

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 14th December, 2018

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown);  
Aldermen Browne, Convery and Haire;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig,  
Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McAteer, O'Donnell,  
Reynolds 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. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Alderman Spence.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 14th and 23rd November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd December.

### Declarations of Interest

The following members declared an interest in respect of item 3(c) Motion: Social Investment Fund (SIF) and left the meeting while the matter was under consideration:

Councillor Reynolds – in that he was a former member of the Social Investment Fund North Belfast Panel;

Councillor Carson – in that he was the manager of an organisation (Tar Anall) which had received Social Investment Funding;

Councillor Beattie – insofar as he was on the West Belfast Partnership Board which had received Social Investment Funding and his partner was funded through a programme that worked with the West Belfast Partnership Board;

Councillor O'Donnell – insofar as she was employed by the Short Strand Partnership based in the Short Strand community Centre and that organisation had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor Garrett -in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board which had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor Walsh – insofar as he was the Chair of Tar Anall Management Committee and a member of Coiste na nIarchimí, both of which had employees which had been funded through the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor McAteer – in that she received a salary from a project which had been managed and delivered by the Social Investment Fund employability programme;

Councillor Hutchinson – in that he was a member of the Shankill Partnership Board;

Alderman Browne – insofar as a he was a member of the Westland Community Centre Management Committee; and

Councillor Graham – in that she worked for Gems NI which is the delivery agent on the Employment East Social Investment Funding programme.

Councillor Reynolds also declared an interest in respect of item 4(b) Smart Belfast Programme Update insofar as it related to Wildstone as when it had announced its investment he was involved in a statement promoting it and he left the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

### **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 Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd November, it had agreed a target for the rates increase for 2019/20 to be in the region of 1.98% and that the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources should bring a further report to the December meeting which would deliver the target rate increase.

Accordingly, the Director submitted a report in this regard which recommended that the Committee:

1. Agree that the decisions in relation to the setting of the district rate as set out below should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the rate by the legislative deadline of 15 February 2019.
2. Agree the following departmental growth proposals, which were presented to Committee at its meeting on the 23 November 2018.

#### Departmental Proposals

3. Planning and Technical Support Officers: £102,150 (Planning Committee)
4. Regeneration Support Staff: £107,010 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
5. Regeneration - Housing and Infrastructure: £100,000 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
6. Legal and Civic Services: £120,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

#### Priority Areas

7. Area Based Festivals: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
8. City Deal: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
9. Capital Financing: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
10. Agree to recommend the following cash limits for 2019/20 subject to the impact of the decisions made on items 3 to 9 above.
  - a. A cash limit of £42,292,987 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2019/20, including £3,270,000 for Belfast Investment Fund and £1,500,000 for City Deal.
  - b. A cash limit of £80,614,500 for the People and Communities Committee for 2019/20.
  - c. A cash limit of £17,118,371 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2019/20.
  - d. A cash limit of £1,609,861 for the Planning Committee for 2019/20.
  - e. A Capital Financing Budget of £21,524,022 for 2019/20
11. Noted the next steps to setting the district rate outlined in paragraph 3.37 of the report.

After discussion it was,

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown),

That priority area 7 – Area Based Festivals: £500k be not included in the Revenue Estimates and that the rise in rates be set at 1.67%.

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

### **Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Attwood,  
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the £500k allocated for priority area – Area Based Festivals be reallocated to an anti-poverty crisis and prevention fund.

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

### **Further Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Craig,  
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the setting of the district rate as set out in points one through to eleven.

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

### **Review of the Finance Function**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the review of the finance function which had been completed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and its recommendations to ensure that the Council had a fit for the future finance function.

The Committee agreed:

- The finance structure recommendations of the CIPFA review included in Section 3.9 of the report;
- That the selection panel for the Head of Finance (Head of Profession) comprise the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees), together with Councillor Hutchinson;

- That these three elected members provide a balance in terms of both gender and community background;
- That the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources accompany the elected members to constitute the selection panel to recruit this key post; and
- To the establishment of a post of Programme Lead to take forward the City Deal, the post to be for a period of 3 years with the possibility of a 2 year extension to be financed through the City Deal resources.

**Update on Council Funding and Service**  
**Support for the Romanian Roma Community**  
**Association Northern Ireland (RRCANI)**

The Committee considered a report which provided members with an update on the funding of and any other relationship the Council had with the Romanian Roma Community Association Northern Ireland.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the contents of the report and that the Council would not release any grant payments to the RRCANI pending satisfactory resolution of grant monitoring in respect of Council funding; and
- (ii) noted the ongoing engagement of Council officers on the inter-agency group in order to ensure access to free and independent advice and services and the provision of culturally sensitive and effective support to the Roma community in the city.

**Progression of Cultural Programme –**  
**Festival and Events**

The Committee was advised that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 5th December, had considered that an interim year was required for evolving to a new approach for developing events and festivals for the future. It had considered this under the auspices of a 10 year Cultural Programme and the recommendations already accepted from the Festival and Events International (FEI) on repositioning events and festivals.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reported that, in agreeing to an evolutionary programme to test some Signature and Growth events and festivals, it would require the allocation of one year funding. As the finance was not included in the draft revenue estimates for the annual programme of events, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had requested that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee consider releasing finance from a specified reserve to enable that to happen.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to allocate £320,000 from within the cultural programme development reserve to enable the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to fund and test an evolutionary year for Signature and Growth Events and Festivals.

### **Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th May, 2018, it had agreed to allocate £400k of non-recurrent funding to a number of summer diversionary events and programmes. At the same meeting, it had also agreed “to ensure transparency in future years, to establish an open call diversionary programme with an agreed budget.”

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report, the purpose of which was to ascertain whether the Committee wished to proceed with a diversionary programme for 2019 and what form that programme would take. The report had been provided in the context of the Revenue Estimates and District Rate report which had been considered and discussed early in the meeting. He pointed out that during discussion on that item the Committee had agreed to allocate funding in the sum of £500k to the Programme. The Committee now needed to decide how that budget would be allocated and consider also the definition of Community Diversionary Festival Activity, the objectives of the programme, the criteria for funding and the process.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees that the budget of £500,000 be split with £250,000 being allocated to the July programme and £250,000 being allocated to the August programme.

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

The Committee then agreed the following:

- That no financial limit should be placed on the basis of geographical areas for both the July and August programmes;
- That a minimum of £25k and a maximum of £100k levels of funding be available for a successful applicant;
- The definition of community diversionary festival activity as outlined at paragraph 3.1 of the report;
- The objectives of the programme as outlined at paragraph 3.2.
- The selection criteria as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report and to Option 2 – that Festival activity as far as possible must be delivered in the lead in to and around 12th July and 8th August. Any applications that fall out of this scope must clearly demonstrate how their project will address issues associated with these dates;
- That consortia applications are encouraged, with the Group submitting the application having experience of programmes at a similar level or similar financial scale;

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

That in relation to the process, following the preliminary assessment of each application against the agreed criteria, recommendations should be submitted directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and not reported through the relevant Area Working Groups.

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

The Committee accordingly agreed the process as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

### **Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

#### **Motion: "On the Ball" Campaign**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st November, the following Motion, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

*"This Council supports the 'On the Ball' campaign, the aim of which is to provide free sanitary products in as many sporting grounds and public buildings as possible to combat the ever growing issue of period poverty.*

*As an initial step, the Council will examine the feasibility of providing these products in the City Hall, in all Council offices, and, in keeping with the 'On The Ball' campaign, also look at the feasibility of providing free sanitary products in our sporting and leisure facilities.*

*It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision to help combat the ever growing issue of period poverty."*

Councillor O'Neill, in whose name the motion stood, then addressed the Committee and requested that it give consideration to supporting the campaign

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the motion and that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the feasibility of the Council participating in the campaign.

#### **Motion: "No Grey Zone" Campaign**

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st November, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown):

*"This Council notes the PSNI led "No Grey Zone" awareness campaign, which clearly sets out what constitutes sexual assault, debunks myths and provides information on available support.*

*The Council believes that everyone in our City should feel supported and empowered to speak out when a sexual assault occurs. Accordingly, the Council declares every Belfast City Council premise to be a #NoGreyZone and resolves to arrange a cross-party delegation, to include Council Communications officers, to meet with the PSNI, prosecutors, sexual violence charities and student representatives to identify how to effectively support the campaign in Belfast City Council premises."*

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to support the motion.

**Motion: Social Investment Fund**

The Chairperson's attention was drawn to the fact that, due to the number of Members who had declared an interest and left the meeting, the meeting was now inquorate and that the motion could not be considered.

The Chairperson indicated that those Members who had left the meeting be advised that he would be moving on to the next item on the agenda and that they be invited to return to the meeting.

(The meeting then achieved a quorum and recommenced with the next item of business.)

**Motion: Belfast Blitz Memorial**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd December, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Dudgeon and seconded by Alderman Convery was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

*"This Council supports memorialising its more than 1,000 citizens and residents who died in the Blitz, particularly those victims of the two largest air raids in April and May 1941.*

*Recognising that Belfast, almost alone of heavily blitzed cities, has no commemorative site for this most devastating event in our history; recognising the generous offer of substantial funding towards a Blitz memorial from the Northern Ireland War Memorial; recognising that the Blitz victims came from every part of the city and beyond, but especially its north side, and that the havoc wreaked was immense; the Council therefore calls for a significant memorial, inclusive of the victims' names, to be erected in the city with a view to it being unveiled in time for the 80th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz in 2021.*



*Cathedral Gardens, which is at the York Street and Lower Donegall Street junction, is perhaps the most appropriate and suitable location, given it was subject to extensive destruction in the 1941 air raids and is Council-owned. It is also accepted that 'Buoys Park', as it was known, is now in need of reanimation and a major replacement feature for the departing Buoys.*

*For all these reasons, the Council agrees that a Blitz memorial at this location is considered as an emerging project for the capital programme in the coming financial year."*

Councillor Dudgeon, in whose name the motion stood, addressed the Committee and urged it to support the motion.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That consideration of the matter be deferred until the monthly meeting of the Committee to be held in January 2019.

#### **Amendment**

Moved by Alderman Browne,  
Seconded by the Chairperson (Councillor Rodgers),

That the Belfast Blitz memorial, as outlined in the motion, be included on the capital programme as an emerging project.

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Carson was put to the meeting, when seven Members voted for and two against and it was declared carried.

#### **Motion: Arrangements to Deliver Justice in Serious Sexual Offences Cases**

The Committee considered the following report:

##### **"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 A Notice of Motion was brought to Council on 3rd December, entitled 'Arrangements to Deliver Justice in Serious Sexual Offences Cases'. This Motion was in relation to an open public consultation by the Criminal Justice Board on the findings of an independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offences cases.**

- 1.2 Following debate, the motion was put to the meeting and passed, giving authority for the Council to respond to the consultation in support of the recommendation in the Notice of Motion.
- 1.3 It was further proposed by Councillor Canavan (and agreed by the Council) that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the potential for submitting a wider Council response to the public consultation.

This report asks the Committee to submit a consultation response, in line with the Notice of Motion and to highlight within the response that individual parties will respond directly to the wider recommendations contained within the preliminary report.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is, therefore, asked to:

- a) submit a Council response to the consultation in line with the Notice of Motion; and
- b) submit individual Party responses to reflect the key recommendations contained within the preliminary report.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Key Issues

3.1 At the Council meeting on 3rd December, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Lyons and seconded by Councillor Nicholl:

*"This Council welcomes the publication of the preliminary report by Sir John Gillen, who is leading the independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases.*

*The Council notes that a public consultation is open until 15th January and encourages all, but particularly women, to have their say in this process.*

*The Council also notes the eight key recommendations of the preliminary review, namely:*

- public access to trials involving serious sexual offences to be confined to close family members of complainant and the defendant;
- cross-examination of complainants to be pre-recorded and away from court - initially for vulnerable people but eventually extended to all complainants in serious sexual offences;
- measures to combat rape myths and stereotypes, like suggestions that victims provoke rape by the way they dress or act;
- more robust attitude by judges to prevent improper cross-examination about previous sexual history;
- the accused will be anonymous until they are charged, but from that point they will be identified;
- accused will have right to apply for a judge-alone trial without a jury - this would only be granted in 'rare circumstances';
- new legislation to manage dangers created by social media; and
- steps to combat excessive delay in the judicial system.

*“The Council believes that a victim led process is essential in what the report identifies as ‘one of the worst violations of human dignity’ and recognises the immense pressure that victims of sexual crime are under. To this end, the Council cautions against the adoption of a restorative justice measure for fear it will add to intra-process pressure on the victim but agrees to respond to the public consultation outlining its support for the above recommendations.”*

- 3.2 After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed.
- 3.3 The Committee is, therefore, asked to submit a Council response to the consultation, in line with the Notice of Motion and to agree that each political party will consider submitting a more detailed response on the wider recommendations of the review.

- 3.4 Should the Committee agree to submit a response to the consultation in line with the Notice of Motion, a response will be submitted before the consultation closure deadline of 15th January 2019. This response will also highlight that each political party will engage directly with the review in relation to its 16 key recommendations.

The Gillen Review

- 3.5 The Criminal Justice Board has commissioned an independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases. A former Lord Justice of Appeal, the Right Honourable Sir John Gillen, will lead the review supported by an Advisory Panel.
- 3.6 The review has been established to consider law, procedure and practice covering the development and progression of cases of alleged serious sexual offences, taking account of experience from recent cases in Northern Ireland and developments in other jurisdictions. The purpose of the Review is to determine whether current arrangements deliver the best outcomes for victims, defendants and justice, and to make recommendations for improvements.
- 3.7 Further details on the review including the preliminary findings are available on <https://gillenreview.org>

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

ICT Strategy

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Digital Services has recently worked with Deloitte on a new ICT Strategy for Belfast City Council which will provide a framework for members, under the remit of the Strategic

Policy and Resources committee, to oversee the development of the Council's ICT platforms and systems, over a period of three years, according to the Council's key business priorities.

1.2 One of the key aims of the new ICT Strategy will be to establish the business and technical capabilities needed for BCC to deliver ICT services that meet strategic expectations, while acknowledging budget and staff constraints. This paper outlines a new vision for ICT services and highlights the key strategic themes that are required to deliver the new ICT Strategy.

1.2 The new strategy must also be flexible enough to ensure it aligns and supports the City's ambitions which will be delivered through the Innovation and Digital pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and the Smart Belfast framework.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee are asked to;

- endorse the new ICT Strategy.

## 3.0 Main report

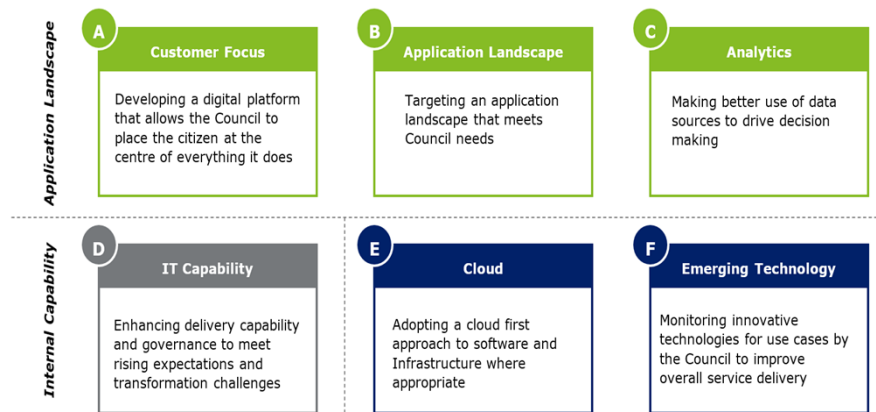
### 3.1 Key Issues

The ICT strategy sets out a vision that 'the Council will become an exemplar in the use of innovative technology to deliver improved outcomes for Belfast and its citizens.'

3.2 The key challenges for Digital Services are to:

- Develop a deep understanding of business areas to be the Council's trusted advisory and delivery partner,
- Lead the use of innovative technologies to deliver better outcomes for citizens,
- Drive the improved use of data to support better decision-making,
- Be a key technology delivery partner supporting the Belfast Agenda and innovation initiatives.

3.3 Whilst Digital Services has strong foundations to deliver the technical requirements of the Council, there are 6 strategic themes that should be prioritised to deliver the new ICT Vision.



### 3.4 Customer Focus Programme – Developing a Customer Digital Platform

The recommendations contained in the ICT Strategy are closely aligned with outcomes of the Customer Focus Discovery exercise. Detailed planning for a strategic Customer Focus Programme of work will be completed before April 2019. Digital Services will be using the assessment of the current state of citizen experience and engagement to determine the digital technologies and practices that are needed to meet the vision of a citizen-centred digital council.

The customer journey maps identified through discovery will help to prioritise new opportunities for ‘digital services’ and the required technology investments that will be needed to accelerate progress toward implementing improved citizen services.

The Customer Focus Programme will have an impact on many areas of technology including:

- BCC Website
- Online Customer Portal
- Online/Mobile services
- Corporate CRM
- Back Office Integration
- Telephony and networking services
- Social Media

### 3.5 Application Landscape – Targeting an application landscape that meets the Council's needs

The new ICT Strategy recognises that demand management is becoming increasingly difficult for Digital Services, with a

requirement to deliver a large number of corporately significant projects, alongside an increase in line-of-business demand for technology and improvements to office productivity. Also, due to the political nature of Council business, like every Council service, Digital Services must react to unforeseen circumstances meaning drivers for new projects can come from many and varied sources.

Digital Services is also facing the challenge of dealing with two apparently opposite pressures:

- A pressure for continuous change: Designing and delivering business applications that drive new innovative processes.
- A pressure for controlling change: Providing a robust, scalable, reliable, secure and cost-effective environment to support core, mission-critical business processes.

The ICT Strategy focusses on delivering a strategic view of the ICT Programme of work looking at a new approach to integration that will allow the Council to maximise business and customer benefits from our current application estate and help with application rationalisation, while we prioritise the delivery of essential corporate and line of business applications.

Removing or upgrading an application will result in changes to how business units currently operate and will require significant business change. This will necessitate careful prioritisation to manage the replacement of corporately significant applications alongside line of business application upgrades which should now be aligned with the Customer Focus programme of work.

### 3.6 *Analytics – Making better use of data sources to drive decision-making and improve services*

At its core, a 'Digital Council' is about using data to improve decision-making and to provide more-effective services to citizens.

At present our information is often managed in silos and is not readily available to help with strategic decision-making. There is general recognition across the Council that significant improvements can be made to information management and governance and that the potential value of our information can be better leveraged.

The ICT Strategy recommends that we develop a data strategy to define an organisational approach to the management of information, which can help us gain better insight from the information we hold and improve analytics capability across the organisation. To be effective the strategy must also consider how it will align with the Innovation and Digital pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and the requirements of the Smart Belfast framework.

**3.7 IT Capability – *Enhancing delivery capability and governance to meet growing expectations***

One of the biggest challenges for Digital Services will be to build and maintain a cost-effective and agile IT service that can meet our complex and changing business demands. A focus will be needed to identify the individual resources and skills required to maintain a high-performing IT service.

As technology becomes pervasive throughout every aspect of the Council, Digital Services must ensure continued engagement with business and operational managers and also with the department of City and Organisational Strategy to understand the role Digital Services can bring to shaping the solutions and services required to deliver continuous improvement.

Through delivery of the ICT Strategy Digital Services will work to improve business alignment, provide improved transparency around governance and project prioritisation, and will concentrate on identifying and improving key skills and succession planning within the service.

**3.8 Cloud – *Adopting a cloud first approach (where appropriate)***

Meeting organisational expectations around the inevitable migration to cloud services involves more than choosing technologies. The migration from on premise ICT Services to cloud-based services will involve governance, procurement, disaster recovery/business continuity, financing, security, citizen services, mobile workforce, subscription pricing models and risk management. Cloud services will also have a major impact for our business units who may need to accept more frequent software updates and standardisation of business processes. This is why the ICT Strategy is recommending the creation of a Cloud Strategy and adoption plan that meets our specific requirements and which focusses on the delivery of the strategic aims of Belfast City Council.



Through the delivery of a Cloud strategy business users should expect to see increased agility with speedier implementations over traditional on-premises models, this will allow innovative initiatives to be delivered faster.

**3.9 Emerging Technology – *Monitoring innovative technologies to improve service delivery***

New technologies are constantly emerging, raising citizen and business expectations, and changing citizen behaviour as innovations become the new normal. Significant changes in how Council services are offered and consumed are inevitable. The rate of change, and the manner and degree of shifts in government's approach to service delivery, is exceedingly difficult to predict with accuracy as service transformation is a long-term endeavour. However, agility will be essential and keeping a constant eye out for new opportunities will be critical so that we can adapt to changes as they emerge.

The customer focus programme will be a key area to look at how emerging technologies can be incorporated into service delivery. One of the first places that artificial intelligence and machine learning tools will have a major impact on is CRM and Customer Experience. Exploiting conversational interfaces with chatbots and virtual customer assistants to improve customer experience and bring additional value to the business will be an early area for investigation.

The ICT Strategy is recommending the establishment of new ways of managing and financing a new approach to innovation. The aim will be to ensure innovation skills can be grown not only within Digital Services but right across the organisation.

**3.10 Other Strategic priorities**

**Information Security**

One of the Council's key corporate risks is around how we manage 'Digital Information Security'. There is a growing realisation from Elected Members and within CMT that information security management must be strategically aligned with the delivery of the Council's key aims and objectives. This will require improved governance of business risks and greater oversight of cyber security risk management and technical controls. We will need to develop processes that integrate information security into all areas of the Council including technology, processes and staff behaviours.

To mitigate Cyber security risks, Digital Services is working with our external security partner to develop a new IT Security Strategy based on a business impact assessment which assesses the potential impact of any compromise against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of our electronic information and ICT systems.

#### **Full Fibre Connectivity**

The Belfast Agenda recognises that improved digital connectivity is integral to the sustainability of our city. The BCC Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programme, being delivered by Digital Services, will help to create the circumstances in which technological innovation can flourish in support of the visions of the Council.

Through the BCC Public Sector Anchor Tenancy project, the Council intends to connect council buildings across the city to create a gigabit capable fibre network which will future proof BCC's own connectivity requirements for the next 25 years.

The Council is also seeking to maximise the availability and benefit of gigabit capable broadband services in the City Centre through, the Public Sector Asset Reuse (PSAR) project, which aims to allow ducting within the Streets Ahead area to be used to deploy fibre services to businesses in this area much more cost effectively than is currently the case.

The BCC LFFN programme also supports the aims of the Belfast Region City Deal and Smart Belfast Framework. The BCC LFFN project will open up new opportunities to support digitally transformed user focussed Customer services, and innovative digital infrastructure covering networking, IoT sensors, modern devices, data management systems and 5G smart districts and test-beds.

#### **3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

Delivering the ambitious recommendations contained within the new ICT Strategy will require careful planning. The corporately significant projects and the implementation of the Customer Focus programme will be given the highest priorities for delivery.

Projects emerging from the strategy that require capital funding will require business cases to be developed and taken through the council's gate review process.

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

None.”

The Committee agreed to endorse the new ICT Strategy.

**Adjournment**

At this stage of the meeting, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of fifteen minutes. It agreed also that, during the adjournment, officers identify those reports which were time bound and needed a decision at this meeting and those reports which could be deferred until the Committee’s monthly meeting to be held in January, 2019.

(The Committee stood adjourned from 12.00pm to 12.15pm).

**Smart Belfast Programme Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges and ultimately contribute to the outcomes expressed in the Belfast Agenda. Delivery of the programme is driven by a ‘pipeline’ of collaborative projects. This paper provides a short update and seeks Members’ approval on a number of emerging opportunities.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee are asked to:**

- 1. Agree that the Council will provide in-kind practical support and promotion for Wildstone’s £20,000 smart hub competition to support insights into the management of our city centre.**
- 2. Agree to Belfast City Council to joining the Mastercard ‘City Possible’ programme and that, following engagement with Legal Services, a MoU is signed between the Council and Mastercard.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the**

public sector to tackle urban challenges and support public service transformation. Delivery of the programme is driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation framework agreed by Members in 2017. The latest information on the programme is available at <http://smartbelfast.city> Members are asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

**£20,000 Smart hub challenge**

- 3.2 As Members may be aware, a number of outdoor 'smart hubs' are being installed in various locations across the city centre over the coming months by UK company, Wildstone. These hubs will provide a range of features including electronic advertising, public WiFi, phone-charging and public defibrillators, etc. The hubs will also provide access to on-street real-time information. For example, Belfast's tourism partners are currently working with them to provide real-time information to visitors.
- 3.3 Each hub will also have a range of smart 'Internet of Things' sensors and potentially will offer the ability to measure footfall, air quality, etc. The City Innovation team have introduced the company to QUB's Centre for Wireless Innovation who are exploring opportunities to work with Wildstone on cutting edge experimental networks in the city centre.
- 3.4 Wildstone would also like to encourage local digital SMEs to take the opportunity to use the Smart Hubs to address a real city centre challenge in innovative ways. They are therefore proposing to fund a smart city competition for SMEs, the winner of which will receive up to £20,000 to develop their product or service idea.
- 3.5 They have invited the City Innovation Team to work with them to define and promote a challenge that supports the Belfast Agenda; advise on the competition guidelines; sit on the judging panel; and provide practical support and guidance to the winning company. (The Council is not being asked to provide funding for the competition). However, it is being provided with the opportunity to align the competition to city challenges. The launch of the competition is January 2019 with the winning company deploying its solution during Spring 2019.
- 3.6 Members are asked to agree that the Council will provide in-kind practical support and promotion for the £20,000 smart

hub competition to support insights into the management of our city centre.

**Mastercard ‘City Possible’ programme**

- 3.7 Following engagement with Mastercard at the Smart Cities Word Expo in November 2019, Belfast has been invited to join their ‘City Possible’ programme which aims to bring together up to 200 ‘smart cities’ over the next three years to address common urban challenges (<https://citypossible.com>). The objective is for cities to work with the digital industry to co-develop, pilot and then scale smart city solutions. Partner cities already include Liverpool, Dublin, Helsinki, Baltimore and Athens.
- 3.8 Belfast City Council has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with City Possible. There is no membership fee associated with the programme; at this stage cities are only asked to participate in sharing learning and to explore future opportunities for work on joint challenges. Initial discussions have explored joint working on tourism spending patterns, city centre retail, Mobility as a Service, and the development of a Belfast smart district.
- 3.9 Members are asked to agree to Belfast City Council to joining the City Possible programme and, following engagement with Legal Services, that an MoU is signed between the Council and Mastercard.

**‘Last Mile’ Freight delivery challenge**

- 3.10 Following previous committee approval, the Council has been working with Dublin City Council, the NI Department for Infrastructure, the Belfast BIDs, the NI Freight Transport Association, on a €240,000 SBRI competition to support the companies to develop innovative proofs of concepts for managing freight deliveries in both Dublin and Belfast city centres. The aim is to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.
- 3.11 Three companies have been selected for Phase One work in Belfast over the next three months: ‘ParkUnload’, ‘WeBringg’ and ‘UPS’. Proof of concepts being explored will include a ‘micro-distribution centre’ that will consolidate certain deliveries at a location on the edge of the city centre, with follow-on distribution by electric bikes and carts. Another concept will explore managing designated loading bays via a mobile phone app and Bluetooth technology.

**SBRI challenge for managing open space**

- 3.12 As Members will be aware, the Council is also working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, on a £110,000 SBRI competition to support the better management of public space in the city (including our parks).
- 3.13 Sixteen companies applied to competition and five SMEs were selected to develop phase one proofs of concepts. The companies include CIVICA, Pitchbooking, Bann Technology, SpparoWatch, and iSensing. Concepts being developed for our parks will include a community reward programme, real-time facilities management, and remote sensing using IoT devices.
- 3.14 Each company will receive up to £20,000 for phase one (which runs until the end of March 2019). Due diligence checks are being undertaken prior to contracts being issued.

**Urban Healthy Living Learning Workshop**

- 3.15 Work is now ending on a six-month air quality project that used satellite data and local air quality sensors to study the relationship between traffic pollution and levels of diseases such as asthma, diabetes and COPD in Belfast's inner city communities.
- 3.16 The £200,000 project was funded by the UK Space Agency and partners included Smart Belfast, DAERA, Belfast Health Trust and four digital SMEs and the University of Leicester. The project has produced insights that has clinicians from the Health Trust believe could help support future caseload management.
- 3.17 Ulster University has recently agreed to appoint a Phd researcher to work with the City Innovation Team to continue to explore insights from the data over the next years. The group have also bid for a further £1.4 million for a much more ambitious Phase Two – which if successful will kick off later in 2019.
- 3.18 The project team have arranged a showcase session on Monday, 14th January at City Hall (12 noon to 3pm) to share their learning with city partners and to consider the wider implications for city management. Members are invited to attend.

**3.19 Financial & Resource Implications**

The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by SP&R Committee in November 2017. Most of the funding in the above projects has been secured through successful funding applications to a range of organisations.

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

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on Section 75 groups. At project level, equality and rural needs assessment will be undertaken when developing projects.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Governance/Members' Issues**

**Request to Make a Drawing of the Council Chamber**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Mr Brian John Spencer, a local artist, for permission to make a sketch at the Council meeting to be held on 7th January, 2019. The request would involve Mr Spencer being allowed access to the Chamber for a couple of hours prior to the meeting commencing and for him to be present in the VIP Gallery to also sketch during the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Carson,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees not to accede to the request.

On a vote by show of hands, seven Members voted for the proposal and none against and it was declared carried.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Leisure Transformation Programme Assets Update**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

## **Assets Management**

### **Proposed relocation of Moyard Playground**

The Committee granted approval for the disposal of the existing Moyard Crescent playground site to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) by way of a surrender of the lease and the acquisition of a new site at the former Vere Foster Primary School from the Education Authority, subject the terms of the Deed of Surrender to the NIHE and the new lease with the Education Authority being agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

### **Proposed disposal of land at the Old Zoo to the Department for Infrastructure**

The Committee approved the transfer of a small plot of land off the Antrim Road to the front of the Belfast Zoo to facilitate the installation of a footpath and road crossing by the Department of Infrastructure, subject to terms being agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

### **Proposed licence from the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) for the Holylands Local Investment Fund (LIF) project**

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from DfI to allow the planting of trees in the footpaths in the Holylands as required for the LIF 2 Holylands Area Improvement Initiative, subject to terms to be agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

### **Proposed licence for Cancer Lifeline Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) project**

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from Cancer Lifeline to allow the Council's contractors on to the site at No.44 Alliance Avenue to construct the new building as part of the Cancer Lifeline BIF project, subject to terms being agreed with Estates and Legal Services.

### **Proposed licence from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for Dunmurry Station Footpath scheme**

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from DfI permitting the Council to carry out landscaping works at the entrance to the Dunmurry Station Footpath.

## **Area Working Update**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.



**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**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; and
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(a) exceptions in relations to contracts by direction of the Council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts set out in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 2:

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

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Technical Professionals (ICT)	Ronan Cregan	1 year

**Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

System / Product	Supplier	Estimate
City Centre illumination (Including canopy lighting, festoon lighting and animated projection)	Belfast City Centre Management	£110,000

The Committee agreed also to award a single tender action contract to Visit Belfast to support the delivery of the #Your Belfast Marketing and Animation Programme in response to the Bank Building fire.

## Equality and Good Relations

### Seachtain na Gaeilge/ Irish-Language Festival

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

### Corporate Response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Draft Corporate Plan 2019-22

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 seek approval for the submission of a corporate response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Corporate Plan 2019-22**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to:**

- Note the content of the corporate response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) draft Corporate Plan 2019-22 (Appendix 1)
- Approve the submission of the corporate response to ECNI, if approval granted by SP&R on Friday 14th December 2018, on a holding basis subject to approval by Council, to meet the submission deadline of 4th January 2019.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Background**

ECNI currently has their draft Corporate Plan 2019-22 out for consultation, areas of focus include:

##### **Employment**

- More and better jobs for disabled people
- Increased choice for women in employment
- Freedom from prejudice and harassment at work

##### **Education**

- Tackling educational disadvantage
- Freedom from prejudice based bullying at school

**Access and participation**

- Participation in public and political life
- Shared, safe communities and accessible services and public space
- Access to information and digital services

**Mainstreaming and championing equality**

- Mainstreaming equality and good relations

**3.2 Key Issues**

The Equality and Diversity Unit has prepared a draft corporate response. Key points include:

- Alignment with the Belfast Agenda outcomes
- Need for focus on correlations between deprivation and Section 75 protected characteristics

**3.3 Financial & Resource Implications**

None

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

Equality and good relations underpin the Council's work as demonstrated through the consultation response. Rural needs implications were not relevant in this case."

Appendix 1

**Consultation Response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's  
Draft Corporate Plan 2019-22**

**From:** Belfast City Council

**Date:** 4.12.18

**"1. Introduction**

- 1.1** Belfast City Council has considered the draft Corporate Plan 2019 – 2022 of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Please see our response below.

**2.0 Feedback**

**2.1 Belfast City Council (BCC) welcomes the identification of the following strategic priorities:**

- Employment,
- Education,
- Access and Participation
- Mainstreaming and Championing Equality

We have identified some alignment with the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's first community plan, and our four areas of focus until 2021:

- Growing the Economy
- Living Here
- City Development
- Working and Learning

The advice and guidance from ECNI should support collaborative working and measuring of progress amongst statutory partners.

**2.2 BCC also welcome the ECNI move towards an outcomes based accountability process and associated measures, which BCC has adopted within the Belfast Agenda and is currently mainstreaming throughout associated programmes of work.**

**2.3 In particular the council welcomes the focus on the development of Programme for Government equality indicators and the addressing of data gaps and need for disaggregation by section 75 groups, as outlined on page 31 under the strategic outcome area of 'Mainstreaming and Championing Equality'. The development of these indicators and associated activity may aid the Council in its commitment to deliver inclusive growth, a key principle underpinning the Belfast Agenda, through effective targeting of resources and activity. As part of the above indicators we would invite attention be paid to multiple identities.**

**2.4 We also welcome the inclusion of a focus, as identified on page 31, on the Commissions role in raising the profile and level of engagement with issues in the media and across key decision-takers and opinion formers and acknowledge the recent leadership report, supported by David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. We would encourage the Commission to be pro-active in raising the issues of inequalities across society.**

- 2.5 In relation to the strategic outcome areas of Employment and Education the draft corporate plan focuses on section 75 groups that experience inequalities in these areas of life. We would welcome that, in addition to this, consideration is given to understanding the relationship between the complex nature of the barriers that individuals from areas of high deprivation may face around income and unemployment, educational attainment and health, and how these relate to the groups protected by Section 75 legislation.

We have adopted the following definition:

For us, addressing inequalities is about what we can do to create a fairer society and recognises that equality and good relations are issues for us all. We don't all start from the same place and to create a fairer, peaceful society we need to recognise the diversity in our communities. We need to continue to consider how the characteristics protected by Section 75 may have on the life chances of members of all of our communities and better understand the relationship between these characteristics and the role that socio-economic status has in creating, or contributing to, inequalities. (Equality and Diversity Framework 2017-21)

This correlation between vertical and horizontal inequalities is a burgeoning field of study and Northern Ireland specific guidance would be of significant value in developing interventions that address broad, complex inequalities and their impact on the synergies between equality and good relations.

- 2.6 ECNI corporate plan (p.14) refers to the importance of securing progress around 'Education'. However, there are no specific potential indicators in relation to the defined groups and this could be considered going forward. In addition, the indicators referenced in the 'Employment' section, on page 17, focus on women and those with a disability and we would ask how progress in relation to the other Section 75 groups, as outlined on pg. 13 would also be monitored/measured?
- 2.7 In relation to the strategic outcomes of 'Access to information and digital services' we would ask that the indicators, listed on pg. 29 encompass all forms of communication and the needs of others whose first language is not English. The goal being to create a society where people with different access requirements can locate and access the detail they need to make informed choices about their lives.

- 2.8 Within the strategic outcome area of ‘Employment’, much of the section focuses mainly on working with employers to improve in work practices. We would recommend that consideration be given to earlier interventions, including pre-employment support, to help support access to job opportunities for those groups experiencing inequalities. Consideration could be given to including indicators around the provision of opportunities for pre-employment support for relevant section 75 groups. These could be additional forms of learning that should have recognition in developing the skills and confidence of people. There are good examples of this activity in Belfast and our experience would support the notion that it encourages better employee retention.
- 2.9 Within the strategic outcome of ‘Education’, as discussed on pg.13, we recommend that reference to early years interventions i.e. identifying and providing effective early support to children and young people who are at risk of poor outcomes and inequalities should be reflected in the narrative. In addition, under this strategic outcome, consideration should be given to including performance indicators around attainment levels at GCSE for those children entitled to free school meals.
- 2.10 Further thought could be given to considering including additional indicators in relation to the procurement and social clauses within contracts, particularly in relation to the strategic priority areas of employment and mainstreaming and championing equality.
- 2.11 We look forward to the publication of the final document and delivery plan. In addition, we would recommend that a detailed glossary is attached alongside the strategy to ensure consistency of approach and understanding going forward”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise Members on how the wording of the recent motion about the definition of antisemitism brought to Strategic Policy and Resources at the November meeting would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Consider the definition and associated examples of ant-Semitism as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016 and if the definition should be fully incorporated into the Council's Good Relations Strategy and associated policies bearing in mind the impact as outlined below.

2.2 That further to the recommendation of the Shared City Partnership on 5th November 2018, Committee agrees that the draft Good Relations Strategy be published for public consultation in January 2018.

3.0 **Main report**

**Key Issues**

3.1 At the last meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the following motion, which had been proposed at the Council meeting on 1st November 2018 by Councillor Craig and seconded by Councillor Boyle had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), be referred to the Committee for consideration.

3.2 *“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.”*

3.3 Furthermore, the Council agrees that this definition and associated examples of anti-Semitism, published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016, are fully incorporated into this Council's Good Relations strategy and associated policies.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

- 3.6 A copy of the definition and the associated examples as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and referred to in the above notice of motion are attached at Appendix 1 for member's information. Members may be aware that the definition and associated examples have been subject to some debate.

**Impact on Good Relations Strategy**

- 3.7 The draft Good Relations Strategy has been agreed by the Shared City Partnership at its meeting on 5th November 2018 and is attached at Appendix 2. Pending SP and R Committee and Council approval anticipated in January, the draft strategy will go out to public consultation, via the Council's Citizen Space portal.
- 3.8 The Strategy outlines a vision for the promotion of a shared Belfast. It is not intended to be an action plan rather a framework to support the delivery of Good Relations in Belfast. Throughout this document, we have used the term Good Relations to describe good community and race relations between people of different community, religious, racial or political backgrounds.
- 3.9 The Strategy looks at issues of separation, sectarianism and racism in a holistic manner. No one community has been singled out within the document, as the aim is to promote good relations between all our citizens on different levels. We have not included definitions of any distinct prejudices but tackling discrimination and racism is implicit within the document as a whole.
- 3.10 To include one definition would mean that Council would have to agree definitions for each distinct element regarding prejudice towards those from a different community, religious, racial , political or background. This could prove extremely challenging and it would be difficult to ensure we had included every facet and manifestation of prejudice.
- 3.11 Members may wish to note that part of the outworking of the Strategy will be the District Council Good Relations Action Plan which is part funded by The Executive Office. The current plan is based on the priorities laid down in the Together: Building a United Community which are : Children and Young People, Safe Community, Shared Community and Cultural Expression.



- 3.12 Under these priorities, we run a number of programmes which meet particular outcomes which address diversity and difference. It is important to note that this work includes engagement with the Jewish community.
- 3.13 Examples include two annual events, organised as part of the DiverseCity programme, that open up opportunities for people from Belfast to visit the Jewish Synagogue enabling them to understand aspects relating to the history, heritage and cultural practice of the community in Belfast. In addition, the Council, through the Good Relations Unit, is partnering with The Executive Office to run a regional event in the City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 24th January 2019. In the run up to this event, several engagement initiatives, involving a survivor of the Holocaust, were organised for communities and schools in October.
- 3.14 Therefore, while there may be no particular issues in Council agreeing the definition as presented, it would not be recommended that a definition particular to one section of the community be specifically incorporated into the Draft Good Relations Strategy and/or associated policies. Tackling all aspects of discrimination and racism is at the core of these strategies and policies and this would include such attitudes and behaviours in relation to the Jewish community and others.
- 3.15 On a related matter, Members should note that any delay on the draft Good Relations Strategy will affect the ability of the Strategy to be launched as planned in early Summer and will mean the consultation sessions will have to take place during Purdah. This will limit the ability of members to demonstrate cross party support for an important Council Strategy, which is a core value within the Belfast agenda, and Local Development Plan.

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75 which includes different religious, political or racial backgrounds. If a policy is deemed to have a

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**potentially negative impact, then the Council must explore mitigating actions to alleviate the negative impact. There are no rural needs implications.”**

Moved by Councillor Garret,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees that the definition should not be fully incorporated into the Council's Good Relations Strategy and associated policies and that the draft Strategy be published for consultation in January, 2019.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Craig,  
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the definition be not included in the Good Relations Strategy but that the Council adopts the definition of anti-semitism which has been internationally recognised.

On a vote by show of hands, five Members voted for the amendment and seven against and it was declared lost.

**Further Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees that the definition be not incorporated into the Good Relations Strategy and that it be published for consultation, but that a report on the definition be brought back to a future meeting.

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting, when seven Members voted for and six against and it was declared carried.

**Equality and Diversity Screening and Rural Needs  
Outcome Report – April – September 2018**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Shared city Partnership**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable it to be considered at its meeting in January, 2019.

**Operational Issues**

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

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

**Minutes of Budget and  
Transformation Panel Meeting**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

**Minutes of Active Belfast Ltd. Board**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

Chairperson