

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 17th August, 2018

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Heading.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Haire and Spence and Councillor Attwood.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 20th and 22nd June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd July.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Request to Make a Presentation to Committee - POBAL

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from POBAL to address the Committee, at its September meeting, in relation to research which they have carried out entitled "*Further and Higher Education, Training and Employment Experience of Past Pupils of Irish Medium Education in Belfast – 1970s to Present.*"

**Meeting of Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission**

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to meet with all Elected Members as part of its community engagement.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following six items and the final item on the agenda 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.

**Discretionary Payments**

The Committee considered a report in relation to a proposed framework for the management of discretionary payment requests which did not fall within existing Council funding schemes.

The Committee was reminded that, under the general power of competence, by virtue of the Part 11 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the Council still had the power to make such discretionary payments and it was proposed that the Committee reintroduce the previous criteria for such a payment as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2014. These are:

1. That the total discretionary payments may not exceed the rate product limit calculated using the formula in Appendix 1 to this report.
2. That there are sufficient in year resources available for reallocation to meet the discretionary payment expenditure approved.
3. That the application for the discretionary payment links to one or more of the council's corporate priorities.
4. That there is direct benefit to be obtained to the council or its district or inhabitants.
5. That the activity or initiative in respect of assistance being sought is being promoted by a person or organisation living or operating, or otherwise having a direct connection with the City.
6. That the request for a discretionary payment does not relate to an event or initiative which falls within a funding stream established through the remit and statutory power of any other committee of the council (in which case it should be so referred).

7. That the request relates to a specific event, activity or initiative as distinct from a request for a contribution to general funds or organisational running costs.
8. That the benefit to be obtained will be commensurate with the payment to be made.

The Committee was advised that, if it was minded to agree the above-mentioned criteria, then information on discretionary payments would be published on the Council website. It would be emphasised that there was no designated fund, but that if in year resources became available for re-allocation then an amount may be set aside by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for discretionary payments and that that would normally be considered at the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June and November.

The Committee agreed:

1. the proposed Discretionary Payments Framework as detailed in the report; and
2. to set a discretionary payment limit of £396,600 for the 2018/19 budget.

### **Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the assessment of the key financial factors which would influence the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 – 2021/22 and the rate setting process for 2019/20, together with an overview of the priorities and work in progress for the 2019/20 – 2021-22 Efficiency Programme.

The Committee noted the financial pressures outlined in the medium term financial plan and the work in progress on the efficiency programme to achieve the 2019/20 efficiency target of £0.5 million additional income and £2.5 million in expenditure savings and how work would be progressed to achieve future years' savings.

### **City and Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme – Health Development**

The Committee was advised that the Belfast Health Development Unit (BH DU) had originally been set up and funded by the Council, the Belfast Trust and Public Health Agency (PHA) on a temporary basis to allow employees from all three organisations to be co-located and jointly work on a health improvement and wellbeing agenda. There were four employees on temporary contracts employed by the Council who were located within this team. Those temporary employees work on thematic areas that supported the Belfast Agenda in tackling health inequalities. As the Belfast Agenda was formally in place and targets had been set around reducing health inequalities across the City, there was now an operational need to create four permanent Council posts to allow for better planning and co-ordination in order to achieve the outcomes as set out within the Living Here agenda of the Council's

community plan. A review had been completed in line with the City and Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme and the report detailed the findings and recommendations.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the following:

1. the creation of four permanent posts within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department which would be focused on improving health and wellbeing; and
2. noted the human resources matters and consultation with employees and Trade Union representatives.

### **Recruitment of Head of Commercial and Procurement Services**

The Committee was reminded that, as part of the Council's efficiency programme, the operating model for Council procurement had been reviewed with the aim of identifying opportunities to become more commercial and better support inclusive economic growth in the City. At its meeting on 18th May, the Committee had agreed the new organisational structure, including the renaming of the vacant post of Head of Contracts now to be recruited as the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services. The Committee was advised that it now needed to appoint a selection panel to recruit the post.

The Committee approved the recruitment panel for the recruitment of the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services to consist of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, Alderman Convery, the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Property and Projects. The Committee approved also the associated timetable.

### **Giant's Park North Foreshore Environmental Resource Park**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to the leasing of two sites for the development of both a Data Centre and an Anaerobic Digestion facility at the Giant's Park, North Foreshore and also to approve the installation of additional electricity capacity for the site as a whole to enable further anticipated development to proceed.

The Committee agreed:

- i) that a Site Options Agreement be entered into with Evermore Ltd (or its designated Special Purpose Vehicle) for the development of a Data Centre at Giant's Park, North Foreshore, subject to detailed terms to be agreed with the Council's Estates Manager, together with the City Solicitor; and
- ii) that a Site Options Agreement be entered into with Viridian Ltd (or its designated Special Purpose Vehicle) for development of an Anaerobic Digestion facility at Giant's Park, North Foreshore, together with other related legal agreements required to facilitate generation and export of electricity, subject to detailed terms to be agreed with the Council's Estates Manager, together with the City Solicitor; and

- iii) noted the requirement to proceed with the installation of additional electrical infrastructure for the Giant's Park, North Foreshore and to note the cost of these works was currently provided for in the Council's Capital Programme. Agreement with NIE to be subject to detailed terms agreed by the Director of Property and Projects.

**Giant's Park - North Foreshore - Commercial  
Leisure Led Mixed Use Development**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to the appointment of a developer for the commercial leisure led mixed use development opportunity at the Giant's Park, North Foreshore.

Moved by Alderman Convery,  
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter for a period of one month to enable Party briefings to take place.

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

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to note the outcome of the marketing process for the development of a 250 acre site at Giant's Park, North Foreshore and approved the award of this development opportunity and agreed to enter into a Site Options Agreement with Giant's Park Belfast Limited, subject to detailed terms to be agreed with the Council's Estates Management Unit, together with the City Solicitor.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

**Motion - City Deal**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th June, had passed the following motion on City Deal, which had been proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor McAteer:

**"This Council welcomes the progress being made to secure a Belfast Region City Deal which will deliver inclusive growth, create more and better jobs, have a positive impact on our most deprived communities, and provide a balanced spread of benefits across the region.**

**The city deal will strengthen Belfast's role as the driver for the regional economy. In supporting the case for regional growth that will benefit us all, the Council urges the British Government to formally commit to a deal for the North West."**

It was reported that a response had been received from Mr. David Herson, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. He

stated that the Department welcomed the Council's support for the Belfast City Deal and pointed out that the Government had made a commitment to work with the Northern Ireland Executive and other stakeholders towards a comprehensive and ambitious set of city deals across Northern Ireland. He concluded by confirming that the Secretary of State was aware of local interest in a deal for the Derry/Londonderry region and that he was looking forward to considering proposals for that region in due course.

Noted.

### **Motion - Arts Matter NI Campaign**

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that the Council, at its meeting on 4th June, had passed the following motion on the Arts Matter NI Campaign which had been proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor McAllister:

**“This Council asserts the value of the arts in our everyday lives, including our wellbeing, education, inclusion as well as our creative and evening economy and our tourism offering.**

**Accordingly, the Council extends its formal support to the Arts Matter NI campaign for equal funding and agrees that an all Party delegation meet the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities to demand more funds for the arts.”**

It was reported that a response had now been received from the Permanent Secretary, Mr. O'Reilly in which he stated that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland provided financial support to the arts sector and was funded via grant-in-aid by the Department for Communities. He explained that the Department for Communities' overall budget for this year had been reduced and that that had been reflected across multiple funding streams. As a result, the Arts Council had been allocated £10,092,480, compared to £10,572,000 in the previous year. He pointed out that the Arts Council allocated this funding, along with funding from the Arts Lottery Fund, based upon its assessment of the merits of individual projects, and that the Department for Communities had no input into that process.

Mr. O'Reilly had added that his Department was keeping its in-year financial position under review but that, at this stage, it had no additional funding to make available to the Arts Council in the current year. He concluded by stating that the Council would be informed if that position were to change and suggested, in light of that, that the meeting called for within the Council's motion be deferred at this time.

The Committee noted the response from the Permanent Secretary and agreed that a further letter be sent requesting that he reconsider the request to meet with an All-Party Deputation from the Council.

**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**Belfast Agenda Governance**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out, for Committee approval, proposed governance arrangements to oversee the delivery of the Belfast Agenda.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Approve the proposed governance model for the Belfast Agenda as summarised below and set out in detail at Appendix 1.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Purpose of Governance Arrangements**

3.1.1 The Belfast Agenda was created by a partnership of key city partners, residents and community organisations. It sets out a clear, joint vision and long-term ambitions for Belfast’s future.

3.1.2 The Council now needs to implement ‘fit for purpose’ governance arrangements to deliver the Agenda and secure continuous improvement. With this in mind, a proposed governance model has been developed, aimed at ensuring that there is effective partnership working, focus, direction, decision making and oversight of the ongoing development and delivery of the Belfast Agenda.

**3.2 Proposed Governance Model**

3.2.1 The proposed governance model is attached at Appendix 1 of this report: The key elements of the model are as follows:

- Formal Council governance will be via Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, the Corporate Management Team and four underpinning boards, reflecting the 4 priority areas of the Belfast Agenda, chaired by a nominated Senior Responsible Officer (SRO).
- Formal partnership governance of the Belfast Agenda will be via the Belfast Community Planning Partnership and the SROs will be accountable to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP). The CPP will provide overarching

oversight, guidance and strategic direction for the Community Planning process in Belfast to ensure that objectives of the Belfast Agenda are achieved and compliance with statutory obligations for community planning.

- Each SRO will have a Portfolio Management support from the Strategic Hub, which will manage the overall delivery of outcomes and inclusive growth for their 2017-2021 Priorities. Board membership will be flexible; the SRO will be guided by the need for delivery of outcomes against priorities rather than rigid structures.
- There will be clear terms of reference for the proposed boards based on those shown in Appendix 1.
- Where possible, partnership delivery will be achieved through existing organisations and/or existing partnerships towards the achievement of Belfast Agenda outcomes. It may also be necessary to establish new partnerships, such as time-bound task and finish groups.
- The governance arrangements will be implemented on a phased basis, with the first SRO-led Board established in September 2018 to oversee delivery of the 'Living Here' strand of the Belfast Agenda, with the remaining Boards being established shortly thereafter. The governance arrangements will also be kept under review.
- No changes to the Council's financial decision-making arrangements are proposed at this stage.

### **3.3 Implications for Committee**

**3.3.1** The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has a key role to play in the successful implementation of the Belfast Agenda. As part of the Belfast Agenda governance arrangements, it is proposed that a special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is convened each quarter to focus on the Committee's existing responsibilities as follows:

- setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policy;
- working with partners to lead the development of the community plan;
- managing and monitoring performance against the achievement of the Council objectives (agreed in the Corporate Plan) and those agreed in the community plan, including those aspects of the plans relating to inclusive growth; and



- developing the Council's organisational development strategy and all matters relating to its implementation including: governance and organisational structures, organisational improvement initiatives, member and officer capacity building and monitoring of organisational performance.

3.3.2 The first specific (special) SP&R Belfast Agenda Committee meeting is proposed for December 2018.

3.3.3 No changes are proposed to the structure or terms of reference of the Council's other standing committees are proposed; Standing Committees will be furnished with reports on the progress of relevant Belfast Agenda related activity, issues and outcomes.

#### 3.4 Financial and Resource Implications

3.4.1 The Strategic Hub will support the new governance model / structure, when fully resourced. The Hub will ensure that relevant Board and Committee meetings are properly planned, with clear agendas and information to ensure focus.

3.4.2 BCC funding in relation to the Belfast Agenda is currently agreed as part of the departmental estimates process, with agreed budgets captured in departmental or corporate priority budgets. All emerging proposals for budget / resources will be considered using existing mechanisms.

#### 3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

3.5.1 None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### Inclusive Growth Update

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

#### "1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth within the decision-making process of Council. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan 2017-21 includes a commitment to 'work to drive inclusive growth through the development and adoption of an inclusive growth framework'.

- 1.2 At SP&R Committee on 20th April 2018, members agreed to a five step approach in developing an inclusive growth framework for the city. The first of these steps was to develop and agree a definition of inclusive growth for Belfast.
- 1.3 Following a series of one to one interviews with Party Group Leaders, Committee Chairs, Chief Officers and an all member workshop, as well as a detailed analysis of the data available in Belfast, a definition has been drafted and attached as Appendix One.
- 1.4 This report asks Members to approve this definition as a working draft and provides an update on the development of the framework and associated actions.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee are asked to:

- Note the working draft definition of inclusive growth that will be brought to Party Group Leaders for further discussion and refinement prior to formal approval;
- Note the progress in developing the inclusive growth framework for Belfast City Council; and
- Approve scoping and development of the related actions listed in section 3.6 that have arisen during discussions with Members.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Agreed steps to developing a framework

- 3.1 At SP&R Committee on 20th April 2018, members agreed to a five step approach in developing an inclusive growth framework for the city:
1. *Defining inclusive growth for Belfast.* It is vital that that there is an agreed, and Belfast specific, definition of inclusive growth. To do this we must use data and evidence to determine challenges facing the city, and its population, and collectively develop a common narrative about the vision for change. Doing this will ensure a common framework is in place for all policy and decision makers.
  2. *Developing and adopting a Belfast City Council bespoke framework.* Following the agreement of a specific definition of inclusive growth for Belfast, we will develop an inclusive growth framework to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions. This will ensure that the Council has a practical and simple framework to use in future

decision making to quantify the inclusive growth benefits of investments and interventions.

3. *Assessing current interventions.* This step will involve an assessment of whether the Council's and the actions of other agencies / partners are sufficient, along with the development of a plan to address deficiencies or build on strengths.
4. *Measuring our progress.* Members will be aware the Community Planning and Smart Cities teams are currently working with Community Planning Partners to pilot a City Dashboard; it is proposed that the agreed measurements of inclusive growth form part of this dashboard. This will enable Members to assess progress.
5. *Ensuring Delivery.* The Director of City and Organisational Strategy, via the Council's newly established Strategic Hub, will oversee the successful implementation and delivery of the Council's inclusive growth framework.

#### Defining Inclusive growth for Belfast

- 3.2 It was also agreed to procure independent expertise to help complete steps one and two. Metro Dynamics have subsequently been appointed to undertake this work with officers from the Strategic Hub. Detailed research has been undertaken into the definition of inclusive growth for Belfast through a desktop analysis of key strategies and relevant socio-economic data. They have also undertaken one to one interviews with Party Group Leaders, Committee Chairs and Chief Officers to discuss the issues in depth and really get to understand inclusive growth in Belfast.
- 3.3 This culminated in an all member workshop on 26th June in which a number of energised cross party discussions were held around what inclusive growth means for Belfast, where the key challenges are and how we implement it in Belfast City Council. In summary, the main feedback points from the group discussions are as follows:
  - Geographically there are areas across Belfast that have suffered from long term deprivation and economic deprivation that should be addressed in the framework;
  - There are socio-economic groups in Belfast where the evidence points to a disproportionately high level of income deprivation – 28% of children in Belfast are currently growing up in poverty and the gender pay gap between women (£472.30 per week) and men (£519.10) were two examples used;

- It was also recognised that, whilst there is a large amount of data at a city level, it is not all available at a lower level (either geographically or socio-economically) at this stage to determine which groups should be targeted. It was therefore felt that the framework should be written in a flexible way that allowed the affected groups in Belfast to be reviewed on an annual basis. This means that, as the evidence base builds, the framework can be adjusted accordingly to ensure it is as reflective of the city as the data allows;
- The framework should include all capital, policy and programme interventions taken by the Council; and
- The framework should help to target groups but should not be so prescriptive that all spending is skewed towards these targeted groups.

3.4 Since the workshop, Metro Dynamics have reflected on the research they have undertaken and the discussions at the one to one interviews and workshop. This has resulted in the draft definition of inclusive growth for Belfast. Members are asked to note the working draft definition of inclusive growth that will be brought to Party Group Leaders for further discussion and refinement prior to formal approval. This will enable officers to develop and test the framework for Belfast.

#### Next Steps

3.5 Should Members approve the inclusive growth definition, Officers from the Strategic Hub will move to Step Two of the process - Developing and adopting a Belfast City Council bespoke framework (see paragraph 3.3). An update on the progress of this will be brought to SP&R Committee in November. Between now and then, Officers will engage with senior managers across the Council to test the practicalities of implementing the framework to ensure that, as originally agreed with councillors, the framework is practical and capable of effecting future capital, policy and programming decisions.

#### Additional Actions

3.6 During the one to one interviews and at the workshop, Members consistently brought up a number of actions they felt needed taken forward as part of inclusive growth. Whilst these are not part of the framework, they are necessary in moving forward the inclusive growth agenda. Should Committee agree to the actions below, officers will further scope out and bring recommendations to committee in November:

- Examine how we use powers over planning, skills and employment support, procurement, and community investment to encourage a new strategic approach to inclusive growth;
- Embed the Inclusive Growth Investment Decision Making Framework into the corporate planning and estimating process;
- Examine the inclusion of procurement clauses and measurement against inclusive growth outcomes for both future social and economic spending;
- Develop a more granular understanding of our city through better data and analysis, learning what works as we grow;
- Work with the city's anchor institutions and businesses to embed inclusive growth principles in their organisations; and
- Form networks and relationships with other cities committed to the inclusive growth agenda.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.7 There are no additional financial or resource allocations contained within this report.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.8 There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained within this report. However, the framework, once developed will be screened to test its implications against these requirements.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**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)
- that a meeting of the Joint Members Forum hosted by Mid and East Antrim will be held in mid September.
- A communication and engagement event has been planned to take place in Westminster on 24th October 2018

### 2.2 The Committee is also asked to agree to party group briefings and a possible special SP&R committee meeting to be held in early September to discuss specific projects and the emerging shape of the BRCD proposition for negotiation with UK and Central Government.

## 3.0 Main report

### 3.1 At the last SP&R committee meeting members were provided with the following framework documents that were prepared in support of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

- Draft Proposition document
- Industrial Strategic Framework
- Digital Vision and Strategy
- Initial Employability and Skills Proposition
- Draft Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Framework

### 3.2 These documents provided the evidence base for the BRCD including the key pillars for investment, which build on the region's strengths and will support ongoing economic growth.

### 3.3 Members were also advised that projects that had been identified for possible inclusion in the BRCD proposition had been discussed with officials from both UK and Regional government departments and based on their feedback and ongoing discussions around affordability the BRCD partners were focussing on a reduced list of primary projects for further development.

## Programme Update

### 3.4 Innovation / Digital

As outlined to committee, it is anticipated that the Innovation and Digital pillar will be a 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. Future

Cities Catapult supported by the SMART Belfast team in the council have been working intensively with the universities and the BRCD councils to continue to develop projects in this pillar and to define the overall digital / innovation proposition for the city region. This has involved intensive discussion and consultation with UK government departments who have provided some positive feedback on a number of a proposals and also suggested areas where further development is required. FCC have also hosted a number of stakeholder engagement events, including direct engagement with the private sector, and are actively working with partners to identify additional / alternative sources of funding.

**3.5 Tourism**

The BRCD continues to make the case that tourism is a specific growth sector that requires significant investment to ensure the potential economic benefits are realised. The sector has suffered from lack of investment in the past and still under performs in comparison with other UK regions and the ROI but visitor numbers continue to increase and there are significant job opportunities which could be realised across the sector.

- 3.6** Members will be aware that work is almost complete on the development of an OBC for the Belfast Story gallery and film Centre which is a priority project for BCC and a number of potential tourism products have also been identified in other council areas. Tourism NI are chairing the tourism steering group and supporting BRCD in the development of a Tourism Product Narrative and Development Framework and have undertaken market testing of proposals to help inform the projects with the best potential to help the sector grow.

**Other Infrastructure and Regeneration**

- 3.7** DfI are supporting the BRCD in the identification and development of key Infrastructure projects which may form part of the deal and will most likely be funded by regional government.
- 3.8** The primary projects for Belfast highlighted to members were the Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- linking the north & south of the city and York Street Interchange. It is becoming increasingly likely that York Street Interchange will not require funding through City Deal and therefore there may be potential for an element of the Lagan Bridges and Links

project to be included in the city deal proposition. 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. A number of regeneration projects across the other council areas are also being developed with support from DfC.

### **3.9 Employability and Skills**

The Employability and Skills Steering Group is updating the initial Employability and Skills proposition based on the capital projects likely to be included in the BRCD and will propose an ongoing partnership to develop 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. This will be informed by the new analysis available through the Regional Skills Barometer prepared for the City Deal partners by Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre.

#### **3.10 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**

#### **3.11 An intensive programme of work for phase 3 of the BRCD has continued at pace over the summer months with the NICS and UK Government. This process includes; 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.**



- 3.12 This will allow the BRCD partners to progress towards a shorter list of priority projects which will form the basis of an overall negotiating proposition being developed by the end of September 2018. Given the tight timeframe it is recommended that party group briefings are held at the beginning of September to discuss the priority projects including indicative costs, and the emerging shape of the negotiating proposition. A special meeting of SP&R may also be required early in September to approve the negotiating proposition. This proposition will form the basis of discussions with Central and Regional Government with a view to reaching a Heads of Terms agreement in advance of the Autumn Budget statement.

Next Steps

3.13 Finance and Governance

The Director of Finance and Resources is working with local government colleagues and officials from DfP to develop a possible financing strategy for an emerging deal. Cost consultants have been working with the programme team to validate financial information and work is also ongoing to identify funding streams and ensure affordability. The financial make up of any potential deal will inform the governance and delivery structures and options for these are also being considered.

3.14 Communication and Engagement

As the shape of the deal develops it is important that engagement at all levels continues so that we maximise the benefits across the region both with partners and local businesses. A communication and engagement plan has been developed by the six partner councils and a number of events will be held over the coming months.

- 3.15 Specifically committee should note that a Joint members Forum, hosted by Mid and East Antrim, will be held with members from all six councils mid September to discuss progress and consider the projects and the emerging shape of the deal. A Communication and Engagement Event is also planned for all BRCD partners on 24th October 2018 in Westminster and details will be presented to members at the September Committee meeting.

- 3.16 Further meetings will be held throughout October with members and officers when feedback is expected from UK

and Regional government on the BRCD position and the elements that may be included in a Heads of Term document.

**3.17 Financial and Resource Implications**

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

**3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**100 Resilient Cities and the International  
Urban Cooperation Programme**

The Commissioner for Resilience submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 In January, members approved Belfast’s membership of the International Urban Cooperation (IUC) programme for sustainable urban development as part of its global 100 Resilient Cities work.**

**1.2 Membership of the programme provides Belfast with an opportunity to co-operate with other cities to solve common problems. Partnerships are established based on mutual size, common challenges and interests. Earlier this month, New York and Barcelona were partnered to focus on sustainable urban development. Manchester has been partnered with Montreal in Canada to focus on smart cities, economic growth and social inclusion. Belfast has been accepted onto the programme, to partner with Santiago de Cali + Medellín, to focus on post-conflict urban development. All three cities face similar challenges in ensuring that all residents benefit from economic growth in their respective cities, and the programme also provides an opportunity to share knowledge and learning of building connections across communities.**

**1.3 Belfast’s membership will build on the existing links that the city has with Colombia including the increasing trade links being fostered by Invest NI; and the work of the British Council in Northern Ireland, which is planning a major Belfast initiative with Colombia in 2018.**

1.4 The first exchange visit has been scheduled for 22 – 27 October 2018, which will see a Belfast delegation, to include council, Invest NI and the British Council representatives, visit counterparts in Cali and Medellin, Columbia.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the draft programme of work and outline schedule for the Belfast to Cali and Medellin visit from 22 October
2. Approve the attendance of Chair and Deputy Chair of Committee (or their nominee) and two officers to attend this visit, accompanied by representatives from the British Council and Invest NI.

3.0 Main report

3.1 IUC membership provides financial support for an eighteen-month exchange programme at a senior level between Belfast and the Colombian cities of Cali and Medellin focusing on post-conflict urban development (on themes of social inclusion, regional / urban innovation and competitiveness; and inclusive and sustainable economic growth).

3.2 This is a substantial programme providing significant opportunities for Belfast to work alongside other cities to solve common problems. The work encompasses three phases (1) Development Phase- understanding the problems and needs of the cities (2) Implementation Phase- Putting Together a Join Action Plan for the cities (including city exchange visits) (3) Closing Phase- seeking city wide support for implementation.

3.3 We are currently working through the 'Development Phase', which chiefly focuses on the problems we are trying to solve. The overall theme that has been identified for this city-to-city cooperation is 'Peace Process and Post Conflict Management'. However, officers from Belfast, Cali and Medellin are undertaking 'problem identification' to hone in on detailed common challenges as we plan the programme. The Commissioner for Resilience has produced a 'Challenge Description report', which is based on the challenges we have identified in Belfast Agenda, and this will form the basis of our city co-operation with Santiago de Cali and Medellin.

3.4 The city co-operation will require significant joint working across the three cities, and this will also include study tours, exchanges, training seminars and the development of a local action plan to drive sustainable development.

- 3.5 There will be two exchange visits: the first visit will be by the Belfast team visiting Colombia (Cali and Medellin) most likely in October 2018. During this first visit both delegations will start work on a joint action plan. In early Spring 2019, the second visit will take place when representatives from Cali-Medellin will visit Belfast.
- 3.6 IUC officials will work with the new Commissioner for Resilience to agree a joint programme of work with the Colombian cities.
- 3.7 Members should also note that this IUC programme activity forms part of the programme of work for the Commissioner in the development of the Belfast Resilience strategy.
- 3.8 Financial & Resource Implications
- There are no specific resource implications attached to this report.
- 3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment
- There are no specific equality or good relations implications attached to this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### Sports Development Strategy – Guiding Principles

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to enable further consideration and information to be obtained in relation to the guiding principles.

### Customer Focus Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- “1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
- 1.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 24th November 2017 agreed the recommendations contained in the outline business case for an enhanced and innovative approach to customer focus across the council.
- 1.2 A further report was presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 16th February 2018 at which time an overview of a blueprint for Customer Focus was

presented and accepted by the Committee. It was acknowledged that this would represent a major programme of work, which would require careful planning and significant resources to deliver. For this reason, the Council subsequently agreed to adopt a three-phase approach starting with mobilisation, then discovery and ending with a design and implementation phase.

- 1.3 At its meeting of 18th May 2018 Committee was advised of the completion of Phase one of the Customer Focus programme which culminated in the production of the Blueprint for Customer Focus (Appendix 1) and an Outline Business Case. At this meeting Committee agreed to the commissioning of the next phase of the programme, the Discovery phase.
- 1.4 Deloitte were appointed to assist with this phase and the work has progressed to a stage where Elected Members will be invited, subject to agreement, to participate in a workshop to review findings and recommendations and to recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources priorities for implementation as part of an implementation plan.
- 1.5 Committee is reminded that Digital Services has procured external assistance to help deliver a new ICT Strategy and this work is progressing and will be aligned with the Customer Focus Discovery phase.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note progress with the Discovery phase of the Customer Focus Programme.
2. Agree that a structured workshop is arranged from 12pm to 2pm on Thursday 4 October 2018 to provide Elected Members with an opportunity to consider the findings and recommendations from the Discovery phase. A workshop brief and agenda will be circulated in advance of the workshop.
3. Agree that all Elected Members are invited to participate in the workshop.
4. Consider draft guiding design principles emerging from the Discovery phase and agree that they are used to inform the priorities and plans to be considered at the workshop.

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Committee is reminded that Deloitte proposed the following deliverables from the Customer Focus ‘Discovery’ phase:**

<b>Deliverables</b>	
<b>Customer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Personas</li> <li>• Prioritised User Journeys</li> </ul>
<b>Website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain Points / Issues / Challenges</li> <li>• Prioritised Product Backlog</li> <li>• Minimal Viable Product</li> <li>• Solution Architecture</li> </ul>
<b>CRM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain Points / Issues / Challenges</li> <li>• Prioritised Product Backlog</li> <li>• Proposed Solution Architecture</li> </ul>
<b>Contact Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Centre review and approach</li> </ul>
<b>Organisation Impact Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Impact</li> <li>• Benefits Management Plan</li> <li>• High Level Financial Analysis</li> <li>• High Level Risk Analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicative Implementation Plan</li> </ul>

**3.2 Committee is advised that operational workshops have taken place with Council staff involved in customer contact to understand the operational and organisational impacts of proposed changes. Similarly engagement with external stakeholders has taken place to understand the customers’ views regarding contacting the Council and in addition an online survey has been conducted. The internal and external engagement combined with extensive research has informed the deliverables outlined above and implementation options to be presented at the workshop.**

**3.3 The purpose of the proposed workshop is to provide Elected Members with insight into the approach used in the Discovery phase and the key findings and recommendations. It is further proposed that draft guiding design principles emerging from the Discovery phase, and subject to agreement by Strategic Policy and Resources committee, are used to inform recommendations and priorities for the way forward as part of an implementation plan.**

**3.4 The draft guiding design principles emerging from the Discovery phase are as follows and are provided in more detail at Appendix 2:**

- 1. A corporate approach, consistent and joined up and underpinned by customer service standards**
- 2. Deliver greater insight and analysis on customer behaviour**
- 3. Improve the efficiency of processes**
- 4. Ensure inclusivity and channel choice ( Digital first where possible)**
- 5. Improved customer experience (Customer first)**
- 6. Provide access to the right information at the right time and from anywhere**

**If agreed the design principles will be used to shape options for future delivery and will provide a frame of reference for future decision making in relation to customer focus.**

**3.5 Committee is also advised that Trade Unions have been kept up to date regarding the Discovery phase and it is proposed that a meeting with Trade Union representatives will take place in advance of the Members' workshop to provide a further update.**

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed in November 2017 that a budget of £500k be set aside to cover the costs associated with the implementation of the customer focus project.**

**It was also agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in February 2018 that a Programme Director would be appointed to oversee the project and to develop a comprehensive improvement programme in line with the recommendations contained in the OBC.**

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs assessment

N/A.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Governance/Members' Issues

Electronic Voting at Council Meetings

The Democratic Services Manager submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To decide if a system of electronic voting should be introduced at Council meetings.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

- Consider if it wishes to introduce a system of electronic voting in the Council Chamber.
- As the existing system would not provide Members, the public and the Press present at the meeting with information as to how each Member voted on a matter, the Committee is recommended not to use this system as a replacement for the current procedure.
- If the Committee is minded to introduce an electronic voting system, then a further more detailed report would be presented to Committee setting out the exact costs and a possible time scale for its introduction. It should be noted that such costs would need to be included in the estimates for the next financial year and therefore the system would be unlikely to be installed prior to the local elections next May.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Committee, at its meeting on 18th May, considered a proposal from Councillor Corr-Johnston that:

*‘The Council agrees to explore the feasibility of and the costs associated with electronic voting and digital display at full*



*council meetings. Through the mechanism of electronic voting Members would be enabled to cast their votes immediately and the results of which returned in a fraction of the time it takes to carry out a traditional recorded vote. Results would be displayed digitally through a large screen at the top of the chamber. A screen that could also be used to display proposals and amendments.'*

- 3.2** The Committee agreed that a report be produced examining the possibility of introducing such a system.
- 3.3** The proposal which was made by Councillor Corr-Johnston referred to the introduction of such a system instead of the process currently employed when recorded votes are requested. Currently, the Council's Standing Orders provide that any Member can request that any vote is taken by way of a recorded vote and the request alone is sufficient for that process to be employed. In a recorded vote, the division bell is sounded for 1 minute to allow any Member not present in the Council Chamber to return for the vote. At the expiration of the minute, the Chief Executive reads out the motion or amendment to be put to the vote. Then each Member's name is called out and they respond with 'for, 'against' or 'no vote'. The votes are then counted and checked and the Chief Executive reads out the result. The names of the Members and how they voted are subsequently recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 3.4** Typically, each recorded vote takes about 7 or 8 minutes to complete. Over the year from June 2017 till May 2018, a recorded vote was requested on 33 occasions, averaging 3 per meeting.
- 3.5** In deciding whether to introduce a system of electronic voting, the Committee might wish to consider the following points:
- The time taken for recorded votes at Council meetings (based upon the last Council year) is approximately 20 to 25 minutes on average. Using any electronic voting system will also take some time. For example, the ringing of a division bell to alert Members that a vote to be taken would still need to continue. The Committee might wish to consider if the time saved by using an electronic system is worth the cost of its purchase/installation.
  - If the Committee was to decide to introduce the system described in option 1 below then there would not be any way of verifying that the votes cast were by Members present. There would not be a systemic way

of requiring a Member to log in to the system before registering a vote. It is not anticipated that any Member would seek to record a vote for another Member who was not present, however it is not possible for the system to verify this and it is always possible that the results of votes could be called into question. Also, the existing system does not provide an instant record of how each individual Member voted, therefore Members, the public and the Press present at the Council meeting would not know how any individual Member voted on a matter. The system software does provide a means of analysing the vote after the meeting to ascertain how each individual seat in the Chamber voted so it would be able to produce information to allow the minute to record he vote in the same way as is done currently.

- The introduction of an electronic voting system would be disruptive in that a degree of work would need to be undertaken to the fabric of the Council Chamber. Any changes to the fabric of the Chamber would need the approval of the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division.

- 3.6 If the Committee is minded to support the introduction of an electronic voting system, then the following two options have been identified:

Option 1 - Install previously purchased voting panels

- 3.7 The Council already owns a very basic system which would provide for a form of electronic voting which was purchased at the time of the refurbishment of the City Hall which was completed in 2009. Obviously, this is a relatively old system which would not incorporate the most modern electronics and, as it has been in storage since it was purchased, there is no guarantee that the units would all be in working order.

3.8 Functions

Basic voting control for parliamentary voting procedure. Members can register:

- 'Present', 'Yes', 'No' and 'Abstain'.
- A separate Chairperson/Clerk unit can start, stop and suspend the voting.
- A page function which activates a voting tone. With this tone the Chairperson can indicate that a voting round is about to start

- The result will only provide the numbers who voted 'Yes', 'No' and 'Abstain' but will not indicate how each individual Member voted

### 3.9 Display

The existing voting panels can display six lines of text on display screens around the chamber when the vote has concluded:

Voting timer

Number of Members present

Number of Members who voted 'Yes'

Number of Members who voted 'No'.

Number of Members who voted 'Abstain'.

Number of Members who did not vote.

### 3.10 Costs

Costs for using this system will include purchasing display screens (c. £2,000 each) and installation of the panels (work could be done in-house).

### 3.11 Restrictions

- No user verification
- No ability to display the text of the vote
- No graphical display of the results of the vote
- Display screens must be mobile and cannot be fixed to the walls in the Chamber
- No graphical display as to how each individual Member voted

### 3.12 Impact

- Installing the voting panel into each existing mic panel in the Chamber
- Replacing the Lord Mayor's mic unit completely
- Placing a screen in the chamber with associated cabling

### 3.13 Option2 - Purchase new voting system

Property maintenance have suggested the Bosch Dicontis Conference range which is currently used at the Scottish Parliament and the European Commission. This system, at the top end of the range, provides units with a 7' touch screen and would replace both the current microphone unit and its wooden mount at each bench. A new platform would

be made for each bench to hold the new units, with space for the Councillors' table PCs.

### 3.14 Functions

- Integrated mic, voting and display unit
- 'Present', 'Yes', 'No' and 'Abstain' voting options
- A separate Chairperson/Clerk unit can start, stop and suspend the voting. Councillors can change their vote until the voting session has closed
- Text of vote can be displayed on screens around the chamber
- User verification via NFC swipe card for each vote

### 3.15 Display

Graphical displays can be presented at the conclusion of the voting session displaying the results by party/group, total, Yes/No/Abstain – as a list, bar chart, pie chart or seating plan. This could be displayed on screens around the chamber and on the screens built into the voting units, if the top of the range units are bought. The voting unit screens could also be used to show presentations, agenda items, text or video. However, if the less expensive units are purchased which don't have a screen on each unit then the results would only be displayed on the large screens in the Chamber. It might be very difficult for Members, the public and the Press present to clearly see how each individual Member voted on a particular matter.

### 3.16 Cost

May cost between £103,000 and £120,000 depending on which version of the Bosch system is purchased (Multimedia 7' touchscreen, touchscreen or voting only)

### 3.17 Restrictions

Display screens must be mobile and cannot be fixed to the walls in the Chamber.

### 3.18 Impact

- Existing mic units and mounts would be removed and replaced with a flat platform to hold the new mic/voting units with space for the Councillors' tablet PCs
- A new PC installed at the Clerks' desk to control the voting system, input text, call/suspend/close voting session and tally results. This could potentially have the added benefit of the existing sound system in the

**VIP gallery being removed and the Webcasting system moving into that corner to make more space.**

- **New mic/voting units would be collected after each meeting to charge/for safe storage – would need an extra half hour of officer’s time before and after each meeting**
- **Placing a screen in the chamber with associated cabling**

**3.19 Financial and Resource Implications**

**The cost of option 1 would be approximately £4,000 for 2 display screens plus the in-house costs of carrying out the work to the benches at each Member’s seat. This cost could be met from within existing budgets.**

**The cost of option 2 is estimated to be between £103,000 and £120,000. There is not any budget set aside for this and if this option is preferred then the costs would need to be included in the estimates for 2019/20.**

**3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

**None associated with this report.”**

The Committee agreed not to introduce a system of electronic voting in the Council Chamber.

It was agreed also that a report be submitted to the next meeting to consider changing Standing Order 24 to provide that all divisive votes at the Council meetings be subject to a recorded vote.

**NILGA Annual Conference and  
Local Government Awards**

The Committee was advised that the NILGA Annual Conference would take place this year at the Armagh City Hotel on 12th October. The Council was represented on NILGA by a number of Members across the political parties. The normal practice was to authorise those representatives to attend the Annual Conference if they so desired.

It was reported also that, in addition, later that evening the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards dinner would be held. The Awards set out to showcase excellence in service delivery across the work of the Councils. This year the Council had submitted four applications and, although the finalists had not yet been shortlisted, it would be important for the Council to be represented at the Awards dinner so that, if successful, an elected Member could accept the award. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Committee approve the attendance of the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy and Resources, City Growth and Regeneration Committees and the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders’

Committee (or their nominees), together with appropriate officers at the awards dinner.

The Committee

- approved the attendance of the Council representatives on NILGA at the Annual Conference on 12th October; and
- deferred consideration of attendance at the Local Government Awards dinner on 12th October until the finalists had been shortlisted.

### **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

#### **Physical Programme Update**

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 that a tour of a number of physical projects (both completed or underway) is being scheduled for a Saturday morning in September and all Members are encouraged to take up this opportunity (see 3.2)

#### **Capital Programme**

- Proposed movements - agree that the Belfast Story/Destination Hub project and the Reservoir Safety Programme are moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
- Project Updates – HLF City Cemetery – to note that the Council has been successfully awarded £1.687m from HLF towards the re-development of the City Cemetery

#### **Leisure Transformation Programme**

- note the update in respect of Templemore and that agreement has been reached with the Templemore

- Users Trust (TUT) in regard to a formal usage agreement for the new facility
- agree the recommendation, which has been endorsed by the East AWG at its meeting on 2 August, that the £70,000 annual grant which is currently paid to TUT is continued for the two year closure period on the basis that this is only used for the purposes of supporting business continuity necessitated by the closure of the centre for redevelopment (see 3.7 -3.9)

#### Social Outcomes Fund (SOF)

- note that all SOF projects are required to go through the Council's rigorous due-diligence process in keeping with the processes in place for BIF and LIF projects (see 3.9)
- note that three SOF projects (*SOF01- James Connolly Museum; SOF03 – Assembly Buildings Conference Centre and SOF09 – Belfast Orange Hall Museum*) which previously been approved in principle have been scored and have met the necessary threshold. Members re therefore asked to agree that these are progressed to due-diligence (Section 3.12 and Appendix 1)

### 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 Members previously agreed that given 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. Members are asked to note that this is being scheduled for a Saturday morning in September and that all Members are encouraged to take up this opportunity.

**Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme**

- 3.3 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 -

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Destination Hub/ Belfast Story	The development of a new world class visitor attraction within the city centre	Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted
Reservoir Safety Programme	To examine the options to ensure the safety of Council owned reservoirs	Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted

**Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted**

- 3.4 Destination Hub – Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda sets out the ambition to deliver a second world class visitor attraction to generate additional tourist spend and footfall in the city centre. This was also set out in the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015. In addition, a number of agencies (Arts Council NI, Tourism NI, NI Screen, National Museums NI) have identified the need for additional facilities to support the growth of the cultural and tourism offer in Belfast and NI as a whole. The proposed new Destination Hub proposal is for a single site in the city centre incorporating a range of facilities including the ‘Belfast Story’ visitor destination, a Northern Ireland film centre, gallery and exhibition space and a digital media/skills training facility.

An SOC has been completed with work underway on the Outline Business Case (OBC) and in line with this, it is recommended that the Destination Hub is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital programme. Work is continuing including looking at the identification of potential capital funding sources as well as possible commercial operating models and Members will be aware that the Destination Hub has been identified as a project under the Tourism strand of the Belfast Region City Deal. Further detail on the OBC will be brought back to Members in due course.

- 3.5 Reservoir Safety Programme - The Council owns a number of reservoirs across the city including Half Moon Lake, Boodles



Dam, Waterworks Upper and Lower and Alexandra Park. As a reservoir owner the Council has a number of obligations under the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 which includes ensuring the safety of reservoirs. The Council has received correspondence from the Rivers Agency reminding us of our obligations in this regard. Given these requirements, it is recommended that the Reservoirs Safety Programme is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow the programme to be fully worked up and costed and an OBC to be completed.

#### Project Updates

- 3.6 HLF – City Cemetery - Members will recall that the City Cemetery was moved to Stage 3 ‘Committed’ on the capital programme in November 2017 and held at Tier 0 ‘Schemes at risk’ pending the confirmation of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is designed to protect and enhance the rich heritage within the cemetery, and incorporates a number of elements such as the development of a new visitor centre, restoration of key heritage assets and enhanced interpretation.

Members are asked to note that funding of up to £1.687m has now been secured from HLF and a letter of offer was received in July. This will be match funded with up to £620,000 of Council funding. There has already been extremely positive media and public reaction to this news demonstrating the level of interest in the project.

#### Leisure Transformation Programme

- 3.7 Templemore - In April the SP&R Committee agreed that *‘Option 4 – the Council enter into a contractual relationship with the TUT for the original building only, that being the interpretative area and the existing pool, with the new build being outsourced for management by the Council’s strategic partner’* be adopted as the preferred future management option for the new Templemore Baths. The Committee, however, further agreed that due to the tight timescales for this work given the HLF timescales and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall East leisure provision, that *‘Option 6 – Outsource the management of the building in its entirety to a strategic partner / the Council’s existing strategic leisure partner’ would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 could not be satisfactorily reached’*. Unfortunately, between April-May insufficient progress was made in terms of Option 4 and

Committee, on the direction of the East AWG, therefore agreed in May that the Council had no option but to progress Option 6 as above in order to ensure that the HLF application could be successfully submitted. Recognising the important role of TUT to date, Members also authorised officers to enter into discussions with TUT's Board on the opportunity for them to become an 'anchor user' for the existing pool, which would be on a rental basis falling under Option 6.

- 3.8 Committee is asked to note that we have reached agreement with TUT on the principles of this anchor user arrangement which will now be incorporated within a formal usage agreement lasting a period of 8 years. This period is contemporaneous with existing term on GLL's current contract.
- 3.9 In relation to mobilisation, and to ensure business continuity for TUT necessitated by the closing of the centre during the redevelopment of the Baths, it is recommended that the current annual grant which is paid to TUT (£70,000) continue for this closure period on the basis that the grant is used solely for the purposes of supporting business continuity (e.g. to cover pool costs/ rental for office premises). The final mechanism for the drawdown of this money to be agreed with TUT. Members are asked to note that this recommendation was endorsed by the East AWG at its meeting on 2nd August.

#### Social Outcomes Fund

- 3.10 Members will be aware that the Council, at its meeting on 1st February 2018 adopted and approved the minute of the meeting of the SP&Rs Committee of 20th October 2017, under the heading '*City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure*'. As per this decision, officers have been working on the 9 projects which were allocated in principle funding. The in principle allocations for these projects vary between £80,000 to over £1m.
- 3.11 Members will be aware that the Council has rigorous due-diligence processes in place for projects under both the Local Investment Fund (funding up to a maximum of £250,000) and the Belfast Investment Fund (funding over a minimum of £250,000). It is recommended that the SOF projects follow this same process with projects of less than £250,000 investment following the LIF DD process and projects over £250,000 following the BIF process.

3.12 Both processes require projects to be scored initially and met a minimum threshold (Appendix 1). Members are asked to note that three SOF projects (SOF01- James Connolly Museum; SOF03 – Assembly Buildings Conference Centre and SOF09 – Belfast Orange Hall Museum) which previously been approved in principle have been scored and have met the necessary threshold. Members re therefore asked to agree that these are progressed to due-diligence.

3.13 **Financial and Resource Implications**

*Financial* – No arising implications

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

3.14 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted the Reservoir Safety Programme would be progressed through the People and Communities Committee.

**Assets Management**

**Proposed Disposal of Medway Street Depot**

The Committee approved the marketing of the former Civic Amenity Site at Medway Street, with further updates to be submitted to the Committee as appropriate in relation to the disposal process.

**Proposed Disposal of Site at Ladas Drive**

The Committee approved the disposal of the 1.5 acre site at Ladas Drive to the Northern Ireland Policing Board for the consideration of £400,000.

**St. James Community Forum – LIF Project**

The Committee granted approval for the Council to act as the sponsor body for St. James Community Forum in its proposed acquisition of land at St. Katherine’s Road/Rodney Parade, Belfast.

**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2018/19**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

1.1 This report presents the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

1.2 The Departmental year end forecast is a net year end under spend of £1,007k which represents a variance of 0.7% of the annual net expenditure budget. The District Rate forecast by Land and Property Services (LPS) is a clawback of £622k, meaning that the forecast net underspend for the Council is £385k. It should be noted that this forecast is provided at a very early stage in the financial year and Council Officers will be working with LPS to scrutinise the rate forecast before an updated position is presented to Committee at Quarter 2.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to note the report and, given that the forecast outturn is based at an early stage in the financial year, agree that no in year budget reallocations should be considered until the Quarter 2 position is presented to the Committee in November 2018.

**3.0 Main report**

**Current and Forecast Financial Position 2018/19**

3.1 The financial position for Quarter 1 is a net departmental under-spend of £1,282k (3.4%). The forecast year-end departmental position is an under-spend of £1,007k (0.7%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

3.2 The departmental underspend arises mainly from below budget employee and supplies expenditure. This has helped offset budgetary pressures including Vehicle Maintenance and Belfast Zoo.

**Rates Finalisation**

3.3 The Quarter 1 forecast from LPS is a clawback of £622k. This includes an estimates rates clawback of £500k and de-rating grant clawback of £122k. The clawback mainly arises from movements in the non-domestic rate base such as the

former BHS store being removed from the Valuation List during development phase.

**Capital Projects**

- 3.4 Planned capital expenditure for 2018/19 approved as part of the capital programme is £51.16m with forecast expenditure for the year of £48.17m.
- 3.5 The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£1,336k), Feasibility Fund (£250k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£414k).
- 3.6 Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £19.4m, with a further £4.96m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.92m on LIF 2 projects.

**Capital Financing**

- 3.7 The summary dashboard has also been updated to provide analysis of the annual capital financing budget. Actual capital financing expenditure is forecast to be on budget by the year end.

**Forecast Reserves Position**

- 3.8 The balance of general reserves is forecast to increase from £13.67m to £14.06m at the year end. This increase is based on the forecast departmental underspend less the forecast LPS clawback. An updated position will be brought to Committee in Quarter 2.
- 3.9 Specified reserves are forecast to be spent during the year.

3.10 **Financial and Resource Implications**

The Departmental position at Quarter 1 together with the forecast year end Council position is detailed within the report. It is recommended that no budget reallocations are considered until Quarter 2 given that the current forecast is based at an early stage in the financial year.

3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

None.”

The Committee noted the information provided and agreed that no in year budget reallocations should be considered until the Quarter 2 position was presented to the Committee in November, 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 award the most economically advantageous tender.
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts were under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2
- agree 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.
- noted the contract awarded by Arc21 as per Appendix 1, Table 4.

### **Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
St Patricks Day Carnival Parade	Alastair Reid	1 year plus option to extend annually for a further 2 years
Tender for the provision of a Transport (Driving) Academy (T1891)	John Greer	1 year plus option to extend for a further year
Tender for the provision of a Hospitality and Hotel Employment Academy (T1901)	John Greer	1 year plus option to extend for a further year
Temporary Agency Resources (T1792)	Ronan Cregan	2 years plus option to extend for annually for a further 2 years
Lift repair and maintenance	Gerry Millar	1 year plus option to extend annually for a further 2 years
Belfast Full Fibre Programme – Public Sector Anchor Tenancy (T1902)	Paul Gribben	20 to 25 years

Belfast Full Fibre Programme – Public Sector Asset Reuse (T1903)	Paul Gribben	One –off engagement
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**Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Director Responsible</b>	<b>Proposed Extension</b>
Repair and maintenance of building energy management system	Gerry Millar	Extension required on a month by month basis until new contract is in place

**Table 3 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>System / product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
RADAR centre admission fees	RADAR	£50,100
Roof Waterproofing System to Lower Plant Waterfront Hall	Gordon & Co	£78,000

**Table 4 – Tenders awarded by Arc21 on behalf of the Council**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
Tender for the provision of a dry material recovering facility	Nigel Grimshaw	Extension for a further period of up to 24 months with a variation on price bands

## 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 6th August and agreed to the following:

#### Review of Shared City Partnership

To endorse the appointment of those representatives from the community and voluntary sector who had been selected to serve on the Shared City Partnership

#### 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement

To approve the allocation of financial provision of up to £7,800 from existing funds towards the programme costs to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement and to note that the remaining £1,000 would be allocated from the existing Good Relations budget.

#### Community Led Cross Interface Event at Townsend Street for International Day of Peace

To authorise funding of up to £4,000 for the delivery of a community-led cross interface event on Townsend Street.

#### Update on District Council Good Relations Programme Interfaces Expression of Interest 2018/19

To grant authority to the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood and City Services to approve successful applications to the programme under delegated authority.

#### District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2018/19 – Request for Reallocation

To approve the reallocation of £37,000 from the Good Relations approach to Hate Crime (£15,000) and the Hate Crime Awareness (Holocaust Project) £22,000) to Tranche 2 of the Good Relations Small Grants Programme.

#### Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th May, it had agreed to host the Shrouds of the Somme exhibition at the City Hall from Thursday, 23rd August till Sunday, 16th September, 2018.

The Committee was reminded that the Shrouds of the Somme was an extraordinarily powerful piece of commemorative art, which marked the centenary of the end of the First World War in 2018.



The Committee was reminded further that the artist, Rob Head, had created over 72,000 hand crafted shrouded figures to represent men from across the Commonwealth who had died at the Battle of the Somme but had no known grave and whose names appeared on the Thiepval memorial. In November, those figures would be laid out in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London to commemorate the centenary of Armistice Day. In advance of that, an element of the overall exhibition would come to Belfast and be hosted in the City Hall grounds.

For the exhibition in Belfast, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, working with Shrouds of the Somme, had now identified 3,775 names, representing those from the Ulster and Irish Regiments, or from Belfast, who had died in the Battle of the Somme and had no known grave. Each of those 3,775 men would be represented by a shrouded figure, laid out in the Garden of Remembrance. Each man's name, regiment and rank, along with any military honour would be listed on an interpretative panel, which would sit alongside the main installation. The official opening event, which would be hosted by the Lord Mayor, had been planned for Thursday, 23rd August from 11.00 am till 12.00 noon in the Reception Room, City Hall. The exhibition would then run until Sunday 16th September, with free access during normal City Hall grounds opening hours (7 am till 9 pm each day). There would be a 24 hour security presence at the exhibition throughout its duration.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Invitation to Join International  
Shared Societies Project**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To advise members of a request to participate in an international Shared Societies Project involving four other countries which starts in October 2018.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to consider and agree the following:**

- **That Belfast City Council agrees to participate in the first event in October 2018 to explore how the project is developing.**
- **That a report on the project after the event would be brought back to the Council through the Shared City Partnership for further consideration**
- **Given the nature of the project, The Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership would be the most suitable members to attend along with the Director of CNS or his nominee.**

- Given the challenging time commitment from 2-9th October, if required Officers will investigate the options for timing which will yield the most benefit to Council.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1** The Council has received a request for up to three participants to be part of an international shared societies project.

**3.2** The project which is envisaged as a five year programme aims to bring together five countries to work collectively to create a deeper understanding of the idea of a shared society. It will bring together theorists from universities and practitioners who have to contend with real life cultural contestation on a day to day basis.

**3.3** It has been designed as a shared learning experience and has secured funding for the first year from the German Peace Academy. Funding is being sought for the following years from EU Horizon 2020 project and other funding bodies. The countries involved are Belgium, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Israel/Palestine.

**3.4 Participants from Northern Ireland**

The academics who were contacted about the project thought that BCC as a practitioner organisation would have much to share from our experience of creating a shared city ethos. The academics who will be attending are

Gráinne Kelly, a Ulster University lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies at INCORE, (International Conflict Research Institute).

Paul Nolan, an independent researcher who produced the first three Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Reports for the Community Relations Council.

Professor Mari Fitzduff is from Brandeis University, Boston. Mari is an international conflict resolution specialist who was previously the first director of the NI Community Relations Council, and the first director of INCORE.

Clem McCartney is Policy and Content Co-ordinator, Shared Societies Project, Club de Madrid, has been asked to participate in that capacity.

### 3.5 Content

This is not a conference per se but rather participants will be expected to deliver presentations, talk knowledgeably about the Council's work in relation to a shared city, methodologies, current thinking and participate in discussions. Each country will describe its experiences, exploring both the achievements and the frustrations, and engage in discussions with the other partners. An annual report will be compiled distilling the learning from the sessions.

- 3.6 This will be a residential experience and the first stage will be at Givat Haviva Centre in Israel from 2 October – 9th October 2018.

### 3.7 Context

The experience of the other four countries involved will assist with our own discussions around shared societies and contribute to our good relations strategy.

- 3.8 Belgium is a prosperous member of the European Union, but a country with three very distinct internal cultures: the Dutch-speaking region of in the north, the mostly French-speaking Wallonia region in the south, and the German-speaking cantons in the east. In 2010/11 Belgium did without a government for 589 days.

Germany, the heart of European social democracy, which is now struggling with issues arising from immigration. This is not just a recent phenomenon. In the 1960s and 1970s, the German governments invited 'guest workers' ([Gastarbeiter](#)) to migrate to Germany for work in the German industries. The largest immigrant group came from Turkey, and some generations on there are unresolved issues about the extent to which the host country and the immigrant communities experience a shared sense of citizenship.

Bosnia-Herzegovina The Bosnian war concluded in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Accord, but since then the country has experienced an unhappy form of 'peace without reconciliation'. A complex constitutional architecture has led to the segregation of Bosniak, Serb and Croatian communities, but the Nansen Dialogue Project has created links extending across Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia.

Israeli/Palestinians. The Middle Eastern partnership in this project is not between Israelis and the Palestinians in the West Bank or Gaza, but rather with the Palestinians who live within the state of Israel. The Givat Haviva Centre, which would be the official partner organisation, was created in order to build solidarity between Israeli peace activists and the Palestinian community in Israel. It is a recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its longstanding work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation.

3.9 Therefore, it should be noted that while the first part of the residential programme is based in Israel, it is not about the Israeli/Palestine experience – rather it is about the experience of all the countries, some of which will have a lot of to share around experiences of segregation, working to build cohesion etc. as outlined above.

3.10 In addition, the Givat Haviva Centre were advised of concerns around the requirement for cross community participation and reassurances have been received that this will be the case. The Givat Haviva Centre is intended to provide solidarity for those working for equality between Palestinians and Israelis and the Centre is particularly concerned to maintain international links as it works against discrimination in the recent legislation.

3.11 Outcomes for Belfast City Council:

The Shared City Partnership is regarded as a model of best practice in terms of drawing together a range of sectors within a political setting to advise and influence decision makers to take on board good relations implications. This active learning experience presents BCC with the opportunity to reflect critically on the work of the Partnership and the Council.

3.12 It will allow Council

- To have more understanding not just about physically sharing space but how we promote shared living in a city where the majority of social housing is segregated.
- To explore the tensions between neutral or good and harmonious environments and how identity features within shared societies.
- To hear first-hand how other countries are addressing legacies of division in a post conflict society and how academics and practitioners evaluate the associated policies/concepts. Subsequently, we would look critically about how these could practically be applied to the Belfast setting.

- To investigate what has been the experience of connecting areas of deprivation to areas of opportunity and how has this impacted upon good relations and cohesion.
- What role community planning and physical planning has played in developing a more diverse but cohesive society – to learn what has and has not worked well and ensure these are featured in discussions around the Local Development Plan and Community Plan.
- It is essential that the city is developed in such a way that does not inhibit future initiatives which have the ability to promote and enhance good relations and equality. The SCP has noted that transformative change is required around regeneration to make a difference to local communities, not just in terms of the two main communities but also to include and integrate new communities. What are the levers and drivers to ensure this happens?

**3.13 Decisions Required:**

If Members are minded to agree to the Council's participation in the project, a decision could be taken to participate in the first event in October to explore how the project is developing.

A report on the project after the event would be brought back to the Council through the Shared City Partnership for consideration.

Given the nature of the project, The Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership would be the most suitable members to attend along with the Director of CNS or his nominee.

In addition, it should be noted that 7 days is an exceptional time commitment and there is a possibility that nominated Members may wish to look at participating for a shorter period. Officers will investigate the most appropriate option.

**3.13 Financial and Resource Implications**

The only cost to Council would involve Member and Officer time and expenses. . The costs of travel and accommodation for the first seminar will be covered by the Peace Academy grant as outlined in the report. As detailed previously, the organisers are seeking further funding for the next steps of the project from EU Horizon Project 2020 and other programmes.

**3.14 Equality and Good Relations Implications/  
Rural needs Assessment.**

**The rationale for participating in the project is to look at how to create and sustain shared societies which will have a positive impact on equality and good relations.”**

The Committee agreed not to accept the request to participate in an international Shared Societies Project.

**Operational Issues**

**Local Investment Fund – Recognition Ceremony**

The Committee noted the update for the arrangements for the Local Investment Fund Recognition Ceremony and that the event would take place on the evening on Thursday, 25th October in the City Hall.

**Belfast Healthy Cities**

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

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- **Provide an update in relation to the forthcoming World Health Organisation (WHO) International Healthy Cities Conference being hosted in Belfast Waterfront from 1-4 October 2018 and the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII programme which is due to commence in January 2019.**
- **Consider an informal request, for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Chair and Deputy (or nominees) to attend the conference and potentially participate as chair and / or discussant in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.**
- **Note that an informal request has been presented to the People and Communities Committee Chair and Deputy (or nominees) to attend the conference and potentially participate as chair and / or discussant in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.**
- **Consider a request to approve the Expression of Interest as part of the process to re-designate Belfast as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.**

- Consider a formal request for the Lord Mayor (or nominee) to attend the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee, which is being held in Rome, Italy from 17 to 20 September 2018.
- Consider a formal request for the Lord Mayor (or nominee) to attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors which will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 23 and 24 October 2018.
- Note that Christine Robinson, Strategy Policy and Partnerships Manager has been appointed, to represent Council, as a Member of the Board of Belfast Healthy Cities.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report.
- Agree that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Chair and Deputy (or their nominees) attend the conference and potentially participate as chair and / or discussant in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.
- Approve completion of the Expression of Interest and submit it as part of the application process to re-designate Belfast as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
- Agree that the Lord Mayor (or nominee) attend the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee, which is being held in Rome, Italy from 17 to 20 September 2018.
- Agree that the Lord Mayor (or nominee) attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors which will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 23 and 24 October 2018.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Key Issues

#### WHO International Healthy Cities Conference 1-4 October 2018

- 3.1 In 2018, the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, celebrates its 30th year as a network and global movement. The highlight of the celebrations will be the conference, which is being hosted in Belfast Waterfront from 1st to 4th October.

- 3.2 As well as celebrating 30 years of Healthy Cities as a network and a global movement, the conference will focus on the six themes established by the WHO European Healthy Cities Network's Political Vision Group for Phase VII, which are people, place, participation, prosperity, planet and peace.
- 3.3 For three decades the Healthy Cities movement has been a pioneering driver of change, creating healthier urban settings that support the health and well-being of the people that use them. It has also inspired Healthy Cities Networks to grow in all other WHO regions, creating a global push for healthy cities and positioning health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments. As a result, city health profiles have evolved as an indispensable tool for informing citizens, policy-makers and politicians about health and also as an evidence base for city health planning.
- 3.4 The conference, which takes place every five years, offers cities the chance to engage with their international counterparts and benefit from the Network's experience. The four day programme in Belfast will provide opportunities to learn from the work of Healthy Cities globally, bringing together politicians and key decision-makers, as well as technical experts. The conference will provide inspiration and insight through multiple examples of innovative ways to improve health and well-being.
- 3.5 The 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe will take place from 17 to 20 September 2018 in Rome, Italy and WHO has requested that the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor attend the event to present the forthcoming WHO International Healthy Cities conference in Belfast and a joint statement with the WHO European Regions Network. The event will be attended by high level representatives of the WHO European Region fifty three Member States, as well as partner organisations. Although the event is scheduled over four days, the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor will not be expected to attend all days of the event.
- 3.6 Belfast Healthy Cities has taken a lead in the management and organisation of the Belfast conference, being held from 1-4 October 2018. A Steering Group and Events Team have been established, together with several Committees to ensure that a successful, well organised and enjoyable conference is delivered on behalf of Belfast City.
- 3.7 Council officers have been liaising with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to conference arrangements and are supporting the programme through the delivery of six specific site visits. Furthermore, Council Officers are



proactively working to ensure that the conference is recognised as a conference for the city and that the health and well-being vision and ambitions in the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan, together with the priorities of the Belfast Strategic Partnership are highlighted, thus illustrating a long term commitment to address health inequalities across Belfast. It is hoped that opportunities can be created to demonstrate Council's civic leadership on an international platform and to showcase Belfast as a great place to visit and do business.

- 3.8 Additionally, following Council's Friendly Co-operation Agreement with Shenyang in 2014 and subsequent Sister City Status in 2016, discussions are ongoing with Belfast Healthy Cities to ensure that a conference invitation is extended to the Mayor of Shenyang and consideration is being given to the Shenyang Mayor's involvement in the conference side events.
- 3.9 In February 2018, Belfast Healthy Cities published a call for abstracts, resulting in three hundred and fifty abstracts being received. These have been assessed and successful delegates are in the process of being informed.
- 3.10 Seven side events are being developed that will be held at the start of the conference. These events will provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in a range of off-site seminars, focusing on topics such as healthy aging, healthy places, early years and peace, all of which reflect the vision and outcomes that have been captured in the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.11 Additionally, seventeen sites visits, relating to the conference themes, have been confirmed for the third day of the conference. These site visits will provide delegates the opportunity to learn about good practice examples being delivered in Belfast, in relation to the six key themes as outlined in point 3.2 above. The planned visits will range from physical projects such as the Connswater Community Greenway and the Regional Trauma Unit, to urban governance models and community initiatives. Furthermore, a number of tours taking in different parts of the city, will offer delegates the opportunity to experience Belfast from a different perspective. The site visits include the following:
- **People:** Innovative approaches to medicine Regional Trauma Unit, Royal Victoria Hospital; Diversity in South Belfast.
  - **Place:** Shaping the future development of Belfast, a Local Development Plan; Connswater Community Greenway; Supported Housing for people living with

dementia and developing Dementia Friendly Communities; Public health tour of Belfast.

- **Participation:** Treating conditions, exercise through prescriptions; W5 Science Centre; Early years intervention approaches in Shankill; Belfast an age-friendly city; Belfast a UNESCO Learning City.
- **Prosperity:** Sustainable growth, a city region deal, Prosperity along the river Lagan; Glider, a new mode of travel for Belfast.
- **Planet:** Institute for Global Food Security, Queens University; Bryson Recycling, leading social enterprise; Devonish Nutrition, Dowth Farm Visit.
- **Peace:** Care Zone in North Belfast; Health and Housing; Creating a shared city; Irish language in east Belfast.

- 3.12 A copy of the draft conference programme is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.13 Dr Janez Potočnik, the Co-chair of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Resource Panel, has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the forthcoming conference. Dr Potočnik is a former Commissioner for Environment and previously Commissioner for Science and Research in the European Commission. In those roles and his current position as the Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel, he has played a key role in policy making on natural resources and in the transition to a circular economy. Dr Potočnik will deliver a keynote address during the conference and will also participate in a panel discussion during the event.
- 3.14 An informal request has been received for the Chair and Deputy Chair (or nominees) of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to attend and potentially Chair one of the learning through practice sessions and / or strategic workshops. Further details in relation to these sessions and workshops are expected from Belfast Healthy Cities within the next few weeks.
- 3.15 An informal request has also been received for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the People and Communities Committee (or nominees) to attend and potentially Chair one of the learning through practice sessions and / or strategic workshops.
- 3.16 An informal request has been received from Belfast Healthy Cities, seeking the Chief Executive to possibly deliver the Key Note 2 speech on 3 October and also to participate in the conference closing session on 4 October.

- 3.17** It is also anticipated that there will be opportunities for additional Elected Members and Council officers to be involved in the conference as chairs and / or discussants in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.
- 3.18** Belfast Healthy Cities has also submitted a request for Council volunteers, fluent in European languages (German in particular), to act as interpreters during the conference.
- 3.19** Additionally, the conference will provide the opportunity to close Phase VI of WHO Healthy Cities and commence preparation in relation to Phase VII. Details of Phase VII will be announced, together with the new cohort of designated healthy cities.

**WHO European Healthy Cities Phase VII (2019 – 2024)**

- 3.20** The WHO European Healthy Cities Phase VII expression of interest is expected to be released from WHO in August 2018. The process for completion and submission of an expression of interest from Belfast requires a letter of support from the Lord Mayor. This element of the Phase VII application process is currently being progressed and will be required before the conference in October 2018.
- 3.21** The goals and framework for Phase VII will be agreed at the conference and will be known as the Belfast Charter. WHO has requested that the Lord Mayor presents the Belfast Charter as the Healthy Cities Acclamation, at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Alma Ata, at a celebratory event in Almaty. At the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held in Alma-Ata (now Almaty), Kazakhstan in 1978, Member States signed the Declaration of Alma-Ata, expressing the need for urgent national and international action to protect and promote the health of all. Forty years later, countries will gather in Almaty again to celebrate this milestone and address the need for continued efforts to support and strengthen primary health care. The Healthy Cities Acclamation confirms the commitment of Healthy Cities to achieving the vision of Alma Ata. A copy of the Draft Provisional Programme of the WHO European Healthy Cities, Summit of Mayors, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23-24 October 2018 is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.22** In order to be re-designated as a WHO Healthy City, and participate in Phase VII, Belfast will need to complete a Phase VII application, including consultation, by December 2018. Details of the application criteria are expected to be released in September 2018.

**3.23** Belfast Healthy Cities will take a lead on the preparation of the Phase VII application. Council Officers have been liaising with Belfast Healthy Cities in relation to this application and have highlighted the importance of Phase VII aligning to the priorities in the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan as well as the work of the Belfast Strategic Partnership.

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

**3.25** Recommendations

It is recommended that consideration be given to the following:

- Agree the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Chair and Deputy (or nominees) attend the conference and potentially participate as chair and / or discussant in relation to the learning through practice sessions and strategic workshops.
- Approve that the Expression of Interest is completed and submitted as part of the application process to re-designate Belfast as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
- Agree that the Lord Mayor (or nominee) attend the 68th session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee, which is being held in Rome, Italy from 17 to 20 September 2018.
- Agree that the Lord Mayor (or nominee) attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors which will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 23 and 24 October 2018.

Financial and Resource Implications

WHO International Healthy Cities  
Conference 1-4 October 2018

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

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

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

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

**68th Session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee and WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

3.29 It is estimated that the total cost per person to attend the 68th session of the WHO Europe Regional Committee in Rome, Italy will be approximately £580. It is estimated that the total cost per person to attend the WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors in Almaty, Kazakhstan will be approximately £880. A breakdown of estimated costs is included in Table 1 below.

3.30 **Table 1: Estimated Costs Per Person**

Estimated Costs	£
<b>68<sup>th</sup> Session WHO Europe Regional Committee, Rome, Italy 17-20 September 2018</b>	
	£
Return flight from Belfast to Rome	230.00
Return transportation from Rome airport to summit venue	50.00
Hotel accommodation (estimated £100 / night / person)	300.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>580.00</b>
<b>WHO European Healthy Cities Summit of Mayors, Almaty Kazakhstan, 23-24 October 2018</b>	
	£
Return flight from Belfast to Almaty	530.00
Return transportation from Almaty airport to summit venue	50.00
Hotel accommodation (estimated £100 / night / person)	300.00

<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>880.00</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>1,460.00</b>

**3.31 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Minutes of Budget and  
Transformation Panel Meeting**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 9th August.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 7th August 2018 as set out in the following appendix, subject to the room charge for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust event on 7th October being waived:

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC)	10 September 2018	<b>Launch of Palliative Care Week 2018</b> – Launch event to help increase awareness and understanding of palliative care with simultaneous launch in Dublin.  Attending – 40	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee  
Friday, 17th August, 2018**

Belfast Orangefest	15 September 2018	<b>Commemoration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice Day 'FAITHful Allies'</b> – Commemoration event recognizing contribution of ethnic and religious minorities to WWI.  Numbers attending – 150	C & D	No (Community)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Intercultural Education Service	20 September 2018	<b>Schools of Sanctuary Celebration Awards –</b> Presentation awards ceremony for 11 schools becoming Schools of Sanctuary.  Numbers attending – 225	B & C	Yes - £115	No	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  Approve Room Charge No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	7 October 2018	<b>A Time to Remember – Children's Services of Remembrance for bereaved parents–</b> Remembrance service for bereaved relatives and friends of children who have died at Royal Belfast Hospital for sick Children.  Numbers attending – 350	C	Yes - £115	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  Approve Room Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Foras na Gaeilge	9 October 2018	<b>Celebration of the Irish Language Officers Scheme and Launch of Research –</b> Launch event to mark commencement of work of Belfast City Council Irish Language Officer and launch research of Conradh na	B & C	Yes - £115	No hospitality	Approve Room Charge No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee  
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		Gaeilge.  Numbers attending - 60-100				
International Powered Access Federation (IPAF)	10 October 2018	<b>Europlatform Networking Reception</b> – Reception as part of one-day international conference held in Europa.  Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No – <i>linked to Visit Belfast (£300 waived)</i>	Yes - Wine Reception – <i>linked to Visit Belfast</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
British Council	12 October 2018	<b>Global Cities Strategy – Belfast Round-Table Workshop</b> – Engagement session to provide update on British council’s Global Cities Strategy.  Numbers attending – 40	B & C	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman	22 October 2018	<b>Sharing International Best Practice for Ombudsmen undertaking Own Initiative Investigations Dinner</b> – Dinner as part of 2 day international conference held at Stormont.  Numbers attending – 80	A & B	Yes - £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve Room Charge Wine Reception
Law Society of Northern Ireland & Women in Business NI	25 October 2018	<b>National Mentoring Day Celebration Event</b> – Lunch event to celebrate mentoring schemes across Northern Ireland.  Numbers attending 50-150	B & C	Yes - £115	No hospitality	Approve Room Charge No hospitality



**B  
2022**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee  
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Belfast City of Sanctuary	30 October 2018	<b>Launch of 'A Part of Belfast Now' (the stories of those coming to our City of Belfast) –</b> Launch event with speeches and presentation on update of work of city of Sanctuary.  Numbers attending – 100-120	C & D	No (Community)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre	7 November 2018	<b>Breaking down Barriers to Integration –</b> Networking event for black and minority ethnic groups to identify barriers to integration & provide help to overcome these.  Numbers attending - 60-70	C & D	No (Community)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Health and Social Care Board	26 November 2018	<b>Celebration of Childcare in Belfast –</b> Celebration event to note the achievement of childcare provisions in Belfast, linked to childcare strategy supported by council.  Numbers attending – 120	B & C	Yes- £115	No hospitality	Approve Room Charge No hospitality
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
The National Deaf Children's Society	5 March 2019	<b>Young Authors and Artists Prize Day 2019 –</b> prize-giving ceremony to celebrate artistic achievements of deaf children and young people across Northern Ireland.  Numbers attending 160	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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Volunteer Now	6 March 2019	<b>Millennium Volunteers – Awards of Excellence</b> – Award ceremony to recognize contributions of young people through volunteering.  Numbers attending – 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Faculty of Radiologists, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	4 April 2019	<b>Faculty of Radiologists (RCSI) spring Meeting Dinner</b> – Formal dinner as part of 2-3 day national conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 80-100	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception - <i>linked to Visit Belfast</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Girl Guiding Belfast	8 May 2019	<b>Belfast County Guides Awards Ceremony for Young People and Leaders</b> – annual awards ceremony for young people involved in girl guiding.  Numbers attending – 200-250	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Institute of Water/ NI Water	26 June 2019	<b>UK Annual Conference President's Dinner</b> – Formal dinner as part of 3-day national conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 200	A & B	No – <i>linked to Visit Belfast (£825 waived)</i>	Yes - Wine Reception - <i>linked to Visit Belfast</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

2020 EVENTS						
Irish Football Association	April/May 2020	<b>UEFA Under 19 Championship Final Draw NI –</b> Final Pool Draw for Under 19 Championship, which is being hosted by IFA in Belfast in 2020, similar to Women's Under 19 Championship in 2017.  Numbers attending - 200	B & C	Yes- £300	No hospitality	Approve Room Charge No hospitality

### **Ladies' Lunch – ABF The Soldiers' Charity**

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the ABF The Soldiers' Charity concerning a "Ladies' Lunch" event which would take place on 11th September. The lunch was designed to give local women an opportunity to meet with serving soldiers in informal surroundings and to hear their experiences both on operation and in barracks. The Council had previously supported events organised by the charity, namely the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme Event in 2016 and the Ulster at War event in 2017. The cost of attendance was £20 per person and this expenditure could be met from within existing budgets.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request and authorised the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, together with one Member from each of the six main political parties represented on the Council not already covered by the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson.

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 6th August.

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

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

### **Issues raised in Advance by Members**

### **Motion of No Confidence in the Chairperson**

(Prior to the aforementioned item being discussed, Alderman Rodgers made a statement to the Committee and then left the meeting.)

The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Campbell, in the Chair.

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Long raised the issue of passing a vote of no confidence in the Chairperson.

After a lengthy discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor McAllister,

That the Committee agrees to pass a vote of no confidence in the Chairperson on the basis of his handling of issues to do with bonfires situated in East Belfast in the run up to and in the aftermath of 11th July.

On a recorded vote seven Members voted for the motion and four against and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For (7)</u></b>	<b><u>Against (4)</u></b>
Councillors Campbell, Carson, Garrett, Long, McAllister, McAteer and Walsh.	Alderman Browne and Councillors Craig, Graham and Reynolds.

Chairperson