

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd November, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown);
Aldermen Convery and Haire;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig,
Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, McAteer, O'Donnell, and
Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne and Spence and Councillors Long, McAllister and Reynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 5th and 19th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 5 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2019/20 and which advised the Members of the next steps in the rates setting process.

The Director highlighted the seven key elements to setting the rate, the current estimates position, including the recommended growth proposals, the business as usual costs pressures, the efficiency programme and additional efficiencies and the recommended departmental growth proposals.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Haire,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee:

1. notes the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate;
2. notes that party group briefings had been arranged for the week beginning 26 November 2018, with a further report on the setting of the district rate being brought to the Committee at its meeting on 14 December 2018;
3. agrees that a charge for the Bulky Household Waste Service would not be considered as part of the efficiency savings for the next financial year;
4. agrees that savings in the sum of £507k in agency and overtime costs be included as part of the efficiency programme; and
5. agrees that the target for the rates increase for 2019/20 be in the region of 1.98%.

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

Bank Buildings Update/City Recovery Programme Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the activity underway to support the City Recovery Programme, focusing on the period to the end of December, 2018. It was reminded that approval for the works and the associated budget had been agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 19th October. Since that time, officers had had to work quickly in order to ensure that all relevant licences, statutory approvals and consents were in place and that the attraction and activities had been procured and mobilised, with an enhanced marketing campaign in place.

The Committee was then provided with an update on the following areas:

- the cordon
- city marketing

- city animation, infrastructure, major attraction and events
- the allocation of the funding provided by Primark towards a Business Support Fund for affected traders in the vicinity of the building
- the planned incentive approach to help drive the additional footfall towards the existing retail and hospitality offer in the city.

After discussion, the Committee noted:

1. the update on the construction work, the cordon and the protected walkway;
2. the update on the city marketing, street animation, major attractions and environmental improvements to enhance the vibrancy and increase footfall in the city centre;
3. the progress on the allocation of the funds from the Primark Business Support Fund; and
4. the update on the proposed incentive scheme, including the timeline for implementation.

Response to Planning Application submitted for Sprucefield Park, Lisburn

(Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered a report in relation to an application for outlined planning permission for new retail development at Sprucefield Park, Lisburn which had been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

The Committee:

1. noted the submission of the application for outline planning permission for new retail development at Sprucefield Park, Lisburn and the holding letter of concern which had been submitted by the Strategic Director for Place and Economy; and
2. agreed that the Party Group Leaders from the Council should meet with their counterparts in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to discuss the issues at the earliest opportunity.

Physical Programme – Challenges and Implications

The Committee was reminded that the Council managed a substantial physical programme under a range of funding streams. In this regard, a report was submitted to the Committee which provided an update on the current status of the Programme and the emerging implications for future investment decisions, particularly the potential impact on the rate.

It was pointed out that the report required to be considered in conjunction with the paper submitted earlier in the meeting on the rate-setting process.

The Committee:

General

- noted the proposal that a further tour of physical projects for Members be organised;

Rates Impact

- noted that to deliver the agreed projects on the Capital Programme (including all the Stage 2 – Uncommitted projects and the required Stage 1- Emerging projects) and the Destination Hub - Belfast Story under City Deal would necessitate a phased rates increase of 0.66% per annum from next year;
- noted that the emerging 'wish list' of projects would require a substantial rates increase to deliver and that that did not allow for any financing to support future neighbourhood projects;

Next Steps

- noted that there were sufficient projects already agreed on the current programme to guarantee delivery for at least the next three years and that, given this, and in light of the affordability issues, agreed the proposed next steps as set out in paragraph 3.16 of the report.

**City and Neighbourhood Services
Change Programme Update**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd June, 2017, it had been provided with an update report which summarised the work that had been ongoing in relation to the City and Neighbourhood Services Change Programme, together with the proposed approach regarding next steps. The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a further progress update, which focused on work and activities that were currently being prioritised.

The Committee:

- noted the contents of the report and the significant progress achieved in relation to the City and Neighbourhood Services Change Programme; and the continuing of Business as usual during this transition;
- noted the appointment of Rose Crozier to the post of Interim Programme Director – Customer Focus and agreed that Alderman Rodgers, Councillor Carson and Councillor Graham be appointed to the selection panel to recruit her replacement post of Operational Director in the City and Neighbourhood Services Department; and

- agreed to advertise this post externally, potentially with the assistance of executive search, for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of extension and/or permanency at the end of that period.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion: “On the Ball” Campaign

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion to allow the proposer (Councillor O’Neill) to be in attendance.

Motion: “No Grey Zone” Campaign

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion to allow the proposer (Councillor Nicholl) to be in attendance.

Motion: Definition of Antisemitism

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

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on how the wording of the motion would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.

It was pointed out that the Good Relations Strategy was scheduled to be considered later in the meeting under the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership and accordingly, given the decision in relation to the motion, it was agreed that that part of the minutes be deferred until a future meeting.

Governance

Council Meeting Dates January to May, 2019

The Committee was reminded that the Council’s Standing Order 1 stated that:

“Monthly meetings of the Council would be held on the first working day of each month except in August. Monthly meetings shall not, however, take place on a Bank or Public Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but shall be held on the next following weekday instead.”

It was reported that, in previous years, Members had often commented that the dates scheduled for the monthly meetings of the Council around the New Year holiday period meant that some cannot attend due to holiday commitments. The same could be said for officers, some of whom were also on holiday around those times.

In 2019 the January meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 2nd January, the first working day following the New Year public holidays. There would not be any difficulty in moving this meeting to Monday, 7th January at 6.00 p.m. as no other meetings were scheduled for that date.

Subsequent to that, the May meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 1st May, which was the day before the Local Government Election 2019 Polling Day. The Members would be aware that this was a very busy period for both Members undertaking canvassing duties and for Council officers responsible for election duties, in particular, the organisation of the verification process, which would take place immediately after the close of polls, and the Counting of Votes which would commence the day after Polling Day.

It was therefore proposed that the May meeting of the Council be brought forward by 1 week and held on Monday, 29th April at 6.00 p.m.

That would mean that the Schedule of Council meetings for January to May, would be as follows:

Monday, 7th January at 6.00 p.m.
Monday, 4th February at 6.00 p.m.
Monday, 4th March at 6.00 p.m.
Monday, 1st April at 6.00 p.m.
Monday, 29th April at 6.00 p.m.

The Committee approved the schedule of dates for meetings of the Council from January to May, 2019.

Schedule of Meetings 2019

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for January to April 2019, which would commence at 9.30 a.m:

Friday, 11th January – Special meeting (if required) to discuss the District Rate for 2019/20
Friday, 25th January
Friday, 22nd February
Friday, 8th March – Special Quarterly meeting: Belfast Agenda
Friday, 22nd March
Friday, 12th April

**Nomination of a Person for Consideration for
Appointment as High Sheriff of Belfast for 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it agreed to apply the D'hondt method of proportionality to identify which Parties would be entitled to nominate persons for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff over a Council Term.

The Committee had decided also, as it was half way through a Council Term, to take account of the Parties that had already held the position in 2016 (UUP) and 2017 (DUP). Therefore, the D'hondt order of Parties for the next 2 years was as follows:

1. Sinn Fein
2. Sinn Fein
3. Alliance
4. SDLP
5. DUP

The Committee was reminded also that, at its meeting on 24th November 2017, it had established deadlines by which Parties entitled to nominate must do so or the choice would pass to the next Party on the D'hondt table.

The next choice fell to the Democratic Unionist Party and it has decided to nominate Alderman Tommy Sandford for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for 2019. It was pointed out that the decision on the appointment was taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted that Alderman Tommy Sandford had been nominated for consideration for the appointment as High Sheriff for 2019.

Initial Arrangements for the Local Elections in 2019

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider initial arrangements for the Local Elections in May 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- Note the information on the Local Election timetable;
- Agree that the Election Count venue will be the City Hall;
and
- Agree the dates upon which each count will be held, as set out in paragraph 3.3.3 of the report

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 The Local Elections will be held on 2nd May 2019, with the counts being held on 3rd and 4th May 2019. The election timetable is attached at Appendix 1 for information

3.1.2 There are some early decisions which the Council is required to take to allow officers to make early preparations.

3.2 Count Venue

3.2.1 The counts for the 10 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) in the Belfast District will take place on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May. The suggestion is that 5 counts will take place on each day and it is recommended that the Committee agree that the venue for all of the counts will be the City Hall. This would require 3 counts to take place in the Great Hall and 1 each in the Banqueting Hall and the Reception Room.

3.3 Order of Counts

3.3.1 It is recognised that most Members would prefer the count for the DEA in which they are standing to take place on the Friday rather than the Saturday. In deciding which 5 DEAs should be counted on the Friday, there are some logistical matters which need to be taken into account:

- The Reception Room is being used as a count venue and it is significantly smaller than the other count venues in the City Hall. The Banqueting Hall is the largest of the venues being used.**
- The 10 DEAs do not all elect the same number of councillors. Black Mountain and Ormiston DEAs elect 7 members each; Balmoral and Botanic DEAs elect 5 members each; and Castle, Oldpark, Court, Collin, Lisnasharragh and Titanic DEAs each elect 6 members.**

3.3.2 It is accepted that the number of members to be elected to a DEA does not necessarily mean that the count will take less time to complete but that is the only variable which can reasonably be used to assess which counts should be held in which venue. Accordingly it is suggested that the following breakdown is agreed:

**Reception Room – Balmoral and Botanic DEAs (5 members each)
Banqueting Hall – Black Mountain and Ormiston DEAs (7 members each)**

Great Hall (1) – Castle and Oldpark DEAs (6 members each)
Great Hall (2) – Court and Colin DEAs (6 members each)
Great Hall (3) – Lisnasharragh and Titanic DEAs (6 members each)

- 3.3.3 When the Committee agreed in 2014 which counts would be held on which day it was agreed also that the counts held on the Saturday in 2014 would be held on the Friday in 2019. Therefore, it is recommended that the counts should be held as follows:

Friday 3rd May, 2019

Reception Room – Botanic DEA
Banqueting Hall – Ormiston DEA
Great Hall 1 – Oldpark DEA
Great Hall 2 – Colin DEA
Great Hall 3 – Titanic DEA

Saturday 4th May, 2019

Reception Room – Balmoral DEA
Banqueting Hall – Black Mountain DEA
Great Hall 1 – Castle DEA
Great Hall 2 – Court DEA
Great Hall 3 – Lisnasharragh DEA

3.4 **Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.4.1 The costs of the Local Elections in May 2019 will be met out of the existing elections budget.

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

- 3.5.1 None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation –
Role of the Licensing Committee**

The Committee was advised that the Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 20th November, had considered a report on The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016, due to commence on 1st April 2019. This would transfer the responsibility for the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) registration scheme from the Northern Ireland House Executive to local district councils. It also created a new licensing system which required landlords to

demonstrate that they were a fit and proper person to be a HMO landlord.

Following the decision of the Licensing Committee, the Committee :

- agreed to amend Standing Order 37 (d) Duties of Committees – Licensing Committee to give effect to the Licensing Committee having delegated authority as set out:

37. Duties of Committees

(d) Licensing Committee

(vii) The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016

The Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining those applications for a house in multiple occupation and should only consider objections to an application in instances where the objector would be materially affected by the existence of a House in Multiple Occupation; where variation of a licence is required, in the determination of a fit and proper person check, and in the revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately; and

- agreed to the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, as follows:

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to:

- applications for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation of licences where objections are received;
- applications where officers believe there may be an issue in relation to the fitness of the applicant to hold a licence;
- approving any guidance documents;
- setting of licence fees;
- revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Transport Hub Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the proposals for the Transport Hub and to confirm the Council’s corporate support for the Transport Hub development.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the update in relation to the planning application for the proposed Transport Hub and its strategic importance in the regeneration and growth of the city. In light of its strategic and economic significance, Members are asked to provide their support to the proposed development and to note that this is in the context of the comments already made from a planning perspective, as agreed by the Planning Committee on 11 September 2018 and 17 October 2017.

Members are also asked to note that the future proposals for the wider Weavers Cross regeneration will be brought to both the City Growth & Regeneration Committee and to the Planning Committee in due course. This will of course consider neighboring communities.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 The proposed Belfast Transport Hub and wider Weavers Cross regeneration is a transport-led regeneration project which will ultimately involve the redevelopment of the Europa Bus Centre, Great Victoria Street Railway Station and surrounding NI Transport Holding Company (NITHC) land. It is proposed that this 20 acre mixed-use development site will comprise a multi-modal transport hub alongside commercial, leisure and residential facilities.

3.2 NITHC served a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on the Council in October 2016 in respect of both the Transport Hub (PAN deemed acceptable) and the wider Weavers Cross Regeneration proposal (PAN deemed not acceptable and expected to be re-submitted). Subsequently a planning application was received for

the new integrated Transport Interchange element only on 16th June 2017. This was called in by the Department for Infrastructure on 26th June 2017 due to its regional significance and it is still under consideration. Consequently, the proposed development now consists of two separate elements:

- Transport Hub; and
- Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)

Transport Hub

3.3 As noted above, in June 2017 NITHC submitted a full planning application ([LA04/2017/1388/F](#)) for a new integrated transport interchange comprising:

- station concourse;
- 26 bus stands;
- 8 railway platforms;
- bus maintenance and parking;
- track and signalling enhancements;
- bus access bridge;
- cycle and taxi provision;
- car parking;
- new public square and public realm improvements;
- highway and infrastructure improvements; and
- temporary structures and compounds for bus operations during construction.

3.4 The application is currently being considered by DfI and a decision is expected before the end of 2018. The Council, as the local planning authority, responded formally to the consultation supporting the application, following meetings of the Planning Committee on 17th October 2017 and 11 September 2018.

Key Issues.

3.5 By way of policy background, the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) sets out the Council's collective ambition for the continuing growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding area and includes a road map of policies and projects to underpin this growth, with the Transport Hub highlighted as a key strategic project in this overall regeneration. The Strategy was shaped by extensive engagement with city stakeholders from all sectors.

- 3.6 Transport and connectivity will play a key role in the economic growth and regeneration of Belfast by enhancing access and serving as one of the key elements to catalyse growth and support Belfast as a successful modern city. BCCRIS underscores the importance of this in terms of city wide regeneration.
- 3.7 The proposed Transport Hub is located in one of the identified signature areas of the BCCRIS i.e. the South Centre and the significance of the Transport Hub becoming the gateway to the city centre and its immediate vicinity is emphasised in this. It highlights that the proposal for a new Transport Hub at this location is to be welcomed as a major improvement in convenience and connectivity of the regional rail system and associated transport links, with significant increases in passenger traffic anticipated. It also emphasises that the opportunity is not just one of transport engineering but is a chance to redefine the gateway to Belfast's city centre and act as a major regeneration opportunity for the entire city centre and neighbouring areas.
- 3.8 The Transport Hub is also identified in the Belfast Agenda as a key element of the City Development growth ambitions. It highlights the importance of improved connectivity and that we will seek to maximise the opportunities of the Transport Hub and provide the development of sustainable transport.
- 3.9 The Council's Planning Committee responded to the planning application as consultee and the response was agreed by the Planning Committee on 27th October 2017 and again on 11 September 2018. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.10 With regard to community engagement, Translink has consulted and engaged with a range of stakeholders prior to and as part of the submission of the full planning application. A dedicated Engagement Manager has also been appointed by Translink to provide communication and engagement support specifically for the development. Translink is also liaising with Council to bring forward various aspects of the development. There has been ongoing liaison on the Buy Social clauses and a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and will be finalised upon planning approval and appointment of the contractor. A Construction Employment Academy is also proposed to support jobs around enabling works and Transport Hub build.
- 3.11 It is clear that the Transport Hub will bring about significant regeneration, economic and environmental benefits to the city and

aligns with the Council's ambitions within the Belfast Agenda and the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The Council will however continue to work with Translink to ensure that delivery of the Transport Hub generates the greatest possible regeneration benefits to local residents in terms of jobs, training and economic impact.

Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)

- 3.12 The full application for the wider regeneration scheme has not yet been submitted to the Council. The site sits within the wider context of a regeneration masterplan, referred to collectively as Weavers Cross, which will be submitted in outline planning application form. The proposed regeneration masterplan for this wider area is expected to consist of a mix of commercial and residential development. Initially both the outline and full applications were to be submitted in tandem but the outline application for the wider site is yet to be submitted pending planning approval for the Transport Hub.
- 3.13 Further reports on the wider Weavers Cross regeneration proposals will be brought back to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee in due course and officers are continuing to engage with Translink on this. In addition, it is expected that the outline application for the wider site will be processed and determined by the Council. Prior to the submission of an outline application for the wider development, the applicant will be required to undertake pre-application community consultation as the proposal will be for Major development.
- 3.14 Given the strategic and economic significance of the proposed Transport Hub, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee is being asked to note the update in relation to planning and to provide its support to the proposed development of the Transport Hub. This is in the context of the comments already made from a planning perspective and agreed by the Planning Committee on 17 October 2017 and 11 September 2018.
- 3.15 Financial & Resource Implications
- No direct resource implications associated this report.
- 3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- No specific equality or good relations implications at this time.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Region City 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 £850m investment Programme agreed for Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and to outline next steps including the signing of the Heads of Term document and the arrangements that need to be put in place to deliver the Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note;

- The successful BRCD bid which has secured at least £850m investment programme for the region.
- Next steps including the signing of the Heads of Term and the need to establish resources to further develop and deliver the investment programme.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), resulted in the submission of the BRCD proposition document to NIO and UK government on 30th September 2018.

3.2 A number of weeks negotiation and engagement took place including a successful event in Westminster where all the partners came together to present the proposed programme and projects to political and business representatives.

3.3 In his budget on 29th October 2018 the Chancellor announced a commitment of £350m from UK government to the (BRCD), leveraging at least £350m from NI regional government, £100m from the BRCD councils and £50m from the two universities. This provides a starting funding package of £850m which will be further enhanced by at least £150m private sector investment, providing the BRCD with a 10 year £1billion Programme of Investment.

Programme Update

- 3.4 The BRCD comprises of approximately 22 projects across the investment pillars of Digital / Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism led Regeneration underpinned by a significant employability and skills programme. Each of the capital projects will require significant resources in their own right but the benefits of the deal can only be realised when managed and delivered at an overall programme level. It is anticipated that BCC will be expected to act as the lead authority and accountable body, and therefore will now be required to work with the BRCD partners to put in place the appropriate management structures to manage and deliver this £1billion Investment programme in areas including;
- Governance and Decision Making
 - Financial Planning and Management
 - Programme and Project Management
 - Performance Monitoring and Assurance
 - Communication and Engagement
- 3.5 All of these strands will not only need to build on the partnership arrangements already established at programme level but will have to be tailored at investment pillar level given the size and complexities of the projects and to ensure synergies at pillar and programme level.
- 3.6 In addition specific city region structures will need to be established to develop the Digital strand of the programme, given that this is not owned by a specific partner, the specialist nature of the projects and the potential for significant private sector investment. Specialist technical support will also have to be procured to support this strand.
- 3.7 Learning from other deals suggests it can take up to a year to develop the programme structures and develop an implementation plan. It is envisaged that work will continue in developing individual business cases which will also feed into the delivery plan and financial strategy.
- 3.8 Given the scale of the Programme it will be necessary to allocate resources to support the development and delivery of the BRCD. Officers are liaising with other authorities who are delivering similar city deals to help inform the possible structures and resources required to deliver the BRCD. Following this a further report will be brought to committee with proposals including the likely resources required to deliver the BRCD Investment Programme.

Next Steps

3.9 Heads of Terms

Officers are liaising with the NIO and MHCLG who are now drawing up the Heads of Term document which details the funding commitments outlined in the report and will then be signed by both UK and Regional governments, the six councils and the two universities.

It is envisaged that this process will be completed in advance of Christmas allowing the BRCD partners to move ahead with the further development of individual projects. This Heads of Term will be brought to committee and council for formal approval.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Finance for the further development and implementation of the Belfast City Region Deal is being considered as part of the 2019 / 20 rates setting process.

Additional costs associated with the development of the BRCD will be allocated across the BRCD partners.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that;

BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate."

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted the possibility to the holding of a special Council meeting before Christmas to sign off the Heads of Terms.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update Project Updates

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 Members are asked to–

Project Updates

- **Kerbside Collection Scheme – Pilot - agree that the Council submits an application for funding to DAERA for 100% of the funding for the infrastructure required to support a kerbside collection scheme pilot. Further details on the proposed pilot will be brought back to Members in due course (see 3.2 & 3.3)**
- **New cleansing vehicle – City Centre – agree that up to £140,000 from non-recurrent is ring-fenced for the acquisition of a new cleansing vehicle for the city centre. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council (see 3.4 & 3.5)**
- **Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) for both projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.**
- **Hammer Playground Development – agree that this is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme (3.7)**
- **Connswater Community Greenway - agree to the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor in agreement with the**

Strategic Director of CNS (3.8-3.9).

- External Funding - note that a number of letters of offer for projects have been received from DEARA/Urban Villages/DfC and that Council officers are now progressing these (see 3.11)

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.

Project Updates

- 3.2** *Kerbside Collection Scheme – capital infrastructure to support a pilot* - The project involves the purchase of the equipment necessary to pilot the proposed kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclables and food waste across the city including two vehicles and associated bins. This scheme is necessary to deliver the Council's Waste Framework document and is aimed at cost-effectively maximising diversion of waste from landfill and boosting recycling rates to meet the challenging legislative targets. This follows on from the recent consultation on waste which has been undertaken by C&NS.
- 3.3** Members are asked to note that the that the Council has been advised by DEARA that capital funding is available this financial year to help purchase equipment and infrastructure to support a pilot for the proposed new kerbside collection scheme. All monies are however require to be committed this financial year. Members are asked to agree that the Council submits an application for funding to DEARA and to note that there are no financial implications for the Council as 100% of funding is anticipated from DEARA. Further details on the proposed pilot will be brought back to Members in due course.
- 3.4** *City Centre – New cleansing vehicle* - Following the impact of the fire at Bank Buildings on 28th August and the subsequent

placement of the cordon in the city centre, C&NS have undertaken investigations into options on the cost of purchase of an effective street washing machine to enhance the area. Members are asked to note that the purchase of such a machine will help underpin the aims of the Belfast City Centre Streetscape Strategy and Action Plan in that it will contribute to

- Attractive, inviting, clean and safe public places and spaces for all
- Improved aesthetic quality of city centre environment
- Enhanced overall quality of life
- Increased civic pride and positive city centre image

- 3.5 Committee is asked to approve the purchase of an additional cleansing vehicle for the city centre. It is proposed that a budget of up to a maximum of £140,000 under non-recurrent is ring-fenced for the purchase of the new vehicle. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Discussions are underway with the City Centre Team to ascertain if there is any match funding from other sources (central gvt etc.) however there is no commitment to this yet.
- 3.6 Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) for both projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
- 3.7 *Hammer Playground Development* - Members will recall that they were previously notified that a financial settlement of the NIHE had been received in relation to the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and it was agreed that this would be ring-fenced for the provision of a new playground at the Hammer. DfC have now committed match funding to this project and it is therefore recommended that this is moved to stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. Members are asked to note that there are no financial implications for the Council as the funding has been secured from NIHE and DfC.
- 3.8 *Connswater Community Greenway* - Members will be aware that Phase 2 of the CCG programme finished in September 2017 with further smaller works continuing in Phase 3 to complete the programme. Members will also be aware that funding to deliver the programme was from a number of sources including £20 million from the Big Lottery Fund. Discussions with Big Lottery have taken

place about the sustainability of CCG and how we can maximise the benefits of the investment to continue to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for those living, working and visiting East Belfast as well as realising Big Lottery's vision of CCG becoming a 'Living Landmark'.

- 3.9 Big Lottery have agreed that £1m of the balance remaining from their capital funding will be allocated as an endowment to Connswater Community Greenway Trust (CCGT) for the delivery of an annually agreed animation programme for the greenway. This will be effective from April 2019 and will be subject to a legal agreement between BCC and CCGT which will be for a period of 10 years. Members are advised that since the completion of Phase 1 of the programme, animation of CCG has been delivered in partnership with CCGT, funded from Big Lottery revenue with a programme agreed annually by the People and Communities Committee. Members are asked to agree to the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor in agreement with the Strategic Director of CNS.

External funding

- 3.10 Members will be aware that over the past couple of years the Council has been requested to deliver a series of capital projects under a number of externally funded initiatives including the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) on behalf of the Executive Office together with projects on behalf of the Department for Communities. These requests recognise both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city.

In addition the Council actively seeks external funding to help support projects which are on its agreed lists which can free up financing to be used on other projects.

- 3.11 Letters of offer – Members are asked to note that the following letters of offer have been received and that work is now underway on these projects –

Project Title	Total Award	Funder
Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Park	£602,582	Urban Villages - £474,678 DFC - £127,904
White Rise	£156,412	DFC
Grace Family Centre	£698,000	Urban Villages - £145,000 DFC - £553,000
Glenbryn Playground (revised LOO received)	£594,094	Urban Villages - £474,192 DFC - £119,902
Colin Glen – Alpine Toboggan	£500,000	DEARA
Colin Glen – Driving Range	£401,968	DEARA

In addition Members are asked to note that DFC are providing 100% funding towards the provision of temporary changing facilities at Whiterock and Girdwood. The delivery of this is also being undertaken by DFC. There are therefore no capital financial implications for the Council.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – City Centre – New cleansing vehicle – Up to a maximum of £140,000. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Council officers are exploring whether any match funding can be obtained from partners in respect of this project.

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

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Impact Assessment

There are no direct implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Local Investment Fund – Programme Outcomes and Post Event Feedback

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the overall LIF programme outcomes to date and the feedback on the LIF Event which was held to mark the extent of the projects delivered under the Council’s highly successful £9m Local Investment Fund (LIF) Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the update on the current status of the £9m LIF programme as at 3.2 below which has provided support to 132 projects across the city with 97 projects already completed and another 22 either on the ground or at tender preparation stage
- note the significant impacts and outcomes that have resulted from the LIF programme for local neighbourhoods across the city (see 3.4 and 3.5 below)
- note that the LIF Event which was held at City Hall on 25th October 2018 was highly successful and has received extremely positive feedback from both local community groups and Members
- note some of the LIF communication and engagement initiatives and video/ testimonials from groups who have received LIF funding

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 LIF Overview

In April 2012, the Council launched a £5m LIF programme designed to support neighbourhood projects to help regenerate local areas. The LIF was part of the Council £150m Investment Programme to counter the effects of the economic downturn and the key aims of the initiative included boosting the local economy, supporting business, creating employment and training opportunities and supporting capital projects across the city. Following the success of the LIF1, the Council in 2015 agreed to extend the LIF programme with a further £4m allocated to LIF2 making the overall investment of £9m to local areas.

3.2 Members are also asked to note that LIF represented a new way of working for the Council both at a Councillor level and internally at officer level.

- **Councillors – the Councillors have played a key role in bringing forward LIF proposals and making recommendations to SP&R on investment decisions for local areas through the LIF. This underlined the important role of local councillors and their ability to deliver for the local communities. At its heart, the establishment of the LIF allowed Members the opportunity to fund a wide range of diverse schemes across the city with the common purpose of improving lives in local areas.**
- **Officers – Members will be aware that a thorough due diligence process was put in place around LIF projects which was supported by a cross-departmental due-diligence group. This Group has represented real collaborative working at its best across the Council**

3.3 LIF- Current Status

To date 132 projects have received in principle support under LIF through LIF1 and LIF2. A summary of the current status of the LIF programme is outlined below;

Stage/ Description	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	61 (86%)	£4,159,728	36 (59%)	£2,440,596
Number of Projects On-going Delivery	5 (7%)	£345,372	6 (10%)	£729,181
Number of Projects in Pre-construction	2 (3%)	£106,000	9 (15%)	£422,134
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	3 (4%)	£345,000	10 (16%)	£363,879
Total Number of Approved Projects	71	£4,956,100	61	£3,955,790

Headline figures are;

- **Over 90 projects worth £6.6m have been completed across the city**
- **22 projects worth £1m are currently on the ground or at tender preparation stage**
- **13 projects due diligence stage/ initial stage**
- **Awards under LIF ranged from the minimum threshold of £15,000 to a maximum investment of £250,000**
- **The average investment per project was £67,514**

3.4 Monitoring and evaluation

Members are asked to note that each LIF project is required to undertake a monitoring and evaluation visit as part of its funding agreement. In line with the LIF governance, completed projects must undergo a post monitoring exercise to evaluate the project outputs and outcomes, verify the special conditions per funding agreement have been met and measure initial successes/ impacts of the project. Council officers have now undertaken an analysis piece of the monitoring and evaluation forms and have collated some of the key facts and figures which have emerged across the Programme.

3.5 Project outputs and outcomes

With over 90 projects completed, the LIF programme and its projects has delivered some very real outputs and benefits to local communities right across the city as outlined below. Members will be aware that when it was established in 2012 LIF provided an opportunity for community groups across the city to access an invaluable funding stream for small capital works which had never been previously available to them. It is therefore worth noting that many of these projects would not have happened without LIF funding. Although the amounts under LIF could be considered to be minor compared to traditional capital schemes (under £250,000) the impact to the groups and to local areas has been significant and cannot be under-estimated.

- ***New build community facilities-*** Ten new community facilities have been built solely with LIF funding or in partnership with external organisations. New built projects include the new community centre at Annadale (LIF award - £103k), the Eastside Visitor Centre (LIF - £250k); the new Glor Na Mona (LIF- £112k) building in West and the new Workforce Training Services (LIF - £30k) facility in North Belfast.
- ***Refurbished community facilities-*** the majority of projects funded under LIF have been for small scale renovations and improvement works of the existing community assets. 54 community facilities have been refurbished including St Malachy's Youth Centre (LIF - £70k), Ballynafeigh Orange Hall (LIF -£60k) in South; Short Strand Community Centre (LIF - £101k); Mountpottinger Methodists Church (LIF - £112k) in East; Benview Community Centre (LIF - £35k) and Church of the Nazarene (LIF -£50k) in North; Saints Youth

Club (LIF - £15k), Relatives for Justice, Glen Rd (LIF -£34k) and West Belfast Orange Hall (LIF - £50k) in West of the city.

- **Childcare places-** 75 additional childcare places have been supported through LIF from the two Surestart projects in Markets (LIF award - £240k) and Belvoir (LIF -£108k), and through the expanded activities of Mornington Community Association (LIF - £200k) and Falls Women’s Centre.
- **Skills/ training facilities** – Six skills/training facilities were supported through under LIF. Through the funding, the refurbished Greater Village Regeneration Trust (T.R.E.E.) training facility was able to offer enhanced youth training facilities with 90 NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) places supported through the organisation. Rosemount House (LIF - £46k) in North Belfast has not just transformed a derelict site into a therapeutic garden but also enhances the horticulture skills for both staff and volunteers.
- **Open spaces-** Twenty projects across the city have received funding which has focused on enhancing the open spaces for the local community that include pitches, floodlighting, playpark and community spaces. LIF funding has helped to support 10 new pitches facilities across the city including - 4G/3G pitch at Springfield Star (LIF -£152k), Sarsfields GAC (LIF -£120k) and O’Donovan Rossa GAC (LIF -£80k), Gort na Mona GAC (LIF - £140k), and Malone Rugby FC (LIF -£208k); hockey pitch with Belfast Harlequins (LIF- £30k); bowling greens at Cavehill Bowling Club (LIF -£100k) and Belmont Bowling Club (LIF -£200k); playpark at Hannahstown (LIF -£20k) and St Luke’s Nursery School (LIF -£15k); as well as the outdoor environmental improvements with Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIF - £20k).
- **Community/ sensory gardens-** the development of 7 community/ sensory gardens have been supported through LIF. These spaces provided a safe and healthy environment for residents and the local community. The brownfield lands at Donegall Pass (LIF - £44k) and St Mary’s Nursery School (LIF -£33k) were transformed into community gardens where local people can grow their fruits and vegetables and kids can enjoy the beautiful outdoor space, respectively. *The Garden of Eatin’ at Donegall Pass received an accolade from The Guardian regarding urban farmers: community food growing.* Also, sensory and therapeutic gardens were developed at Towell House (LIF -

£95k) and Palmerston Residential Care Home (LIF - £36k). The Palmerston garden received a Dementia Friendly Awards.

- **Jobs created-** Members are asked to note that 6 local jobs have been created by organisations which has been directly related to their LIF funding and the success that this has subsequently brought - i.e. Sarsfields GAC have taken on a full-time dedicated worker for the management of the widely used facility while both St. Malachy's Youth Centre and Falls Women's Centre have had to take on additional resources due to being able to expand their community programme/activities due to their LIF funding
- **Leverage** - LIF funding has also been instrumental in helping 36 projects/ groups to secure additional funding for their projects which has been worth over £14million. For example funding under LIF helped Annadale and Haywood Resident's Association to secure £425k funding from the Space and Place programme and NIHE towards their new community centre project; An Cumann Chluain Árd received £800k of additional funding from Ciste Infheistiúchta Gaeilge towards the modernisation of its existing facilities. Additional funding has been levered in/ secured from other organisations including Tourism NI, Ulster Garden Villages, SIF, Groundworks/ Alpha Programme and SportNI.

3.6 Outcomes of the LIF Programme

The LIF programme has already demonstrated positive results for the local community. As with any programme the outcomes will take longer to realise however the outcomes will be consistent with the city's strategic objectives under the Belfast Agenda including –

- **Improved local neighbourhoods-** the capital projects, both the new build and the refurbished community facilities, have helped strengthen the vibrant community and voluntary sectors across the city. With the improved facilities, groups' have enhanced the delivery of programmes to the local the people and neighbourhoods. A number of the groups supported have reported that projects have helped to increase community programmes, increase community capacity, improve cohesion in the area, reduce anti-social behaviour and promote access to services.
- **Physical regeneration of the local area-** LIF has delivered £23m (£9m LIF core funding and £14m leverage funding) of physical investment in neighbourhoods across the city.

This investment has helped the physical regeneration of the local areas. There are also a number of brownfield sites and derelict buildings which have been transformed into vibrant and liveable community assets, which benefited many sectors of the community. – e.g. Clonard Boxing Club (£80k) refurbished the former NIE substation into a fit-for-purpose boxing training base which bring regeneration and benefits to local kids and community. Clonard has increased its membership and service users to approximately 74 boxers/ boxing enthusiasts across all age groups, welcoming boys and girls in through its doors each week.

- *Enhanced health and well-being-* With the number of open spaces, pitches, playgrounds, community and sensory gardens, these projects will help enhance the health and well-being of the local community. The various pitches promotes a healthier and active lifestyle in the wider community i.e. youth clubs, schools, sporting organisations, etc. In addition, these gardens are use as venue for horticulture trainings for staff and volunteers.
- *Improved skills and employment opportunities-* LIF has also contributed in improving skills to the local community. With funding provided to social enterprises that promote skills training like GVRT T.R.E.E. (£25.5k) and Workforce Training Services (£30k), LIF enhanced the learning and teaching environment for the current and new users thereby improving their skills and employment opportunities.

3.7 Community Groups supported – beneficiaries

LIF programme has supported a wide range of community groups across the city. These groups include community organisations, faith groups/ churches, youth groups, sports groups/ boxing clubs, groups that promote Irish language, Orange halls, support groups, women's groups and residents associations. The local community groups are vital in the success of the LIF programme.

- 3.8 At the start of LIF, it was recognised that there are many community groups that had little or no capacity in delivering the projects. The Programme has assisted in the development of community groups enhanced the capability and capacity of others. In addition it should also be noted that it has helped with the creation of groups where none previously existed which are still thriving. Many of the groups who received LIF funding have gone

onto obtain additional funding and to date all have proved sustainable. Increased in community capacity and experience in progressing capital schemes is one of the key legacy point of the programme.

LIF Event – October 2018

- 3.9** Recognising all of the above Members will recall that SP&R Committee agreed on April 2018 to host LIF celebration event in the City Hall to mark the impact of LIF. The event was held on 25th October 2018 to showcase projects which received funding under LIF, the invaluable role that Members have played in LIF which reflects their civic leadership role and recognise the efforts and hard work of staff from across the organisation.
- 3.10** Members are asked to note that the event was extremely well attended with more than 230 Councillors, representatives from community groups and staff who worked on LIF attending. The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive with both Councillors and officers receiving emails and texts commending the Council on the event. A selection of the tweets received on the event is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.11** Throughout the evening, representatives from a number of funded groups from across the city were featured and spoke of how their experience of LIF has impacted on them and their service users. It was agreed that this really brought LIF to life and demonstrated by feedback from the groups themselves the transformational impact that LIF funding really had on small community groups.
- 3.12** Members are asked to note that the event was supported by a full communication plan – see Appendix one. Media releases were also issued to both local community titles and regionally, In addition a range of videos were produced to tell the stories of the people behind the projects, were created and shared through social media in the run up to the event. In the first two weeks of promotion, the videos achieved over 7,900 views. Projects featured were:
- **Cumann Chluain Árd** – received £150k towards building renovations and creation of state of the art classrooms
 - **Springfield Star** – received £152k funding to redevelop former a bonfire site into new secure 3G pitch facility for the club and local community

- Workforce Training – received £30k towards building improvements and IT equipment at their Antrim Road premises
- T.R.E.E. – received £25.5k for essential building repairs at their training facility on Donegall Road
- Towell House – received £95k towards the creation of a sensory garden in the grounds of this residential care home.

All Members are encouraged to view these and they can be accessed through the website at - <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/physical-investment/investmentfundlocal.aspx>

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – As previously agreed the budget for the LIF event was covered by minor underspends secured from a number of completed LIF projects. The event was all organised in-house.

Resources – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments are utilised at the event

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Stained Glass Windows

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To obtain agreement on a way forward in regard to various motions regarding celebratory and /or commemorative stained glass windows in City Hall.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- decide which windows, if any, it wishes to go forward with,
- agree to establish the relevant subject matter working groups as required; and

- decide on location and budget.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The current situation in regard to stained glass celebratory / commemorative windows in City Hall and original historic windows is as follows:

- On the ground floor, there are 12 ‘themed’ stained glass windows. All but one of these are in areas of the City Hall considered as public areas. The ‘Women’s History’ window is just beyond the doors and the point where security ask visitors to register before going to BDM (North West corridor).
- On the first floor, there are 3 themed windows on the Rotunda and then a further 46 historic windows original to the building across the Chamber, Function Rooms and 2 main staircases. There is also a number in non-accessible areas such as Whispering Gallery, kitchens, parlour etc.

3.2 The various themed categories of the 15 windows installed since the building opened in 1906 can be categorised as follows:

Celebratory;

- City Hall Centenary 2006
- Celtic Myths & Legends 2012
- Women’s History 2016

Commemorative;

- Pathways 2005
- Famine 1999
- Dockers Strike 2007
- Spanish Civil War 2015
- Sir Crawford McCullagh 1951
- Lady McCullagh 1951

Military/ Security Forces

- North Irish Horse WW1 1925
- North Irish Horse WW2 1962
- King’s Tribute 1920
- RUC 1999

- **British Army 1993**
 - **UDR 1992**
- 3.3** There is no particular order to the display of windows but on the ground floor working from East to West the unveiling years were [2006, 2005, 1999, 2007, 2012, 2015, 1925, 1962, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2016] with colours relating to themes in paragraph 3.2.
- 3.4** There have been four notices of motion regarding stained glass windows in recent years a number of which are outstanding primarily due to a lack of focus in terms of the groups following these up or lack of referral to a specific officer. PGL has since tasked me with drafting this paper to resolve outstanding issues.
- 3.5** In essence a summary of the four proposed windows is set out below:
- **Recognition of the Health Service in Belfast was referred to the Diversity Working Group in May 2016. The Group made no specific proposals for this window but agreed it should be part of a discussion on City Hall grounds. It was discussed at a Review of City Hall Grounds meeting on 30 September 2016 but no definitive action was agreed at that time. The Diversity Group was abolished after its last meeting in September 2016 and no specific political discussion has taken place since regarding this matter.**
 - **The concept of a window to celebrate the contribution that sport has made to Belfast and to Northern Ireland was referred to Diversity Working Group in June 2015 but deferred due to the development of sports heroes section in the City Hall memorabilia exhibition.**
 - **The acknowledgement of the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our city....etc does not seem to have been picked up by any particular section or group.**
 - **The 321 Explosive Ordinance Disposal Company is another outstanding notice of motion on which it has been difficult to implement.**
- 3.6** In addition there is an outstanding proposal for some form of memorial to the Fire Brigades Union and although a window has not been specified it may be useful to also address this matter at this particular point.
- 3.7** In terms of availability of windows there is only one window in areas normally accessible to the public which is in the corner

previously occupied by the reception desk. The 'window' in question is quite large equivalent in size to the North Irish Horse window on the opposite side of the grand staircase.

- 3.8 There are also a number of windows available on the ground floor opposite the elevator and along the West corridor opposite the various Party Rooms. There are also 16 clear windows at first floor level some of which are on the route of the guided tours of the building.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – No budget has been agreed for any proposed works on stained glass windows

Resources – Officer time as required to work up proposals

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None at present.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to proceed with the stained glass window to acknowledge the positive role that the LGBT community played in this city.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees that an options paper be prepared in relation to the projects outlined in the report and that it be considered in the first instance by the Party Group Leaders

On a vote by show of hands four members voted for the amendment and eight against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting when eight Members voted for and four against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that an all-Party working group be established to progress the LGBT stained glass window.

It was agreed also that an options paper be prepared in relation to the remaining projects outlined in the report to be developed in line with the ongoing work in relation to the City Hall grounds.

Public Realm/Developer Contributions: Pilot Projects

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report sets out a proposal to bring forward a pilot public realm project in partnership with DfC utilising a proportion of developer contribution monies that were specifically identified for public realm purposes arising from developments at College Street/Queen Street and College Avenue. The Council has granted planning permission for two Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street; and No. 78 College Avenue. Both permissions were subject to legal agreements between the Council and the developer that secure developer agreement monies that is specifically to be utilised towards public realm improvements in the vicinity of these two developments. There is also an identified timeframe within which these monies must be spent.

1.2 Developer contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate the impacts of new development and ensure that development is supported by the right level of infrastructure. They can only be required where they are necessary to make the development acceptable and, once secured, are ring-fenced for the purpose to which they were sought. In most cases to date, the developer contributions have taken the form of financial contributions for the enhancement of public realm in the city centre to mitigate the impacts of increased footfall and to improve connectivity. The Council has recently completed consultation on its draft Developer Contributions Framework which may widen the scope of developer contributions in the future. However, the legal agreements that are currently in place in respect of previous developer contributions set out the specific purposes that these monies must be used for and in the current proposed pilot project this is specifically for public realm in the vicinity of the two developments.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

1. Grant approval for the utilisation of £475,650 secured as developer contributions from two Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street (Student Roost, Swanston House) (LA04/2015/1252/F); and No. 78 College Avenue (LA04/2015/0419/F) to part-fund a pilot 'catalyst' project of public realm improvements in the areas around the sites at College Court, College Street and College Avenue;
2. Note that the Council intends to commission DfC to employ the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to design, project manage and procure a works contractor to deliver the project in partnership with the Council, subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Council.
3. Note that a governance model for overseeing the spending of developer contributions is currently under development and will be brought back to Committee for approval. The current pilot project at College St / College Court is being brought forward now, in order to develop a proposal to the extent that it would be able to avail of additional DfC funding, which may become available.
4. Note that there may also be an opportunity to bring forward a programme of further small, public realm 'Catalyst Projects' in conjunction with DfC and further details of these will be brought back to Committee.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Since the transfer of planning powers in April 2015, the Council has routinely secured developer contributions to mitigate and manage the impact of new development on the city. Developer contributions can only be required where they are necessary to make the development acceptable and, once secured, are ring-fenced for the purpose to which they were sought. In most cases, the developer contributions have taken the form of financial contributions for the enhancement of public realm in the city centre to mitigate the impacts of increased footfall and to improve connectivity. Approximately £3 million has been secured to date for this purpose although payment of financial contributions is however dependent on occupation or commencement of development and the Council has received £1.4 million so far. Further details are set out in the report to Planning Committee on 13th November 2018 -which is attached as Appendix 1

- 3.2** The Council has recently completed consultation on its draft Developer Contributions Framework which may widen the scope of developer contributions in the future. However, the legal agreements that are currently in place in respect of previous developer contributions set out the specific purposes that these monies must be used for. In addition a governance model for overseeing the spending of developer contributions is currently under development and will be brought back to Committee for approval. However, pending this and in order to develop a proposal to the extent that it would be able to avail of additional DfC funding which may become available in the near future, this Committee is being asked for approval to the use of identified developer contributions collected to date.

Key Issues

Pilot Project: College Court/College Street

- 3.3** The Council has granted planning permission for two PBMSA schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street (Student Roost, Swanston House) (LA04/2015/1252/F); and No. 78 College Avenue (LA04/2015/0419/F). Both permissions were subject to planning agreements that secure a combined £475,650 that is specifically to be utilised towards public realm improvements in and around the area of the application sites. Public realm improvements at this location would be directly beneficial to the residents of these developments.
- 3.4** With the planning agreements in mind, developers and property owners, including Queens University Belfast (owners of student housing at College Court), have asked when they might expect the public realm around their completed developments to be improved. Since the Council is not a transport authority and does not control the roads or streets, officers have been liaising with the Department for Communities (DfC) Belfast Streets Ahead Team about a number of potential public realm 'Catalyst Projects'.
- 3.5** Officers have identified College Court and College Street as an appropriate pilot for spending the financial developer contributions on a public realm scheme. DfC has indicated that they would support the College Court/College Street project as a pilot in partnership with the Council, with DfC providing the gap funding to deliver the proposed project.
- 3.6** With the exception of a short stretch of pavement adjacent to No. 78 College Avenue, the pilot area is not included in the Department's current Streets Ahead programme and will not

therefore benefit from planned DfC public realm investment. The indicative geographical scope of the project is illustrated at Appendix 2. An initial estimate of costs by DfC suggests a total in the region of £600,000 for the design and construction of the scheme. The developer contributions available amount to £475,650 and DfC has indicated they will fund the remainder subject to approval of their departmental budget by the Under-Secretary/Permanent Secretary. The Council would provide a maximum of £475,650 from developer contributions funding towards the project and would only release it once the project is committed to by DfC with the necessary permissions and consents in place. DfC are keen to commence with this project as soon as possible in order to benefit from in-year funding, in the event that it becomes available.

- 3.7 Following discussions with DfC, it is proposed that the most appropriate delivery model would be for the Council to commission DfC to employ the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to design, project manage and procure a works contractor to deliver the project in partnership with the Council. The Council's funding agreement for the £475,650 will include a condition that the amount of funding is finite and that any liability (including additional costs) must be paid for by DfC.
- 3.8 A joint Belfast City Council and DfC public realm Catalyst Project at this location would contribute to the delivery of several regeneration policies and projects including the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), the Inner West Special Action Area (in BCCRIS), Inner North West Masterplan and the ongoing Restore Revitalise Animation Proposals for the city centre in the aftermath of the Bank Buildings fire. The development of this public realm project, which is in close proximity to the Castle Street area, could act as a catalyst for further improved public realm and other improvements in the area.

Design Workshops

- 3.9 It is proposed that the process for the College Court/College Street pilot project should follow that previously agreed for the Streets Ahead 3 proposals for the Council's land at Cathedral Gardens and that it would be overseen by the Belfast Streets Ahead Project Board, upon which the Council is represented.
- 3.10 There will be an opportunity for Members and local stakeholders, including traders and residents, to engage in the development of proposals for College Court/College Street through design workshops which will be arranged by the Council and DfC.

Potential Future Catalyst Projects

- 3.11 There is also an opportunity to bring forward a programme of small, public realm 'Catalyst Projects', which could be used to ensure developer contributions (which specify spend on public realm) are appropriately utilised. For example, there may be opportunity to utilise some of this spend in conjunction with larger projects such as *Belfast Streets Ahead 5* (BSA 5), such as in the area of Blackstaff Square, ahead of the implementation of BSA 5. The Council will continue to work with DfC on developing this programme and will report back to Members on this and progress of the College Court/College Street pilot at a future meeting (subject to agreement on progressing the pilot project)

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

An initial estimate of costs by DfC for the pilot project at College Court/College Street suggests a total in the region of £600,000 for the design and construction of the scheme. Funding for the project will be provided in part from developer contributions secured in respect of planning applications LA04/2015/1252/F and LA04/2015/0419/F. The Council would provide a maximum of £475,650 from these developer contributions funding towards the project and would only release it once the project is committed to by DfC with the necessary permissions and consents in place. The Council's funding agreement will include a condition that the amount of funding for the public realm is finite and that any liability (including additional costs) must be paid for by DfC.

- 3.13 DfC have advised that they expect to be able to fund the remainder of the project based on their initial estimate of total costs of £600,000 subject to approval of their departmental budget by the Under-Secretary/Permanent Secretary. The total cost of the scheme will be subject to a tender process and based on a design to be agreed. In order to commit this funding DfC require to begin the process now, within the 2018/19 financial year.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications at this stage. Equality and Good Relations implications will be

assessed at design stage to meet the specific requirements of the project.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Assets/Estates Update

- i) Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**
The Committee agreed that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd.
- ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens**
The Committee approved the grant of a licence to St Michael’s Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens, subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and terms to be agreed with Legal Services and the Estates Team Leader.
- iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen’s Cabin at Waterworks**
The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen’s cabin, subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and subject to terms to be agreed with Legal Services and the Estates Team Leader.
- iv) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities**
The Committee noted the update in respect of the transfer of assets and liabilities for the Urban Village and Building Successful Communities projects and granted approval to the Council taking licences from the relevant landowner i.e Department for Communities (DFC)/NIHE for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanic Terrace in the Sandy Row to allow the Council’s contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which was being funded by Urban Villages and DFC
- v) Proposed acquisition of land to rear of Robinson Centre**
The Committee approved the acquisition of land at Clonduff Drive for a consideration of £2,000, subject to the land being abandoned by the vendor Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and on terms to be agreed by the Estates Team Leader and Legal Services.

vi) Grosvenor Recreation Centre – Licence Agreement to Bravo Outdoor Ltd

The Committee agreed to enter into a new 2 year licence agreement with Bravo Outdoor Ltd for advertising hoardings at Grosvenor Recreation Centre.

Area Working Group Update

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the South Area Working Group of 22nd October and the North Area Group of 30th October.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2018/19

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report presents the Quarter 2 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack with 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.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report and agree that, given the forecast shortfall in available balances arising from the Rates Clawback and Primark Recovery commitments, no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year end position is presented to Committee in June 2019.

3.0 Main report

Current and Forecast Financial Position 2018/19

3.1 The Departmental year end forecast is a net under spend of £1,225k which represents a variance of 0.9% of the annual net expenditure budget. The capital financing budget is forecast to be underspent by £1m and a specified reserves balance of £135k is forecast to be available at the year end. The total forecast of available balances is therefore £2,359k.

- 3.2 The District Rate forecast by the Land and Property Service (LPS) is a clawback of £1,201k and the Council has committed £1,250k of Primark Recovery Expenditure, excluding the £790k cash flow from general reserves, giving a total expenditure commitment of £2,450k. This would result in a funding shortfall of £90k.
- 3.3 The Quarter 2 forecast position is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Quarter 2 2018/19 Forecast

<u>Available Balances</u>	Qtr 2 Forecast (£)
Departmental Forecast	-1,224,500
Capital Financing Forecast	-1,000,000
Specified Reserves Forecast	-135,000
Total Available	2,359,500
<u>To be Funded</u>	
LPS Rates Clawback	1,200,000
Primark	1,250,000
Total to be Funded	2,450,000
Shortfall	90,500
General Reserves	14,694,748
Less Primark Cash Flow £790,000	13,904,748

Rates Finalisation

- 3.4 The Quarter 2 forecast from LPS is a clawback of £1.201k. This includes an estimated rates clawback of £1.074k and de-rating grant clawback of £127k. This clawback position is largely due to movements in the non-domestic rate base and the loss of rate income from businesses affected by the Primark fire.

Capital Projects

- 3.5 Planned capital expenditure for 2018/19 approved as part of the capital programme is £51.16m with forecast expenditure for the year of £41.10m.

- 3.6 The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£1,867k), Feasibility Fund (£250k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£135k).
- 3.7 Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £21.90m, with a further £4.95m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.92m on LIF 2 projects.

Capital Financing

- 3.8 The summary dashboard has also been updated to provide analysis of the annual capital financing budget. Actual capital financing expenditure is forecast to be £1m underspent by the year end.

Forecast Reserves Position

- 3.9 The balance of general reserves is forecast to be £13.90m, after providing for the agreed cash flow funding of £790k.
- 3.10 Specified reserves are forecast to be underspent by £135k by the year end and this has been included in the available balance in Table 1 above.

Treasury Management Report

- 3.11 The Quarter 2 treasury management report is included as Appendix 2.

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The Departmental position at Quarter 2 together with the forecast year end Council position is detailed within the report. Given the shortfall in available balances to meet the rates clawback and Primark commitments, it is recommended that no further reallocations are considered until the year end position is considered by the Committee in June 2019.

Members are also asked to note that there will be further non-recurrent financing requirements in relation to holiday pay back payments and resources for the customer focus programme. Further reports will be brought to the Committee when the requirements have been determined.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also that no further cash flow requests be considered until after the current financial year.

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.
- grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender.
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts are under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2
- agreed to accede to Standing order 55(a) exceptions in relations to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officers that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 3

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Gamechanger – Sports Element Sports Equipment and Uniforms	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger - Sports Element Sports Coaching	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger -Sports Element Training Provider	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger – Sports Element Cross Border Programming	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger – Personal Change Element	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Belfast and the World Decade of Centenaries EU Study Visits	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) Consultancy/Facilitation/Training Provision	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) Development of Website and App	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) External Evaluation	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
BPR Communications Cinematography Project – Film and Digital Media Services	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Delivery of Wheelie-boxes	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to extend for a further year
Tender for the provision of Postal Services (T1876)	Ronan Cregan	One year with option to renew for a further year
Tender for the provision of a Social Care Employment Academy	John Greer	1 year with option to renew for annually for a further three years
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Suzanne Wylie	6 months

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
T1584 Supply and Delivery of Grounds Maintenance Plant and Equipment.	Nigel Grimshaw	Ext to 31 January 2019 and monthly thereafter until new tender is in place.

Table 3 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System / Product	Supplier	Estimate
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Cathedral Quarter Trust	£400,000
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Market Place Europe	£400,000

Equality and Good Relations

Language Strategy 2018-23 Update and Action Plan 2018-20

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit for approval of a Language Strategy Action Plan (October 2018 to March 2020) and to provide an update on developments including a Film Project.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The SP&R Committee is asked to:

- Approve the Language Strategy Action Plan October 2018 - March 2020.
- Note the development of a film project;
- Discuss the secondment of the NI Assembly’s Irish language translator to the Council which would be reviewed on a monthly basis

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background to Language Strategy progress

Following the consultation, a Language Strategy Action Plan which outlines the objectives for implementation of the strategy during the period from October 2018 to March 2020 is attached at Appendix 1. Each of the objectives contributes to at least one aim of the agreed Language Strategy.

The Committee is asked to approve the Language Strategy Action Plan for October 2018 to March 2020.

The SP&R Committee will be aware that a Language Strategy 2018-23 was launched on Monday 14 May 2018. Keynote speaker was Professor Janice Carruthers of Queens’s University Belfast, where she works in partnership with both Stormont and Westminster to provide advice on linguistic issues, including language policy; education, social inclusion and identity.

Professor’s Carruthers message focused on the challenges and opportunities which linguistic diversity brings in achieving the Belfast Agenda outcomes. Press comments included positive reference to the strategic approach to linguistic diversity.

Resourcing the delivery of the Language Strategy was the first step towards its implementation and two new Officers are now in post within the Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU):

- Irish Language Officer - Colm McGuigan
- Language Officer - Michael Johnston

3.2 Other Key Issues - Film Project

As part of this plan, the Equality and Diversity Unit has commenced planning for a film project in line with the aims of the Language Strategy. Both Language Officers will work with QUB film placement students to produce material which provides an insight to different languages and those people who use it. The format and content of the production/s is still under design, but will include screening to all those who participated and plans for dissemination of the material. Marketing and Corporate Communications will be kept informed of the progress of this.

3.3 Other Key Issues – Tom Clarke

Tom Clarke, the NI Assembly's Irish language translator has contacted the Council to discuss a secondment to the Council. Mr Clarke's salary would continue to be paid during his secondment with reasonable out of pocket expenses reimbursed. The SP&R Committee is asked to discuss whether to agree to this secondment.

Other Key Issues

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

The action plan delivered within the 18/19 financial is covered by current budgets. The budget required for 19/20 will be included in the estimates.

3.5 Equality, good relations or rural needs implications

The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The original screening document was included as part of the public consultation from which the Strategy was developed and an updated screening for equality, good relations and rural needs is underway."

After discussion, it was

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

That the Committee agrees to the secondment of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Irish language translator to the Council, to be reviewed on a monthly basis.

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

The Committee noted the development of the film project and approved the Language Strategy Action Plan from October 2018 to March 2020.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 5th November 2018 including:

- To agree the draft response to the Local Development Plan Draft Strategy, and the associated preamble from Professor Candle, noting that the response has been submitted in draft form by the deadline of 15th November, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- To note the list of 52 organisations as set out in the minutes, which had been approved for funding totalling £33,519.75 through the St Patrick's Day Celebration Grants Scheme under the delegated authority of the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
- To note the contribution of up to £500 for a maximum of eight local interface groups to be awarded under the scheme of delegated authority, through the District Council Good Relations Programme;
- To note the proposed good relations programme of activity in the Greater Whitewell area as specified in the DCGRP under the Key Priority of Our Safe Community and the allocation of £10,000 budget to cover the recruitment of an artist/facilitator;
- The omission of the minute agreeing to the draft Good Relations Strategy to go out to consultation in December 2018, which was deferred in light of the decision taken earlier in the meeting regarding the motion on antisemitism .

Operational Issues

Illuminate request to mark UN International Day of Human Rights/Irish Language

The Committee was reminded that there were governance arrangements which it had previously approved for the use of the ILLUMINATE LED lighting at the City Hall. Where a request did not meet the subsisting governance arrangements, the organisers were informed of this. However, in circumstances where the organisers still wished to pursue an application the request might be placed before the Committee for approval.

The City Solicitor reported that a request had been received recently from Councillor Beattie on behalf of Conradh na Gaelige to have the City Hall illuminated in red on 10th December, which was the UN International Day of Human Rights. Conradh na Gaelige wanted also to use the special illuminate to help raise awareness of the Irish Language which they had stated was a basic Human Right for large sections of the community in Belfast and further afield.

He reported that, due to the Christmas Lights, it was not possible to do a special illuminate on 10th December and they had now asked that a special illuminate be allowed on a date to be decided in January, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to accede to the request.

On a vote by show of hands nine members voted for the proposal and three against and it was declared carried.

Review of Council Smoking at Work Code of Practice

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 23 March 2018, the Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council of 5th March, the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Reynolds and Seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the Committee for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 13(f):**

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

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

- 1.3 This report provides information to the Committee on the Public Health England advice, the findings of a recent staff survey on vaping and proposes a new Smoking Policy for the Committee’s consideration.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to;**

- Approve in principle the revised draft Smoking Policy at Appendix One. This policy acknowledges the use of e-cigarettes as an aid to reducing tobacco smoking and permits their use in designated areas of Council buildings.
- On approval in principle by the Committee, the draft policy will be subject to the established staff health and safety consultation arrangements. At the end of this process, the policy will be returned to the Committee for final consideration.

3.0 Main report

3.1 New Public Health England research

3.1.1 On 6 February 2018, Public Health England published a new e cigarette evidence review (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-independent-expert-e-cigarettes-evidence-review>).

3.1.2 In the press release which publicised the release of this report, Professor John Newton, Director for Health Improvement at PHE said:

‘Our new review reinforces the finding that vaping is a fraction of the risk of smoking, at least 95% less harmful, and of negligible risk to bystanders. Yet over half of smokers either falsely believe that vaping is as harmful as smoking or just don’t know. It would be tragic if thousands of smokers who could quit with the help of an e-cigarette are being put off due to false fears about their safety’.

3.1.3 With regards specifically to vaping in work and public places, the report referred back to an earlier 2016 Public Health England guide for organisations on policy making in relation to the use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-workplaces> . This advice was based around five principles - covering the need to make a clear distinction between vaping and tobacco cigarette smoking; ensuring policies are informed by the evidence on risks to bystanders; identifying and managing risks of uptake by children and young people; supporting smokers to stop smoking and stay stopped; and supporting compliance with the smokefree law and policies. The advice is acknowledged as being non-prescriptive in recognition of the fact that settings differ and there is no ‘one size fits all solution’.

3.2 Vaping etiquette and considerations

3.2.1 The July 2016 Public Health England guidance regarding the use of e-cigarettes within workplaces, identifies there may be a number of considerations when developing policies.

3.2.2 These include:

- there may be reasons other than health risk to bystanders which exist for prohibiting e-cigarette use in all or part of a public place or workplace, such as commercial considerations and professional etiquette
- people with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants which could include e-cigarette vapour. The interests of such individuals should be taken into account when developing policies and adjustments made when necessary
- vaping can in certain circumstances be a nuisance or distraction for people nearby. Where a decision is taken to allow vaping in an enclosed place, policies could consider some simple etiquette guidelines for vapers, such as minimising the production of visible vapour

3.2.3 There is also the potential for e-cigarette vapours to interfere with the Council's fire alarm systems and result in false alarms.

3.3 Existing Code of Practice on Smoking at Work

3.3.1 The Council's current Smoking Code of Practice has been in place since the introduction of the national smokefree legislation in 2007. Due to the age of this document, it does not include any references to e-cigarettes which have increased in prevalence in the intervening years.

3.3.2 In 2014, in light of increasing public interest and advice from a number of public health organisations regarding the potential health risks from e-cigarettes, a proposal was brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to prohibit their use within Council workplaces. This proposal was deferred by the Committee until such times as further information became available on the health risks.

3.3.3 As advised above, the new Public Health England research now reports that there is negligible risk to bystanders from these devices.

3.4 E-cigarette usage within the Council

- 3.4.1** There are currently no restrictions placed on the use of e-cigarettes within Council buildings with the exception of 9 Adelaide where the building usage protocols prohibit the use of e-cigarettes due to the possibility of the vapours interfering with the building's fire alarm system. There is no data on the prevalence of e-cigarette usage within Council buildings.
- 3.4.2** A staff survey was conducted during August 2018 on vaping at work which received 400 responses. The key findings from this survey are included in Appendix Two.
- 3.4.3** The staff who responded to this survey have strongly indicated that they believe that e-cigarettes should not be allowed in Council buildings or vehicles; or should only be permitted with restrictions, for example, no vaping in the presence of children, customers or members of the public; and no vaping at workstations or in meetings, training etc.
- 3.4.4** The survey also included a section for staff to provide general comments. The majority of these comments related to the risk of potentially unknown health effects from inhaling the vapour; the nuisance impact of vapour 'clouds' and their smell; and that their use does not portray a professional image in the workplace.

3.5 Proposed Council Policy

- 3.5.1** In light of this notice of motion, the new Public Health England research and associated workplace guidance and the findings of the staff survey, the existing Code of Practice has been reviewed and a new Smoking Policy proposed (Appendix One).
- 3.5.2** This policy formally acknowledges the potential benefits of e-cigarettes and their low risk of harm. In accordance with the Public Health England guidance, it also makes clear the distinction between vaping and tobacco smoking and for this reason, permits the use of e-cigarettes within designated areas of Council buildings.
- 3.5.3** The provision of designated areas is recommended to avoid any accidental triggering of fire alarm systems and any other nuisance impacts arising from the vapours.

3.5.4 Any changes to health and safety policies and procedures within the Council are subject to staff consultation. This consultation is managed through the Corporate and Departmental Health and Safety Committees, the Council's JNCC and the Corporate Management Team. At the end of this staff consultation process, the proposed policy will be brought back to the Committee for consideration.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

3.6.1 No financial or resource implications are anticipated from this review.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.7.1 Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Assessment Screening are underway."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Public Policy Forum NI

The Committee was advised that a public policy think tank was currently being developed in Northern Ireland with the aim of launching in March 2019. The think tank would follow similar models that existed throughout the UK and Europe. The Chief Executive had been requested to sit on the Reference Group of the Forum and accordingly the Committee's approval was being sought in this regard. It was pointed out that, should the Committee be minded to agree to the request, an agreement would be drawn up with the Forum where the Chief Executive would avoid participating in any potential conflicts of interest relating to Council policy or political issues.

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to accede to the request from Public Policy Forum NI for the Chief Executive to sit on its reference group.

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

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

The Committee considered the following applications for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality which had been received up to 13th November, 2018:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Refugees Welcome Northern Ireland	29 th January 2019	Refugees Welcome N. Ireland Launch – Panel discussion as part of a launch event. Numbers attending – 100	B, C & D	No (Community)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
4 Corners Festival	5 th , 7 th or 8 th February 2019	Four Corners Festival Dinner – Cross community annual event, this year to celebrate organ donation with both recipients and donors invited. Numbers attending – 80	D	No (Community)	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
British Council Northern Ireland	7 th February 2019	*Mock Council for the European Union – Schools event to encourage debating skills and participation in democracy now in 14 th year. Numbers attending – 130 *Request for use of	B & D	No (Charity)	No	Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality <i>Recommend to approve use of Council Chamber and function rooms</i>

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 23rd November, 2018

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Council Chamber and Function room				
Chinese Welfare Association Northern Ireland	10 th Feb 2019	Chinese New Year in the City – Most important festivity in the local Chinese community’s calendar marked at City Hall with an inclusive celebration event. Numbers attending – 350-500 approx.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Department for the Economy	13 th February 2019	EU Network Dinner – Dinner linked to EU Network meeting taking place in Belfast over 3 days. Numbers attending – 90	A & B	Yes - £300	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality
Energia on behalf on GENCOMM	12 th March 2019	GENCOMM Interreg Project Hydrogen Powered Bus Launch – Launch event as part of 3 day conference to mark Hydrogen powered buses launching in	A & C	Yes £115	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 23rd November, 2018

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Belfast. Numbers attending – 200				
Fáilte Feirste Thiar	20 th April 2019	Celebrating Labour – Dinner and celebration event to mark the official opening of the James Connolly Visitor Centre* in West Belfast. *part funded by Belfast City Council Numbers attending – 300	A, B, C & D	No (Community)	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry	28 th June 2019	Presidents Annual Lunch 2019 – Annual networking lunch for NI business leaders. Numbers attending – 400	B	Yes £300	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality
Ardmonagh Family Centre	2 nd August 2019	Good Morning West Belfast Celebration – Lunch and entertainment in form of tea dance as part of 25 th Anniversary celebrations. Numbers attending	C&D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea, Coffee, Biscuit Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Tea, Coffee, Biscuit Reception

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		250-300				
Belfast Harbour	17 th October 2019	British Port's Association Conference Closing Gala Dinner - Dinner with speeches and entertainment to end conference Numbers attending – 250	A&B	No <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
2020 EVENTS						
British Paediatric Neurology Association	29 th January 2020	British Paediatric Neurology Association Drinks Reception – Welcome event for 3-day scientific conference at Assembly Buildings. Numbers attending – 300	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
St Dominic's Grammar School Past Pupils Union	8 th May 2020	150th Anniversary of St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls – Dinner to celebrate 150 th anniversary of school. Numbers attending –	C	No	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		100 - 150				
Odyssey International on behalf of Lennox Heating & Cooling System	16 th Sept 2020	<p>Welcome to Ireland Dinner Lennox Heating & Cooling Systems – Dinner and entertainment for incentive dinner and showcase of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 400</p>	B	Yes £825	No	Recommend to approve, Room Charge, No hospitality

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of the applications received up to 13th November, 2018, subject to the application submitted by Ardmonagh Family Centre being amended to provide for a wine reception and to the deferral of the application submitted by Odyssey International on behalf of Lennox Heating and Cooling System to allow further information to be obtained.

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 15th November, 2018.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

First Aid Training for Members - Councillor Boyle to raise

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Boyle requested that the Committee consider the provision of First Aid Training for elected Members.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that First Aid Training be included as an option in the Elected Members Training Programme following the Local Government Elections in May, 2019.

Visit to Brussels

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Beattie referred to the upcoming visit to be undertaken by a deputation from the Council to Brussels to engage with EU officials to represent the views of the Council in relation to Special Designated Status, remaining in the single market and the Council's position on the backstop; and to engage with EU funding bodies about future participation in EU funding programmes. He pointed out that the EU Parliament would be meeting in Strasbourg on the date of the visit and accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees, as the EU Parliament would meet in Strasbourg during the period when the deputation from the Council was scheduled to visit Brussels, that the deputation be authorised to visit Strasbourg instead.

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

Chairperson