

# 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, 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.

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.

### **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.

- 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.”

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 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 to 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 a 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 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)
<b>What?</b>	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).
<b>Why?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Future-proof the council network for 20-25 years.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	Significantly reduce the disruption, cost and timescales for fibre deployment.	Help organisations get connected, or improve their current broadband connections.
<b>Where?</b>	All of Belfast	Belfast City Centre – specifically the redeveloped 'Streets Ahead' zones	Available to SMEs in all council areas.
<b>Procurement required?</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Funding request</b>	£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.

- 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

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	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £390,000</b> - <i>Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project</i>
TAGIT Boxing Club	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £434,000</b> - <i>Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender, confirmation of any match funding and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project</i>
Hanwood	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £396,000</b> - <i>Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project</i>
Castlreagh Presbyterian Church	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £382,000</b> - <i>Subject to the return of a satisfactory</i>

		<i>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.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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 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>
344 responses in total with 97% expressing support  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	50 responses in total with 84% expressing support  Most common comments included – welcoming the investment in east Belfast and focus on football pitches and objections to the proposal to remove the pool

### 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 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

- 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**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
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**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
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;

- 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
Three Faith Forum N. Ireland	April 2018 <i>Final date tbc</i>	<b>Launch of 3 Faith Forum Events</b> – 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	<b>Launch of Belfast Plan</b> 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 <b>with</b> 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	<b>Celebration event of Peace 1V initiative</b> – 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	<b>Launch and Introduction to Photogrammetry</b> – Event to celebrate the use of and demo new photogrammetry technologies to young people. This launch is part of the city wide Photo Festival with an exhibition in City Hall grounds throughout June.  Numbers attending – 12	A & C & D	No, charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality

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Royal National Institute for the Blind Northern Ireland	26 September 2018	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Tea RNIB Supporter Recognition Event</b> – 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	<b>IFA McDonalds Community Football Awards</b> – 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	<b>Family Nurse Partnership Graduation</b> – 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	<b>Vigil against Gender Based Violence</b> – 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	<b>Flax Trust Inter-Community School Choirs Award;</b> competition event of 9 choirs from 18 schools to win a trophy and monetary award.  Numbers attending – 550	C & D	No, Charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality

2019 EVENTS						
Cancer Focus NI	17 January 2019	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party</b> – 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	<b>RA-UK Annual Scientific Meeting 2019</b> – 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:

“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