of a 4-storey apartment building consisting of 16 apartments', previously granted in April, 2013 under planning reference Z/2009/1771/F.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the proposed amenity space and need for family homes in the area.

The case officer advised that, on balance, the amenity space had been considered acceptable.

The recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when three Members voted in favour and four against and it was declared lost.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Lyons, and
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

Resolved – that the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable it to be reconsidered by officers and potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

LA04/2016/0564/F - Additional waste types, and the installation of a metal shredder and associated conveyor belt systems at Avenue Recycling, 1 Advantage Way, Ballygomartin Road; and
LA04/2016/0563/F - Variation of conditions 3 and 7 of planning permission Z/2005/2312/F to allow for external unloading, transfer and storage of waste and increase to opening hours, additional 2 hours per day

The Committee agreed to consider the aforementioned applications together.

The case officer advised that planning application LA04/2016/0564/F sought full planning permission for the acceptance of additional waste types at the site including a broader range of metal, glass and plastic wastes, construction and demolition waste, textiles, bulky wastes and street cleaning residues and the construction of noise barrier walls.

She advised that application LA04/2016/0563/F sought planning permission for the variation of conditions 3 and 7 of planning permission Z/2005/2312/F to allow for the external unloading, transfer and storage of solid waste and an increase to the opening hours for an additional 2 hours per day, from Monday to Saturday.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the increase in opening hours, the type of waste to be processed, potential noise disturbance, licenses required and the enforcement of the planning conditions.

LA04/2016/0564/F

The Committee, given the issues which have been raised, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

LA04/2016/0563/F

The Committee, given the issues which have been raised, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

LA04/2017/2802/A - Proposed mesh banner signage (19.1m X 9.84m) – temporary for 2 years, former Belfast Telegraph Printworks, 124 - 132 Royal Avenue, Belfast

(Councillor Hussey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an interest in the development.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

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(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point)

LA04/2017/1787/F - Amendments to site entrance to Olympia Drive on lands at Olympia Leisure Centre

(Councillor Mullan, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

(Councillor Magee had left the room whilst the item was under consideration)

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Thursday, 15th March, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Johnston, Magee,
McAteer and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Hutchinson and McDonough-Brown.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Planning Applications

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/2126/F - Redevelopment including the construction of a new six storey building on the existing surface level car park and part change of use to create a mixed use development comprising retail units, restaurants and cafes, residential units, offices, church and related community floor space, new streets and public realm works. Demolition of 53 Royal Avenue and 27-31 Rosemary Street and restoration of Central Halls (37-39 Rosemary Street), Masonic Hall (15 Rosemary Street), 43/43a Rosemary Street and retention of 30-34 North Street. Lands bound by North Street Royal Avenue Rosemary Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street located approximately 400m west of Laganside bus station 300m northeast of City Hall and 1km northwest of Central Train Station;

Associated application- LA04/2017/2081/LBC - Partial demolition of boundary wall and associated works including repair and redecoration of railings and resurfacing around the church, First Presbyterian Church at 41 Rosemary Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2082/LBC - Partial demolition of side and rear extension and internal alteration including amended floor levels, removal of

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internal partitions. New elevations to create an entrance to retail accommodation and restaurant uses. 3 storey (staircase) side extension. Lower ground, first and second floor side extension Masonic Hall at 15 Rosemary Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2120/LBC - Demolition of rear return and construction of 5 storey rear extension consisting ground floor retail unit and 6 apartments above, reconfiguration of ground floor retail units and 1st floor double height assembly hall, elevation changes at Central Hall 37 – 39 Rosemary Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2138/DCA - Demolition of buildings at 27- 31 Rosemary Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2139/DCA - Demolition of building at 53 Royal Avenue;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2196/DCA - Demolition of rear extension and partial demolition of eastern and southern elevations at 43 Rosemary Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2213/F - Partial demolition, 5 storey rear extension and refurbishment to provide retail uses at ground floor level and office accommodation to the upper floors 41-51 Royal Avenue;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2207/LBC - Partial demolition, extension and refurbishment to provide retail uses at ground floor level and office accommodation to the upper floors 41-51 Royal Avenue;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2575/DCA - Demolition of building at 30 - 34 North Street;

Associated application - LA04/2017/2597/F - Demolition of building and development of temporary hard landscaping at 30 - 34 North Street; and

Associated application - LA04/2018/0007/F - Demolition of building and development of flexible retail, restaurant and café uses for a period of up to 5 years within repurposed shipping containers up to 2 storeys in height together with ancillary access and circulation.

The Committee was reminded that, at the Pre Determination Hearing on 13th February, given the issues which had been raised regarding the scale of the development and impact on the surrounding area, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken and for a briefing to be provided on the wider implications of the phased development could take place.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following points of objection had been received from the First Presbyterian Church, in relation to Planning applications LA04/2017/2126/F, LA04/2017/2081/LBC and LA04/2017/2120/LBC:

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- Notification of applications – notice had been served on 7 individuals identified by the applicant as owners of the church. The objection stated that these persons were unknown to the church and were not trustees;
- Loss of Church car parking - 14 car parking spaces that currently existed to the rear of the First Presbyterian Church. Raised concern with the loss of the spaces and sought alternative arrangements to facilitate Sunday Services/evening events;
- Replacement parking - Informal parking around the church for Church activities only;
- Concerns regarding the stained glass windows and vulnerability of the organ room (to rear of the church);
- Restrictions on activities within the proposed 'Church Place' and around the Church during Sunday Service to reduce noise/nuisance; and
- No agreement had been reached on the demolition of the wall around the First Presbyterian Church and the Church reserved its position in relation to this proposal.

He also advised that the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) had submitted a query which was raised in the pre-determination hearing, and a subsequent objection, in that the UAHS considered that a listed building consent application was required in relation to planning application LA04/2017/2126/F to consider the impact of the new 6 storey block on the setting of the adjacent listed First Presbyterian Church. He advised that, prior to the commencement of the meeting, a further two representations had been received from UAHS which raised process and engagement issues in relation to the consideration of the applications. He stated that the UAHS had also informed the Council of their request to the Department for Infrastructure in relation to planning application LA04/2017/2126F, and associated applications so that Department for Infrastructure could determine the application.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

The case officer provided an overview of all the aforementioned planning applications including the listed building consents and those required for demolition within conservation areas. He advised that the site was located within Belfast City Centre Conservation Area. He advised that 217 representations had been received (2 letters of support and 215 objections).

During the presentation, the case officer explained the proposed elevations and heights of the proposed buildings, separation distances between the buildings outlined in the applications, demolitions, listed building works and the retention of the John Luke mural at the Masonic Hall.

He provided a summary of the recommendations for each of the applications and highlighted that, if approved, with the exception of the following three items: 2.d)

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LA04/2017/2120/LBC, 2.k) LA04/2017/2597/F, and 2.l) LA04/2018/0007/F, the Council would be required to notify the Department for Infrastructure for the following reasons:

- Due to significant objections from the HED, notification was required in accordance with Section 29 of Planning Act (NI) 2011 and Planning (Notification of Applications Direction 2017);
- Due to the Demolition Consent of the non-listed buildings within the conservation area, notification was required in accordance with Section 105 (6) of Planning Act (NI) 2011); and
- Due to significant objections from HED in relation to Listed Building Consents, notification was required in accordance with Section 89 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011.

The Committee received a representation from Dr. A. Martire, representing Save CQ and Dr. P. Topping, representing First Presbyterian Church, in objection to the application.

Dr. Martire outlined a range of issues in objection to the proposed development. She suggested that Save CQ supported the development, in principle, and were realistic about the weight of the extant permission in the Committee's consideration of this application. She suggested that the ideas outlined in the Belfast Agenda and draft Local Development Plan (LDP) should be used in the consideration of large Planning Applications in the future and the Phase 1B application did not live up to the ambitions of these documents. She suggested that Block 6 would impact upon the historical character of the area and cultural and social eco-system of the area. She suggested that the proposal was contrary to the character and plot widths stipulated in CC009 of BMAP, and did not provide the variation of residential units required for city centre living. She highlighted that there was a reduction in residential units from the extant permission and suggested that the proposal conflicted with the current uses of the area. She welcomed the restoration of some of the buildings, however, believed that much of the conservation would not be open to the public and the character of the area would not be respected. She pointed out that the development was in a Conservation Area and suggested that this should be respected and that the outline scheme should be revised.

Dr. Topping, representing the First Presbyterian Church, advised that their objections to the development in relation to the church on Rosemary Street, had been outlined in a recent objection submitted to the Planning Department in relation to:

- Car parking;
- Security of the building; and
- Demolition of the church wall

She referred to the importance of the Church and its congregation and the impact the development might have on the wider communities including forthcoming music scholarships. She suggested that the Committee should demonstrate respect and integrity for the future of First Presbyterian Church.

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During points of clarification, Dr. Topping advised that the demolition of the Church wall had not been resolved and outlined further the impact the development would have on the congregation, in particular in relation to car parking. Dr. Martire suggested the impact the development might have on the arts and culture area, different communities that shared the area and the eco-system, which already existed.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. D. Stelfox and Mr. G. Moore Consarc Conservation Architects and Mr. J. Harris, Chapman Taylor Architects, representing the applicant.

Mr. Stelfox outlined a range of support for the proposal, which included that the developer had invested £40million in Belfast to date and consultation had been undertaken with stakeholders and the proposal had economic and heritage benefits. He advised that restoration of Phase 1A of the scheme had already commenced and suggested that the site of the development had been designated for regeneration for over 30 years with no reliance on public funds or vesting to complete the project.

In response to objectors' comments, he suggested that the development was a vehicle for substantial investment in the Built Heritage of Belfast and there would not be demolition of any Listed Buildings or other buildings that offered a positive contribution to the area. He advised that the developer was working with the First Presbyterian Church and they were due to meet the following day to discuss the concerns which had been raised. He suggested that the proposal would regenerate the area and did not displace existing businesses and the development had been carefully designed and was a standalone scheme, deliverable in its own right.

He suggested that a high profile and international tenant was waiting to occupy the office building and the development would bring listed buildings including the Masonic Hall back into use. He suggested also that the development would create over 200 local construction jobs, and create 766 permanent full time jobs; the scheme would produce £35 million GVA into the local economy and add £800,000 in business rates, per annum; create Grade A office space, new streets and public realm; and enhance connectivity and city centre living.

During points of clarification, the agents answered a range of Members' questions which included the meetings which had taken place between the Developer and the First Presbyterian Church in relation to the removal of the wall owned by the Church, the reduction in accommodation from the extant permission, car parking, the use of Central Halls and the need for housing in the City Centre.

Mr. Stelfox explained that the removal of the wall was part of the previous consented scheme and believed that the removal of the wall would enhance the public realm, character of the church and streetscape, however, they had no vesting powers in this regard.

During further points of clarification, Dr. Topping suggested that there had been poor communication between the Developer and the trustees of the Church and further discussion was required in relation to the security and car parking of the church.

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During discussion, the Members raised concerns in relation to the consent for the removal of the wall connected to the First Presbyterian Church. The City Solicitor confirmed the wall could not be demolished without agreement from the Church.

The Committee also raised issues in relation to the Section 76 agreement, the number of conditions related to the recommendation, independent design advice, and the impact of heritage and art businesses.

The case officer and the Development Planning and Policy Manager provided clarification on the following:

- Changes to the proposed scheme from the extant permission;
- The margins of planning material considerations;
- Artwork and public realm development;
- Wider linkage to the overall scheme;
- The timeline of consent for the development;
- HED's response; and
- The conservation officer response and its consideration by the case officer.

LA04/2017/2126/F

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and one against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and noted that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 29 of Planning Act (NI) 2011 and Planning (Notification of Applications Direction 2017).

LA04/2017/2081/LBC

The case officer's recommendation to grant Listed Building Consent to the application was put to the Committee when four Members voted in favour and six against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee did not grant Listed Building Consent.

LA04/2017/2082/LBC

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The case officer's recommendation to grant Listed Building Consent to the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted Listed Building Consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and noted that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 89 of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

LA04/2017/2120/LBC

The case officer's recommendation to grant Listed Building Consent to the application was put to the Committee when six Members voted in favour and five against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted Listed Building Consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/2138/DCA

The case officer's recommendation to grant consent to the application was put to the Committee when eleven Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 105 (6) of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

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LA04/2017/2139/DCA

The case officer's recommendation to grant consent to the application was put to the Committee when eleven Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and that DfI would be notified in accordance with Section 105 (6) of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

LA04/2017/2196/DCA

The case officer's recommendation to grant consent the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and that DfI would be notified in accordance with Section 105 (6) of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

LA04/2017/2213/F

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when ten Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and

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noted that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 29 of Planning Act (NI) 2011 and Planning (Notification of Applications Direction 2017).

LA04/2017/2207/LBC

The case officer's recommendation to grant Listed Building Consent to the application was put to the Committee when ten Members voted in favour and zero against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted Listed Building Consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and noted that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 89 of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

LA04/2017/2575/DCA

The case officer's recommendation to grant consent to the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee granted consent, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions and that Dfl would be notified in accordance with Section 105 (6) of Planning Act (NI) 2011.

LA04/2017/2597/F

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so,

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to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2018/0007/F

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when nine Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements (linked to the proposal for LA04/2017/2126/F) which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 12th March, 2018

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Alderman Haire; and
Councillors Campbell, Dorrian, Graham,
Hargey, Johnston and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and Councillors Mullan, Nicholl and O'Donnell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Item

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

Appointment of a Non-Executive Director

The Business Support Director reminded the Shareholders' Committee that BWUH Ltd. had undertaken to recruit two new Non-Executive Directors to the Board, one with audit and accounting experience and one with organisational change experience.

He advised the Members that 4C had been engaged to oversee the recruitment process and that the positions had been publicly advertised. The Committee was advised that shortlisting was overseen by 4C, with interviews and meetings conducted by the BWUH Board and the Managing Director.

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He explained that two Non-Executive Directors had been selected for ratification by the Chair of the Board, with Mrs. L Jackson having been agreed as the first Non-Executive Director by the Committee at its meeting on 19th February.

He reported that the company had chosen to nominate Mr. Stephen Daniels as its second nomination for approval and ratification by the Committee.

He provided the Committee with an overview of Mr. Daniels' credentials, in that he was a former Director of Human Resources with extensive experience of delivering change and had served on numerous Executive Committees and external Boards.

After discussion, the Committee approved the appointment of Mr. S. Daniels as a Non-Executive Director to the BWUH Ltd. Board.

Chairperson