

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 22nd June, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson,
Craig, Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McAllister,
McAteer, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh

Also attended: Councillors Heading and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th June.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Browne declared an interest in respect of item 4(c) Disposal of Land for Housing, insofar as he was deputy chairperson of the Grove Housing Association and he left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 10 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of 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.

**Draft Plan Strategy –
Belfast Local Development Plan**

The Committee was reminded that the Local Development Plan (LDP) would set out a clear vision for how the council area should evolve by setting out what form of development should be encouraged and where it could be located. It would provide residents, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies with a combined policy framework and land use proposals that would deliver the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and other regional planning policies.

The full LDP would comprise of two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy - the strategic policy framework for the plan area encompassing a range of topics which would set out the ambitious vision for Belfast as well as the strategic and operational policies required to deliver that vision; and
- The Local Policies Plan - the final stage which would set out the Council's detailed policies and site specific proposals concerning the development and use of land in Belfast. It would consist of local policies, including the site specific proposals, designations and land use zonings to deliver the vision, objectives and strategic policies, as set out in the Plan Strategy.

Once adopted, the complete LDP would supersede the current Development Plans and Planning Policy Statements produced by the Department.

Accordingly, the Director of Planning and Building Control submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided details of the final draft of the Plan Strategy; the additional technical documents that would accompany the Draft Plan Strategy when it was formerly published; and the proposed approach to consultation.

After discussion, the Committee:

- endorsed the Draft Plan Strategy as a basis for the formal consultation document;
- noted the additional technical documents that were required to accompany the draft Plan Strategy when it was published for consultation; and
- noted the timescale/arrangements for the proposed consultation for Autumn 2018.

City Centre Development

The Committee noted a report which provided an update on the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) Grade A Office initiative and approved the increase to the Council's investment in Bel Tel LLP by £940k (from £3.75m to £4.69m) to part fund enabling works to 'The Sixth' property.

City Centre Regeneration Opportunity

The Committee considered a report which summarised the proposal which had been made to the Council by a large institutional investor in relation to the potential regeneration development of a significant strategic city centre site.

The Committee:

- noted the initial structure of the investor proposal;
- agreed, in principle, that this arrangement was something which the Council would be minded to seriously consider entering into;
- delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, in consultation with the City Solicitor and Director of Finance and Resources, to negotiate the terms of a possible agreement; and
- noted that, should an arrangement be deemed supportable, draft terms would be submitted to the Committee for full approval before any legal documentation was entered into.

Publicising Planning Applications in the Press

The Committee was reminded that Article 8 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 required the Council to notify the existence of planning applications in three ways:

- by publishing the Notice of the application in at least one newspaper circulating in the locality in which the land to which the application applied was situated;
- serve notice of the application on any identified occupier on neighbouring land; and
- publish the notice on the Planning Portal Website.

It was reported that the Planning Committee, at its meeting on 12th June, had considered a report in relation to an award of the tender for the provision of advertising services and considered the following two options:

- Option 1 – a single newspaper tender which could be significantly under the publicising applications budget of £200k, which would allow the Council to invest any savings back in the planning service to help support the Improvement Plan;
- Option 2 – to continue to publicise planning applications in two newspapers. Based on cost under the existing interim arrangement, this should be in the region of £210k.

It was pointed out that the Planning Committee had agreed to recommend Option 1 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to reject the recommendation of the Planning Committee and adopt Option 2.

On a vote by show of hands, eight Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was declared lost.

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendation of the Planning Committee and approve Option 1.

On a vote by show of hands, ten members voted for the the proposal and eight against and it was declared carried.

Draft Developer Contributions Framework

The Committee endorsed the Draft Developer Contributions Framework, which was intended to set out the Council's approach to securing Developer Contributions through the planning process, and agreed that it be issued for a 12-week public consultation. The Committee noted that the Framework had also been endorsed by the Planning Committee on 12th June.

Replacement of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update in relation to the replacement of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal.

Discretionary Payments

The Committee deferred consideration of the above-mentioned report to enable Party briefings to take place.

Advice Sector Support for Welfare Reform

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Department for Communities implementation of the Evason Report recommendations relating to Advice and the Welfare Reform Support Project; and which provided details of that department's Letter of Variance to the Community Support Programme (CSP), 2018/19, specifically relating to additional funding for Advice Sector Support for Welfare Reform and Universal Credit Implementation.

The Committee:

- (i) noted the contents of the report relating to Department's update on the Evason Report Recommendations;
- (ii) agreed the amendments and variations to the Contract for Funding detailed in the Letter of Variance and noted that the digital support package for West Belfast had been reduced to £15,000.

**Request for the Use of City Hall –
Red Bull Formula One Event**

The Committee considered a report in relation to a request by agents of the Red Bull Formula One team for use of the City Hall function rooms and grounds in regards to a Red Bull Formula One event, which was to be staged on Saturday, 3rd November, 2018.

The Committee approved the free use of the City Hall function rooms and grounds for the aforementioned event.

**Request for use of the City Hall grounds –
Paddy Barnes World Title Fight Promotional Event**

The Committee was advised that a request had recently been received from the Frank Warren boxing organisation to have a promotional and boxing demonstration event in the grounds of the City Hall on a date to be decided in either July or August 2018. The event, which was linked to the upcoming Paddy Barnes World title event taking place in Windsor Park on the 18th, would feature boxers such as Carl Frampton, Tyson Fury and Paddy Barnes. The main focus of the event would be interviews with boxing celebrities and sparring demonstrations.

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

The Committee approved the request to hold the boxing event in the City Hall grounds on a date to be decided in July or August 2018.

It agreed also to delegate authority to the City Solicitor to consider and approve a similar request which had been submitted in relation to a title fight involving Michael Conlon.

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN PURSUANCE OF THE
POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(A)**

Area-Based Festivals Funding

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th May, it had agreed to fund the following summer diversionary events and education programmes:

- Féile an Phobail (Festival) - £100,000;
- Twaddell Woodvale Residents' Association (Woodvale Festival) - £100,000
- NI Alternatives (East Belfast Community Festival) - £50,000;
- New Lodge Arts (New Lodge Festival) - £40,000;
- Markets Development Association (Diversionary Activities) - £10,000;
- Belfast South Community Resources - £26,521; and
- Ulster-Scotch Heirskip Council/Ulster-Scots Community Network – community education programme, community visualisation programme and 3 year strategic planning process for new festival) - £80,000.

It had been agreed also that:

- the funding applications be subject to due diligence, appropriate legal agreements and to evaluations being undertaken;
- To ensure transparency in future years, to establish an open call diversionary programme with an agreed budget; and
- That Council officers engage with the groups that were not allocated support to discuss alternative funding opportunities.

It was reported, given the tight timescales in relation to a number of the projects, that officers had been working closely with the groups to develop their project proposals and work through due diligence and appropriate legal agreements as agreed by the Members. That had involved officers from a number of Services within the Council.

The Committee was advised that, to date, two of the proposals had been approved and a further two had reached the stage of due diligence where funding agreements could be prepared. Those were New Lodge Arts (Ashton Trust) and the Markets Development Association.

After discussion, it was

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

That the Committee agrees to authorise the release of Funding Agreements to the New Lodge Arts (Ashton Trust) and the Markets Development Association for summer diversionary events in the sum of £40,000 and £10,000, respectively, with 90% of the funding to be paid up front and the remaining 10% to be paid following satisfactory completion of monitoring and evaluation returns.

On a recorded vote, thirteen members voted for the proposal and six against and it was declared carried:

<u>For 13</u>	<u>Against 6</u>
Aldermen Haire and Spence; Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig, Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, McAteer, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh.	Aldermen Rodgers, Browne and Convery; Councillors Attwood, Long and McAllister

Call-in

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

That the Committee agrees further, in accordance with Standing Order 47(a) 2(a), that the decision is not subject to call-in on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

On a recorded vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and six against and it was declared carried:

<u>For 13</u>	<u>Against 6</u>
Alderman Haire and Spence; Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig, Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, McAteer, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh.	Aldermen Rodgers, Browne and Convery; Councillors Attwood, Long and McAllister

(End of restricted items.)

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

**Corporate Plan 2017-21 Year 2 Update and
Improvement Plan 2018-19**

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 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee sets the strategic direction of the Council. It set out what the Council wanted 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.

It was 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 by the Committee. Since the original four year plan had been 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 – the Year 2 update also reflected those 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 the improvement objectives and its progress against them.

The corporate plan therefore incorporated the Council's improvement plan, which explicitly laid out the Council's improvement objectives. Those 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.

As part of the aforementioned Act, the Council was required to consult on its improvement objectives each year before publishing a final improvement plan by June. In order to meet this timeframe, the Committee, at its meeting on 22nd March, had approved an eight week consultation period on the six improvement objectives contained within the draft improvement plan for 2018/19.

The Committee approved the final draft of the Year Two Update of the 2017/21 Corporate plan and the 2018/19 Improvement Plan for online publication.

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 the ongoing development of a Belfast Region City Deal Proposition including engagement and negotiation with Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Treasury on emerging projects and next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note;

- **The progress made in developing the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)**
- **The following draft documents prepared in support of the BRCD**
 - **Draft Proposition document**
 - **Industrial Strategic Framework**
 - **Digital Vision and Strategy**
 - **Initial Employability and Skills Proposition**
 - **Draft Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Framework**

- The plans for the next meeting of the Joint Council Forum on 25 June 2018
- The next steps in the development of the deal leading to the development of a Heads of Term document during the month of September.

2.2 The Committee is also asked to approve:

- The commissioning of external expertise to support the further development of the BRCD proposition including specialist economic modelling and prioritisation, project development and proposition design at a cost of approximately £250,000 from within existing budgets.
- The commissioning of further work to take forward the BRCD Digital and Innovation Strategy including the development of specific projects, identification of additional funding and delivery mechanisms and engagement with key partners at a cost of £270,000 from within existing budgets.

2.3 Committee should note that the costs for both of these pieces of work will be allocated across the six councils in the BRCD, based on the EPP, meaning that the actual cost to Belfast City Council will be approximately £190,000, a third of the total contract costs outlined above.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the BRCD, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, is now in full operation.

Programme Update

3.2 At the last SP&R committee meeting members were provided with an update on the progress made in working with partners to develop the strategic policy frameworks that are required to underpin and support the BRCD and of the work

completed to define the key strands of the BRCD in relation to Innovation, Digital, Infrastructure, Tourism and Employability and Skills. Members were also advised that a meeting was planned with senior officials from the lead UK and NI Government Departments to update them on the work completed, test emerging projects for possible inclusion in the deal, discuss financing and economic modelling and agree next steps in the negotiations to ensure the city region is on track to secure a deal by the autumn statement.

3.3 A number of draft documents were prepared for discussion at the meeting of senior officials and the following drafts are attached for information.

- The draft proposition document which summarises the progress to date in developing the BRCD, the business case for investment and the medium list of projects for potential inclusion in the deal.
- The draft industrial strategic framework for the region which seeks to establish a shared vision for sustainable and inclusive growth of the Belfast Region based on a robust analysis of the competitive strengths and the key economic challenges facing the Region and evaluate how to use our competitive advantages to respond to the key challenges for the Region in the context of UK and NI industrial policy
- The draft digital vision and strategy for the Belfast region, developed with the partners by Future Cities Catapult
- The draft Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Framework, developed with partners by ARUP
- The initial employability and skills proposition proposing the development of a more integrated regional model for planning, resourcing and delivering employability and skills in the Region

3.4 At the meeting with senior officials, the progress made in developing the proposals for the BRCD, including preparation of the necessary strategic frameworks to ensure alignment with the draft NI and UK industrial strategies, was very much welcomed. Officials reiterated the commitment of the UK Government to the Belfast Region City Deal and the desire to now work directly with partner Councils and the NICS to put the Belfast Region in strongest position to achieve our ambitions for a City Deal.

3.5 There remains support at UK and NI level for the ambitions for inclusive growth in the BRCD and for the key pillars of

investment in relation to Innovation/Digital and Infrastructure. A critical message emerging from the meeting was that to achieve the aim of agreeing Heads of Terms for a BRCD in September there is a need to move rapidly into a new phase during which there is a need to focus intensively on developing sufficient detail on a smaller number of priority projects, their costs, benefits and deliverability to enable inclusion in the BRCD.

- 3.6 Based on the feedback from officials in the UK Government and the NICS in relation to the nature of projects likely to be supported by a City Deal, and issues of affordability and deliverability, BRCD partners are therefore working to identify a reduced number of 'primary' projects that will be the focus of intensive project development. 'Secondary' projects will not be removed from the City Deal process, and can be re-introduced at any point where there is a challenge for the overall Programme to meet its objectives, including geographic spread of projects and delivery of inclusive growth. In addition, alternative sources of funding may be sought for some of these projects.

Innovation/Digital

- 3.7 As in other recent City Deals, it is anticipated that the Innovation and Digital pillar will be major focus for the BRCD as it is likely to attract more funding from UK Government given the projects contribution to the UK Industrial Strategy. Therefore at this stage a number of significant innovation projects from the two universities, which are designed to support job growth and productivity gains in our key sectors continue to be included. In addition, the digital proposition led by Future Cities Catapult (FCC) has now identified significant digital innovation projects, which not only support the key objectives of inclusion and job growth but also have the potential to cut across the whole of the Belfast City Region supporting both businesses and local communities. The initial proposed list of Digital / Innovation projects are

- Global Innovation Institute
- Financial (and Legal) Technology Centre
- Academic Medical Research Institute
- Centre for Digital Health Care
- Creative Industries Centre of Excellence
- Pre Cog
- 5G Smart District
- Regional Connectivity Fund
- Digital Innovation Platform
- Makers Network

3.8 These are ambitious and challenging proposals which will require prioritisation and significant development and identification of new ways of working in a short space of time. However they have the potential to attract investment, additional sources of funding, create jobs, support skills development and make our region one of the most connected in the Europe. The City Deal is a one off opportunity to kick start this process and in order to maximise this it is recommended that further support is commissioned to develop the key projects to SOC level and the overall Innovation / Digital 'ask' in the deal. This will also include working in consultation with the universities and officials from the relevant UK and NI government departments to refine and prioritise the list of projects.

3.9 Tourism

Work is being progressed on the development of an OBC for the Belfast Story gallery and film Centre which is due to be completed by the end of June 2018. Work is also continuing on Tourism products in other areas such as the Gobbins II and Access to the Mourne. A Tourism Product Narrative and Development Framework and market testing of proposals have been commissioned and will be the basis for identifying primary projects for development. Members will also be aware that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee have commissioned a piece on Neighbourhood Tourism Development that will sit alongside any emerging tourism proposals from the City Deal. The initial phase of this work is almost complete and it is therefore recommended that the Tourism Product Narrative and Development Framework from the City Deal and the Neighbourhood Tourism Framework are presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2018.

3.10 Other Infrastructure and Regeneration

The number of projects included in this pillar is potentially 3 times more than the likely overall value of the BRCD . It would not be possible to work the large number of projects included in this pillar to the level of detail required by the NICS and UK Governments for inclusion in a City Deal in the Autumn. Based on city deal funding, deliverability/state of readiness and feedback from the NICS, the primary infrastructure projects being developed for Belfast include, Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- linking the north & south of the city and York Street Interchange. Secondary projects include Lagan Bridges and Links (which potentially includes Lagan Bridges - Clarendon to Titanic, Gasworks to Ormeau Embankment and Corporation Street to Odysseys Quays and

Dunbar and Bankmore Links), Transport Hub phase 2 (Weavers Cross) and Living with Water. Initial work on the Lagan Bridges and Links has been done through the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and a number of the city's masterplans and it is therefore proposed to review this along with DfI to assess deliverability, scheduling and state of readiness to see if any of the bridges may move up to the primary list.

3.11 Employability and Skills

The key to the success of the employability and skills approach for BRCD is the development of a more integrated approach to prioritising and planning interventions across the region and respective Council areas in relation to skills for growth and skills for inclusion. Specific priority areas and programmes are being developed to support the key pillars for investments in areas such as;

- Careers Enhancement,
- Apprenticeship Hub,
- Graduate Development,
- Employability for All,
- Economic Activation,
- Business Productivity.

Programme Development and Delivery

3.12 An intensive programme of work for phase 3 of the BRCD has been agreed with the NICS and UK Government to enable the BRCD to progress towards agreement of Heads of Terms in September 2018. This will involve the creation of a virtual team of officials from the BRCD partners, the NICS, and the UK Government to ensure that the programme remains on track and to bring in expert advice from UK government departments to help inform and shape our final proposition. Steering Groups are now being established in relation to four key pillars of investment- Innovation/Digital, Infrastructure, Tourism and Employability and Skills- to direct the rapid development of the primary projects to Strategic Outline Case. The Steering Groups will comprise the council partners and key City Deal partners such as the NICS, Future Cities Catapult (FCC), key agencies, universities and colleges.

3.13 The steering groups will need to deliver initial outputs by July to allow economic appraisal of priority projects in line with the appraisal methodology employed by the relevant central government departments. The appraisal process will necessarily focus on assessing the benefits in terms of jobs

and productivity but will also seek to take account of the need for benefits in each of the partner Councils and for account to be taken of the need for the new jobs that are being created to be accessible by people living in deprived communities.

- 3.14 Steering Groups will also be established on finance and governance. These groups will be tasked with undertaking affordability assessments, developing the financing strategy and developing governance options for the delivery phase which are capable of providing the necessary assurance to the UK Government, the NI Government and the local authority partners that decisions will be made in accordance with the requirements and commitments detailed in the Head of Terms.

Resource for Programme Support

- 3.15 Given the intensity of the work required, a dedicated programme office is being established to support phase 3 of the BRCD programme. All partners have been asked to identify project sponsors/leads for each primary project, who will then represent their organisation in the relevant steering groups, and a programme liaison/coordinator who will ensure that partners are progressing their projects and commitments in accordance with the agreed quality standards and timescales.
- 3.16 However to meet the requirements for the BRCD and to enable progress on the BRCD by September 2018 further specialist support is required to develop the proposition in relation to project and programme development and economic appraisal. This will include; providing assurances on the affordability element of projects and ensuring any projects going forward to the deal will have robust costings from both a capital and revenue perspective; developing financing considerations at both a project and programme level including assessing affordability, borrowing requirements and alternative sources of funding; ensuring the approach being adopted is compliant with Northern Ireland Civil Service and HM Treasury requirements to help build a prioritised programme of schemes which will take account of economic benefits, impact, value for money and inclusivity considerations. The timeframe for the development of Heads of Term during September means that this work need to start immediately and subject to committee approval, officers will work with colleagues in legal services on the most appropriate procurement approach.

Next Steps

3.17 A Joint members Forum, hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, will be held with members from all six councils on 25 June to discuss progress and to help shape the next phase of the BCRD. At this meeting Members will discuss the next phase, including the ask and potential prize, the challenges and how we work together to achieve the best deal for the Belfast City Region. Gordon Matheson, a former leader of Glasgow City Council will chair this session. As the timeframe for the Heads of Term is fast approaching it is recommended that further meetings are planned in August, October and December, with the focus of the August meeting being on progress made towards the Heads of Terms and programme development.

3.18 Financial & Resource Implications

Committee is being asked to approve:

- external expertise to support the further development of the BCRD proposition including specialist economic modelling and prioritisation, project development and proposition design at a cost of approximately £250,000 and
- further work to take forward the BCRD Digital and Innovation Strategy including the development of specific projects, identification of additional funding and delivery mechanisms and engagement with key partners at a cost of £270,000 from within existing budgets.

Committee should note that the costs for both of these pieces of work will be allocated across the six councils in the BCRD, based on the EPP, meaning that the actual cost to Belfast City Council will be approximately £190,000, a third of the total contract costs outlined above.

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

3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021

The Committee was reminded that the Belfast Agenda committed the Council to ensuring an Age-friendly Belfast. The Belfast Strategic Partnership led the age-friendly process, supported by the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP). A draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018 – 2021 had now been produced to be agreed by the partners, including the Council, for public consultation.

The Committee:

- agreed the draft Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 and committed to deliver the actions attributable to the Council; and
- agreed that the draft plan be issued for public consultation from 3rd July til 25th September, 2018.

Gender Action Plan Year One 2018-2019

The Committee was advised that the Gender Action Plan (GAP) had been developed by the Women’s Steering Group (WSG) and set out how the Council would deliver its commitment to gender equality and diversity by delivering a number of agreed activities each year.

The Women’s Steering Group comprised female elected members and female senior managers and had been established in 2006 to address the under representation of female senior managers and female elected Members in the Council through the development of a gender action plan. In recent years, elected Members had been keen to widen the focus of the plan to include women in communities and across the city. The Group had successfully delivered a number of gender initiatives via its GAP, including the provision of a Family Room in City Hall, the hosting of a regional gender budgeting conference and most recently by attaining a bronze award in the Gender Diversity Chartermark NI. The Group had agreed a new three year Gender Action Plan for delivery between April 2018 and March 2021. The plan was divided into four key themes: women in the council; women in the community; women in the economy; and women in the city.

It was reported that many of the actions, in particular those with a focus on women in the community, the economy and the city, were aligned to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. The year one actions and the resources required to deliver those were set out in the accompanying appendix. In addition to the financial resources required, the plan also identified the role that individual business units and departments had in the delivery of the plan.

The Women’s Steering Group had also recognised that, in terms of delivery of the Belfast Agenda, a “diversity lens” and specifically a “gender lens” should be developed to feed into future policy development and action planning, as well as associated capacity building for Council officers and community planning partners. That had been included in the year two action plan.

The Committee agreed to the budget for the delivery of the Gender Action Plan for year one 2018/19.

Members' Poverty Workshop

The Committee considered a report in relation to a proposed Members' Poverty Workshop and agreed that:

- (i) The poverty workshop be arranged in early September, 2018;
- (ii) The Joseph Roundtree Foundation be appointed to facilitate the event;
- (iii) The Belfast Youth Forum be invited to present the findings of its poverty report; and
- (iv) Agreed the outlined approach for an agenda.

Smart Belfast Programme update – 5G Connected Communities application

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 In support of the objectives of the Smart Belfast programme, and within the context of the Belfast Region City Deal, an application has been made to the Department for Culture Media and Sport's 5G Urban Connected Communities project. The project will provide substantial funding to one large urban area to deploy a next generation 5G wireless network.

1.2 Members should note that a DCMS briefing session for this competition was held in Belfast in mid-May and that the closing date for applications was 12 June. Due to these compressed timescales for the preparation of an application, officers were unable to bring this proposal to Committee beforehand.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1. To retrospectively approve the submission of a Belfast application to the DCMS 5G urban Connected Communities project.**
- 2. To note the importance of 5G to the future digital innovation ambitions of the city.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** The UK Department for Culture Media and Sports (DCMS) are making substantial capital and revenue funding available to one large urban area to deploy a 5G network. The aim to establish one of the world's first large-scale urban 5G networks to trial and show-case wireless innovations, products and services (and to attract commercial investment from network operators and international investors.)
- 3.2** Why is 5G important to cities? 5G networks will provide ultra-fast (+100Gb) ubiquitous, wireless connectivity. Over time such networks are likely to replace existing technologies (eg, WiFi, Bluetooth, 4G mobile, Lorawan, and even wired broadband) and to become the backbone for most consumer, industrial and city products, services and processes.
- 3.3** The Government in its national 5G strategy has identified 5G as a key infrastructure for the economy over the next decade. With this in mind, cities need to be thinking now about how they will deploy such networks and how they can integrate 5G opportunities into forthcoming infrastructure projects (eg) street-scaping, street lighting renewal programmes, road, rail, electricity, water and bus-stop investments, public estate investments, new buildings, commercial development sites, etc.
- 3.4** At this point DCMS are engaging with local authorities in their search for a city. They will first choose their ideal urban location and only then will engage with Equipment Manufacturers and Mobile Networks Operators on deployment.
- 3.5** The successful city needs to show a commitment to a shared vision for digital innovation in which public, business and academic partners are committed to working together to test, trial, deploy and showcase how 5G can have an impact on their city. Following engagement with our two local universities, Invest NI, NI Government Depts, and others—an outline application has been made proposing that Belfast is an ideal innovation location for this investment.
- 3.6** Belfast's outline concept proposes a phased development focused initially on the Harbour, Titanic Quarter and city centre (with later phases incorporating the entire Belfast City Council area and then urban parts of surrounding local councils). The rationale for these initial locations is that there is a density of organisations, expertise, and physical

development opportunities that would support deployment and exploitation. (Members should note that 5G is at such an early stage of development and, as such, there are few consumer devices or handsets available. Therefore most initial projects are unlikely to focus on services for the individual resident and will concentrate more on business to business.)

- 3.7 Deployment of such a complex network will be challenging. If successful, it is likely that the city will utilise the new Full Fibre Network investment; but also build on opportunities offered other infrastructure investments, private developments and public transport projects. This will need substantial joint work and commitment between the Council, NI Government Departments and other.
- 3.8 Possible 5G-enabled project proposals for Belfast (developed with QUB's ECIT and Ulster University) include: industrial digitalisation with advanced manufacturers; freight management/supply chain tracking from the port and airport; enhanced immersive tourism experience including the new visitor attraction; city transport management; connected health; assisted living; city centre management; disaster resilience; providing network access at large events; support for film and television; etc.
- 3.9 The successful city will be notified by DCMS in July 2018. Work is expected to commence in the successful city before beginning of Q1 2019.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

In addition to funding from DCMS the successful city is likely to attract substantial co-investment from a wide range of national and international partners. DCMS will work with the successful city to develop such opportunities.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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.

Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the terms of reference for the development of a Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy and the proposed timeline for completion. It was reported that these had both been considered at the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 5th June and had been recommended for approval to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th January, it had agreed that a Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy and associated funding strategy be developed. This strategy was to provide a framework for future decision making on providing funding to National Governing Bodies of Sport delivering programmes in Belfast in support of existing funding streams and work programmes which enhance sporting opportunities for Belfast's sporting organisations and individuals.

Proposed Terms of Reference

Based on what had been agreed by the Committee previously, the following were the proposed Terms of Reference for the development of the strategy:

- Policy context – regional and city level
- Baseline audit of the support currently provided by Belfast City Council
- Key findings from research and benchmarking around best practice from elsewhere
- Summary of the findings of pre-consultation with key stakeholders on support already provided and the needs of the sector
- Guiding principles on how we support sports at the different levels – recreational, competitive, performance (elite)
- Guiding principles on how we support sports to different bodies – governing bodies, sports clubs, other bodies - this will include the issue of whether support should only be provided to governing bodies recognised by the Home Countries Sports Bodies
- An action plan and associated performance measures

Draft Timeline

Subject to Committee's approval of the draft terms of reference, the following was a proposed timeline for the development of the strategy:

Research and benchmarking of best practice	July 2018
Audit of support currently provided by BCC	July 2018
Draft aim and objectives	July 2018
Draft strategic and policy context and agreement on guiding principles – P&C and SP&R Committees.	August 2018

Pre consultation with key stakeholders including DfC, Sport NI and key governing bodies to determine what is already available and key needs of the sector	August and September 2018
Draft strategy document	November 2018
Presentation of the draft strategy to P&C and SP&R Committees.	December 2018
Council ratification	January 2019
12 week public consultation	January to March 2019
Analyse consultation findings and amend strategy as required	April 2019
Finalise equality screening	April 2019
Present draft strategy and action plans to SP&R and P&C Committee	May 2019
Council ratification	June 2019

The Committee agreed to the the proposed Terms of Reference; and the draft timeline for the development of the strategy.

**New Local Government
Resilience Resourcing Model**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider a proposed new regional resourcing model for the local government civil contingencies function. The proposed resourcing model was presented to the NI branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) at its meeting in May. A paper outlining the proposal is attached to this report.**
- 1.2 **Following local government reform and recent restructuring of the areas for local government civil contingencies there are now three sub-regions in Northern Ireland, North, South and Belfast. Each sub-region has a multi-agency Emergency Preparedness Group. The proposed regional resourcing model will provide civil contingencies programme management in the three new sub-regional areas.**
- 1.3 **In brief, the proposed model is a regional service, fully funded by the Department for Communities (DfC), with a single employing authority and a service level agreement**

between it and the other ten councils. DfC funding will be drawn down via the host council, reducing duplication of financial and HR resources and enhancing accountability and governance arrangements. This concept has been successfully employed for other shared service functions, for example, animal welfare.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Note the attached paper outlining the new local government resilience resourcing model and agree the proposed way forward. This will include agreement for a single employing authority and the need for the development of a service level agreement between the employer council and the other ten councils.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The desired outcomes of this proposed new resourcing model are to:

- Provide confidence and assurance for Councils and their Chief Executives that multi-agency plans are in place which complement arrangements existing within councils;
- Have sufficient resilience to provide adequate cover, particularly during response to emergencies;
- Embed adequate governance arrangements to ensure consistency and performance management across all EPG areas;
- Align as best as possible with other organisations planning and response structures to allow for effective planning and response

3.2 Currently Belfast City Council employs a Programme Manager for the Belfast EPG; the Council also hosts the Regional Officer for local government civil contingencies and a regional support officer post. DfC funds these posts and the support costs for the Belfast EPG.

3.3 Under the proposed new arrangements, the Regional Officer will report to a director in the host council and to a regional steering group comprising Chief Executives from the three sub-regions and the SOLACE lead for the Civil Contingencies function.

- 3.4 For the Belfast area, the proposal is to increase resourcing from one existing Programme Manager and a 50% administration post to two full time posts. The new posts will be referred to as a Resilience Manager and a Resilience Officer. These posts will be 100% funded by DfC. The post of the Resilience Manager will be a permanent post and the Resilience Officer a fixed term post. These posts will continue to be located in Belfast City Council but will be employed by the host council.
- 3.5 On Call Arrangements will be incorporated into the post of the Resilience Manager and because it will be a regional service, Belfast will be in a position to avail of regional on call capacity for multi-agency response.
- 3.6 Financial & Resource Implications
- A business plan was agreed in 2016 to fully fund this function until 2021. Liaison is ongoing with DfC and TEO (The Executive Office) to secure sustainable funding on a longer term.
- 3.7 The complex staffing issues, legacy structures and associated costs referred to in the attached paper should not apply to Belfast City Council as it remains a single council in a sub-region.
- 3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications
- None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Update on Aquatic Strategy

The Committee was reminded that the Council, Active Belfast limited and Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) were partners in delivering the leisure service for Belfast. As partners, they had committed to developing a strategy for aquatics for the period 2018 – 2030. Following pre-consultation the previous summer with key stakeholders, including schools, swimming clubs and other water-based sports clubs which used the Council’s facilities, the partners had drafted a strategy. Throughout the development process of the draft strategy, it had been agreed at key stages by the Active Belfast Board and reported through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The next stage in the process was to undertake a public consultation on the draft strategy. Subject to the Council’s approval, it was proposed that the public consultation would take place from Monday 23rd July to Friday, 12th October. The public consultation would include the use of the Council’s online platform Citizen Space and

public information sessions. The consultation would be publicised through the usual Council communication channels and information sessions would be held towards the end of the consultation period to ensure maximum participation.

It was anticipated that the findings from the public consultations and the final strategy, with any proposed amendments as a result of the consultation, would be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee for consideration and final approval.

The Committee agreed to the draft strategy and the proposed approach and timeline for public consultation.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Capital Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, the Social Outcomes Fund and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update for Members on the Physical Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

General

- **note the achievements under the physical programme over the last quarter as outlined in 3.1 and that, given the both the current scale of the programme and the number of new Members, that a tour of a number of physical projects (both completed or underway) is being scheduled for all Members. All Members are encouraged to take up this opportunity (see 3.2).**

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- **agree that the Navarra Place project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is recommended that this is held at ‘Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk’ pending confirmation of funding from the DoJ, agreement on the land transfer from NIHE and a satisfactory tender return. Members are further asked**

to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

- Physical Programme 2018/2019 and beyond
- note the challenges and implications for the Physical Programme moving forward and agree that a series of Party Group briefings are undertaken on the Physical Programme, its links to the Council's strategic agenda and the future financing strategy are undertaken.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme covering over 200 projects under a range of funding streams including the capital programme, BIF and LIF together with the projects that it is delivering on behalf of other agencies including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities. There are currently approx. 200 'live' projects on the physical programme worth in excess of £300m which makes it not only a significant programme from a Council perspective but also one of the biggest regeneration programmes in the city.
- 3.2 It is proposed that, given the both the current scale of the programme and the number of new Members, that a tour of a number of physical projects (both completed and underway) across the city is scheduled for all Members. It is likely that this will take place in August/September and ideally will be scheduled for a Saturday morning. Details will be communicated in due course and all Members are encouraged to take up this opportunity.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note that there have been significant achievements under the physical programme in the last couple of months –
- RICS Northern Ireland Project of the Year – the Council was awarded the prestigious RICS Project of the Year in Northern Ireland for the £3.7m redevelopment and upgrade of the Tropical Ravine. The highly acclaimed Project of the Year title is presented to the scheme which

demonstrates overall outstanding best practice and an exemplary commitment to adding value to its local area. In awarding this, the RICS judges noted that *“The Tropical Ravine was unanimously supported as Project of the Year. Its sensitive conservation approach was professional, and the partnership created of caring community groups and the Heritage Lottery Fund added strength and injected a variety of views, often conflicting, and aspirations which collectively have transformed this neglected overgrown corner of Botanic Gardens into a visitor attraction with an amazing story to be absorbed at leisure”*. In addition the judging panel highlighted that *“Many visitors to Botanic Gardens in past years would not have known this Victorian building had existed for 120 years. Belfast City Council, Friends of Botanic and the Heritage Lottery Fund have transformed this unique national treasure and propelled it into the 21st century. The story it now tells, and welcomes you to share in, is a model of best practice.”*

- Significantly Members are asked to note that this is the second year in a row that the Council has won RICS Project of the Year with Girdwood Community Hub winning the accolade in 2017. This is a huge acclamation of the Council and the key role that officers, from across all Departments in the Council, played in making these projects happen.
- Official opening of the new £21.75m Olympia - The new £21.75m Olympia was officially opened on 21st June. This followed the opening of the new leisure facility last year and marked the end of over three years work on the site. The new outdoor facilities opened yesterday include a 3G pitch, MUGA, playground, boulevard way leading in off Boucher Road and a new pedestrian entrance off Olympia Drive together with a new art pieces. The success of Olympia is evident in its usage figures which have seen a 78% increase in footfall, a 50% rise in adult gym memberships and a 250% rise in the number of children taking part in the swim school.
- Completion of the £15m Playing Pitches Strategy – Members will recall that in 2012 a Playing Pitches Strategy for the city was agreed. Under this the Council invested £14m in 10 new playing pitches and pavilions across the city while the GAA

provided match funding of £1m. The new 3G pitch and pavilion at Falls Park has recently been completed with the final pitch at Cherryvale due to complete next month. This is the culmination of the programme which has seen facilities at –

Location	Investment
Ballysillan Playing Fields	New changing pavilion
Cherryvale Playing Fields	New pitch 3G, repositioning of existing turf pitch
Cliftonville Playing Fields	New 3G pitch and changing pavilion
Dixon Playing Fields	New changing pavilion
Falls Park	New 3G pitch and pavilion
Musgrave Park	New pavilion and existing pitch extension
Ormeau Park	New 3G pitch
Victoria Park	New changing pavilion
Waterworks	New Changing pavilion
Woodlands Playing Fields	New 3G pitch, existing pitch extension and changing pavilion

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- 3.4 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme -

Project	Overview	Stage
Navarra Place	Development of a new playground and MUGA	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending confirmation of funding from DoJ, completion of the land transfer from NIHE and a satisfactory tender return

Move to Stage 3 – Committed

- 3.5 Navarra Place – Navarra Place is a small area located off the Whitewell Road in the north at a community interface. This proposal is for the development of a new playground, MUGA and the removal of an interface structure at the boundary

with Serpentine Road. Although owned by the NIHE, the Council built a playground on the site in 2006 and has operated the playground and maintained the land since this time. The Council is currently in the process of agreeing the land transfer from NIHE and the project is contingent on this land being transferred. Members are asked to note that DoJ have committed 50% match funding to this project and a letter of offer is currently awaited.

- 3.6 It is recommended that the Navarra Place project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but that this is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending confirmation of funding from the DoJ, agreement on the land transfer from NIHE and a satisfactory tender return. At this stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee for sign-off and confirmation that it is within the affordability limits of the Council. In addition, Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

Physical Programme 2018/2019 and beyond

- 3.7 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme under a range of funding streams. As at 18th June this comprised 197 live projects across 7 funding streams (Cap Prog, LTP, LIF, BIF, UV, BSC, SIF, etc) as well as the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other organisations. Members will be aware that the Council is increasingly becoming the agent of choice for a number of central government departments including the Executive Office. Delivering these projects, while a recognition of both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city, also bring with them their own risks and issues. The breakdown of the current physical programme is shown below –

Scale	Area	Funding Stream
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Transformational (over £5m gross) • 21 Landmark (over £1m gross) • 166 Local (below £1m gross) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North -55 • South – 24 • East – 36 • West – 43 • Citywide – 12 • Corporate – 17 • City Centre - 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cap Prog – 49 •LTP – 7 •LIF – 41 •BIF – 39 •Peace IV – 3 •Social Outcomes Fund – 9 •Urban Villages – 8 •Social Investment

		Fund – 15 •Other – 26
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3.8 Members will appreciate that the Council’s physical programme is one of the most important programmes delivered by the Council and due to the nature of capital projects it is also one of the most visible and easily recognisable signs of the Council’s civic leadership role in the city. Moving forward the Council will face two key challenges in respect of the capital programme. These are:

- The capital financing budget will soon come under pressure if all the projects currently in the programme are to be delivered.
- The need to ensure that Investment decisions are taken within the context of strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda and in full consideration of what assets already exist in an area and how these are being used

3.9 Given the implications of this, it is recommended a series of Party Group briefings are undertaken on the Physical Programme, its links to the Council’s strategic agenda and the future financing strategy are undertaken. In order to maximise the benefit of these Briefings it is recommended that all Members avail of the opportunity to undertake the tour of the projects which is being scheduled (see 3.2 above). This will help set the Programme in context for Members. This will take place before the Briefings.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – Navarra Place is being held at ‘Tier 0 -Scheme at risk’ pending confirmation of funding from DOJ, agreement on the transfer of NIHE site and satisfactory tender return.

Resources – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Asset Management

The Committee agreed to grant approval to the following, subject to the detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and City Solicitor:

Ravenscroft Avenue Car Park – Land Disposal

The disposal of a portion of land at Ravenscroft Avenue to the Department of Infrastructure for £2,000 in order to facilitate the construction of a bike shelter.

Corporation Street Off Street Car Park – Licence Renewal

The renewal (at a nominal licence fee) of a one-year licence agreement with the Department for Infrastructure for the off street car park at Corporation Street.

Duncrue Complex – North West Mountain Rescue Licence

The grant of a one-year licence to the North West Mountain Rescue Team for use of a vehicle parking space within Duncrue Complex on the terms as outlined in the report.

Cregagh Youth and Community Centre – New Licence to Ulster Rugby for occasional use of overflow car park

The grant of a 9-month Licence to Ulster Rugby for their occasional use of the overflow car park adjacent to Cregagh Youth and Community Centre.

Finlay Park –Licence for sewer connection

The grant of a licence and easement for Choice Housing Association to make a connection to the public sewer situated in Finlay Park.

Brook Activity Centre and Playing Fields – Lease to Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) for a substation and Cable Wayleave

The grant of a 999-year lease and cable wayleave to NIE for a site at Summerhill Road for the purpose of providing electricity supply to the proposed Brook Leisure Centre.

Giant's Park, North Foreshore – Licences for Bird Surveys

The grant of a Licence Agreement to the British Trust for Ornithology in respect of bird surveys to be undertaken at Giant's Park, North Foreshore, for a period of 5

years. In addition, the Committee approved the grant of licence agreements with prospective developers, as required, in respect of bird surveys to inform planning applications.

**Giant's Park, North Foreshore –
Variation of Electricity Power Purchase Agreement**

Authority for the Council to enter into a Deed of Amendment with Power NI to alter the current electricity Power Purchase Agreement between the Council and Power NI.

Grampian Avenue Playground – Acquisition of Land

The acquisition of two plots of land at Grampian Avenue Playground from the Department for Infrastructure and Radius Housing Association on the terms as set out in the report.

Disposal of Land for Housing

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval in principle to the disposal of Council owned land to two Housing Associations for the development of housing.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 1. Members approval is sought in principle to the disposal of land at:

- (i) the former Grove Primary School site to Grove Housing Association and**
- (ii) Upper Whiterock Rd (adjacent 265 Whiterock Rd) to Radius Housing Association.**

The disposal of these lands are subject to valuation by Land & Property Services and detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manger and City Solicitor.

2. Members are asked to note that there are other housing proposals in respect of various Council lands currently underway. Further reports will be brought back to Committee in the near future regarding these proposals. Members should also note that in recent years a number of surplus Council lands have been sold for social housing purposes.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** The Council owns the former Grove Primary School Site at North Queen Street, which it acquired in December 2012. The site extends to approximately 2.5 acres and adjoins the Council owned Grove Playing Fields and is located opposite the Old Grove Leisure Centre site.
- 3.2** Members will be aware that, as part of the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), there are proposals for the development of the former Grove Leisure Centre site as a community and youth facility. The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, at their meeting on 24 November 2017, gave approval to move the project proposal to Stage 2 (Uncommitted) under BIF. An Economic Appraisal process is currently underway in respect of this project.
- 3.3** The former Grove Primary School site is held in the Councils Corporate Landbank as a surplus asset and a planning appraisal has been undertaken which indicates that it may be suitable for development of housing. Grove Housing Association, supported by NIHE, wish to acquire the site for the development of social housing. Their initial proposal is for 24 units, although there will be scope for some further development on the site at a later stage.
- 3.4** It should also be noted that the site adjoins lands owned by NIHE at Alexandra Park Avenue who have recently agreed the sale of their lands for private housing development. The development of these combined lands (all of which are currently lying vacant) for private and social housing, together with the BIF proposal for the community /youth facility, will significantly contribute to the regeneration of this area from a social and economic perspective.
- 3.5** The Council also owns an area of land, extending to 3.7 acres, at the upper end of Whiterock Road (adjacent 265 Whiterock Rd), to the rear of New Barnsley Crescent. This land is located within the development limit for Belfast and zoned for housing within the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001. The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2014 also zones it for social housing. The land is not currently used for any operational purposes.
- 3.6** Radius Housing Association have expressed an interest in acquiring the land for housing development and the NIHE have indicated their support. The initial proposal by Radius Housing Association indicates a potential development of 39

units although further feasibility work will be required to inform the development potential of the land.

- 3.7 The lands are located in close proximity to the Peace IV Shared Spaces Local Action Plan area. Members will be aware that the Shared Space capital project element includes the creation of a 'necklace' of 11 shared spaces. Members may also be aware that other lands at Ballygomartin Road, also located in close proximity to this Local Action Plan have recently been purchased by a private developer, for the purposes of a housing development. The development of the Council lands by Radius Housing, as well as the development of the privately owned lands, would integrate well into the overall Peace IV proposals.
- 3.8 On a more general note, Members will be aware that the Council has previously disposed of various surplus lands to Housing Associations. This includes lands at Glen Road, Colin Glen, Clara Street, Templemore Avenue and Stewart St / Raphael St (adjacent the Markets area) and agreement for land at McClure St. A total of over 300 social housing units have been built on the lands already disposed of by the Council. There are also ongoing discussions in relation to various other Council lands for the development of social housing, which will be brought back to Committee in due course. A further report is to be brought back into Committee in the near future in relation to the Masterplan for the Gasworks Northern Fringe lands which includes proposals for social housing, as well as the development of further lands for social housing at Glen Road in West Belfast.
- 3.9 In addition, following a decision of the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 9 May 2018 a Strategic Site Assessment analysis is being undertaken to review the Council's city centre surface level car parks which will consider the potential for redevelopment, including locations best suited for development for housing, mixed use and car parking etc. This assessment is also considering opportunities for further land assembly including other adjoining lands in public sector ownership (including DfC and NIHE lands). This could result in more comprehensive development than simply considering the development of the Council's lands in isolation. This site assessment work will also consider planning, density, site constraints and opportunities for maximising development potential, whilst also taking into account city centre car parking requirements. Similar site appraisal reports were previously undertaken for the lands at Grove, Glen Road, Gasworks etc prior to recommendations on disposal.

3.10 The Belfast Agenda recognises that housing is key issue in creating sustainable communities and that affordable and safe housing is fundamental to the quality of life for our residents. The NIHE is identified as a key community planning partner and the Belfast Agenda highlights that social housing has an important role to play in creating the type of city we want Belfast to be in the future. One of the key priorities in the Belfast Agenda is to increase social and affordable housing in the city and a stretch goal for 2021 is to deliver 1800 social housing units and agree a city target for affordable housing. The development of the lands at Grove and Upper Whiterock Road will therefore contribute towards these goals. As referred to above, further proposals will also be brought forward in the near future in respect of other Council owned lands for the development of housing.

3.10 Finance & Resource Implications

The disposal of the land will result in a capital premium for the Council. Land and Property Services will value the land.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Area Working Update

The Committee:

Area Working Group Minutes

- Approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups (AWG) as follows: (East – 16th May; East – 17th May; South – 21st May; West – 24th May; North - 29th May and East – 7th June).

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

- Agreed the recommended proposals as set out below from the North and West AWGs in relation to LIF

AWG	Project	Recommendation from AWG
West	WLIF2-17 - North Belfast Working Men's Club	To be withdrawn from LIF programme
West	WLIF2-24 - Paisley Park Sportsplex*	In principle funding of £24,000
North	NLIF2-03 - Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership**	In principle funding of £15,000
North	NLIF2-21 - Somme Garden of Remembrance**	In principle funding of £21,667

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

- Agreed the recommended proposals as set out below from the North and East AWGs in relation to BIF:

AWG	Project	Current Stage	Recommendation from AWG
North	Hillview Boxing Club	Stage 1 – Emerging	<i>To be withdrawn from BIF programme</i>
North	Marrowbone Park	N/A	Add as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project with a ring-fenced allocation of up to £500k. Will be required to go through the Council’s agreed stage approval process and due diligence process
East	Lisnasharragh Community Schools project	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £398,000 - Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and confirmation of any match funding

Social Innovation Challenge Programme

- Agreed that the following projects receive funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme:

NORTH (NEW LODGE)

PROJECT	GROUP	AMOUNT
Community Ideas Platform	New Lodge CEP	£15,000
Innovative Youth Space	New Lodge Youth Centre	£15,000
Steps Regeneration	New Lodge CEP	£15,000

EAST (INNER EAST)

PROJECT	GROUP	AMOUNT
Holiday Hunger programme	Scaffolding Project (Eastside partnership)	£15,000

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Financial Reporting Quarter 4 2017-18

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the financial outturn for the Council for the year ended 31 March 2018. It includes a reporting pack**

which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and covers the outturn for the year and implications for reserves and the year-end Treasury Management position (Appendix 2).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the year end outturn and reserves position.
- Note that the balance of department underspend of £28,993 will be allocated to General Reserves.

3.0 Main report

Financial Outturn 2017/18

3.1 The year-end departmental position for the Council is an under-spend of £435,514 (0.3%). The main reasons for the departmental net expenditure variance include employee under-spends due to staff turnover, vacancies and receipt of additional central grants income.

3.2 Members will recall that the Committee, on the 18 May 2018, agreed to allocate £226,521 from General Reserves and £180,000 from the Capital of Culture Specified Reserves to fund £406,521 of area-based festivals expenditure.

3.3 After the replenishment of reserves for the above allocations of £406,521 from the departmental underspend of £435,514 there remains a balance of £28,993 of departmental underspend which will be transferred to General Reserves.

LPS Rates Finalisation

3.3 The year-end outturn as reported by LPS is a surplus of £750k. This comprises a surplus rates income of £1.1m and reduction in the actual derating grant of £350k. This surplus was fully allocated by the Committee in November 2017.

Capital Financing

3.4 The year-end capital financing expenditure was fully applied at the year end, this includes the £2.2m of financing available due to slippage in the capital programme, which was reallocated by the Committee in November 2017.

Capital Expenditure

- 3.5 In the twelve months to 31 March 2018 the Council incurred net expenditure of £19.2m on capital schemes. In addition £3.2m of levered monies was also spent on capital schemes during the year bringing the gross capital expenditure to £22.4m for 2017/18. Non-recurring project expenditure was £0.9m against a budget of £1.2m.

Local Investment Funds (LIF 1 and LIF 2)

- 3.6 Committed expenditure on LIF 1 projects at the year-end was almost £5m, leaving a minimal balance of LIF 1 funding.
- 3.7 Committed expenditure on LIF 2 projects was £3.86m leaving a balance of £140k.

City Centre Social Outcomes Fund

- 3.8 The City Centre Social Outcomes Fund was fully financed and the full balance of £4m remains in the fund at the 31 March 2018.

Belfast Investment Fund

- 3.9 The Belfast Investment Fund balance was £4.25m at the end of 2017/18. From 2018/19, the recurrent rates contribution of £3.27m per annum will be allocated to the Belfast Investment Fund to finance £28.2m of Belfast investment Fund expenditure in future years.

City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF).

- 3.10 The balance of the City Centre Investment Fund at the year-end was £15.3m.

Reserves Position

- 3.11 The opening balance of Specified Reserves at the start of 2017/18 was £7.6m and General Reserves of £13.4m. After movements and allocations by the Committee during the year the Council has Specified Reserves of £10.7m and General Reserves of £13.7m at the year end.

Summary of Council Financial Position for 2018/19

- 3.12 Robust financial planning means that the Council will commence the 2018/19 year with access to the following

financial resources to ensure an adequate reserves position and fund the capital investment plans for the City.

- General Reserves £13.7m
- Specified Reserves £10.7m
- City Centre Social Outcomes Fund £4m
- City Centre Investment Fund £15.3m
- Belfast Investment Fund £28.2m (to be financed by £3.27m annually from 18/19)
- Capital Financing Budget Programme £20.7m
- Leisure Transformation Programme £105m

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

The report sets out the 2017/18 year end position.

3.14 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications with this report.”

The Committee noted the year end outturn and reserves position and agreed that the balance of the departmental underspend of £28,993 be allocated to General Reserves.

Belfast City Council Assurance Framework and Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this paper is twofold;

- to explain to Members the key elements of the ‘year-end’ process and the ‘assurance framework’ that the Council has developed over recent years to help ensure that the Council complies with statutory requirements and Members and senior officers can have effective, ongoing oversight of the Council’s governance and assurance arrangements.
- to present the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18, for consideration and inclusion in the unaudited statement of accounts which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2018 and then subject to NIAO audit. The Statement has been considered by the Audit & Risk Panel but must be approved by the Committee Chair, the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer.

1.2 The Annual Governance Statement is an important document and it is important that the Committee is fully aware of its contents. The disclosures in the statement are based upon the Council's corporate risk register and take into consideration the disclosures made by Chief Officers in their individual annual assurance statements. The Annual Governance Statement also incorporates a summary of the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Service's annual assurance statement.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committees is asked to

- Note the Council's Assurance Framework.
- Review and approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18 and, in particular, the disclosure of the significant governance issues contained in the statement.
- Following review, the statement will be incorporated into the Council's unaudited financial statements for 2017/18 which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2018. It will be subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Council's Assurance Framework shows how different sources of assurance and related key elements / control measures combine to enable the Council to monitor its governance arrangements and produce the evidence to support its Annual Governance Statement. The diagram shows how the Council's Audit & Risk Panel, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council provide oversight of these governance arrangements.

3.1 Preparation of Annual Governance Statement

The Council has a statutory responsibility to annually prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement as part of the Financial Report. Many different processes inform the preparation of the Statement as can be seen from the Assurance Framework at Appendix 1. Specifically, the Annual Governance Statement sets out:

- scope of the responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
 - the purpose of the governance framework
 - the governance framework that is actually in place
 - the review of effectiveness of the governance framework that has taken place
 - an update on the significant governance issues disclosed at year-end 2017
 - significant governance issues to be disclosed for year-end 2018 and action proposed to address them.
- 3.3 The Statement for 2017/18 is presented at Appendix 2 and should be approved by the Chair of Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.
- 3.4 It will be incorporated into the unaudited statement of accounts which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2018. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.
- 3.5 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- None.
- 3.6 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Audit and Risk Panel Annual Report and Minutes of the Meeting of 5th June 2018

The Committee:

- noted the summary of the work of the Panel during 2017/18; and
- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 5th June, 2018.

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;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender;
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts were under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2; and

- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55 - (a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances - for the contracts laid out in Appendix 1, Table 3:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Rates Maximisation Tool	Ronan Cregan	1 year
Health & Safety	Ronan Cregan	4 year
Comvault	Ronan Cregan	3 year
Accessibility and Transport Modelling	Ronan Cregan	Up to 6 months
Economic, VFM and Inclusivity Modelling	Ronan Cregan	1 year
BRCDD Digital and Innovation Strategy Technical Assistance	Ronan Cregan	1 year
IT system for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)	Ronan Cregan	5 year
Lone Workers Devices	John Walsh	1 year + 2
First Aid Training	John Walsh	2 year +1
Print Framework	John Tully	1 year + 2
Youth Outreach Programme	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year +1 +1
Youth Diversionary Service	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year +1 +1
Hydraulic Hoses	Nigel Grimshaw	3 year +1
Consultancy Change Programme	Nigel Grimshaw	3 year
Provision of Pest Control Services	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year
Radiochemical Analysis and Interpretation of Data	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year +2
Managed Service for Energy	Gerry Millar	4 year

Care/ Childcare Employment academy	Alistair Reid	4 year
Go Social	Alistair Reid	4 year
Procurement Programme	Alistair Reid	4 year
Destination Hub - Development of a Business Case	Alistair Reid	1 year
Implementation of Masterplan	Alistair Reid	1 year
Retail Mitigation Programme	Alistair Reid	2 year +1
Development of Employment Academy Procurement Framework & Call off List	Alistair Reid	1 year
Kick Start	Alistair Reid	4 year
Construction of Employment Academy	Alistair Reid	4 year
City Pledge Intervention	Alistair Reid	2 year + 1
Destination Hub – Design Competition	Alistair Reid	1 year +1 +1
Destination Hub – Financial Assessment/Due Diligence	Alistair Reid	1 year

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
T1517 Medical Referee Service	Nigel Grimshaw	month by month until a new contract is in place

Table 3 Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System / product	Supplier	Estimate
Lexis Nexis Licence	Lexis Nexus	£66K over 3 years
Annual Property Asset Valuation	LPS	£50,000 over 5 years

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 11th June.

Operational Issues

Pride of Place Awards 2018

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to the Pride of Place Awards in 2018 and to present options regarding BCC participation.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider the options put forward for the Pride of Place Awards 2018 and agree their preferred option.**
- ii. Approve the entry costs of the proposed groups based on the preferred option.**
- iii. Approve the accommodation allowance for the Judges' Assessment Visit to Belfast in August 2018.**
- iv. Approve the attendance of the Chair, or their nominee, and the project officer, together with a maximum of two persons per external project at the 2018 awards ceremony and approve the payment of corresponding entrant fees, travel, attendance and subsistence allowances.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Pride of Place competition has been supported by Belfast City Council for a number of years with Community Service Officers taking the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups since 2009. It is run by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the All Island Local Authority Steering forum, which encourages strategic and

sustainable approaches to cross-border co-operation by Local Authorities.

- 3.2 The competition recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area.
- 3.3 Each year, several categories are defined and entries invited: all entrants must be nominated by their local authority. Each Council can nominate up to 5 groups in for separate categories. The 2018 categories are;
- Urban Neighbourhoods under 1,000
 - Urban Neighbourhoods between 1,000-2,000
 - Urban neighbourhoods over 2,000
 - Creative Place Initiative
 - Community Wellbeing Initiative
 - Communities Reaching Out Initiative
- 3.4 Winners are announced at a high-profile awards ceremony which is hosted by a previous winning council. The 2017 Gala Event was hosted by Donegal County Council. This year the event will be held in Cork City Hall on 17th November.
- 3.5 In previous years, entrants nominated and sponsored by Belfast City Council have enjoyed considerable success. Since 2009, 38 Organisations have been nominated.
- 3.6 Last year Council nominated:
- The Hanwood Project in the *Urban Neighbourhood Over 2,000* category
 - Lower Oldpark Community Association in the *Urban Neighbourhood Under 3,000* category
 - College Park Avenue Residents' Association in the *Community Environmental Initiative* category
 - Upper Springfield Youth Team in the *Community Based Youth Initiative* category.
- 3.7 Both Lower Oldpark Community Association and the Upper Springfield Youth Team were the overall winners in their respective categories.
- 3.8 All the groups nominated to date have given positive feedback and have experienced tangible benefits from their association with the competition. These include an increased sense of pride, motivation to continue their commitment to

provide excellent community facilities and programmes and increased recognition for their interventions from their local community.

Key Issues

- 3.9 We received notification of the Pride Place Awards at the end of March with a closing date for applications in May 2018. Normally the process would be a month longer and this shortened time-frame has presented challenges in terms of our engagement, selection and nomination process. To support our participation, Co-operation have extended their deadline for nominations. We have approached organisations across the city which have not been proposed previously for the award, who have significant capacity to engage in the selection process and who have good governance, community involvement and level of service provision to ensure that they would have a reasonable chance of competing positively in the PoP assessment process.
- 3.10 The five groups we have initially approached and who have agreed in principle to participate in the Awards process are:
- Bloomfield Community Association - Urban Neighbourhoods under 1,000
 - Markets Development Association- Urban Neighbourhoods between 1,000-2,000
 - Benview Community Centre- Urban neighbourhoods over 2,000
 - The Maureen Sheehan Centre- Community Wellbeing Initiative-
 - The Three Faiths Initiative- Communities Reaching Out Initiative
- 3.11 If endorsed by committee, officers will work with these organisations to support their involvement, however, we are requesting authority to approach other similar organisations should any of the 5 nominees withdraw from the process.
- 3.12 The 2018 Awards Ceremony for Pride of Place will be held in Cork City Hall on the 17 November. Due to the distance, it is expected that this will require 3 days including travel, accommodation, additional meals and attendance at the gala event. In previous years only one night accommodation was required however it is proposed that in order to encourage participation this is extended to 2 overnights. Thus the costs for participation at the event this year exceeds the current service budget allocated.

- 3.13 The normal budget allocation contained in the service estimate is £4,200. As noted, due to the location of this year's event, this will be inadequate. Given the profile of the awards, our historical participation which allows BCC to showcase vibrant community development in the city and the positive benefit to participating groups, officers have reviewed participation to reduce costs. Co-operation Ireland have also agreed to reduce entrance fees to support BCC attendance.
- 3.14 Members will be aware that consideration of attendance at the Pride of Place Awards is a matter for the People and Communities Committee. However, given the timeframe for nominations and the selection process, it was not possible to submit a report to that Committee on 5th June and the next meeting will not be held until August, which will be too late for the Council to submit nominations. Therefore, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is being asked to approve the Council's participation, with any decision being reported subsequently to the People and Communities Committee.
- 3.15 Options for Consideration- Financial

Option	Description	Cost
Option 1 Do not participate in this year's award	Council do not nominate organisations for this year's competition.	0
Option 2 Maximum participation in Award- 5 Nominated Groups plus Council representation	5 Nominated Groups x 2 Representatives P&C Chair (or nominated representative) Officer Bus Driver	£6,631

Financial & Resource Implications

Item	Unit Cost	Option 2
Award Entry Fee	£ 250.00	£ 1,250.00
3 Day Judges Visit		
Accommodation	£ 144.00	£ 576.00
Lunch	£ 20.00	£ 40.00
Gala Presentation		
Transport	£ 1,330.00	£ 1,330.00

Accommodation (max of 2 nights)	£ 184.00	£ 2,392.00
Evening Meal	£ 31.00	£ 403.00
2 Lunches	£ 30.00	£ 390.00
Commemorative presentation brochure advert	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Total		£ 6,631.00

3.16 The additional £2,400 required to support participation will be met from identified service underspend in 2018/19.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Organisations nominated for the Pride of Place awards reflect the diversity of the city and will promote equality of opportunity and good relations amongst nominees.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed to Option 2, that is, maximum participation in the awards - five nominated groups plus Council representation.

Elected Member Development

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To propose an approach to commission future learning and development providers for elected member development.

1.2 To set out a draft proposed Governance Continuing Development Programme, with the aim of further supporting members in their governance role.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to :

- Agree that the selection and commissioning of all external learning and development providers for the purposes of elected member development is undertaken by Corporate HR, in line with corporate**

procurement guidelines and the associated financial thresholds.

- The roll-out of a Governance development programme up until February/March 2019, the proposed content of the programme, and suggest any other additional topics or activities which they consider would be beneficial to incorporate within the overall programme.

3.0 Main report

Approach to elected member learning and development provision

3.1 The current member development framework, approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in March, 2017 includes:

- A PDP process for elected members (with an associated annual budget of £730 per member)
- Members' Assistance to Study Scheme
- Elected Member Role Profiles
- Members' Knowledge and Skills Framework
- Elected Member Capacity Building Plan

3.2 Internal expertise is used to design and deliver much of the capacity building for elected members. However, for some elements of member training, particularly in respect of the planning and licensing functions, it has been necessary to commission external expertise in particular fields.

3.3 Currently, commissioning of external expertise for corporately led member capacity building programmes is undertaken by HR in line with corporate guidelines. Where feasible HR uses the Local Government Training Group's call-off framework for learning and development provision, for the selection of appropriate providers and undertakes procurement exercises, where necessary.

3.4 In respect of Members' PDPs, there are occasions when members will have a preferred learning and development provider to deliver training either on an individual basis, or where PDP budgets are pooled by a party group to deliver capacity building collectively to the party. While it is recognised that on occasion members may have preferences regarding providers, it is proposed that the most appropriate approach is for Corporate HR to commission any necessary external provision in line with procurement guidance.

This will ensure a more structured and robust approach to the commissioning of learning and development providers, in particular for members' PDP activities.

Elected members role in good governance

- 3.5 Good corporate governance is an essential element in the efficient running of local government and is critical if the Council is to achieve the goals set out in the Belfast Agenda and meet the expectations of citizens and stakeholders.
- 3.6 The Council's governance arrangements are concerned with the structures and processes for decision-making, accountability and transparency. Collectively the governance arrangements facilitate the Council in having a clear direction, accountability and appropriate working arrangements, which help ensure we achieve what we set out to do. The internal governance, ethics, and relationships, which underpin good governance, are set out in the Council's Standing Orders and Elected Members' Role Profiles.

Continuing Development programme

- 3.7 Given the need for ongoing good corporate governance, a continuing development programme, covering key governance topics, has been developed. The programme, detailed at Appendix One, will support members in their role as elected representatives with responsibility for contributing to and overseeing the implementation of good governance across the Council.
- 3.8 The modular programme will be delivered, on a month by month basis, by means of interactive sessions facilitated, in the main, by senior council officers and where appropriate using external experts. To date two modules of the programme have been delivered; Code of Conduct training in March 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) training delivered by officers during May 2018.
- 3.9 The remaining modules of the programme, will focus on:
- Decision making in the legal and political context including the General Power of Competence;
 - Good governance and due diligence;
 - Managing our finances;
 - Regeneration and investment in the city;
 - Members' roles on outside bodies and external boards;
 - Training in the role of chair;
 - Fraud, bribery, corruption and whistleblowing; and
 - The election and count processes

3.10 Financial Implications

The proposed approach to commission all external providers will ensure value for money along with a high level of quality provision. Internal expertise will be used in the main to design and deliver the Governance development programme. Corporate Human Resources will work with key senior officers to co-ordinate its delivery. The costs of any external expertise required will be met from the 2018-2019 Organisational Development budget.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report as all elected members will be invited to attend each module.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Affordable Warmth Scheme

The Committee considered a report which had been submitted by the Strategic Director of City and neighbourhood Services in relation to the Affordable Warmth scheme:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 At SP&R on 23rd March 2018 a report was presented to discuss the proposal tabled at the People and Communities committee around the issue of providing additional resourcing for the scheme. The recommendations were:

- **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.**
- **Members are also asked to note, that the Department for Communities (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.**
- **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.**

1.2 During the meeting it was agreed that officers would carry out a trawl to see if there is spare capacity within another section to assist in delivering the Affordable Warmth (AW) scheme. The service is currently carrying out a trawl across

the organisation for additional business support staff to support the customer contact and administration elements of the scheme.

- 1.3 The managers meeting of 27th March did not provide any commitment from DfC for 2018-2019. Following a further managers meeting on 25th May 2018 DfC confirmed that the target number of referrals would be reduced to a total of 220 in the year, compared to 405 last year. The budget provided for the year is £68,780 compared to £73,305 last year. This means 17 referrals per month can be sent to Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) from June 2018.
- 1.4 This new target number of referrals will not meet the number of self-referrals being made to the scheme, with over 950 people currently on an expression of interest list, and will further exacerbate the difficulty in managing the expectations of the public. It is essential that the DfC agree to a message that councils can deliver as the front face of the scheme to help manage this expectation. While during the managers meeting this issue was raised with the DfC, they have suggested that a further workshop is held to look at the prioritisation, public expectations and the wider issues of the scheme.
- 1.5 Written confirmation of the funding and referral targets was received from the DfC on 11th June (Appendix 2). They also provided an SLA for 2018-2019 (Appendix 3). The changes from the previous SLA are duties for councils and are highlighted in the document:
- ‘highlight urgent cases to the NIHE Grants Manager at the time of referral. An urgent case is defined as a household with no heating system, or central heating which is broken down beyond repair.’
- Note that the service already has this arrangement with the NIHE.
- ‘Carry out additional duties such as handholding of householders and qualitative case studies of homes which have received assistance through the Scheme. (To be agreed following Workshop in June 2018)’.

The service already does significant handholding and will have no issue in delivering case studies as part of the scheme.

Officers will attend the workshops in June to discuss these items further.

2.0 Recommendations

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

- 1. The signing of the Service Level Agreement for 2018-19 (subject to final clearance of the Data Sharing agreement from Records Management) and**
- 2. Officers working with DfC to agree a uniform method of prioritisation of referrals and an appropriate communication on the current limitations of the scheme in order to manage the expectation of those engaging with it.**

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The Affordable Warmth team currently consists of 1 Project Co-ordinator and a Project Officer who is 0.5 FTE. Currently the team are dealing mainly with priority cases i.e. broken boilers, or more vulnerable households**
- 3.2 The number of referrals that the Affordable Warmth team can send is set by the DfC in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). In 2017-2018 the annual target number of referrals was 405, and 320 were provided to NIHE. This was due to the issues around resourcing and the number of self-referrals being made to the scheme.**
- 3.3 Following a meeting with the DfC on Friday 25th May, they confirmed the target number of referrals has reduced to 220 for 2018-2019, 17 per month from June, with allocated funding of £68,780 until March 2019.**
- 3.4 The Service is currently reviewing the best resourcing model based upon the funding allocated and the potential outcome from the trawl for business support staff. The team will be able to meet the target of 17 referrals on a monthly basis but will also have to consider the predicted seasonal influx of phone calls that is expected towards the end of the summer.**
- 3.5 With the reduction in both the funding and monthly referrals, the focus will be managing the expectation of applicants. The Service received over 1700 calls about the scheme**

between July 17 and February 18 and expect the same levels of contact in the forthcoming Autumn and Winter period.

- 3.6 The majority of applicants are vulnerable and during the colder weather, a high number of calls relate to applicants with no heating who meet the criteria. 17 referrals for Belfast is not enough to address the demand. Earlier this year members raised this issue with the Head of Fuel Poverty but the DfC have confirmed that there can be no changes to the eligibility criteria, measures provided or the scope of the scheme at this stage and that the budgets and therefore the targets have been set.
- 3.7 The Service also has over 950 applicants on an expression of interest list. This list ranges from home with intermittent heating systems, to those needing insulation and windows. However, given the current levels of funding and referrals BCC will be in a position where we will have households eligible for the scheme who in reality will never be referred through to the NIHE. NIHE have also confirmed that they are currently dealing with the referrals from 17-18 and any referrals received from 1st April 2018 will not be processed until confirmation is received from DfC.
- 3.8 DfC have also commissioned a consultant to review the different delivery models for the scheme. This will include the full end to end process, including the NIHE elements. It is likely that this review will not be completed until after the summer.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

To deal with the significant number of phone calls the council will still be subsidising the business support elements of the scheme by at least ½ FTE scale 6 business support officer (£16,000)

3.10 **Equality and good relations issues**

There are no equality of good relations issues.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Single-use Coffee Cups and
Plastic Items on Council Sites**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To report to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee regarding the use of single-use items for the Council, such as coffee cups and straws versus re-useable items of crockery and cutlery and to seek guidance on the next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the contents of this report and to consider next steps.**

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 At the SP&R Committee meeting in January 2018, Councillor McReynolds referred to the recently published Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) report into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the UK and asked the Council to consider the following motion ‘*This Council welcomes the recent report by the Environmental Audit Committee into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the United Kingdom; acknowledges the impact they are having on the environment given that 2.5 billion are thrown away each year with many ending up in landfill; agrees to replace current coffee cups on council sites with compostable cups.*’

3.2 The Committee agreed that a report on the replacement of current coffee cups with compostable cups on Council sites be submitted to a future meeting. It also agreed that a report on the Council’s use of plastic materials be submitted to the future meeting.

3.3 Further to this Notice of Motion, in April a councillor sent a letter to the Chief Executive raising concerns around plastic polluting the seas and, in particular, the problem of plastic straws. In the letter, the councillor noted the Council’s success in tackling recycling and asked for the Council to give consideration to banning single-use plastic straws across Council properties.

Context

3.4 In recent months, there has been considerable public and media interest in plastics and their fate. As part of the Circular Economy package (CEP), new recycling targets have

been introduced for municipal waste (55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035) and are now awaiting transcription into local legislation. As part of this package, the EU announced proposals to restrict the use of single-use plastic products which would affect the sale of plastic plates, cutlery, stirrers and straws, sticks for balloons and cotton buds with plastic stalks. Some items (plastic bottles, food containers, wrappers/packaging, sanitary towels/wet wipes, balloons, lightweight plastic bags and cigarette filters) would not be banned, but subject to financial measures to encourage industry to reconsider their business model and/or pay for collection and clean-up costs of these items. The aim is to affect the design of these items and ask manufacturers to consider if there are sustainable alternatives. In terms of single-use plastic bottles, the CEP will mean Governments have to ensure that 90% of these are collected for recycling by 2025.

- 3.5 This plastic bottle target is in part a response to China's ban on importing plastics waste and the EU aim is to either cease production of these single-use items or to develop volumes which would support a plastic remanufacture industry. Similar plastic strategies have been drafted either within the context of the Circular Economy or as standalone items and, by way of example and in response to the EAC report, HM Treasury issued a call for evidence regarding the possible introduction of a tax on single-use plastic (SUP) waste in March. On behalf of the constituent councils, arc21 submitted a response.
- 3.6 This reply (which is included in full in Appendix 1) made several points, of which the most salient to Belfast are as follows:
- arc21 broadly agrees with the report's definition of single-use plastics but considers that there should be exclusions for compostable liners and other containers used in the collection of food waste – WRAP research has shown their use results in greater food waste capture
 - single-use plastics are often the only option for consumers as it is unusual for consumers to have a choice between buying products packaged in single-use plastic and the same product sold either loose or packaged in more sustainable materials, and
 - the plastic bag levy in NI demonstrated that consumers can be responsive to price changes allied

to strong environmental evidence, even if the price change is relatively minor.

The Council's Canteen

- 3.7 Returning to the Council, Facilities Management reports that one of the principal reasons for using single-use plastics and other disposables in the canteen and on the trolley services in the three city centre buildings is the significant costs which would be incurred if they had to replace crockery and cutlery on an ongoing basis as much of this previously went missing. This topic gets raised periodically through the Council's Question Time Forum and the following points have consistently been made:
- 'our customers, especially those on the lower end of the salary scales, are very much price sensitive and some will not be prepared to pay the additional cost for using compostable disposables
 - we priced these disposables out and the additional costs are significant
 - our waste at the back-end is reduced as most of our dishes are freshly made and we don't purchase a lot of processed foods, which normally have a lot of packaging
 - we also minimize food waste by not over producing and re-using food which is safe and of a high standard in other menu dishes'
- 3.8 Further to this, in 2017 the expenditure on single-use items which could be swapped with crockery was £4K, while £1K was spent of missing crockery. Standard practice from canteen staff is to ask customers if they are sitting-in or taking-out with a view to encouraging the use of crockery for those sitting-in and to minimize the cutlery being removed from the Atrium.
- 3.9 Crockery has further additional costs over single-use items including use of detergent, dishwasher repairs and maintenance and power. Moving to compostable cups and other items would incur additional cost for the Council as presently they are more expensive than single-use items.
- 3.10 The greatest number of single-use items purchased are the 12oz disposables cups for the bean-to-cup machine used in the Atrium which are not included in the above figures as it is considered that there would be H&S issues should customers choose to use their own cups which could prove to be incorrectly sized, plus keeping the single-use cups with

this machine assists in the control of payments from customers. The possibility of encouraging people to bring their own mugs or to purchase a branded reusable mug have been discussed within Facilities Management but to date it has been considered that it would be extremely difficult to control portion sizes, or for catering staff to challenge customers who brought coffee from the staff kitchens located elsewhere in the Cecil Ward Building (CWB) or 9 Adelaide Street.

'Sort it out' Materials & Educational Campaign:

- 3.11 The internal waste management arrangements for CWB were optimised in 2014-15, raising the recycling rate from 39% to 50% – and supported on the Council's homepage and by an educational campaign for all staff to 'Sort it out'. There may be some scope to increase this as the Council's facilities are served by the Commercial Waste collection service which has a new contract bringing commercial waste recycling in line with what is offered to households in Belfast (mixed dry recyclables include plastic pots and trays, as well as paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles which can now all be included in the blue recycling deskside bins).
- 3.12 This 2014-15 optimisation exercise did not include single-use plastics due to complications in terms of cost, and customer behaviours (disappearing cutlery and crockery). It is also obvious that the Atrium's customers' habits have deteriorated in recent years probably not helped by office moves and staff turnover, &c. In this regard, the recent report on Water Refill Points is also of relevance here (see Appendix 2).
- 3.13 This approach builds upon previous voluntary bans on single-use items on Council premises, such as balloons, which was approved by the Health & Environmental Services Committee meeting in November 2008 (see Appendix 3).

Approaches from Other Councils:

- 3.14 Other councils have been considering how to tackle single-use items and there are now several examples of good or best practice. For example, Cork City Council is introducing an office ban on the use of single-use coffee cups by ceasing to provide disposable cups within Council buildings. In their place, the Council is distributing free reusable cups to staff at Cork City Hall. If staff forget their 'keep cups', they will have to pay 20 cent extra to use one of the crockery cups available in the Council's canteen (see <https://greennews.ie/cork-city-council-ban-coffee-cups-offices/>).

- 3.15 **Similarly**, Oxford City Council is planning to take its first step towards stopping using single-use plastics, such as straws and cups with a complete ban on these items in Council buildings. This Council hopes that other businesses will follow their lead and cut back on the amount of plastic used and thrown away in the city (see [http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15674949.Could Oxford City be about to ditch plastic for good /](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/15674949.Could_Oxford_City_be_about_to_ditch_plastic_for_good/)). **It is thought that** by adopting such an approach, Oxford will become the first UK city to ban non-recyclable food containers. Demonstrating how this is applied, all street vendors will be required to use recyclable or biodegradable food containers in order to reduce the amount of waste the city sends to landfill (see <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/oxford-becomes-first-uk-city-to-ban-non-recyclable-plastic-food-containers-10174601.html>).
- 3.16 In 2016, Bristol City Council proposed to itself '*single-use plastic-free*' and to develop a strategy to encourage and enable the city's institutions, businesses and citizens to adopt similar measures. The Council recognized that this would require changes in policy and Council leadership/championing to reduce their use of single-use plastics (SUP). Specifically, the Council would:
- end sales of SUP bottles in Council buildings and phase out their use at all events hosted in Council-owned buildings, both public and private
 - end the use of other SUP products in council buildings starting with, but not limited to, '*disposable*' cups, cutlery and drinking straws
 - ensure re-usable and affordable food containers are available for sale in public markets – to be piloted by the Council's city centre market
 - work with the Festivals Team and create policy in which single-use cups are replaced at all festivals with reusable or deposit scheme cups (this would ultimately be a licence condition for large events)
 - work with tenants in the Council's commercial properties to phase-out SUP glasses, bottles, cutlery and straws and help them to engage with '*Go Green's*' methodology
 - work with bars and cafes to phase-out single-use cups and to encourage the use of reusable and deposit scheme ones.
 - encourage, enable and aid all employees and councilors to engage with the Plastic Free July challenge.'

- 3.17 Many of these pledges were captured on the City-to-the-Sea website (see <https://www.citytosea.org.uk/getting-the-council-to-do-its-bit-in-cutting-single-use-plastics/#1>).
- 3.18 Councils are not the only public sector organisations addressing this issue. Last month, the Scottish Government banned single-use cups, and hot drinks will be served in reusable ceramic mugs in cafes and canteens at their offices instead. Staff have also been encouraged to bring in their own mugs for takeaways. The government said the move would prevent 450,000 plastic cups from being thrown away each year (see <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/plastic-coffee-cup-ban-single-use-scotland-government-buildings-roseanna-cunningham-a8375521.html>).
- 3.19 Elsewhere, Brisbane City Council has announced it's about to become one of Australia's most environmentally friendly councils after committing to ban plastic straws, helium balloons and single-use bottles (see <http://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/conservation/brisbane-city-council-announces-ban-on-plastic-straws-balloons-and-single-use-bottles/news-story/99c8af5b049a9c30e5e761a0bf7003f5>).
- 3.20 In NI last November, Ards & North Down Borough Council adopted a Notice of Motion to recognise the importance to reduce waste, society's increasing reliance on plastic and the resultant rise in the amount of plastic which ends up in the oceans and on beaches. At the meeting, ANDBC councillors were also asked to support an '*end to use single use plastics*' and for the Council to promote eco-friendly alternatives. Currently, research is being done to consider the best way for this decision to be implemented and a report will be re-presented to the Council in shortly (see <https://www.sustainableni.org/blog/ards-and-north-down-council-bans-single-use-plastics>).
- 3.21 Returning to Belfast, Members should note that responsibility for managing internal waste does not rest with any one service. The provision of cups and crockery lies with Facilities Management's Catering Services, whereas the policy landscape and provision of public services rests with Waste Management. While my Service is keen to lead by example, most of its focus is externally driven on changing public attitudes and behaviours (there has been notable changes in these areas over the years). If Members wish to reduce single-use items within the Council, then resources

will need to be identified to work across the Council and develop viable proposals.

Next Steps

3.22 Committee is asked to consider each of the following options:

- implementation of a loyalty card or discount scheme for the reuse of standardised (for H&S) and branded reusable coffee mugs
- incentives for the use of reusable crockery and their return to the canteen
- a ban on Council premises of specific single-use plastic items.

3.23 It is recommended that the following steps are taken:

- research policies elsewhere regarding single-use plastics
- research single-use plastics throughout the Council
- establish a project team to explore implementation of bans on certain items/incentivising reuse
- the Council promote voluntary initiatives through existing communications channels
- that KPIs are developed to monitor performance and permit adjustment
- further report be submitted providing detailed costed options and analysis.

3.24 **Finance & Resources Implications**

Members should be aware that any subsequent changes of policy in the context of the above information will likely have a significant budget implication. No specific financial resources have been set aside within the current budgets for 2018/19.

3.25 **Equality Implications**

There are no equality implications contained in this report.”

The Committee agreed to the next steps as set out in paragraph 3.23 and that consideration be given during the rate-setting process to providing a dedicated resource to take this matter forward.

**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 14th June, 2018.

**Minutes of the Meeting of North Foreshore
Members' Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group of 13th June, 2018.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Active Belfast Ltd. Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 11th June, 2018.

Request from New Irish Arts

The Committee considered a request from New Irish Arts to partner with the Council and bring the final performance of "*Greater Love*" to the City hall to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One.

The Committee was advised that New Irish Arts was a Christian organisation that produced high-quality events in concert halls, churches and community venues. Its Christmas choir and orchestra concerts had sold out at the Waterfront for several years. It produced regular broadcasts for the BBC and RTE, as well as albums that were sold around the world. New Irish Arts had approximately 500 local musicians and singers and was about to enter its 25th year.

During the last 4 years, New Irish Arts had been running an event called "*Greater Love*" - a production of music, stories and images from World War One. The script was designed to recognise the human face of those affected by the war, telling the stories of individuals from across Ireland who had made a positive difference, bringing hope and showing simple acts of love and friendship in the middle of the gruesome conflict. The music was performed by a small choir and orchestra, with soloists, and contained wartime favourites as well as more contemplative performed music.

The inaugural event had taken place in Parliament Buildings in May, 2014 to an invited audience. The following day New Irish Arts had received 16 expressions of interest for it to be performed in other community venues. Since then the production had been presented 13 times across Northern Ireland.

New Irish Arts was an apolitical organisation. Great care had been taken when scripting "*Greater Love*" to ensure that the contribution to the war made by both sides of the community was properly recognised. There were positive stories about reconciliation and the suspension of traditional unionist/nationalist divisions.

As New Irish Arts approached the end of 4 years of touring the event, it was very keen to explore the possibility of working in partnership with the Council to bring the final performance of “*Greater Love*” to the City Hall, in the run up to the anniversary of the Armistice. It seemed particularly appropriate to consider the request given that the centenary of the ending of World War One would take place in November, 2018 and the event would provide an opportunity to reflect on the Great War in a subtle way and very much from a humanitarian perspective. The request for support for such an event would be in keeping with the events planned for the commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War One through the Decade Of Centenaries Programme and would adhere to the principles which had been agreed by the Council.

It was envisaged that the cost of producing the event in the Great Hall would be in the region of £4,000. That finance would cover the logistics required to deliver the production in terms of additional staging, lighting and sound and to allow for some hospitality post performance to allow guests to mingle and talk about the issues raised in the event in an informal way.

The Committee approved the request from New Irish Arts to bring the final performance of “*Greater Love*” to the City Hall to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One and to cover the associated costs as outlined.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 12th June, 2018 as set out below, subject to the fee for the room charge for the use of the City Hall by St. Joseph’s College being waived. It was agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the policy of charging of events being held in the City Hall:

JUNE 2018 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
St Josephs College, (Ravenhill Road)	23 June 2018	Silver Jubilee Dinner - Welcome reception and gala dinner & dance to celebrate the school being opened 25 years. Attending – 200+	C	£300.00	Wine reception, approved retrospectively by delegated authority	<i>Previously approved June 2018.</i> Charge £300 Wine Reception, approved by Delegated Authority

Prince's Trust	5 th July 2018	The Prince's Trust Get into Retail Celebration – Celebration to mark achievements of participants of the Get into Retail programme with Marks & Spencer. Numbers attending – 100	C & D	No (Charity)	No	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i> No Charge No hospitality
Queen's University Belfast	23 rd August 2018	VIP Dinner for Global Conflict: The Human Impact Conference – Formal dinner with speeches and welcome reception as part of two-day conference. Numbers attending 125	A & B	Yes - £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve, Room Charge, Wine Reception
Translink	31 st August 2018	Translink glider Stakeholder Launch – High level stakeholder event to celebrate the launch of the new Belfast Rapid Transport system, Glider. Numbers attending 120-150	B & C	Yes - £115	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits, linked to BCC	Approve, Room Charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Grosvenor Choir	October 2018	A Walk in Time through 25 Years – Celebration event with dinner and performance to mark 25 th	C & D	No, Community	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

		anniversary of the choir Numbers attending 150				
2019 EVENTS						
Titanic Society	12 th April 2019	Annual Titanic Society Gala Dinner – Gala Dinner as part of the annual Titanic Together event with speeches and welcome reception. Numbers attending 130	A, C & D	No, Community	No	Approve, No Charge, no hospitality
St Oliver Plunkett FC	7 th September 2019	Black & White Ball 50th Anniversary Celebration – event to honour 50 th year anniversary of the football club and its impact on the community. Numbers attending - 300	C	No, Charity	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
British Society for Strain Measurement (BSSM)	10 th September 2019	14th International conference on Advances in Experimental Mechanics Welcome Reception – welcome reception as part of three day international conference taking place at Queen’s University Belfast. Numbers attending - 100	A & B	No, linked to Visit Belfast <i>£300 charge waived</i>	Yes, Wine Reception - linked to Visit Belfast	Approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

European conference on Mental Health	2 nd October 2019	8th European conference on Mental Health Welcome Reception – welcome reception as part of three-day international conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending - 600	A & B	No, linked to Visit Belfast <i>£300 charge waived</i>	Yes, Wine Reception - linked to Visit Belfast	Approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
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Request to Mark the 70th Anniversary of the National Health Service (NHS)

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Director of NI Confederation for Health and Social Services requesting the Council to help mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS on 5th July, 2018. The NHS was celebrating its 70th birthday this year and during the month of June the Health and Social Care Services would be highlighting some of the key issues facing the health and social care sector in the coming decades.

Activities in June would include a lecture, at Queens University Belfast, by Professor Rafael Bengoa on 12th June and a Slugger O'Toole panel event on 19th June. Trade union colleagues were holding a NHS march on 30th June at Belfast City Hall.

As a friend and partner, Belfast City Council had been invited to join the celebrations in a way which was appropriate for the organisation.

The Marketing and Corporate Communications team had considered the request and suggested the following proactive communications activities:

- Tweet a message from @belfastcc Twitter account using the #NHS70 #HSC70 hashtags on July 5 – link to nurses having been awarded the Freedom of the City using relevant content and collateral from the event.
- Lighting up Belfast City Hall in NHS blue on July 5 and highlighting via the #BelfastinLights hashtag.
- Using Interlink to encourage staff to find out more about joining the organ donation register – with some case studies as appropriate.
- Active employees – reflect the anniversary through our Chief Executive's message in the July Team Brief that is issued organisation wide, linking our Active Travel strategy and other health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Explore the potential of a staff competition with a prize that reflects the 'being active' theme for the winner.

- Promoting any 'give blood' sessions organised for Belfast (City Hall has hosted these in the past) online and offline.
- Internal/external messaging around looking after your mental health – promoting the 'Take 5' message.
- Promoting volunteering opportunities – signposting people to our website to find out more.
- Encouraging council staff to consider organising their own NHS 'Big 7Tea' cuppa/cake morning to raise money for HSC charities.
- Use the 'Happy Birthday NHS' banner on front page of Interlink on July 5.
- Promote health/well-being, Belfast Agenda/Healthy City messages – membership at leisure centres.
- Banners to mark anniversary on home page of website.

The Committee granted approval for the suggested communications activity.

Chairperson