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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 29th April, 2019 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 6)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 7 - 58)
7. People and Communities Committee (Pages 59 - 76)
8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 77 - 110)
9. Licensing Committee (Pages 111 - 120)
10. Planning Committee (Pages 121 - 146)
11. Brexit Committee (Pages 147 - 154)

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.



Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 1st April, 2019
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey) (Chairperson); the High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr-Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) and Councillors Bunting, McAllister, McAteer, McReynolds and O'Neill.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey),
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 4th March be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her condolences to Councillor McAteer on the recent death of her niece, Nuala.

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that Councillor Kyle had on 31st March retired from his role as a GP and, on behalf of the Council, wished him well in his retirement.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 1st April, 2019**

Changes to Committees

The Council noted that the nominating officer of the Ulster Unionist Party had confirmed that, with effect from 1st April:

- Alderman Rodgers had replaced Councillor Johnston on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and as the Chairperson of that Committee; and
- Councillor Johnston had replaced Alderman Rodgers on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that a request to address the Council had been received from representatives of two suicide support groups in relation to the motion on Suicide Prevention being proposed by Councillor Armitage.

The Council acceded to the request and, accordingly, Ms. Claire Curran of Survivors of Suicide Support Group, together with Ms. Margaret Walker and Mr. Brendan Lowe of Suicide Awareness and Support Group, were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Ms. Curran informed the Council that Survivors of Suicide Support Group, which was based in East Belfast, worked with families who had been bereaved by suicide, as well as people who were at risk from or had attempted suicide. Each year, around 300 people died in Northern Ireland from suicide and the rate per 100,000 of the population was higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland. She referred to the opening in the City in the previous week of a Crisis De-escalation Service, on a one-year pilot basis, which she pointed out had taken over two years to put in place, and stressed that, whilst that was encouraging, significantly more support was required. She highlighted the fact that the absence of a functioning Executive had stalled the implementation of the Protect Life 2 Strategy and associated action plan and concluded by stressing that there was an onus on everyone to play their part in reducing the number of deaths by suicide by for example, recognising signs, undertaking training and raising awareness.

Mr. Lowe reported that his mother had died as a result of suicide ten years earlier and outlined the devastating impact which her death had had on him. He explained that he had, amongst other things, attempted suicide and highlighted the valuable support which he had received from Suicide Awareness and Support Group and his family over the course of his ongoing recovery. He endorsed the comments which had been made by Ms. Curran around the need for more support to be allocated to suicide prevention and suggested that a designated officer be deployed in the City.

The Lord Mayor thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

The Council noted the information which had been provided and that Members would, later in the meeting, have an opportunity to discuss the matter.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 1st April, 2019**

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd March be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Motion: Rainbow Flag at City Hall

Moved by Councillor Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd March, under the heading "Motion: Rainbow Flag at City Hall", be amended to provide that the words "in the illuminate programme" be removed from the amendment recorded in the minute.

On a vote by show of hands, twenty-eight Members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against and it was declared carried.

**Request for a Matter to be
Taken Back to Committee**

Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the Council agreed that the minute under the heading "Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances" be taken back to the Committee to allow for an independent legal opinion to be provided.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment and omission, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd March were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 5th March be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 1st April, 2019**

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th and 27th March be approved and adopted.

Pilot Public Art Project

At the request of Councillor Baker, the Council agreed that the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 27th March, under the heading "Pilot Public Art Project", be amended to provide that the project be branded as 'Belfast Canvas'.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th and 27th March were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Hara,
Seconded by Councillor Dudgeon and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 12th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.
Shareholders' Committee**

Moved by Alderman Haire,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 20th March be approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 21st March be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 1st April, 2019**

Notice of Motion

Suicide Prevention

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Armitage proposed:

“This Council is deeply saddened by the increasing numbers of people dying by suicide in the city of Belfast. The Council recognises that each death is preventable and, therefore, is an even more painful episode for all; and understands the deep pain shared by families and close friends of those who have died by suicide.

Belfast needs to become a city safe from suicide and the Council needs to work with others to make Belfast a Zero Suicide City. This includes making the safe house in the City Centre permanent, supporting and resourcing those groups who work in counselling and suicide prevention, challenging the taboos of mental health and suicide and ensuring that there is adequate training and resources for all the citizens so that Belfast can react positively to assist those in need.

The Council also calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly to implement the Protect Life 2 Strategy on suicide prevention.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 12th April, 2019

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 Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig,
Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, Long, 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. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood and McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th March.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Donnell declared an interest in relation to item 5(f) – Summer Community Diversionary Festivals Programme, in that she was employed by the Short Strand Partnership and left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration. Councillor Long declared an interest in the same item insofar as he was a member of the Eastside Partnership but declared a dispensation to take part in the meeting and vote for that item as he had been appointed to that organisation by the Council.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 3 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

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.

**Community Support Programme -
Letter of Offer 2019-20**

The Committee was advised that the Council was now in receipt of its formal letter of offer of funding from the Department for Communities, under the Community Support Programme, totalling £1,503,333.86.

The breakdown of the allocation was as follows:

• Community Support General	£829,405.44
• Advice Grant	£607,928.42
• Welfare Reform Support Payment	£66,000.00
Total	£1,503,333.86

It was reported that the level of funding awarded under the Community Support General and Advice Grant had remained static compared to the 2018/2019 allocation. It was pointed out also that an additional allocation of £66,000 had been included to support frontline advice services with increased workload, associated with Welfare Reform, including appeal representation.

The Committee:

- (1) agreed to accept the funding and conditions detailed in the Letter of Offer from Department for Communities in respect of the 2019/20 Community Support Programme; and
- (2) noted the provision of an additional allocation of £66k for Frontline Advice Services Welfare Reform Support Payment, which the Committee had previously agreed to use in support of the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service.

Assets Management

i) Grove Primary School Site to Grove Housing Association

The Committee approved the disposal of the former Grove Primary School Site to the Grove Housing Association for the consideration of £370,000, with detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and City Solicitor.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

ii) Wilmont House - Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park

The Committee approved the advertising for Expressions of Interest for the physical restoration and regeneration of Wilmont House, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Belfast, on terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and City Solicitor

iii) St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Donegall Pass - Amendment to proposed Grant of Right of Way

The Committee approved an amendment to a proposed Grant of Right of Way to the Trustees of St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Donegall Pass.

iv) Grazing Agreements at Roselawn and Beechvale Farm

The Committee noted the Expressions of Interest received for grazing and grass cutting at Beechvale Farm and Roselawn and granted retrospective consent to the leasing of land at Roselawn and Beechvale Farm to the successful bidders

v) Grant of Easement to Belfast City Council – Old Golf Course Road

The Committee approved acceptance of a Grant of Easement from the Department for Infrastructure to permit access to lands at Dunmurry Station Road.

vi) Facilities Management Agreement – Lenadoon Community Forum

The Committee granted approval for the Facilities Management Agreement with the Lenadoon Community Forum in regard to Lenadoon Park to be adjusted to meet the requirements of an Alpha Fund application for the upgrade of the pitch facility at Lenadoon Park.

Recruitment Update

The Committee noted an update which had been provided by the Chief Executive on recent and ongoing recruitment exercises for Senior Officer posts and that Cathy Reynolds had been appointed to the post of Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Update on Motion - Community Pharmacies

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd December, had passed the following motion on Community Pharmacies which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Councillor Mullan:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

“This Council recognises the contribution to society made by Community Pharmacies and notes with growing concern the current financial crisis facing the sector, caused by a serious level of underfunding over the last decade.

The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and an all-party delegation from the Council, along with representatives of the Pharmacies.”

It was reported that letters had been forwarded subsequently to Mr. G. Greene, Chief Executive of the Community Pharmacy NI (CPNI), and to Mr. R. Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, in relation to the motion.

The Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI had confirmed shortly afterwards that he would be willing to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with the Permanent Secretary to discuss the motion. A response was then received from Mr. Pengelly and was presented to the Committee on 22nd February.

The Committee was reminded that Mr. Pengelly had, within that response, provided details of substantial funding which had been made available in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to community pharmacies and had confirmed that a further £800k had been allocated within the current financial year. However, he had made no reference to the request to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and Community Pharmacy NI, as had been alluded to within the motion.

At that meeting, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a further letter be forwarded to Mr. Pengelly inviting him again to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI.

A further response had been received from Mr. Pengelly which again outlined the extent of funding which had been allocated to community pharmacies and pointed out that Departmental officials had ongoing contact with CPNI representatives on a wide range of funding issues. He stated that that represented the most appropriate forum for engagement on funding issues and the development of new contractual arrangements for community pharmacies. He did not, therefore, feel that a meeting with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacies NI would be beneficial at this time.

Mr. Pengelly had then highlighted the difficult and challenging financial environment being faced across the public sector, and by the health service in particular, and concluded by assuring Members that his Department was committed to ensuring that there continued to be a sustainable community pharmacy network and effective contractual arrangements.

The Committee noted the further response which had been received from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, in relation to the Council's motion on Community Pharmacies and agreed that a press release be issued expressing the

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Committee's disappointment that the Permanent Secretary had refused to meet with an all-Party deputation from the Council to discuss such an important issue.

Governance

**Governance Arrangements for
the new Council 2019-23**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider the governance arrangements to apply for the new Council term commencing in 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

Consider the issues and to decide on the preferred governance arrangements for the new Council.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At the meeting of the new Council following the local government elections in May, it will be necessary to agree the new council's governance arrangements for the period 2019-23.

A report on this matter was submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 22nd March. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report until the April meeting. In order for the proper arrangements to be made, including meetings with the Nominating Officers of the Parties returned after the elections, in advance of the Annual Meeting of the new Council on 21st May, it is now necessary for decisions to be made.

3.2 Key issues

1. Council governance arrangements

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides for a number of types of governance arrangements, namely:

- Traditional committee arrangements (default position)**
- Executive model**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

In 2014, the Council adopted a Constitution which, amongst other things, agreed the default governance arrangements prescribed in the 2014 Act namely:

- Traditional Committee system
- Positions of responsibility selected using the D'hondt model
- Committee places allocated using the quota greatest remainder model

It would have required a qualified majority vote (80%) in order to choose any of the alternatives.

Looking forward to the new Council term, should the Council agree to continue with the existing arrangements as set out in the Council Constitution, then the decision making process requires a simple majority vote to do so.

Decision required:

- Do members wish to continue with existing governance arrangements ie traditional committee system?

3.3

2. Standing Committees

The council currently has established seven Standing Committees which promote cross-departmental and thematic working across the organisation supporting the delivery of the Belfast Agenda and the developing process of Outcomes Based Accountability:

Committee	Number of Members	Responsibility
Strategic Policy & Resources	20	Responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies and for setting the budget overseeing the appropriate use of Council finances

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

City Growth & Regeneration	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and inclusive growth of the city
People & Communities	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, services and projects aimed at improving life at a local level
Licensing	20	Responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues
Planning	14	Responsible for all the Council's planning functions
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders'	14	Responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the Company complies with the contract for the operation of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls
Brexit	20	Responsible for researching, monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK's leaving the European Union

Decisions required:

- **Do we wish to continue with these Committees?**
- **Do we wish to maintain the current remit of each Committee?**
- **Do we wish to continue with these Committees with the same numbers of members?**
- **Do we wish to retain the Brexit committee?**

3.4

3. Annual review of Committee membership

In the current council term, members were appointed to the Committees for the full four-year term. It is considered that it would be better in the new term for the members to be appointed for one-year terms, and reappointed at each Annual Meeting. This would allow for any changes in political affiliation which can occur during a council term to be accounted for. The City Solicitor believes this to be in keeping both the spirit and intent of the 2014 Act.

Decision required:

- Would Members be supportive of a change to a one-year committee membership term?

3.5

4. Method of appointing positions of responsibility including PCSP and DPCSPs

The positions of responsibility include the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, some prescribed outside bodies and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs). In dealing with the appointments of members to the PCSP and DPCSPs, the Council needs to ensure that the appointments are made in accordance with not only the LGA 2014 but also the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and are considered as part of the allocation of positions of responsibility.

The solution, which was agreed by all parties in 2015, was that the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs were made by allocating those parties' D'hondt choices from the bottom up. Therefore, the parties' earlier choices for positions of responsibility were not adversely affected by the requirements of the Justice Act as to how the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs had to be made.

A separate decision is also required in relation to the size of the main Policing and Community Safety Partnership. The Justice Act provides that the Council may appoint 8, 9 or 10 Political Members to the PCSP. The number of Independent Members is then set at one less than the number of Political Members. The Justice Act also provides that each DPCSP must have 6 Political and 5 Independent Members so no decision is required with regard to the DPCSP size. In 2015, the Council agreed to appoint 9 Political Members to the

PCSP, resulting in a membership of 17 in total (9 political and 8 independent members).

Decisions required:

- Are we happy to again employ the solution with regard to the Positions of Responsibility in 2019?
- Are we happy to again appoint 9 Political Members to the PCSP?

3.6

5. Standing Orders

One of the first acts of business of the new Council at their meeting on 21 May will be to agree a new set of Standing Orders. It is recommended that an opportunity is taken to review some sections of the Standing Orders in:

Standing Order 47: Call-in

Following recent legal advice, it is recommended that Members consider some amendments to the process of call-in in order to more accurately reflect the legislation as it currently stands. Specifically this would add provisions:

- i. That on a procedural call-in authority be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to obtain legal advice, to be tabled at the meeting of the ad hoc committee, if it is their view that this will assist in addressing the issues raised within the call-in
- ii. That in suspending the operation of call-in on the grounds that the unreasonable delay that would be caused could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interests, the proposer will be required to give reasons as to why this is the case
- iii. In relation to call-ins submitted under Section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act, the Chief Executive will wait until the expiry of the period for valid call-ins to be submitted before determining if the required 15% threshold is still in place. If that is the case then the opinion of a practising barrister or solicitor will be sought.

Standing Order 37a: Duties of Committees

That to allow the timely implementation of decisions arising from the Contracts for Award report, delegated authority be given to SP&R for that purpose.

Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion

That Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda.

Standing Order 64: Amendments to the Standing Orders and repeals

That changes to the Standing Orders can be agreed at one Council meeting as opposed to two consecutive Council meetings as is the current requirement.

Decision required:

- Would Members be supportive of these proposed amendments to Standing Orders?

Other areas of political governance which Members are asked to consider relate to:

3.7

6. Appointment of Working Groups

The Council decided to appoint a number of Working Groups in 2015. These Working Groups are not specified in the 2014 Act and the Council is free to use whatever mechanism it sees fit to appoint members to them. It is suggested that some of the current Working Groups could be re-aligned to the most relevant thematic committee in order to make their decision-making process more efficient.

Current Working Group	Recommendation
Audit and Risk Panel	Retain
Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders	Retain both and review individual Terms of Reference and the name of each group with the minutes being issued to any Independent members within two days of meeting

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Current Working Group	Recommendation
North Foreshore Members' Steering Group	Matters could be considered by City, Growth and Regeneration
Reference Group on Older People	Matters could be considered by People and Communities although some consultation may be required with sector
Shared City Partnership	Retain
Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group	Matters could be considered by People and Communities and/or Strategic Policy and Resources Committees

Decision required:

- **Would Members be supportive of reviewing the current Working Groups as outlined above?**

3.8

7. Area Working Groups

Some consideration needs to be given to the terms of reference for the Area-Based Working Groups. Members are already aware that the financial position of the Council has changed significantly and there will not in the near future be a LIF3/BIF2 etc. This will significantly impact the role of the AWGs during this period. It is therefore recommended that there is a move to a more strategic area-based framework approach based on local needs encompassing:

- **council service and facility provision**
- **external or multi-agency service and facility provision**
- **agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people**
- **longer term local regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources)**

It is recommended that the AWGs are reviewed within this context and that, following holding a series of workshops with each Area Working Group, a revised Terms of Reference are drawn up (to be taken into Committee late summer / autumn).

Decision required:

- Would Members be supportive of this approach?

3.9

8. Process for nomination for High Sheriff

The current Council agreed to use a separate D'hondt process to decide which Parties would be entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for each year of the Council term. This process sits outside the positions of responsibility process as the appointment is made by the Secretary of State.

Decision required:

Do we wish to use this process again from 2019?

3.10

9. Appointment to Outside Bodies

There are a number of appointments to Outside Bodies. In 2015, the Council decided to use the Sainte Lague method to make these appointments. A report on the appointments to be made would be presented to the first meeting of the new SP&R Committee in June.

Decision required:

- Do we wish to use this method again or the more common D'hondt method?

3.11

10. Rate of Members' Allowance

The Council did not agree in 2017 and 2018 to increase the Members' Allowances by the rate of inflation as it was permitted to do. In the new Council, do we wish to increase the basic and special responsibility allowances to the maximum permissible (as all other of the 10 Councils do currently)?

Decision required:

- Do we wish to do so for 2019?

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

None at this stage

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None at this stage.”

The Committee considered each of the issues in turn:

1. Council governance arrangements

- The Committee agreed to continue with the existing governance arrangements, that is, a traditional committee system, with
- Positions of responsibility selected using the D’hondt model; and
- Committee places allocated using the quota greatest remainder model.

2. Standing Committees

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds.

Seconded by Councillor Craig.

That the Committee agrees not to reconstitute the Brexit Committee.

On a vote by show hands, seven Members voted for the proposal and seven against. There being an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote in favour of the proposal and it was declared carried

The Committee agreed to reconstitute the following Committees:

Committee	Number of Members	Responsibility
Strategic Policy & Resources	20	Responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies and for setting the budget overseeing the appropriate use of Council finances
City Growth & Regeneration	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and inclusive growth of the city

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Committee	Number of Members	Responsibility
People & Communities	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, services and projects aimed at improving life at a local level
Licensing	20	Responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues
Planning	14	Responsible for all the Council's planning functions
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders'	14	Responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the Company complies with the contract for the operation of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls

3. Annual review of Committee membership

It was agreed, in the new term, for the members to be appointed for one-year terms, and reappointed at each Annual Meeting.

4. Method of appointing positions of responsibility including PCSP and DPCSPs

The Committee agreed that the Positions of Responsibility be filled using the d'Hondt method and that the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs be made by allocating those parties' d'Hondt choices from the bottom up. Therefore, the parties' earlier choices for positions of responsibility would not be adversely affected by the requirements of the Justice Act as to how the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs had to be made.

The Committee also agreed to appoint 9 Political Members to the PCSP, which would result in a membership of 17 in total (9 political and 8 independent members).

5. Standing Orders

Standing Order 47: Call-in

The Committee agreed the following amendments to Standing Orders:

- i. That on a procedural call-in authority be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to obtain legal advice, to be tabled at the meeting of the ad hoc committee, if it is their view that this will assist in addressing the issues raised within the call-in.
- ii. That in suspending the operation of call-in on the grounds that the unreasonable delay that would be caused could be prejudicial to the

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Council's or the public's interests, the proposer will be required to give reasons as to why this is the case.

- iii. In relation to call-ins submitted under Section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act, the Chief Executive will wait until the expiry of the period for valid call-ins to be submitted before determining if the required 15% threshold is still in place. If that is the case then the opinion of a practising barrister or solicitor will be sought.

Standing Order 37a: Duties of Committees

It was agreed that, to allow the timely implementation of decisions arising from the Contracts for Award report, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for that purpose.

Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion

The Committee agreed that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda.

Standing Order 64: Amendments to the Standing Orders and repeals

It was agreed that changes to the Standing Orders can be agreed at one Council meeting as opposed to two consecutive Council meetings as is the current requirement.

6. Appointment of Working Groups

The Committee agreed to retain the following Working Groups:

Audit and Risk Panel
Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders
North Foreshore Members' Steering Group
Reference Group on Older People
Shared City Partnership
Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group

7. Area Working Groups

The Committee agreed that the Area Working Groups be reviewed and that, following the holding a series of workshops with each Area Working Group, a revised Terms of Reference be drawn up (to be taken into Committee late summer / autumn).

8. Process for nomination for High Sheriff

The Committee agreed to use a separate d'Hondt process to decide which Parties would be entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

for each year of the Council term and noted that this process sits outside the positions of responsibility process as the appointment is made by the Secretary of State.

9. Appointment to Outside Bodies

It was agreed that the Sainte Lague method be used to make appointments to Outside Bodies, with a report on the appointments to be made being presented to the first meeting of the new Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June.

10. Rate of Members' Allowance

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the rate of Members' allowances and that a report, to include the special responsibility allowance, be submitted to the June meeting.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

100RC Challenge- City Currency Update

The Committee was reminded that it had agreed previously that Belfast would apply to join a 100 Resilient Cities Challenge to explore opportunities to develop a city currency for Belfast. It had approved also a funding requirement of £25k, if successful, in applying to join the challenge. It was explained that a city currency was a payment and rewards app, working on a smartphone, through which people were rewarded for good behaviour, for example, for shopping locally, for using public transport or for recycling. Party briefings had taken place in February to brief elected Members on the challenge.

The Committee was advised that it had been successful in the application to join the city challenge. In March the Commissioner for Resilience had joined four other cities, Addis Ababa, Porto Alegre, Cape Town and Milan in the Headquarters of the company, Colu, in Tel Aviv, to plan the next steps in the development of a city currency pilot for each city. The visit also enabled officers to review how the company worked in practice and how the technology platform was supported.

The company was in the process of hiring three staff to work in Belfast to lead its operations here, and was currently securing a retail/community space in the city centre through which it would operate.

Officers had met with several city partners to encourage them to join the challenge and discussions were progressing well. Ulster University was exploring how it could use a currency to incentivise or reward students' behaviour, for example, use of public transport. Several large employers in the city were exploring whether to use the city currency to reward/encourage positive behaviour among their staff.

Belfast had already taken several steps to progress the city currency challenge, and was keen to announce the challenge in May, to help encourage new partners to come on board, including local businesses. Given the importance of students and young people to the success of the currency, officers were keen to launch the app in August or

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

September in time for the new academic year. It was aimed to ensure that at least 50 businesses and organisations had joined the challenge in advance of its launch.

The Committee:

- noted the progress in the development of the city currency challenge (pilot), which would run for a year from March, 2019 and that Belfast was successful in competing against other cities in the 100 Resilient Cities network to join a city currency challenge; and
- noted that an event to announce Belfast's City Currency Challenge would be held in May, involving the Lord Mayor and city partners, with the eventual launch of the Belfast Coin city currency in August/September, to coincide with the new academic year.

Draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to note the decision taken by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to approve a formal 12-week public consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 and agree to receive detailed draft implementation plans and financing strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- Note the contents of this report and the commencement of a 12-week public consultation from 17 April 2019.
- Agree to receive further detail on draft implementation plans and financing strategy in September 2019.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

In December 2018 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed for officers to progress with the development of a new 10-year cultural strategy for the city.

The timing of this work was in response to a number of important developments and milestones including:

- End of participation in the European Capital of Culture bidding process.
- Initial recommendations from a draft Festival and Events strategy.
- Current Cultural Framework due to end in March 2020.
- Current Tourism Strategy due to end in March 2020.
- Core multi-annual funding programme for arts and heritage organisations in the city due to end in March 2020.
- Tourism as a key strand in the Belfast Region City Deal including proposals for a new visitor attraction, the Destination Hub.

3.3 It was agreed that the strategy would build on the extensive public engagement carried out during the bid to become European Capital of Culture. Furthermore it would present an integrated approach to long-term cultural development in the city including:

- A citizen focussed approach
- Consideration of the long-term sustainability of the cultural sector
- A new approach to Events and Festivals
- Strengthen the tourism proposition in the city through greater understanding of the city’s cultural narrative and international appeal.
- Integration of planned major developments such as the Destination Hub into citywide tourism.

3.4 Key Issues

The context

The global context for this strategy is the increasing recognition that cities of culture can drive transformation. Culture has a critical role in shaping great places through:

- Increasing cohesion and permeability
- Building identity and confidence
- Attracting investment
- Retaining talent and attracting talent back

3.5 The Belfast Agenda sets out a vision for 2035 that imagines a culturally vibrant city. The purpose of the cultural strategy is to present a series of priorities that have the potential to contribute significantly to all five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda:

- Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all
- Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential
- Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing
- Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

3.6 As well as supporting the Belfast Agenda, the strategy also responds to and helps to define the role of culture across other priority areas including:

- Local Development Plan
- City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy
- Good Relations Strategy
- Open Spaces Strategy

3.7 This work has also taken into consideration Council's involvement in 100 Resilient Cities. In addition, the strategy has considered the wider context including ongoing public funding cuts and the need for a long-term approach to support the sustainability and resilience of the cultural sector whilst setting ambitious growth targets. Belfast City Council will also be making a submission to the public consultation on the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's draft 5 year Framework to reflect the ambitions set out in this draft strategy.

3.8 The process

The approach to developing this strategy has strongly focussed on engagement with citizens and with city partners. This has included:

- Holding 62 civic conversations
- Engaging with 5361 citizens
- Supporting 625 creators
- Working with 106 artists
- Across 85 places
- Through 137 events

3.9 The approach has been shaped by two external bodies of work. The first is Agenda 21 for Culture – an international methodology that supports cultural development in cities and regions. The focus of Culture 21 is to embed culture as the fourth dimension of sustainable cities alongside existing economic, social and ecological pillars. Belfast's participation in the Culture 21 pilot cities programme has already been

approved and this programme will support the implementation of this strategy.

3.10 The second set of recommendations that have helped inform this strategy is the recently published Cultural Enquiry by the Core Cities network of which Belfast is a partner member. This enquiry presents a number of practical recommendations on investment and governance of culture in cities. This presents an opportunity for a collaborative model to be taken forward that complements the community planning process and sets shared priorities for culture along with a more effective approach to investment to maximise the overall return. This involves working closely to leverage new sources of finance including public-private models.

3.11 The strategy

The strategy, *A City Imagining*, opens with a cultural statement for the city shaped by the thousands of conversations that have taken place since 2017 as part of the ongoing public engagement programme. This is then taken forward through an overall cross-cutting thematic approach to the strategy with each theme having a particular area of focus as follows.

3.12 Theme 1: A City Belonging – focuses on supporting active citizenship and participation in cultural life.

Theme 2: A City Challenging – focuses on diversity through use of public and cultural spaces.

Theme 3: A City Creating – focuses on supporting innovation and creativity across the cultural sectors.

Theme 4: A City Exploring – focuses on Belfast’s relationship to the rest of the world both inward and outward including support for cultural tourism.

3.13 Four strategic priorities are set out for each theme. The result is a strategic framework consisting of 16 key priorities to be delivered by 2030. Each of these priorities will be further developed in the next phase of the programme through detailed implementation plans.

3.14 The document also sets out a number of key strategic milestones throughout the ten-year period. These include:

- Launching a new approach to events and festivals in the city

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

- Producing an international year of culture in 2023
- Bidding for UNESCO City of Music in 2021
- Delivering a new visitor attraction in the city centre and local neighbourhood tourism programme to open in 2024

3.15 These specific initiatives are considered to be central to delivering on the city’s overall targets for the period and to attract new forms of investment into the city with significant cultural, social and economic impacts.

3.16 Critically the strategy considers the governance and investment model required to deliver this type of long-term transformation clearly positioning Belfast as a regional driver.

3.17 The purpose of the strategy document is to present the overall approach and commitments over a ten year period. The next phase of work will give detailed consideration to how this will be delivered in line with the timeframe detailed below. This will include the development of initial three year implementation plans that as well as being cross-cutting will specifically address:

- Arts and Heritage
- Events and Festivals
- Tourism product development including neighbourhood tourism
- Major strategic initiatives

3.18 These will be supported by a proposed investment model, communications strategy and evaluation framework.

3.19 Next steps

The proposed timeline is as follows:

April – July 2019	Public Consultation on Strategy document
April – August 2019	Development of implementation plans and new funding model
September 2019	Committee approval for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Final strategy- Draft funding model- Draft implementation plans
October 2019	Opening of new competitive funding programmes
Oct 2019 – Jan 2020	Public consultation on implementation plans

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and final implementation plans and finance strategy.
April 2020	Funding contracts in place and implementation plans operational

3.20 Financial & Resource Implications

There are currently no immediate financial implications to this report. The final strategy will be supported by implementation plans and a detailed finance and resource plan will be presented to Committee in September 2019 as part of the next phase of work.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Equality and good relations have been central to the development of the Cultural Strategy to date and will continue to be considered as the investment model and implementation programmes are developed.

3.22 Input has been sought from the Council's Equality and Diversity Officers to inform the strategic level assessment in terms of equality, good relations and rural needs. With a vision of cultural inclusivity and diversity in the Strategy and through the significant programme of engagement, the Cultural Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of promoting equality and good relations in the city. There may be opportunities to increase levels of participation and engagement in cultural life in the city for certain groups such as older people, disabled people and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

3.23 In line with the guidance from the Equality Commission and the commitment to engagement that has informed the Cultural Strategy; the strategic level equality impact assessment report will be subject to a 12 week public consultation period. This will accompany the formal consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy. The equality impact assessment will be updated as a result of this feedback. The information will be used to inform the final Cultural Strategy and the development of the investment model and implementation programmes."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Social Enterprise and Employment
Support Programme**

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Committee approval for the delivery of two pilot projects aimed at supporting social enterprise development, business start-up and employment for those with disabilities and/or health related conditions.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the ongoing work of the Economic Development Unit in supporting business growth, jobs creation, skills development under the Working and Learning and Growing the Economy pillars of the Belfast Agenda**
- **Approve the delivery of two pilot projects to be delivered in partnership with NOW Group and USEL (Ulster Supported Employment and Learning) aimed at supporting people with disabilities or health related conditions into work as well as helping new artisan food businesses including social enterprises to start up and grow.**
- **Agree to enter into a Licence agreement for an initial 12 months period to facilitate delivery of the pilot initiative in partnership with USEL (Ulster Supported Employment and Learning), subject to the advice and approval from the Council's Legal Services and Estates Management teams.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 As Members will be aware, the Council provides a range of activities to support business growth, help create jobs and enhance the skills levels of Belfast residents. This includes delivery of a suite of business start and development programmes including social enterprise support, as well as a variety of employment and skills initiatives including the sector-specific employment academies. Aligned to both the Working and Learning and the Growing the Economy pillars of the Belfast Agenda, these work streams support inclusive growth ambitions by addressing barriers to employment and progression.**

- 3.2** The city continues to face persistent challenges relating to the high levels of economic inactivity and geographical deprivation, and whilst unemployment rates are decreasing, levels of economic inactivity remains high at 31% or 67,850 persons of working age across the city of Belfast. Of these numbers, around 35% (or 23,748 persons of working age) are known to have a disability or health-related condition. Council officers have been working with a number of organisations to explore opportunities for developing targeted initiatives to help some of those individuals to re-enter the labour market on a voluntary participation basis. For out-of-work individuals, long periods of inactivity can cause health conditions to worsen, work related skills and motivation deteriorate, and significant new barriers to work can arise. These individuals will require additional support to remove their particular barriers to employment.
- 3.3** In recent years, the Council's Hospitality Employment Academy has provided an ongoing pipeline of talent into this sector. Whilst efforts in this regard have been positively received, the challenge of low levels of unemployment, sector growth and the potential implications of the UK exit from the EU on the flow of migrant labour have highlighted the risk of labour shortages within this industry and underlined the need for ongoing interventions of scale.
- 3.4** The growth of the hospitality industry has been driven by both international brands and indigenous outlets. In the case of the latter, the uniqueness and the quality of the sector and individual businesses operating within it have recently been recognised through awards such as the Good Taste Awards. Importantly, Northern Ireland was announced as the 'Best Food Destination' at the prestigious International Travel and Tourism Awards in London at the end of 2018. This is a significant accolade and highlights the innovation and quality of both the producers and the hospitality outlets across the region. Through business start-up activities, the Council is supporting a growing number of artisan food producers. One of the key challenges that they face is the ability to access professional kitchen space and distribution outlets for their products. Officers are aware of at least 20 food production businesses who have outgrown their existing space, and have a requirement to utilise a commercial kitchen space to grow their business.
- 3.5** To address these challenges and support the development of the hospitality sector, officers are proposing to develop two pilot initiatives in partnership with two social enterprise

organisations, USEL and the NOW Group. Uniquely both organisations offer training and employment support to individuals with disabilities or health-related conditions and, in addition, support the employment of this client group through the operation of their social enterprises. Additionally both organisations have links with employers within the hospitality sector, providing access to a wider pool of employment opportunities. The pilot initiatives will also facilitate the establishment and growth of artisan food producers, including social enterprises. Further information on each of the proposed pilot projects is set out below.

3.6 Partnership with USEL: Hospitality Training Academy and Food Production Facility

This pilot will involve utilising a vacant city centre property (located in Bridge Street) to operate a social enterprise café, a training academy and provide professional kitchen space for artisan food producers. Previously operated by Barnados as Dr B's, the site is already fitted with a fully functioning café located on the ground floor with separate kitchen space located on the first and second floors of the building that can be used as preparation and training space. The scope of the site will allow for the following:

- Operation of a social enterprise café providing employment opportunities for up to 20 trainees
- Delivery of a hospitality training academy supporting workless individuals with a disability or health-related conditions (from USEL and partner organisations)
- Provision of professional kitchen space with the potential of supporting the creation and growth of up to 40 artisan food producers.

3.7 Each of the distinct elements are interlinked and complementary. For example, it is expected that academy trainees will progress into employment within the café as well as through a wider network of hospitality employers. Additionally, the café provides a potential retail outlet for artisan food producers, in addition to other outlets within the Council's responsibility, including St George's Market.

3.8 As an arms-length body of the Department for Communities (DfC), USEL is not in a position to enter into a lease agreement for this site. Therefore, the Council would be required to enter into a licence agreement with the landlord for a period of 12 months with the option of extension for a further 12 months (subject to legal services and estates review and final agreement on terms and conditions including liability for rates

payment). Additionally the Council would be required to provide £30,000 of funding against a total expected cost of £170,000 for the 12 month period, the remainder would be provided by USEL and income generated from the operation of the social enterprise café. Expected outputs from this pilot would include:

- A 12 week training programme for individuals with disabilities seeking to progress into employment within the hospitality industry with 40 participants to complete the training academy per annum
- Up to 20 trainees employed in the Café
- Up to 40 Belfast-based food production businesses supported to start or grow their business
- Re-opening of a currently vacant property in the city centre, operating as a café and providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain employment
- Provision of professional kitchen space for food-based start-up enterprises to test and produce food products with the potential to look at options for selling products produced through the commercial café and other outlets.

3.9 Now Group Catering and Hospitality Academy

The aim of this proposal is to support people with learning difficulties, disabilities and autism into sustainable employment through the delivery of a 12-week catering and hospitality academy. This academy will be distinct from the USEL academy in that it will focus on catering and food production skills development as an area that has been identified within the hospitality sector as having severe skills gaps. Training will consist of both theory and practical learning methodologies providing a holistic perspective of the vocation and develop well-trained, qualified participants ready for the exploration of employment opportunities. In addition to this, this pilot provides an opportunity to expand on the relationship that the NOW Group has developed with a number of employers in the hospitality sector through its wider services and products including the JAM card and food products, to create a self-sustaining social enterprise model to supporting people with disabilities into employment. The NOW Group respective JAM Card team have engaged with 83 employers across Belfast, with 68 becoming JAM Card friendly businesses/organisations. The NOW Group will utilise these connections to maximise placement and paid employment opportunities for the participants on the academy. Expected Outputs from this pilot would include:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

- **A 12-week training programme for individuals with a learning difficulty, disability and autism who have been out of employment.**
- **A minimum of 40 participants per annum**
- **A minimum of 20 full time employment outcomes per annum**
- **In work support for both participant and employer a minimum of 12 months**

3.10 Additional detail on target groups, expected outputs, timescales and costs has been circulated.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed projects outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2019/20 Economic Development budget. Budget breakdowns detailed below:

	Category	Total Cost per annum
Hospitality Training and Food Production Facility	Capital (Licence)	£30,000 p.a.
Catering and Hospitality Academy	Revenue	£35,000 p.a.
TOTAL		£65,000 p.a

3.12 Both elements of the project will be for an initial 12-month period with the option to extend subject to satisfactory contract performance.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

The projects referenced in this report have been informed by stakeholder engagement and statistical research. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity. No specific rural needs impact – engagement is open to all eligible Council residents and businesses.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**NI Affairs Committee Inquiry into
Tourism in Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of an inquiry by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee of the UK Government on tourism in Northern Ireland and to seek approval for the key elements of a Council response. This response will be subject to engagement with other partner organisations in order to ensure alignment and consistency in support of the Belfast position.

1.2 The official deadline for submissions is 18 April 2019. However, the NI Affairs Committee has agreed to an extension until early May 2019 to allow time for additional liaison with our partner organisations.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree that a full response is developed along the lines set out in section 3.3. below**
- **Consider any additions or amendments that they wish to see incorporated in the final Council response**
- **Agree that officers should continue to liaise with our strategic partners including Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, ICC Belfast and Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency, to ensure consistency in our responses and to put forward the best case for Belfast**
- **Agree that authority is delegated to the Director of Economic Development to submit the final version of the response within the timeframe set out by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee has recently launched an Inquiry examining the importance of tourism to the economy and society of Northern Ireland more widely and to investigate ways in which the industry could be improved or further supported. Specifically, the Inquiry has invited written submissions pertaining to:

- The economic and societal impact of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland
 - Transport links to Northern Ireland
 - The promotion of Northern Ireland as a destination.
- 3.2 Officers are liaising with our strategic partners (ICC Belfast, Visit Belfast and Tourism NI) who have specific expertise and information relating to the areas set out in the scope of the inquiry. While each of the partners is working on their own individual responses, Council officers are engaging with them all to ensure that the response from the Council is consistent with the key messages and draws out the specific challenges and opportunities for Belfast.
- 3.3 In terms of headline commentary, it is proposed that the Council response covers the following key points:

The economic and societal impact of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland

- The growth of tourism has been critical to Belfast's improved economic performance, particularly over the last two decades
- Belfast is the key regional driver for tourism in the region. The last Local Government District tourism statistics published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in 2017 indicated that Belfast generated 30% of all overnight tourism trips to Northern Ireland (1.5m trips) and tourism spend on overnight trips amounted to £328m, 35% of Northern Ireland tourism spend
- The city's contribution to the region's visitor economy increases to 44% when analysing spend from visitors originating from outside Northern Ireland
- Jobs supported in the tourism sector in Belfast are 18,600 which is 30% of all tourism jobs in Northern Ireland
- Overnight business trips account for 15% of bednights compared with 9% for NI as a whole
- Belfast City Region Deal partners welcome the recent Treasury investment in tourism as part of the wider programme of investment for the city region. The inclusion of tourism as a key growth sector represents an acknowledgement of the importance of this sector to the city (and region's) future economic growth. This investment will both enhance productivity in the sector and provide opportunities for new product development, which can have positive economic and social impacts on local communities.

Transport links to Northern Ireland

- **Belfast is directly served by two airports, George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport**
- **Unlike other major UK cities, Belfast is only accessible by either air or sea – with the majority of passengers coming by air. Consideration needs to be given to ensuring that these modes of travel are not subject to policy change which could have disproportionate cost implications – and thereby impact on usage levels**
- **Direct air route access is critical to the success of any destination and whilst Dublin Airport is an important access point onto the Island of Ireland with direct access from over 170 destinations, it will be important to further develop direct access into Northern Ireland’s airports**
- **The Council and Tourism NI have recently invested in a major conference and exhibition centre (ICC Belfast), at a cost of almost £30 million (drawing in EU match funding). The success of this investment is predicated on maintaining air route access to the city for national and international conference delegates**
- **Road and rail links in Belfast and the surrounding areas have been strengthened in recent years. This is important in helping tourists to access areas outside of Belfast if they wish. There are still gaps in the rail infrastructure to the two Belfast airports. This means that there is a disproportionate reliance on car travel to both airports.**
- **The introduction of the Glider service in Belfast helps visitors to move across the city in a way that they have not been able to do previously. The uptake by tourists has been significant and this is having a positive effect on enhancing the impact of tourism across the city and into communities**
- **The tourism and infrastructure investments in the Belfast City Region Deal will act as a catalyst for enhanced regional connectivity between Belfast and other key tourism destinations**
- **Belfast as a cruise destination has gone from strength to strength with recent commitment to investing in upgraded cruise facilities at Belfast Harbour.**

The promotion of Northern Ireland as a destination

- **The promotion of Belfast City and region is currently led by Visit Belfast, working in close collaboration with Tourism NI (for marketing in NI and RoI) and Tourism**

Ireland (for campaign activity beyond the island of Ireland)

- **The Council recognises and supports a collaborative, multi-agency approach to promoting the city and region**
- **The Council is in the process of developing a new cultural strategy. As part of that work, we have developed a new tourism narrative and will be working with our marketing partners to ensure that the unique and authentic Belfast narrative is carried as part of the wider partner campaigns and activities in the various markets**
- **Tourism growth figures from international visitors indicate that Tourism Ireland is having significant success in delivering new visitors to the island of Ireland. It is critical for all partners in the destinations to work together to ensure that the quality of the product is enhanced in order to attract those visitors and to ensure that they have a positive experience of their time in the destination. This underlines the need for collective action.**

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no specific costs associated with provision of this response.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee agreed that:

- a full response to the NI Affairs Committee Inquiry into Tourism in Northern Ireland be developed along the lines set out in section 3.3. of the report;
- officers should continue to liaise with our strategic partners, including Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, ICC Belfast and the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency, to ensure consistency in our responses and to put forward the best case for Belfast;
- authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Development to submit the final version of the response within the timeframe set out by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee; and
- reference be made in the response to the lack of investment in the International Airport.

**Update on the Development of the
Aquatics Strategy 2018 – 2030**

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is update Members' on completion of the final draft of 'An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast' and seek approval to move to a formal launch event as soon as is practicable.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note completion of the public consultation exercise;
- note completion of equality screening and the resulting 'screened out' decision;
- approve the final draft document 'An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast' and
- grant approval to prepare for a formal launch of the strategy as soon as is practicable

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The proposal to develop an Aquatics Strategy was prompted by the Active Belfast Ltd (ABL) board at its meeting on 9th June 2016. A further report was presented to the ABL board on 31 August 2016 outlining a proposed development approach and a broad scope works. Approval to proceed was granted and a working group consisting of representatives from ABL, Belfast City Council (BCC) and Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) was set up to deliver the project.

- 3.2 The Aquatics Strategy Working Group was made up of officers from BCC, staff from GLL and members of the ABL Board.**

- 3.3 The Working Group met on ten occasions between 6th October 2016 and 26 October 2017 with numerous development sessions between formal working group meetings.**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

- 3.4 Aquatics Strategy update reports were presented to the ABL board and subsequently to BCC via SP&R on the following dates:**

<u>ABL Board</u>	<u>SP&R Committee</u>
9 June 2016	24 June 2016
31 August 2016	23 September 2016
13 October 2016	21 October 2016
5 December 2016	16 December 2016
21 March 2017	21 April 2017
20 April 2017	19 May 2017
7 August 2017	18 August 2017
30 October 2017	24 November 2017
5 March 2018	23 March 2018
10 September 2018	21 September 2018

3.5 Pre-consultation

Pre consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken between 7 July and 10 August 2017.

- 3.6 The final Aquatics Strategy document (draft for consultation) was approved by the ABL board on 5th March 2018 and subsequently accepted by SP&R and full Council on 22nd June 2018 and 2 July 2018 respectively.**

3.7 Public consultation on the draft strategy

A twelve week period of public consultation on the draft strategy took place between 24 July and 12 October 2018. A copy of the draft strategy and a response questionnaire were available to download from the Council's website.

- 3.8 The public consultation exercise yielded 58 written responses of which 28 were on behalf of organisations. The content of the draft document was positively received. Most comments received were of an operational nature and have been noted for consideration when a post launch action plan is being developed. No amendments have been made to the draft strategic document.**

3.9 Equality Screening

Following review of the public consultation the draft strategy was subject to equality screening. Equality screening took place in March 2019 and resulted in the strategy being 'screened out'.

3.10 Next steps

The final draft document has been circulated. This is the final draft version agreed for public consultation which has remained unchanged following the consultation exercise.

3.11 Subject to Council sign off, a public launch will be scheduled as soon as practicable after the forthcoming Council elections. The intention is to launch the strategy in June to allow for the preparation of an implementation action plan during the summer months.

3.12 Having an agreed strategy and action plan in place by September 2019 will significantly support mobilisation and operational planning for the start of the 2019/20 aquatics season/term and will underpin programming principles for the Phase 1b of the Leisure Transformation Programme new build openings at Lisnasharragh, Brook and Andersonstown.

3.13 Communications & Public Relations

Subject to final approval, the Aquatics Strategy will be publicly launched in the Summer of 2019.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

Outside of the cost of a public launch of the strategy there are no financial or other resource implications.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The strategy is subject to equality screening. ‘Screened out’ on 5th April 2019.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Summer Community Diversionary
Festivals Programme**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 At the Council meeting in January 2019 it was agreed to allocate £500k to a summer diversionary and festival programme, this was in context of the Revenue Estimates & District Rate report agreed as part of the rate setting process. The programme was advertised as an open call and officers have completed the preliminary assessment process.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the detail of the preliminary assessments undertaken by officers and seek approval to award funding to those groups who have met the minimum standard required to receive funding.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Make a recommendation that successful projects are awarded funding, totalling the amounts outlined in Table 1. Any funding awarded is subject to further engagement with groups and analysis of projects and associated budgets in line with Council due diligence procedures;
- Work with any unsuccessful groups to support, where appropriate, aspects of their application that can be delivered through the Council led Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Process

Following approval by Council in January 2019 to deliver a £500,000 Summer Community Festivals Diversionary Programme (£250,000 for July Groups and £250,000 for August Groups), the following process has been followed;

- All applicants submitted an application form by an agreed date;
- Officers undertook due diligence exercise to ensure that only applications that are fully completed and meet the conditions of funding were considered for assessment;
- During the open application process, officers were available to advise groups on the necessary due diligence requirements that must be met to enable groups to be considered suitable for funding;
- Officers have undertaken a preliminary assessment of each application against the agreed criteria (see Appendix 1) and are seeking a recommendation from

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

**the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on
proposed successful applications.**

3.2 July Programme

Five applications for the July programme were received with a total funding requirement of £354,229, (this was reduced to £311,729 following a reduction in the amount requested by the The Hubb.

One of the applications, Consensus Restorative Justice did not meet the minimum quality standard to receive funding. It is proposed, that officers will work with this group to offer support in delivering a community festival in the local area in the lead up to the 11 July, through the Council led Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

Table 1 summarises the applications received for the July programme.

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
1	Twadell & Woodvale Residents Association (Woodvale Festival 2019)	Delivery of an extensive and varied series of events in Woodvale park and other local venues from 5 th – 11 th July. These will include a community activity programme and large scale musical events at Woodvale Park on 9, 10, & 11 July	100,000	78	84,386
2	The Hubb Community Resource Centre (Community Shorefest)	Deliver of a number of diversionary and cultural workshops from 1 June, which will include music and community festival events in the local area in the lead up to and on 11 July	44,000 (original request £86,500)	57	44,000

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
3	Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)	Delivery of a coordinated programme of cultural, family and diversionary events across South Belfast from June until 11 July. This project is being delivered with community partners who are based across south Belfast and work with local communities to address issues at bonfires.	37,229	48	37,229
4	EastSide partnership (Eastival)	Delivery of cultural, arts and diversionary workshops and programmes during June and July. The project will also deliver festival and music events at C.S. Lewis Square in the week leading up to 11 July.	100,000	41	84,386
5	Consensus Restorative Justice	Delivery of workshops with bonfire builders, culminating in a community festival and fun day on the 11 July.	30,500	18	0
Total			311,729		250,000

Following initial assessment of applications, officers are proposing the following funding for projects who met the minimum quality standard;

1. **Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)** – This was the only application for South Belfast, therefore due to the disproportionate amount requested, £37,229, it is proposed that they receive the full amount;

2. **The Hubb Community Resource Centre** – Initially, as part of their submission a major headline music festival was proposed to be held on the 31 May to 2 June, the total requested was £86,500. This has been amended to include a community festival 10 to 12 July, with a request for £44,000 in total. As part of their proposal a number of workshops and diversionary activities will also be held in the lead up to the 11 July. It is proposed that they receive £44,000.

3. **East Side Partnership and Twadell & Woodvale Residents Association** – Both applications requested £100,000, it is proposed that, if members agree to 1 and 2 the remaining funding available for July (£168,771) is allocated on a pro rata basis, £84,386 for each project.

3.3 August Programme

Three applications were received for the August programme with a total funding request amounting to £250,000. As can be seen from Table 2 below all three applications have been assessed to meet the minimum funding threshold. Officers are proposing that all three applications are allocated the funding requested.

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
1.	Feile (Feile August Diversionary Dance Night)	Delivery of a free Dance music event as part of Feile on the 8 August. It is proposed that this event will be developed in partnership with local community groups across Belfast to provide an alternative event for young people who may otherwise engage in activities	100,000	78	100,000

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
		associated with 8 August bonfires.			
2.	Feile (South & East Summer Diversionary Intervention Programme)	Delivery of outreach and diversionary work during the summer, in the lead up to the 8 August. This project will also run a number of festival and community events across South and East Belfast in the lead up to the 8 August.	50,000	55	50,000
3.	Feile (North Belfast Summer Diversionary Intervention Programme)	Delivery of a number of diversionary outreach activities and community and sporting events in the lead up to the 8 August. This project will also deliver music festivals and community events in a number of locations in North Belfast.	100,000	52	100,000
Total			250,000		250,000

3.4 Future Process

Subject to council approval, an appointed officer will work with each successful applicant to support projects in terms of ensuring all relevant policies and procedures are followed including monitoring and evaluation procedures. This will include further analysis of the detail of the projects and associated budgets and may result in some changes to proposed programmes of works and if required a reduction in

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

funds awarded to ensure relevant council policies and procedures are followed.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

Budget is included within this year's revenue estimates.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

This programme is being included as part of an equality screening process for our overall approach to Bonfires."

After discussion, it was

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

That the scoring criteria for the award of funding be set at a level of sixty points or higher and only those applications achieving that score be considered for the funding and accordingly the funding would be awarded to Twadell and Woodvale Residents' Association and the Feile (Feile August Diversionary Dance Night).

On a vote by show of hands, two members voted for the proposal and twelve against and it was declared lost.

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the proposed funding awards.

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

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Area Working Update

The Committee:

Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes

- approved and adopted the minutes of meetings of the North Belfast AWG on 19th March 2019 and the South Belfast AWG on 25th March 2019.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Project Updates

- agreed that the following project receive funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme: 15,000 for the New Lodge Arts Group Breakthrough project; and
- agreed the proposed movements of the BIF and LIF projects from North and South as set out below:

LIF Programme - LORAG – John Murray Lock House project (LIF2-13 - £40,000) had been scored and met the minimum threshold and agrees that this project is progressed to Due Diligence stage.

BIF Programme

Ref	Project	Current Stage	Proposed Stage
BIF33	Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC – maximum allocation of £250,000	Stage 2- Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3- Committed
BIF35	Knockbreda Parish Church Hall – maximum allocation of £250,000	Stage 2- Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3- Committed
BIF20	Malgrove – maximum allocation of £500,000	Stage 1 – Emerging	Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender;
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(b) - exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendation of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in paragraph 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 2;
- noted that the Council had an existing contract with Land and Property Services (LPS) for the provision of detailed property surveys and

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

agreed to the LPS request that this contract be extended for another year; and

- noted the update on the City Revitalisation Programme:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Microsoft SQL Server	Ronan Cregan	Up to 3 years
Twilight Market (T1957)	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Technical Procurement Support	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Employment Academies – procurement framework	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
GCSE Revision Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
City Youth Support Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
Enterprise Pathway	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
Employer Engagement	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
City Deal: technical expertise	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Employment Academy - Leisure	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Graduate Enterprise Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Social Economy Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Accessibility Research	Alistair Reid	1 year
Service Evaluation	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Local Tourism – capacity building programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Event Management and Support Services for MIPIM 2021 (T1956)	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Employee Counselling Service (T1953)	John Tully	Up to 3 years

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Occupational Health Physician Services (T1954)	John Tully	Up to 3 years
Tender for treatment and recycling of carpets and mattresses (T1938)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Tender for the provision of Asset Management (T1916)	Ronan Cregan	Up to 7 years
Printing and Promotional Publications	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Line marking products and equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Removal of litter and weeds from open spaces including water features	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Supply and delivery of resale goods for Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Supply and delivery of trees	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Supply and delivery of Lucerne and Browse	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Provision of services for kerbside recyclable materials	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Receipt, stock control and delivery of waste containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Collection and reuse/recycling of plasterboard	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Removal, transportation and emptying of skips and hook lift containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Supply and delivery of bedding plants	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Supply and installation of summer plants and containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Corporate Health & Safety Management System	Ronan Cregan	Up to 7 years

Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Housing Benefits software and support (NIHE Managed Service Contract) (T1959)	Northgate	£230,000
Mapping Agreement LPS	LPS Ordnance Survey	£75,000
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	£52,000
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	£38,000
Clockwise Replacement	Softworks	£50,000
E-Bravo	Bravo Solutions	£30,000
Remote site connectivity – BT complete	BT	£35,000
Event Management and Support Services for MIPIM 2020	Lanyon Communications	£90,000
City Revitalisation Programme Marketing & Communication (approved in principle see 3.8)	TBC	£300,000

Equality and Good Relations

Draft Disability Action Plan 2019-2022

The Committee was reminded that, under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (“The Act”), (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) public authorities, when carrying out their functions must have due regard to the need to:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

It was reported that the Council's Disability Action Plan had expired in March, 2018. However, it had been arranged that a one year holding Action Plan from April 2018 – March 2019 would be put in place to allow time to develop the draft three year plan. The Equality Commission had advised that The Council would be resubmitting a DDO Disability Action Plan in 2019 which would cover a three year period.

The three year Plan items were now being presented as a draft document to proceed through the committee cycle and would also to go out for public consultation as required.

The Committee approved:

- the Disability Action Plan 2019-2022; and
- the document for consultation for a twelve week period, from 15th April, 2019 to 8th July, 2019.

**Regional event to Mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2020
and the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to to partner with the Northern Ireland Executive to host the Northern Ireland Regional Event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and to run a programme of events to supplement the main commemoration ceremony.

The Committee was reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day was the international day of remembrance for all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The date, 27th January, marked the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camps. The purpose of the commemoration was to honour survivors and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that the Good Relations Unit had been invited to partner with the Executive Office to run a regional event in the City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. In addition a programme of events would be organised to engage schools and a wider society in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The costs for those events were estimated at £3,000 and would be covered through the existing Good Relations budget.

The Committee agreed that the Council partner with the Executive to host the regional event in the City Hall, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, and to run a programme of events to supplement the main commemoration ceremony.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

Operational Issues

**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 for the provision of hospitality which had been received up to 29th March, 2019:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Now Group	24 May 2019	Now Graduation Ceremony to celebration the work of trainees supported by the Now Group and completion of the training programme. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality as annual event not one off	Approve No charge No hospitality
Allstate Northern Ireland	4 July 2019	20th Anniversary Gala Dinner – Celebration evening to recognize 20 years of All State operating in Belfast. Format of the evening is drinks reception, dinner and speeches. Numbers attending - 80	C	Charge £300	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	6 October 2019	A Time to Remember – Children’s Services of Remembrance for bereaved parents– Remembrance service for bereaved relatives and friends of children who have died at Royal Belfast Hospital for sick Children. Numbers attending – 350	C	No <i>£300 waived given nature of the event</i>	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
South Belfast Youth Invitational Football League	2 November 2019	Proudly celebrating 50 years of #lettingthemplay – Dinner event to celebrate 50 year anniversary of South Belfast Youth League, the biggest in NI with 600+ teams; aged 10 – 19 years; competing at weekends.	C	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers attending – 350				
Polish Educational and Cultural Association	17 November 2019	Polish Independence Day 2019 – Celebration event to promote diversity and reflect on positive contribution of Polish community. Numbers attending - 160	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
2020 EVENTS						
Association for Citizenship Teaching	January/ February 2020	Five Nations Network 20th Annual Conference Reception and Dinner – Opening reception with speeches, dinner and dancing as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Queens University Belfast. Numbers attending – 85	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
2021 EVENTS						
British Geriatrics Society	29 April 2021	Welcome Reception for the BGS Spring meeting 2021 Conference Dinner – reception & dinner for international delegates as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 100	A & B	No <i>(£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No charge Wine Reception

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Request re: USAF Memorial Commemoration

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 update members of a request from the Oldpark/Cavehill Royal British Legion Branch to lead on an event on 1st June 2019 at the USAF Memorial at Belfast Zoo. The event is being held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the air crash involving an American B-17 crew in which all 10 members lost their lives.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked consider the request in the following context:

- **The event on 1st June 2019 at the USAF memorial to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the air crash on Cavehill should be coordinated by Council.**
- **The level of support which Council can contribute bearing in mind there has been no budget set aside for this type of event and the SP&R Committee has previously agreed not to consider requests for ad hoc funding until the end of June 2019.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

On June 1st 1944, only five days before D Day B-17 Flying Fortress no 42-97862 had flown from the US via Reykjavik and was preparing to land at Nutts Corner and was due to fly onward to Anglesey in Wales in preparation for deployment in the Allied war effort.

3.2 The plane never managed to reach its destination due to fog shrouding Cavehill, obscuring its course with such fatal and tragic consequences for the aircrew on board, their comrades and their families.

3.3 A memorial at Belfast Zoo was unveiled by the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Wallace Browne on Thursday June 1st 2006. The service included a colour guard from US Military, a service conducted by Very Reverend Dr. Houston McKelvey, an address by the US Consul General and by an

assistant air attaché at the US Embassy in London, Taps and a flypast by a WW2 aircraft.

- 3.4 Since the unveiling and dedication of the memorial, the Oldpark/Cavehill RBL branch have organised and held regular services and a wreath laying at the memorial on June 1st and the Friday preceding Remembrance Sunday of each year.
- 3.5 The Secretary of the Oldpark/Cavehill branch has written to Council to advise that he had recently met with Dawn and Alfie Montgomery. Alfie Montgomery was the person who found the wedding ring that belonged to the pilot. The ring was eventually returned to the deceased pilot's family and this story was subsequently made famous by Richard Attenborough in the film 'Closing the Ring.'
- 3.6 Permission has been granted under delegated authority for the regular service to take place on 1st June 2019, with arrival at 9.15am, the service taking place at 9.30am and finishing prior to the Zoo opening at 10am. Those taking part usually drive to the memorial given its location within the Zoo.
- 3.7 The organisers have been in touch with Alison Fleming from UTV who has agreed to cover the story and at the time of writing this report 12 family members of the crew are confirmed to attend.
- 3.8 In the meantime, the secretary of the RBL branch has written to advise the following:
 - That the authorisation to access the memorial before the Zoo opens on June 1st is unrealistic from a number of points not least of all the fact this is five days before the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings.
 - The group have only been given from 9.15am until 10am before the Zoo opens. They wish to have the service at 10.30am which was the time that the plane crashed. They did ask if there was a possibility the Zoo could be closed for the duration of the service.
 - They have made a request for a civic dignitary to participate.
 - There are a number of relatives of the aircrew who have indicated their intention to travel to Belfast to participate in any commemoration.
 - There will be a US Consular presence on the day.

- They have spoken informally with a colleague at the MOD Press Office at Thiepval who has indicated that there would be an interest in attending, possibly a representative(s) of the RAF. (The MOD have indicated that commemorations for D-Day on 6th June will take place in Normandy and there are no plans for any other events).
 - There will be a number of representatives from other local RBL branches and from RBL NIDC.
 - Given where the memorial is situated, they would also need assistance with logistics to ensure all guests could be transported to and from the memorial.
- 3.9 Furthermore, Council has been advised that Alfie Montgomery is currently in the final stages of completing a book which relates to his childhood experiences up to and beyond the finding of the ring. He is hoping to launch at Belfast Castle in the lead up to the commemorations. Members are asked to note that he has provided a permanent display of artefacts and background information about the tragedy at Belfast Castle.
- 3.10 The RBL has also highlighted that the Lisnabreeney Memorial Garden (the site of the original USA cemetery, where the aircrew were buried prior to final repatriation to the US in the late 1940s is now in the ownership of BCC and there is certainly an opportunity to highlight this unique event for the City.
- 3.11 Officers have been advised that the number of people attending is anticipated to be around 50.
- 3.12 Request for Support from Council
- Access to and from the grounds of the zoo;
 - Transport to and from the memorial;
 - Erection of a 'temporary' flagstaff to facilitate the flying of a US Flag at the memorial;
 - Possible reception either at the zoo or at Belfast Castle for guests;
 - Provision of US military vehicle from WW2 era;
 - Provision of personnel in period uniform;
 - Provision of bugler;
 - Provision of flypast by 'Sally B';;
 - Provision of appropriate security arrangements and discussions with appropriate agencies.

- 3.13 The group are requesting that the event be coordinated by Council with Officer support required to deliver the event and providing liaison among the different parties involved. A resource/s would need to be identified for this.
- 3.14 In relation to the flypast, costs have been estimated at £15,000. Officers have been advised that there is a small window of opportunity for this as the aircraft will be required for other D Day events and flight plans need to be submitted as soon as possible.
- 3.15 Members may wish to note that the group could potentially be signposted to the NI War Memorial Museum who may be able to assist in accessing the US Military vehicle or personnel in period uniform. However, the feasibility of placing vehicles at the site would have to be explored with the Zoo.

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

The group is requesting that this be a Council led event with Officer support required to deliver the event and providing liaison among the different parties involved which would require significant input and is not within current workplans.

There is no budget set aside for this event in current Council budgets and the SP&R Committee has previously agreed not to consider requests for ad hoc funding until the end of June 2019.

In relation to financial costs, the flypast would be in the region of £15,000 and a tea/coffee and scone reception at Belfast Castle could be in the region of £360 based on 50 people attending. It is difficult to put a cost on transport at this stage, as previously organisers have used their own cars to access the memorial but increased numbers could present an issue for parking, health and safety etc.

However, should the event affect public access to the Zoo, this could have a financial impact on the service and would require timely communication.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The commemoration event led by Oldpark/Cavehill RBL has been taking place since 2006 and there have been no good relations or equality implications identified with the customary event.”

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 12th April, 2019**

The Committee agreed to the request in the following context:

1. The event on 1st June 2019 at the USAF memorial commemorating the 75th anniversary of the air crash on Cavehill should be coordinated by the Council; and
2. Noted that the flypast had been withdrawn from the programme and agreed to the level of support of up to £1500.

Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 8th April.

ABF The Soldiers' Charity D-Day Commemoration Concert

The Committee was advised that a letter had been received asking the Council to nominate Members to attend the D-Day Commemoration Concert being held in the Waterfront Hall on 8th June, 2019. The Committee was reminded that it had previously approved the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson plus one Member from the six main parties on the Council at events organised by the ABF Charity as follows:

1. The Centenary of the Battle of the Somme Event on 7th May, 2016;
2. The Ulster at War Concert on 24th March, 2018; and
3. The Ladies' Lunch Event on 11th September, 2018.

It was pointed out that the event would take place on 8th June, which was after the local elections on 2nd May. It would not therefore be possible to nominate Members to attend until after the elections. However, if the Committee was minded it could reserve places for the incoming Chairperson and the incoming Deputy Chairperson of the Committee who would be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting on 21st May and for a representative of each of the main Parties on the Council. The names of the nominees could then be given after the elections.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Honorary Council in Belfast for Iceland

The Committee approved the acceptance of an invitation by the Chief Executive to become the Honorary Council in Belfast for Iceland.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Baker, Black, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Magee, Magennis, McReynolds and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Copeland and McCoubrey and Councillors McAteer, Newton and O'Neill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of agenda item 5 (a), Community Development Grants Update, in that she was employed by Rose Street Development Community Association that had applied for grants under the community developments grants programme, and she removed herself from the room while the matter was under consideration.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the report associated with the following item 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 on the following item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Request for the Use of Boucher Road

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the use of the Boucher Road Playing fields for a number of events over the summer period.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

The Committee granted approval for the following events in Boucher Road Playing Fields:

- a request from AVA festival for the use and hire of the facilities for a two day music festival from 24th May – 7th June 2019; and
- Aiken Promotion's application for the use and hire of the facilities for a two day music festival from late May to early June 2020, with the setup commencing early May 2020 and take down by late June 2020.

Permission for each event was granted subject to the following terms and conditions:

- completion of an appropriate Event Management Plan;
- all operational issues being resolved to the Council's satisfaction;
- all statutory requirements being met which included Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, licensing responsibilities;
- consultation taking place with adjoining public bodies and local communities;
- completion of an appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
- the use of the site on these dates would be subject to licence, which was the responsibility of the Council's Licensing Committee;
- ensuring that all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence were met;
- an appropriate fee for use of Boucher Playing Fields being negotiated which would take into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area and the potential wider benefit to the city economy; and
- a Social Clause being applied.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Minutes of Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group

The Committee was advised that at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group, held on 19th March, the following key items had been considered:

- a presentation from the Department of Health in respect of the Death Certification process in Northern Ireland;
- update in respect of Future Burial Provision; and
- update on the Plot Z1 City Cemetery.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 19th March 2019.

Draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy

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 update Members on the progress of the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) and to note that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 22 March 2019 agreed to consult on the draft strategy.

1.2 The People and Communities Committee agreed the proposed approach to the development of the BOSS at its meeting in October 2016 and since then Belfast City Council appointed external consultants AECOM to support this work. The draft BOSS is a city level strategy and is the product of a collaborative working relationship with officers from the planning department and numerous engagement sessions with a range of internal and external partners and stakeholders at each stage of the strategy development process.

1.3 The BOSS and the audit of open spaces will be important for planning purposes and will help inform the Local Development Plan (LDP), deliver the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda, align to the Green and Blue Infrastructure plan (GBIP), inform area working and future area/ neighbourhood based plans and approaches and secure development contributions for investment in open spaces.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- the draft BOSS attached to this report;
- the publication of the draft BOSS for a period of 12 weeks public consultation from May – July 2019;
- the final draft of the Strategy will be provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in September 2019.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) is an update of the previous Open Spaces Strategy – ‘Your City, Your Space’ completed in 2005, which led to many improvements and successes; through this strategy we:

- invested £150m in our open spaces network;
- achieved 19 Green Flag Awards;
- attracted funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and European streams;
- increased numbers and participation levels at local events and outreach programmes;
- constructed and developed the Connswater Community Greenway;
- increased the number of friend's groups within our open spaces; and
- delivered a range of physical improvements across our open spaces network in partnership with the statutory, community and voluntary sector.

3.2 Belfast City Council appointed AECOM to help prepare a new BOSS for the Council Area. The new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) requires an updated open spaces strategy as part of its evidence base. The draft BOSS has evolved as a strategic document pitched at a city level. To help us produce this strategy we established a Strategy Advisory Group which was made up of external partners and stakeholders (statutory, community and voluntary organisations). We also set up an internal Strategy Oversight Steering group made up of officers from across the council to provide oversight and guidance. These groups created a long-term vision for the future of Belfast's open spaces in line with the aspirations of the Belfast Agenda and the LDP. Our vision, is that by 2035.

Belfast will have a well-connected network of high-quality open spaces recognised for the value and benefits they provide to everyone who lives in, works in and visits our city.

3.3 In 2018, we carried out an open space audit which assessed open space provision, park and play area accessibility and future actions based on the city's growth strategy. Open spaces were mapped and classified across the city, which will also be used in the future to help us focus on areas of under provision or poor accessibility at a local/ neighbourhood level.

3.4 To make sure that existing and new open spaces are fit for the future, we established a suite of seven guiding strategic principles (SP), providing the roadmap and identifying opportunities for achieving the vision. Belfast's open spaces will:

- SP1: Provide welcoming shared spaces
- SP2: Improve connectivity
- SP3: Improve health and well-being
- SP4: Support place-making and enhance the built environment

- **SP5: Increase resilience to climate change**
- **SP6: Protect and enhance the natural environment**
- **SP7: Be celebrated and support learning**

3.5 We have identified a range of opportunities and headline actions that are currently underway or planned for our open space network across the city, over the next five years, which are aligned to the seven strategic principles above. The delivery of the headline actions will rely on existing budgets or sourcing external and partner funding over the life of the strategy. To help realise our vision, strategic principles and opportunities and deliver the headline actions, we will continue to work closely with our partners and stakeholders. We will regularly review progress of the delivery plan, complete a full review of the strategy in 2024 and agree the next phase of actions.

3.6 The current draft of the strategy is available on Modern.gov. It is intended to use this as the basis for public consultation from May to July 2019. Any comments received during the public consultation period will be taken into account in finalising the BOSS and during this time officers are happy to make themselves available to meet with members if required.

3.7 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The delivery of the BOSS will rely on existing budget, working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders and sourcing external/ partner funding over the life of the strategy.

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

The review of the BOSS identifies positive minor equality and good relations impacts and mitigating actions for some S75 groups. There are no rural needs implications arising directly from this report.”

The Committee noted the update provided.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

Playground Improvement Programme 2019-2020

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 update Members on the successful 2018/19 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocation budget of £580,000 Under the Capital Programme for financial year 2019/20.**

Table 1
1.Ormeau Park Lower
2.McClure Street
3.Blackmountian
4.Geeragh (Finaghy Community centre)

3.0 Main report

3.1 Playground Refurbishment Programme

Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme continues to make a significant and positive impact to the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility, providing more inclusive equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works.

3.2 With continued investment over the last seven years, the Council is achieving the desired improvements at each of its sites. The Council's newest refurbished playground facilities below which are nearing completion are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit; moving their quality scores to the desired higher standard.

- 1. Duncairn – part funded by the Department for Communities**
- 2. Glenbank – part funded by the Department for Communities**
- 3. Barnett's Demesne**
- 4. Fullerton**
- 5. Orangefield – part funded by the Department for Communities**

3.3 Members are asked to note that the Hammer Playground was also extensively refurbished in 2018/19. The refurbishment was funded from monies received from the transfer of land from NIHE at Tudor Place. DFC also match funded the refurbishment.

3.4 Members are asked to note that Play Services Ireland Ltd undertook independent playground inspections on behalf of the Council. The 'quality score' allocated for each playground

is based on compliance with the BSEN European safety standards - BS EN 1176 & BS EN 1177.

3.5 The independent playground inspection report identifies and prioritises repairs to existing playground equipment. The Council's Facilities Management and Playground Inspectors continue to undertake these repairs. Each playground is individually categorised, giving a combined 'quality score'. Geeragh playground for example was allocated an overall quality score of 5.

3.6 Quality scores:

Score 9 – 10 Excellent
Score 8 – 9 Very Good
Score 7 – 8 Good
Score 6 – 7 Fairly Good
Score 5 – 6 Sufficient
Score 4 – 5 Fair
Score 3 – 4 Insufficient
Score 2 – 3 Poor
Score 1 – 2 Very Poor
Score 0 – 1 Extremely Poor

3.7 Following the independent inspection assessments of all 101 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year's Playground Improvement Programme, which has an allocation budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.

3.8 The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest quality scores. Because of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from sufficient/fair to the higher classification of 'Excellent' – quality score 9 – 10 when reinspected.

3.9 Members are asked to note that the Twinbrook/Brook Activity playground will be rebuilt and moved to a new location close to the existing site as part of the Leisure Transformation programme.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The proposed playground refurbishment works will be funded through the Capital Programme and a budget of £580,000 has been allocated to this. Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development unit will continue to deliver the Playground Improvement Programme. As in previous years, the Community Park Managers and Outreach officers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to members of the local communities.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

A Member raised a query in respect of the Grosvenor Playground and the Director of Neighbourhood Services undertook to investigate the matter and to update him directly.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out under section 2.1.

LORAG – Transfer of Land

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) was a community development organisation that had been founded in 1987. It currently operated the Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre on a 25 year lease and delivered services in line with an Independently Managed Centre model. The Council had granted a lease in 2009 to support LORAG’s successful application for funding. In addition, as a result of the funding, an additional 997 square foot of space had been built to facilitate the delivery of programmes and activities from the location, which included a dance studio, fitness suite, changing rooms, reception area and a 3G pitch.

The Committee was advised that in 2017 LORAG had purchased the John Murray lock house, a detached residence within 100 metres of the existing Shaftesbury Recreation Centre, with a view to creating a community living hub. The overall project site comprised of the John Murray lock house, existing Belfast City Council owned green space, a site owned by NI Water, a pedestrian walkway/tow-path owned by the Department for Communities (DfC), the former McConnell Weir and associated scheduled monument structures, which were also owned by the DfC.

A delegation from LORAG had outlined the organisation’s plans for the development of the John Murray lock house on the Lagan Walkway at a meeting of the South Area Working Group held on 22nd January, 2018. LORAG had subsequently written to the Council formally seeking the transfer of the Council owned green space to assist with the progression of the project.

The Committee:

- agreed ‘in principle’ to transfer a piece of land between the Lock House and the former NI Water Pumping Station to LORAG to assist it in progressing the development of the Lock House as a community facility; and
- noted that the transfer was subject to officers engaging with LORAG and a report being submitted to a future meeting that would detail the estates related aspects of the transfer.

Wilmont House

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Committee that the Council held Wilmont House and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park on title that required the Council to use the premises for the greatest good of the citizens of Belfast.

She provided the Members with a brief background to the Grade 1 listed building which had considerable architectural and historical significance. Unfortunately, the building was now in a very poor state of repair internally and it was unsafe to enter. The Council had been contacted by a number of parties who were keen to explore the potential of refurbishing the building.

The Director advised that, in order to ensure that any potential development opportunity was exposed to the market, and to assist the Council in achieving the best terms, it was proposed that the marketing of the property would commence by way of an Expression of Interest process.

The Committee granted permission to advertise for Expressions of Interest for the physical restoration and regeneration of Wilmont House, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Belfast, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and terms being agreed by the Estates Manager and the City Solicitor.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Community Development Grants 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 update Committee on the proposed approach to community development grant funded programmes for 2020/21 as the grants review will not be fully implemented to meet the required timescales.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the contents of the report**
- **Agree the proposed approach for 2020/21**
- **Commission further work to review ways of working, Central Grants Unit role and location, governance structures and evaluation frameworks.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Recently consultants have been commissioned to carry out a strategic review of the Council’s grant programmes that:

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

- **critically appraises the underpinning rationale, strategic fit and operational design of current programmes (both individually and as a whole); and,**
 - **makes recommendations on the 'suite' of programmes that should be offered in the future and how these programmes should be operated.**
- 3.2 The objective is to ensure that the investment in grants can support the delivery of priority objectives set out in the Belfast Agenda. This is reflected in the Design Principles. A consultation exercise with relevant internal and external stakeholders is in progress and an internal officers working group has been established.**
- 3.3 The early activities to help improve the programme in the short term are underway such as:**
- **ensure all grants streams are assessed by the Central Grants unit (CGU) and are included in the Grant Management System to ensure consistency;**
 - **improve administration processes including formalising the principle of proportionality.**
- 3.4 Work is still to commence in the coming months on the following:**
- **Communicate the outcomes based approach – education and raise awareness.**
- 3.5 Members will also be aware that we have recently commissioned a consultant to begin work on the review of our community provision. It will be important that as this work progresses, we align any revised grant scheme with any proposed new approach.**
- 3.6 Transitioning of Changes: The internal officers working group reconvened in February to discuss the interim arrangements required for 2020/21 to allow time for promotion, application and assessment processes, and reporting to Committee.**
- 3.7 Development work is under way on a new Cultural Strategy and a draft has been presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in March 2019. Subject to ratification, detailed implementation and funding plans will be brought to Committee in September 2019, with a view to be operational from April 2020.**
- 3.8 The People and Communities Committee on 4th December agreed to extend the existing contracts on the Community Development Grant Programme subject to the level of DfC funding being confirmed for 2019/20. However to facilitate the transitioning period from then to the end of March 2021,**

an open call on large grants will need to start mid 2019 (as per the draft timetable).

3.9 Members are advised that the level of funding commitment from the DfC under the Community Support Programme for the 2020 /2021 financial year was unknown at the time of writing the report. Members are advised that as a result the above approach will be opened on an 'at risk' basis and may be subject to re-alignment with any changes/amendments to the Departments approach to Community Support. Officers will continue to work with our colleagues at the Department.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

The Council's expenditure on Grants in 2017/18 was £5.7m with some of the funding coming from external partners such as Sport NI and DfC. Having a more outcomes focused approach to grants will help ensure that we get the maximum impact from this expenditure and meet the Belfast Agenda outcomes.

3.11 Equality / Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications

The consultation and engagement process referred to above will allow for consideration of any equality, good relations or rural needs implications."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Cavehill Adventurous Playground

The Committee considered a report which, as previously requested, considered the potential revenue impact of removing the entrance fee for the Adventurous Playground at Cavehill. The Committee noted the budgeted expenditure and the income that had been included in the 2019/2020 estimates as well as information pertaining to visitor numbers for the period April 2017 – February 2019.

The Committee was reminded that it had previously sought further information in respect of the following two options and also options as to where the loss of income associated with the two options could be found:

1. Option 3 – to reduce the entrance cost to £1.00 (budget to be found £13,500); and
2. Option 4 – to remove the entrance cost (budget to be found £22,500).

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that, in order to limit the impact of income reduction on the agreed 2019/2020 budgets, it was suggested that, should the Committee choose to proceed with either of these options, any potential loss would be met from a reduction of budget from the supplies and services in the Parks Area North budget which covered the following areas:

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

Parks	Playing Fields
Cavehill County	Ballysillan
Glenbank	Clarendon
Ligoniel	Cliftonville
Marrowbone	Grove
Waterworks	Mallusk
Woodvale	Miscellaneous open spaces

The Committee was advised that the current budget of £170,000 covered expenditure on equipment/tools, uniforms, operating materials hire and contracted services.

Following a query from a Member, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the current staffing complement would be maintained.

The Committee agreed:

- to remove the entrance fee for the Adventurous Playground at Belfast Castle; and
- that the budgeted net loss of £22.5k would be met from a reduction of budget from supplies and services in the Parks Area North budget.

Operational Issues

Park Run City Wide

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided the Members with an update in respect of the progress and success of Parkrun.

She reminded the Members that the Parkrun had started in Belfast in 2010 with the introduction of the parkrun at the Waterworks. Belfast Parks currently hosted parkrun events at the following venues: Falls, Musgrave, Orangefield, Ormeau and Victoria Park. Events were also located at the following other Belfast Park venues: Colin Glen Forest Park, Queens Sports Complex, Stranmillis University College and Stormont Estate. The events consisted of a Saturday 5km or Sunday junior 2K timed walk, jog or run which was open to all ages and free of charge. The event had grown in success and participation figures now exceed 1500 walkers/runners weekly.

The Director advised that a number of requests had been made to the Council, via the various parkrun event organisers, which sought free use of community facilities within parks and also the Council's assistance to ensure the effective delivery of the events. The Parkrun was a free event run entirely by volunteers, therefore, the request was for free use of facilities.

The Director reported that Council officers had been working with Parkrun organisers and volunteers and had identified a number of key areas for improvement. The staff were keen to work in partnership with the various parkrun organisers to support the successful delivery of the events.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

The Committee was advised that currently more than 700 GP practices across the UK, including six in Belfast, had registered to become Parkrun practices, meaning that they partnered with their local Parkrun event to signpost patients and staff to take part in Parkrun to help treat a host of health conditions and improve physical and mental health. The Parkrun events were therefore helping to contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda by supporting the outcome that 'Everyone in Belfast will experience good health and wellbeing'.

Further to a query from a Member, the Director undertook to investigate whether it was the intention of some of the parkrun organisers to start charging a membership fee.

The Committee:

- authorised free use of the parks facilities until such time as the event organisers might be able to secure funding to contribute to facility hire;
- agreed that Council officers would work with each of the event organisers to provide support and to draft a capacity building programme to address the need; and
- requested that the Director of Neighbourhood Services investigate whether the Park Run Organisers intended to commence a membership scheme.

Boxing Strategy Quarterly Update

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to provide £200,000 in funding to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan which supported the Belfast Boxing Strategy and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the agreement up to the end of quarter 3.

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group had met quarterly. The Steering Group was chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and attended by Council officers, IABA officers and officials and Co. Antrim officials.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed a total of 37 Indicators with the IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. The Director reported that the IABA had been compliant with all the reporting matters.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report regarding the IABA.

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Council Partnership

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek permission for the council to sign up as a Partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- agree for the council to sign up as a Partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Council is already undertaking significant work to support and protect our local pollinators in particular through the sensitive management of biodiversity rich sites. Agreeing to become a Plan Partner will recognise and promote our existing work and commitment.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that Council endorsed the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in September 2015 and was listed in the document as supporting the final Plan.

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 was developed by stakeholders from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is a shared plan of action supported by more than 90 governmental and non-governmental organisations. The Plan aims to take steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels.

The plan has five objectives:

- Pollinator friendly habitat - To take action on farmland, public land & private land, to create a joined-up network of diverse and flower-rich habitats to support pollinators.
- Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them - To increase awareness of the importance of pollinators and the resources they need to survive.
- Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers & growers - To achieve healthy, sustainable populations of managed pollinators that can play a full role in delivering pollination service.
- Expanding our knowledge on pollinators and pollination service - To address gaps in knowledge through research and to develop an evidence base on the best and most cost-effective ways to protect pollinators.
- Collecting evidence to track change and measure success - To build up knowledge on where pollinators occur and how they are changing, including in response to management actions.

3.2 Council has now been invited to become a more formal Plan Partner.

3.3 Should Council decide to become a Plan Partner the Council would be agreeing:

1. That the Council supports the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in policies, plans, and management decisions where possible.
2. To consider the evidence-based actions in the guideline document *Councils: Actions to help Pollinators*, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions, many of which are low cost or cost-neutral.
3. To update the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year, when contacted, to help this promote our work.

3.4 The proposed actions align with our existing biodiversity work programme and not least our own pollinator project, Bee-licious. The Council is already contributing to the objectives of the Plan through our land management, for example meadow management at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and key elements of the City Cemetery project which focus on pollinators. The loss of natural and semi-natural habitats has been a key driver in pollinator declines and BCC owns and manages a number of significant sites including Cave Hill, Barnetts Demesne and Lagan Meadows.

3.5 The Biodiversity Officer was involved in the development of the guidance document for Councils and is confident the Council is well placed to demonstrate significant work in supporting pollinators. The guidance document can be found at: <http://www.pollinators.ie/councils/>

3.6 Should the Council agree to become a Plan Partner it will be acknowledged as a Partner on the website and in the annual report.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications other than Officer time.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

The Committee granted permission for the Council to sign up as a Partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

**CIWM National Conference – 12th to 13th June 2019
And Consultation Responses for Packaging Waste**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) is holding its annual, national conference in June in London again this year.

1.2 In light of the Council’s ongoing work implementing the Waste Framework, developing its approach to the Circular Economy (Resourceful Belfast), the present national consultations on packaging waste, the Blue Planet effect, changes to the international marketplace for the sale of recyclables, Members are asked to approve the attendance Members at this event. It is noted that senior officers will also attend.

1.3 Members’ attention is also brought to the three consultations currently underway and approval is sought to agree a response in principle subject to the Chair being satisfied with the Council’s final submission.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to approve:

- The Chair and Deputy Chair (or their nominees) to attend this event
- Members’ approval is also sought to agree a response in principle subject to the Chair being satisfied with the Council’s submission, the response will be tabled for information at the June 2019 meeting.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members may recall that each year the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management holds an annual conference in London in June, called ‘Resourcing the Future’ (RTF 2019).

3.2 This year, the conference is being held on 12-13 June 2019, as with previous years, the partners hosting this event include the CIWM, the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the Environmental Services Association and the Resources Association.

3.3 This conference brings together waste and resource management professionals, thought leaders, Government ministers and policy experts. This year, there will be debate and consideration about the key recommendations arising from the Resources and Waste Strategy for England, launched in December.

3.4 The conference will be packed full of discussion points and, centering on the new strategy, its recommendations and implementation. Experts will also consider the Circular Economy, single-use plastics (SUP) bans and taxes, secondary material markets, recycling targets and food waste. It is also likely to consider implications and impacts which could arise from the recently produced consultations on Reforming the UK Packaging Responsibility Scheme, Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and a Plastic Packaging Tax which are likely to profoundly affect waste management practices in the UK in the coming years^[1]

3.5 In relation to these consultations, a conference was held in Belfast Metropolitan College, Titanic Quarter on 12 March to introduce these topics and highlight that responses are due on Citizens Space by 13 May 2019. At over 300 pages and around 100 questions, these are detailed and technical and require some time to consider and address, with answers from one having a bearing upon another. In terms of the Council working with Arc21 and other professional organisations to submit a response, Members' are asked to approve a technical response in principle subject to the Chair being satisfied with the Council's final submission.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

As the Council is a CIWM affiliated organisation, the rate for attending the two-day conference is £449 + VAT per person.

The travel and subsistence costs associated with this conference are likely to be in the region of £500 per person, which can be met from the Service's revenue budget.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no relevant equality, good relations or rural need assessment issues associated with this report."

[1] The fourth live consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections only applies to England

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 2nd April, 2019**

The Committee:

- authorised the attendance of the incoming Chairperson and the incoming Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), to attend the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) National Conference, in London from 12th – 13th June; and
- agreed that, given that there would be no further meetings of the Committee in advance of the Local Government Elections, a technical response in respect of the three consultations in relation to Packaging Waste would be prepared by officers and submitted by the 13th May deadline. The response would subsequently be submitted to the June 2019 meeting of the Committee for information.

National Recycling Awards 2019

The Committee was advised that the Council's Un-Eat-en sustainable recipe book had been compiled using recipes submitted by some of Belfast's top chefs with the aim of helping to minimise food waste. A copy of the recipe book was available for download [here](#)

The recipe book had been shortlisted for an award in the Best Campaign up to £10,000 in the National Recycling Awards and approval was sought for the Council to be represented at the awards ceremony.

The Committee authorised the attendance of the incoming Chairperson (or their nominee) along with a nominated officer from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department to attend the National Recycling Awards, in London on 27th June.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey;
and Councillors Beattie, Black, Dudgeon,
Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Magee,
Mullan, Murphy, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development
Lead Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Dorrian.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 27th March 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 April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Private Car Parks – Response from Department of Justice

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th January, it had endorsed the following motion on Private Car Parks, which had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds:

“This Council is concerned at the practice of private car park operators and their agents in Northern Ireland, is concerned at the lack of an effective and independent appeal mechanism to allow individuals to challenge penalty notices issued by or on behalf of such operators and agrees to write to the Department of Justice, calling for an independent Parking Ombudsman, similar to England and Wales, to be created at the earliest opportunity.”

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

The Democratic Services Officer drew the Committee's attention to a response which had been received from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice. The Permanent Secretary had explained that the Department of Justice's remit for private parking extended solely to the licensing of vehicle immobilisation operatives, through the Security Industry Authority, with a view to protecting public safety. It had, therefore, no responsibility for the wider aspects of parking.

He had pointed out that the regulation of parking in England and Wales was handled differently to Northern Ireland and referred to the Parking on Private Lands Appeals (POPLA) process which had been introduced in those countries by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. That legislation had introduced also the concept of "keeper liability", which allowed companies which were members of an accredited trade association to obtain details from the Driver and Vehicle Agency to pursue the keeper of a vehicle for charges. Keeper liability was, therefore, fundamental to the POPLA process.

The Permanent Secretary had concluded by stating that the British Parking Association had been invited to extend POPLA to Northern Ireland. However, it would only consider doing so if keeper liability were to be introduced which, he had confirmed, was not a matter for the Department of Justice.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Presentation

Grand Opera House

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th January, it had agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation on the proposed restoration and development of the Grand Opera House.

It was reported that Mr. I. Wilson, Chief Executive of the Grand Opera House, and Mr. J. D'Arcy, Deputy Chair of the Grand Opera House Trust, were in attendance and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Wilson informed the Committee that the Grand Opera House, which had opened on 23rd December, 1895, was regarded as one of the finest examples of nineteenth century theatre architecture. He highlighted the unique relationship which had developed between the Grand Opera House and the people of Belfast over the years and pointed out that in 2018:

- the theatre had attracted a total audience of 300,000 across 400 performances;
- 78,000 people had attended a pantomime;
- 56,000 schoolchildren had viewed a show;
- 55,000 people had attended shows which had been produced in Belfast;

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

- there had been 6,500 participants in the theatre's Creative Learning Programme; and
- 1,000 people had registered for the Theatre's Access for All scheme.

He reported that the Grand Opera House had last been restored in the late 1970s and that, for the past five years, the Grand Opera House Trust had been planning an ambitious restoration and development project, with a view to securing the asset for future generations. The project would include the restoration of the auditorium's plasterwork and of the glass extension facing onto Great Victoria Street, the upgrade of air handling equipment and technical infrastructure and the replacement of seats and the stage curtains within the auditorium. Facilities for theatre-goers would be enhanced by, for example, improving disability access and toilet provision and the Act II front-of-house space would be re-modelled to incorporate a permanent exhibition celebrating the many famous people who had performed in the theatre.

Mr. Wilson added that the restoration and development project, which was scheduled to commence early in 2020, would take approximately ten months to complete. During that time, the Grand Opera Trust would undertake an extensive outreach and education programme, involving talks, tours, workshops and events across Northern Ireland. He concluded by pointing out that the project would support the aims of the Belfast Agenda and would contribute to the local economy and the City's tourism and cultural offering.

Mr. D'Arcy explained that the restoration and development project would cost in the region of £12.17 million, with the Grand Opera House Trust contributing £4.2 million and the National Lottery Heritage Fund £4.8 million. A further £500k had been secured from charities/foundations and it was hoped that a public fundraising campaign and in-kind contributions, through volunteer time, would generate a further £920k. Of the £1.5 million still required, the Department for Communities and the Council were being requested to allocate £1 million and £750k respectively.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy informed the Committee that the Director of Finance and Resources had confirmed that no budgetary provision had been made within the current financial year to meet the request from the Grand Opera House Trust.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That the Committee is supportive of the Grand Opera House restoration and development project and agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that significant funding be allocated to the project.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

Amendment

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

That the Committee is supportive of the Grand Opera House restoration and development project and agrees that the request for funding for the project be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

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

The amendment was thereupon put to the Committee as the substantive motion and passed.

Request to Present

Queen's University Belfast

The Committee approved a request from a representative of Queen's University Belfast to attend a future meeting in order to outline the main issues impacting upon the Higher Education sector and its role in growing the economy.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

City Centre Recovery Programme

The Committee was provided with the latest update on the City Centre Recovery Programme, which had been established following the Bank Buildings fire on 28th August.

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer provided details of those premises which had re-opened recently and those which were due to re-open and confirmed that, whilst the Bank Buildings' façade retention scheme was due to be completed by the end of April, it would be a further period of time before the cordon at the Castle Street junction would be reduced. She reviewed the footfall figures for the City centre for the month of January and, together with the Director of Economic Development, reviewed the work which was being progressed or was being planned under each of the key strands within the Recovery Programme, namely, physical and environmental enhancements, the animation programme, incentivisation and trader support, marketing/communications and research/retail.

She then drew the Members' attention to regeneration plans for the Bank Square/Castle Street Area, which would include, in the medium term, the College Court Developer Contribution Pilot Project public realm works and, in the longer term, the re-development by the private sector of Norwich Union House and proposals for residential and hotel developments in the Fountain Street and Queen Street area.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Support for City Centre Accessibility (Shopmobility)

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on progress to undertake research to establish City centre accessibility needs. The report also seeks approval to provide financial support to Shopmobility Belfast to ensure service continuity, pending the outcome of the research.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note and agree the aims and objectives of the proposed research work to be undertaken to assess city centre accessibility needs which will inform future city centre investment decisions; and**
- ii. approve a financial contribution of £15,000 for Shopmobility to support the continuation of service delivery in the Belfast City Council area in this financial year.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware of the scale of investment that is taking place in the city centre and the commitments contained within the Belfast Agenda to continue to invest here. In order to ensure that these developments can be experienced by everyone, officers are currently working on research to identify barriers to accessing the city centre and its range of facilities including shops, entertainment venues, bars, restaurants, accommodation and services. This research will consider access issues that could potentially reduce participation and will include customer and visitor satisfaction surveys to measure current levels of private and public provision. It will also identify potential improvements that could be implemented to ensure that the city centre is more user-friendly and welcoming to all. The initial work will focus on physical disabilities but the research will also consider the wider range of disabilities and actions required to ensure that

those with any type of disability can access and enjoy the facilities of the city centre.

3.2 The key aims of the research are to:

- assess the level to which accessibility is an issue for Belfast city centre;
- identify areas of intervention and make recommendations on the appropriate type of interventions required to achieve a meaningful impact; and
- assess the level of commitment from private and public sector partners to invest collectively towards more joined-up, accessible and inclusive services.

3.3 The research piece will include the following elements:

- a series of engagement with users of the city centre including surveys with shoppers and event attendees;
- one-to-one meetings and focus groups with key internal and external stakeholders including Disability Advisory Panel, Shopmobility and Disability Go, BIDs and city economic and community stakeholders;
- consideration of best practice across other areas including innovative solutions to promote inclusive city centres;
- an analysis of demographics to quantify the demand for accessibility services across Belfast, forecast, and changes in this demography over the next 3-4 years;
- an assessment of the quality and extent of accessibility support services across the city by private, public or community organisations;
- consideration of how interventions to support city accessibility needs could be supported through broader factors such as developer contributions and private sector interventions; and
- recommendations for future interventions to maximise the economic benefits for Belfast whilst promoting an accessible and inclusive city agenda.

3.4 This research will commence in April 2019, with an expected completion date of September 2019.

3.5 Members will be aware that the Council has a number of statutory requirements in the provision of its services to ensure that it addresses issues of disability. The Council's Draft Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2018/19 outlines our commitment to fulfilling our statutory obligations in compliance with Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination

Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) which places new duties on public authorities to:

- **promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and**
- **encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**

- 3.6 The draft Disability Action Plan for 2019 – 2022 is currently being finalised, with formal consultation commencing on 15th April for 12 weeks.**
- 3.7 Currently, the main mechanism to support accessibility across the city is through the AccessAble initiative, which is delivered through the Council’s Equality and Good Relations Unit. The AccessAble initiative provides access guides online and via a mobile app for 1000 venues across the city enabling people to make informed choices about the services they want to access. Raising awareness of access issues helps break down physical and attitudinal barriers as well as the significant psychological barrier of tackling the unknown for persons with a disability.**
- 3.8 From the Council’s perspective and that of businesses, providing information on accessibility not only helps meet legal obligations but also actively promotes services to residents and visitors to boost inclusion and revenue. 5400 people used these guides in the past year. Whilst this app has made a positive contribution to supporting accessibility within the city, it is recognised that there is a requirement for further support.**
- 3.9 Shopmobility Belfast is a charity which provides access to a mobility scooter or a wheelchair for those who need it. There are currently over 8,500 members and eight locations throughout Belfast. The reduction in the Disability Action Transport Scheme (DATS) from the Department for Infrastructure has resulted in reduced funding to cover Shopmobility’s operational costs. This has put the organisation in a position where their service may become unsustainable and may have to close. As a result, the charity has approached the Council to seek support which will enable it to continue to deliver its services to meet user needs.**
- 3.10 Given the levels of usage, it is recommended that the Council provides one-off financial support to Shopmobility of £15,000 to enable the continuation of service delivery in the Belfast City Council area in this financial year. As a condition of this funding, it is proposed that the council also works with**

Shopmobility to review its business model and explore opportunities to reduce overheads and drive efficiencies in order to maintain service delivery.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

The activities set out in this report will be resourced from the budget for Economic Development, as previously approved by this Committee.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The City Centre Accessibility research will have a positive impact on equality by encouraging access to the city centre for those with a disability. A rural needs assessment will be undertaken as part of the research.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Update on MIPIM

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To report on the outcomes of Belfast at MIPIM 2019 and seek approval to attend MIPIM 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the update from Belfast at MIPIM 2019, including the programme of events, meetings and media coverage, and to note that a number of follow up visits and meetings are planned in the near future as a direct result of this;**
- ii. note that planning for MIPIM 2020 needs to commence immediately and Members are requested to approve attendance by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominated representatives, along with senior officers, as appropriate, this will include travel and accommodation;**

- iii. approve funding of £80,000, as part of the overall public private sector sponsorship fund, in line with the Council's sponsorship amount in 2019. This will be met from within the existing City Regeneration and Development departmental budget;
- iv. approve the appointment of external consultancy support for programming, event management, communications and design for MIPIM 2020. The cost of this will be met from the overall private public sector sponsorship fund;
- v. approve the Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Waterfront Cities Network, as outlined below; and
- vi. approve officer attendance at EXPO Real in October 2019, as outlined below.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Committee will recall that, at its meeting in April 2018, it approved attendance at MIPIM 2019. MIPIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar where many of the world's investors, developers, funders, from both the private and public sector gather to showcase cities and investment and regeneration opportunities. Almost 27,000 people attended the 30th MIPIM Edition 2019. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Council have led the Belfast delegation to MIPIM.

Belfast at MIPIM Delegation

- 3.2 A record number of 100 delegates attended MIPIM as part of the Belfast delegation. This was made up of 43 supporting private and public-sector organisations. Organisations supporting Belfast at MIPIM 2019 included: Belfast Region City Deal partner Councils, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Queens University Belfast, Tourism NI, Translink, Visit Belfast, Ulster University together with a number of developers, professional and financial consultancy organisations.

Belfast at MIPIM Programme

- 3.3 The 3-day event conference involved a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which provided a key opportunity to promote and showcase Belfast as an attractive location for investment and development. It should be noted that the major UK and European cities and

regions are all represented at MIPIM. It is considered critical that Belfast is represented on this global platform as a place to invest in alongside other key cities and regions.

3.4 The Belfast at MIPIM 2019 Programme included 15 unique events organised by Belfast at MIPIM, with each event designed to highlight a range of key strengths that underpin Belfast's strong investment proposition. This included the Belfast Region City Deal, connectivity, technology and innovation, waterfront regeneration, fast growth sectors, track record for FDI and quality of life. This year the programme included a focus on housing including housing in the context of mixed use developments, increased city centre living and inclusive growth across the city.

3.5 Programme topics covered included:

- Belfast Region City Deal focused events
- City Centre Living
- Masterclass with Daniel Libeskind (an internationally and globally acclaimed figure in architecture and urban design, including the iconic design of the rebuilding of the World Trade Centre)
- The life and work of Peter Rice: An Engineer Imagines
- Screen City Tourism: Belfast creative industries driving growth in tourism
- Connectivity Driving Growth for International Belfast
- Waterfront City: Belfast's Major Regeneration Projects
- Region of Innovation: Scaling Ambition to Create Belfast's First Innovation District
- Real estate investor showcases included landmark Belfast developments including The Sixth (JV BCC and McAleer & Rushe) and Giant's Park.

3.6 In addition, Council officers also presented and attended events organised by other cities or partner organisations including:

- Housing Forum; local authorities delivering more
- Destination Building: Culture, Leisure and Tourism
- Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: Opportunities and potential for growth (Department for International Trade)
- Inclusive waterfronts - how to keep them affordable and open
- Capital to Country: Strengthening the Spokes for UK Investment (Department for International Trade)
- UK Cities: Partnership Power with Estates Gazette
- UK Post BREXIT Investment Strategies
- Waterfront Regeneration

3.7 In addition there were a number of one-to-one focused meetings between officers, developers and investors interested in Belfast. A number of these were pre-arranged in the run up to MIPIM although there was also a notable increase in interest from developers and investors who visited the Belfast pavilion on an impromptu basis. It is worth highlighting the significant interest this year from a residential development perspective. Given the level of interest from this particular sector thought is being given to how best to take advantage of this for the benefit of the city in terms of follow up actions and meetings.

3.8 **FDI Awards**

The annual FDI awards organised by the FDI Magazine were held during MIPIM. Belfast was exceptionally successful at the awards ceremony in receiving 8 awards. The Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee received these awards on behalf of the city. A stand out accolade for the City was being ranked number one for business friendliness and second globally to Hong Kong for FDI Strategy. Other awards include being ranked within the overall top 10 for mid and small sized cities, economic potential, human capital and lifestyle, cost effectiveness, connectivity and within the top 25 emerging and developing global markets.

3.9 **Belfast at MIPIM Pavilion**

The Belfast at MIPIM pavilion incorporated the City brand and included touch screen digital displays including VU.CITY and the Belfast Region interactive map. The front of the pavilion incorporated two large screens which played the Belfast marketing video showcasing the City's investment and regeneration opportunities as well as our key growth sectors and reasons to invest in the city. The pavilion incorporated authentic Game of Thrones costumes from the touring exhibition.

3.10 Figures on footfall to the pavilion are currently being collated. There was, however, a significant increase in activity at the Belfast pavilion, indicating that Belfast is continuing to attract interest regionally and internationally.

3.11 A dedicated Belfast at MIPIM investment guide was produced which highlighted Belfast's proposition to potential investors. It included an overview of key sectors, investment opportunities, property market outlook and profile of the Belfast at MIPIM sponsors. This was available for potential

investors and developers on the pavilion or download from the Council dedicated website www.investinbelfast.com.

3.12 Media Coverage

Eight media releases were issued during MIPIM 2019. These included press releases around Belfast's success at FDI Awards, Daniel Libeskind at MIPIM, and details of Belfast's development opportunities. These generated significant interest from print, broadcast, trade and online media. Of particular significance are two interviews which took place during MIPIM; a radio interview from Mr. Daniel Libeskind and an online Property Week interview with a leading developer within the city promoting Belfast.

- 3.13 A final number on total media coverage is currently being collated. At the time of writing information to date indicates that Belfast MIPIM 2019 secured significant high quality coverage in a range of publications including international, property and trade, alongside regional and national coverage. Social media activity for Belfast MIPIM 2019 was greatly increased. The @BelfastMIPIM Twitter account issued almost 300 tweets an increase of over 20% compared to 2018 and generated 8.8 million impressions. The messaging via Twitter reached 1.2 million twitter accounts.

3.14 Marketing and Engagement Opportunities

Part of the Belfast MIPIM 2019 programme included two European Waterfront Cities Network (EWCN) organised events on waterfront regeneration and how to keep them open and affordable. The objective of the network is for waterfront cities to share best practice, identify funding opportunities and to collaborate on optimal development of respective waterfronts. The EWCN is an excellent example of collaborative working and invaluable access to regional and European contacts. The EWCN comprises of; Amsterdam, Cardiff, Copenhagen, Gdynia, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Hafen City, Lisbon South Bay, Liverpool, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Tallinn (Estonia).

- 3.15 The EWCN is keen for Belfast to formally form part of their network. The network is of particular importance to Belfast considering the regeneration around our waterfront with the Waterside, Titanic Quarter, Giants Park, and Belfast Harbour City Quays. It is proposed that the Council, like the other cities will formalise their relationship with this network through a Memorandum of Understanding for a period until July 2020.

3.16 The Council has also been invited to attend EXPO Real between 7th and 9th October 2019, to participate in discussions with the European Waterfront Cities Network. This follows participation at EXPO Real in 2017. EXPO Real is Europe's largest property and investment trade fair, providing access to central and eastern European investors. There are a number of events planned over the two-day conference, including open and private events. In addition to the EWCN invite, EXPO Real have been in touch with the Council to be part of the UK and Partners stand at the trade fair. A number of other UK cities including Glasgow and Manchester attend. Members are being requested to authorise officer attendance only noting that costs will be accounted for through the existing departmental marketing budget. Further updates to be brought to Committee.

3.17 Future Focus

Officers are currently following up on a number of leads generated at MIPIM and it is worth noting that they hosted a visit to the City just last week for an investment company as a direct result of a meeting at MIPIM. Further follow ups with potential investors and developers are underway. There are more planned visits over the coming weeks, with the objective of translating this pipeline into tangible investment opportunities for the city.

3.18 As noted above, this is the fourth consecutive year that the Council has led the Belfast delegation to MIPIM. In 2016, the City had a target to attract £1bn of investment. Taking into account development that has already been completed or in progress, together with major regeneration schemes that are being promoted, the value currently runs to approximately £2bn. It is essential that the city keep this momentum going into 2020. The growing ambitions for 2020 underpins the requirement to start planning as soon as possible for MIPIM 2020 to ensure we can continue to deliver a programme that effectively markets Belfast as a location for investment.

3.19 In development terms, it is worth highlighting that within the last two weeks the city has welcomed positive news on the planning for the Transport Hub, the proposed Cruise Terminal, the Belfast Energy Plant and the signing of the Heads of Terms for the Belfast Region City Deal. These positive development and regeneration news stories were topics of conversations with international audiences at MIPIM. It is fitting that their announcements come on the back of a successful Belfast at MIPIM 2019.

3.20 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.

3.21 Finance and Resource Implications

Members are asked to note that an overall sponsorship fund for Belfast at MIPIM 2019 was £426,730, over 80% of which was raised from the private and other public sector bodies. The Committee previously approved Council expenditure of £80,000.

3.22 Effectively delivering a project on the scale of MIPIM is a very resource intensive activity. Belfast at MIPIM was delivered by Council officers, the Belfast at MIPIM Taskforce and Lanyon Communications, a consultancy agency appointed in June 2018 to assist with event management, PR, marketing and communication, sponsorship and pavilion design for MIPIM 2019. Members are asked to approve the appointment of external support to assist with the delivery of MIPIM 2020. Subject to approval from Members, this will be funded through the public-private budget approach as outline above, with £80,000 investment from Council in line with the amount approved for Belfast MIPIM 2019. This will be met from within the City Regeneration and Development departmental budget.

3.23 The costs associated with the Memorandum of Understanding with the European Waterfront Cities Network is an annual amount of approximately £3,000. The cost of participating at the UK and Partners stand at EXPO Real is estimated at approximately £10,000 depending on level of participation which is currently being explored. These costs can be met from within the departmental budget.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed, in response to concerns which had been raised by several Members around the ongoing costs associated with MIPIM, that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining the benefits for the City resulting from the Council’s participation in the event.

Arts Council of Northern Ireland Five-Year Strategic Framework - Draft Response to Consultation

The Director of Economic Development informed the Committee that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland had published for consultation its draft five-year strategic framework for developing the Arts for the period from 2019–2024. The framework, which followed on from its previous five-year strategy, provided an overview of the strategic direction which the Arts Council was proposing to take over the next five years, with its ambitions and priorities being structured under the principles of Inspire, Connect and

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

Lead. The draft framework had been developed in consultation with the arts sector and key stakeholders, including the Council, and input from the public had been welcomed.

He submitted for the Committee's approval the following draft response to the consultation and pointed out that, although the deadline for submissions had passed, the Arts Council had agreed to accept it, on the understanding that it would require ratification by the Council on 29th April:

Council Response

“1.1 Belfast City Council's support for Culture and Arts

1.1.1 As the Arts Council (ACNI) is aware, Belfast City Council is strongly committed to supporting culture and arts in the city. The Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012 to 2020 sets out a vision for Belfast that:

By 2020, everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our city's diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts and heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth, and the city's culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.

1.1.2 In March 2016, we committed over £5.8m to support the core costs of 56 culture, arts and heritage organisations in the city over a four-year period (2016-2020). Our investment over this period also included additional financial support of over £1m for high quality arts and heritage projects, as well as community festival awards (jointly financed by the Department for Communities).

1.1.3 We have also worked with the ACNI on a number of partnership projects. In 2014 we invested £900k in partnership with the ACNI on seven large-scale Creative and Cultural Belfast projects. These were big, bold, collaborative projects aimed at offering as many people as possible the opportunity to take part in high-quality cultural projects which were distinctly Belfast in character.

1.1.4 In 2017, we agreed to co-invest £600k over a period of three years with the ACNI in a Resilience Programme which aimed to tackle complex issues of sustainability in the context of a challenging funding environment.

1.1.5 In 2018, the Council also secured £400k of EU funding for the delivery of our PEACE IV Creative Communities projects which are currently under development.

1.1.6 The points outlined above by no means represent a full picture of our levels of investment in the arts. Rather, they offer a snapshot of the variety of investment and highlight in particular previous and on-going areas of collaboration with the ACNI. Overall, since the inception of our Cultural Framework for Belfast in 2012, the Council has maintained levels of investment in cultural and arts.

1.1.7 In 2017, the Council also took the decision to lead on a bid for the designation of European Capital of Culture in 2023. This decision demonstrates both commitment to the social value of culture-led transformation as well as an underlying commitment to the intrinsic value of the culture, arts and heritage sector to the cultural vitality of Belfast as a whole. Although the competition was halted, the Council has committed to the development of a new 10-year Cultural Strategy for Belfast and has recently undertaken its own far-reaching pre-consultation on the strategic priorities for culture in the city. The comments in this document are written both in the context of the Council's on-going development of a new Cultural Strategy for Belfast and in the context of Belfast's position as a regional driver for culture in Northern Ireland. We believe that that the opportunity for strategic collaboration with the ACNI and other statutory and non-statutory bodies is timely. We welcome the opportunity to raise the ambition and deepen our understanding of what the requirements are for sectoral resilience at this critical juncture.

1.2 General Comments on the Consultation Document

1.2.1 The Council welcomes this opportunity to comment on the draft five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019–2024.

1.2.2 The Council is already committed through its Cultural Framework for Belfast 2016-2020 and through its draft Cultural Strategy for Belfast 2020–2030 to delivering on many of the ambitions outlined in the draft five year strategic framework in a Belfast context.

1.2.3 We welcome the ACNI's Shared Vision as one that:

- *Celebrates arts and creativity*
- *Links us to a shared heritage of ideas, words and images*
- *Helps us to be connected, confident and outward looking (p.4)*

We note the complementarity of this vision with that of the Belfast Agenda which states that by 2035 Belfast will be:

[...] a city re-imagined, a great place to live for everyone [...] Beautiful, well-connected, culturally vibrant, it will be a city shared and loved by its people and admired around the world.

- 1.2.4 We welcome your statement that you will support local authorities in the delivery of Community Plans (p.6) and look forward to exploring a shared approach to this. We recognise our role as the city authority places Belfast in the unique position of being a regional driver for the rest of Northern Ireland in this respect.
- 1.2.5 We note that you feel the arts can make a meaningful contribution to the Draft Programme for Government outcomes 4, 5, 7, 9, and 10 (page 6). We agree with this alignment and note that the Belfast Agenda will also broadly support these outcomes.

1.3 Ambitions/Priorities

- 1.3.1 We note what your document describes as a *simple* (p.7) approach to the stated guiding principles which are summarised by the words *Inspire, Connect, Lead*. We note that an accompanying business plan will be produced each year which will set out in detail the actions which the ACNI will take in order to deliver on your strategic objectives. As such, we note that your consultation document takes a high-level approach to the direction of travel for the ACNI over the forthcoming years. The Council also notes that the consultation document refers on a number of occasions to the current atmosphere of uncertainty and short-term operational challenges which are being faced by the ACNI. The Council wholly acknowledges that whilst we need to have cognisance of the local, regional and global challenges that we are all facing in terms of austerity, lack of central Government, budgetary cuts and on-going Brexit negotiations, that there is now perhaps a greater need than ever to look at long-term planning in order to ensure the cultural vibrancy of Belfast and the surrounding region reaches its full potential. We recognise that new ways of working and new models of investment are required in order to sustain and grow the cultural offer in twenty-first century cities. The Council's draft ten year Cultural Strategy will present a long-sighted view of cultural transformation with a review of the governance of arts investment at the heart of developing a new way of working. The Council is committed to further strengthening existing cultural infrastructure in the long-term whilst also tackling the

challenges of investing in new projects. This will involve the evolution of a new understanding of the concept of resilience, an understanding which has flexibility, adaptability and sustainability at its centre. We acknowledge that in order to be successful in this, local governments must be able to take on different roles as leaders, financial supporters, advocates, facilitators and occasionally observers. We also believe that this new approach will involve developing new models of co-investment. Given the Council's investment in culture, the number of arts organisations based in Belfast (the majority of which have a regional or wider remit) and the shared portfolio of clients between the two organisations, it is essential that the ACNI and the Council work closely together to achieve shared aims. We regard the ACNI as a crucial investment partner with a leading role to play in co-ordinating collective action to ensure that a holistic vision and approach for the arts is embedded across Belfast and Northern Ireland.

- 1.3.2 The Council supports and welcomes the objectives and actions under all three principles and notes in particular the ACNI's *consideration of the reinstatement of multi-annual funding*, the objective to *transform the relationship with local government through partnership working* and the intention to work with the Council on *the development of a major city centre visitor attraction*. The Council notes that Belfast was one of a number of pilot cities who took part in the recent Cultural Enquiry project as part of the UK Core Cities Network. One of the key recommendations coming out of the Cultural Enquiry which the Council hopes to adopt for Belfast, is the establishment of an adaptable model called a City Compact which will support collective, co-ordinated action to grow and sustain the city's cultural ecosystem. This Cultural Compact will involve aligning activity and funding and leveraging additional human, financial and property resources in support of agreed local actions. It is intended that the Compact will be the primary vehicle for discussion between local partners and Government about how best to deploy culture and cultural resources for the city. Council believes that the ACNI must be a central partner in this scheme and looks forward to taking the next steps to developing a Cultural Compact for Belfast.

1.4 CONCLUSION

- 1.4.1 This five-year strategic framework is timely given the Council's own current work on a proposed ten-year Cultural Strategy for Belfast 2020-2030. The response has highlighted a number of areas where the Council and the ACNI could work together with common purpose to meet the needs of the sector in the short and long term. We look forward to reading

detailed yearly action plans which will enable the framework to be monitored, evaluated and reviewed.

We recognise that it is our role as the city authority to support Belfast's cultural infrastructure to appropriate levels. However, we strongly believe that the ACNI must also acknowledge and commit to supporting on-going levels of investment in cultural infrastructure in Belfast in order to maintain the City's critical status as a regional driver for Northern Ireland."

The Committee approved the foregoing response to the consultation.

Tourism, Culture and Arts Delivery Plan 2019-20

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the activities set out in the delivery plan for 2019-2020 to support:

- commitments in the existing Cultural Framework for Belfast Action Plan 2016-2020 and the Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 including approval to enter into relevant legal agreements and Service Level Agreements with named delivery partners; and
- ongoing work on the development of a new Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 and associated implementation plans.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- i. note the contents of this report; and
- ii. agree the work programme (2019/20) including the associated budget requirements.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

The Committee will recall that, in March 2019, it approved the draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 to go out for a 12-week public consultation. To support the ongoing development of this strategy, Committee also agreed with the proposed

timeline to bring back a series of draft implementation plans and a financing strategy in September 2019. The Delivery Plan which has been circulated integrates this work with ongoing programmes already in place to support the delivery of the final year of both the existing Cultural Framework for Belfast 2016-2020 and the Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020.

3.2 Key Issues

New Cultural Strategy 2020-2030

The purpose of the strategy document that was approved for public consultation subject to Council ratification is to present the overall approach and commitments over a ten-year period. The next phase of work will give detailed consideration to how this will be delivered in line with the agreed timeframe that requires new programmes to be operational from April 2020. Therefore the delivery plan for 2019/20 includes the development of initial three year implementation plans that as well as being cross-cutting will specifically address:

- Arts and Heritage
- Events and Festivals
- Tourism product development including neighbourhood tourism
- Major strategic initiatives.

3.3 These will be supported by a proposed investment model, communications strategy and evaluation framework. In addition, there is a need to continue with existing commitments to support the final year of implantation of the current Cultural Framework and Tourism Strategy.

3.4 Cultural Framework

The plan has taken into consideration the range of actions to be delivered over the four-year period of the Cultural Framework Action Plan (2016-2020) and has identified a number of priorities to be delivered in the final year 2019/20. As in previous years, partnership working is essential to the development and delivery of actions within the Cultural Framework and Action Plan. Across each of the 4 themes of the existing Cultural Framework, some of the proposed actions for 2019/20 will include:

Distinctly Belfast

- Deliver a City of Music programme to support plans to apply for UNESCO designation as well as animating the city centre and celebrating the city's music heritage
- Deliver a 'Bringing Heritage to Life' programme and establishing a Heritage Forum
- Deliver a partnership project with National Museums and Ulster University to increase access to existing collections.

3.6 Inspiring Communities

- Deliver an Artist in Residence programme in a number of key locations across the City, funded through the Peace IV programme
- Deliver an ongoing civic engagement programme that will also support the development of the strategy and the plans for 2020-2030.

3.7 Attracting Audiences

- Develop and deliver a tailored programme of support on audience development and growing cultural audiences in partnership with the cultural sector and statutory partners.

3.8 Strengthening the Sector

- Work in partnership with ACNI to deliver year three of the Resilience Programme, focusing on 14 key cultural organisations in Belfast
- Engage with Arts and Business NI to continue to deliver a tailored programme of support that helps build the sustainability of small to medium sized cultural organisations.

3.9 Tourism Strategy

Since the publication of the Strategy, the tourism economy has continued to grow in the City and in Northern Ireland as a whole. Statistics published by NISRA in July 2018 show that, in 2017, there were almost 1.5million overnight trips to Belfast generating around £328million to the local economy. This is around a third of the total expenditure on tourism across the region. The sector also employs more than 18,000 people in the city. The profile of visitors to Belfast differs from that to other parts of NI; there are more business tourists, more cruise tourists and slightly fewer tourists visiting friends and relatives than other parts of NI.

3.10 In terms of Belfast's performance in 2018, the room percentages decreased a little – falling to 76.7% from 81.6% in 2017. The overall numbers of visitors using the hotels were up on the previous years. While this is reflective of the increased hotel stock in the city it also highlights the ongoing need to continue to support tourism growth. This includes the requirement for the Council and partners to enhance efforts to support high quality tourism product development in order to complement private sector investment in the hotels and wider hospitality sector in Belfast.

3.11 The Delivery Plan sets out specific actions to support tourism growth in 2019-20 including the areas outlined below:

3.12 *Supporting Product Development, including Local Tourism*

Members will be aware that, in September 2018, a report was presented to the Committee outlining the findings and recommendations for a Local Tourism Framework. The proposed approach has also been taken into consideration as part of the draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030. The next stage of this work will be to develop a 3-4 year neighbourhood tourism implementation plan and funding model to be operational from April 2020. This will be presented to Committee as part of a larger programme of work in September 2019. There is however a need to build on the work that has taken place in recent years and agree an approach for 2019-20. In line with 2018-19 it is therefore proposed that the Council develops and manages a significant programme of capacity-building and information-sharing to improve the quality of existing products, bring forward new products and help develop coherent packages and experiences that are aligned to visitor needs and in keeping with the tourism narrative. It is proposed that the focus of activity for 2019-20 will include:

- Use of local conduits where possible to increase engagement and promote the benefits of participation (e.g Fáilte Feirste Thiar, Eastside Tourism)
- Testing out of potential new products – support for initial feasibility to help bring forward ideas emerging from the local consultations and engagement activity and working with new capital schemes coming forward from Council
- Capacity building and development work on cluster approach, in conjunction with Tourism NI - involvement of industry experts and practitioners who have first-hand experience of this activity.

3.13 *Supporting Business Tourism Investment*

Members will be aware that the Council and Tourism NI have, for a number of years, co-invested in a Conference Support Scheme for the City. This has been a key element of the business tourism support activity over recent years and will be critical if the growth ambitions are to be achieved in the coming years. It is proposed that the Council makes an investment of £200,000 in this scheme for 2019/20 in line with levels of investment in recent years. This allocation will be matched by investment from Tourism NI. In addition to the Conference Support Scheme, the Council will continue to provide access to City Hall for key functions such as conference receptions as this is a critical element of added value and a unique selling point for the City.

3.14 Financial and Resource Implications

Activities identified in the Delivery Plan will be resourced from the agreed departmental budget allocations for the current financial year. These have already been approved as part of the estimates process. Up to a further £100,000 has been allocated from resources set aside for the stage 2 bid for European Capital of Culture for the ongoing development of the new Cultural Strategy 2020-2030.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Existing strategies have been equality screened. The draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the £200,000 being allocated by the Council to the Conference Support Scheme, as alluded to within paragraph 3.13 of the report, would be administered by Visit Belfast.

World Chambers Congress Bid

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Council’s support for the campaign to host the World Chambers Congress event in the City in 2023. This bid is a joint effort involving many city and regional partners. If successful, it is estimated that the congress would have an economic impact of almost £2million for Belfast.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:**
- i. note the proposed joint bid to hold the World Chambers Congress in Belfast in 2023; and**
 - ii. agree to allocate up to £10,000 of Council resources towards the bid process and to approve the attendance at the Rio event in June 2019 of a senior officer from the Council, as part of a wider delegation from Belfast, with costs for attendance not to exceed £3,500.**
- 3.0 Main Report**
- 3.1 The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NI Chamber), supported by Visit Belfast and Invest Northern Ireland, is bidding to host the ICC WCF World Chambers Congress in 2023 and is working in partnership with a range of Northern Ireland stakeholders to help drive the campaign and add weight to the bidding process.**
- 3.2 The Congress is held every two years in a different region of the world, and is a three-day event that brings together over 1,000 delegates representing chamber leaders, business heads and key government figures. Travelling from across the globe, they attend to learn and be inspired by some of the world's leading influencers – all with the goal of helping transform the future of business.**
- 3.3 The opportunity to host the Congress in Europe only comes round every 8 years with the next European bidding cycle completing in autumn 2020. NI Chamber has lobbied its networks in GB and ROI, and Belfast will go forward as the only UK/Ireland bidding city, with the support of the 52 UK and 24 Irish Chambers of Commerce. This significantly enhances the strength of the Belfast bid.**
- 3.4 The World Chambers Congress has been identified as a key strategic hosting opportunity and securing the Congress for Belfast could contribute an estimated £1.92m to the local economy as well as supporting the economic objectives of:**
- attracting foreign direct investment**
 - establishing links for international trade and**
 - promoting business and leisure tourism.**
- 3.5 NI Chamber has initiated a two-year bidding campaign which will culminate in the final bid presentation to members of the**

World Chambers Federation General Council in November 2020. In 2019, the campaign will focus on generating awareness of the Belfast bid as well as outreach to the key decision makers within international Chambers. A core element of this strategy will include attendance at the 2019 World Chambers Congress being held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year. It is a significant opportunity to:

- **Showcase Belfast’s bid proposition and all associated messaging**
- **Connect with Chamber representatives from the judging panel**
- **Evidence commitment to supporting the congress through sponsorship**
- **See the Congress first hand to aid Belfast’s own bid development.**

3.6 The promotional campaign will continue in 2020 and align with the application process. This will involve a range of engagement and outreach activities to build the case for Belfast as the preferred host city. It is likely to include activities such as engagement with WCF judging chambers, hosting international speakers from the WCF network, bid brand and messaging development and bid book development outlining the city’s proposition. As part of the process, there will be a site visit to Belfast encompassing a visit to the venue and engagement with partners to establish the nature of the local support for the bid. The details of the bid will be presented directly to the World Chambers Federation Jury in November 2020.

3.7 Given the scale of investment required and the need for input across a range of public and private partners, NI Chamber is bringing together a steering group comprised of key stakeholders. The Council has been asked to be part of that steering group, alongside other partners including Invest NI, British Chambers of Commerce, Chambers Ireland, Visit Belfast and ICC Belfast. These partners are also being asked to resource the bid development process over the coming two years. The amount requested from the Council is £10,000 towards the bid development activity. In order to demonstrate the breadth of support for the bid, the Council has also been asked to consider sending a senior officer to Rio for the upcoming World Chambers Congress. The costs associated with attending this event will not exceed £3,500. If the bid is successful, the organisers will seek to draw down funding from the conference subvention scheme which is funded by the Council and Tourism NI.

3.8 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial ask of the Council is £10,000 towards the 2019/20 bidding process. The Council has also been asked to consider attendance at the Rio 2019 event by a senior officer. Costs associated with attendance at this event will not exceed £3,500. The NI Chamber has also asked the Council to consider appointing a senior officer to be part of the steering group for the bid process. The aforementioned costs will be drawn from existing Economic Development Departmental budgets.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

No specific equality or good relations implications. No issues associated with the Rural Needs Assessment.”

The Director of Economic Development, in addressing issues which had been raised around the costs contained within the report, pointed out that the funding being sought to support the City’s joint bid would be used for development activity. In terms of an officer’s attendance at this year’s event, he confirmed that the amount being requested was reflective of the cost of travel and accommodation and stressed that the experience gained by that officer would prove beneficial, should Belfast’s bid be successful.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Strategic and Operational Issues

Update on Belfast Marathon

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 27th June, 2018, it had agreed that, from 2019 onwards, the Belfast City Marathon would be held on a Sunday and had approved a revised route for the event. The Committee, at its meeting on 13th February, had approved a rolling reduction in the Council’s financial commitment to the Marathon, from £26,000 in 2019 to zero support by 2025/26.

The Director of Economic Development explained that the request to move the Marathon to a Sunday had originated from the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, on the basis that trade had suffered significantly when the event had been held on a Bank Holiday Monday and that visitor numbers would increase.

He reported that the number of competitors registering to run the full Marathon course had risen from 2,394 in 2018 to 4,180 in 2019, with out-of-state competitor numbers increasing from 751 to 1,008. Feedback had suggested that the increase could be attributed to the decision to move the event to a Sunday and to change the route.

The Director pointed out that, whilst it was anticipated that the holding of the Marathon on a Sunday would reduce the level of disruption on the City’s road network, it was inevitable that a significant number of roads would be inaccessible, due to the need

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

to comply with the Council-enforced road closure legislation. He added that Translink was examining currently its operational requirements for Glider and Metro services on the day of the Marathon and that there had, to date, been significant engagement with statutory and community organisations and with churches, businesses and residents located along the new Marathon route.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Markets

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- update the Committee on the performance of the city markets, including St George’s Market and the Christmas Market at the City Hall;
- set out priority areas of work for the coming year at St George’s Market; and
- seek approval for a markets licence, as part of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival (CQAF) in early May 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the performance of the Christmas Market, including the economic impact and contribution to the City;
- ii. agree the priority areas of investment in St. George’s Market for the coming financial year; and
- iii. approve the granting of a markets licence for a market to take place in St. Anne’s Cathedral on 2nd May 2019, as part of Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival.

3.0 Main Report

Christmas Market

3.1 Members will be aware that the Christmas Market operates at the City Hall in the run-up to Christmas each year. The market is operated by Market Place Europe (MPE). As part of its contract with the Council, MPE is required to undertake an

independent evaluation and economic impact of the market every two years. The report for the Christmas 2018 market has just been presented to Council officers as part of the post-event review process.

3.2 Members will also be aware that, as a one-off, the Christmas Market was extended to the upper part of Donegall Place. This was due to the fire in the Primark building and the commitment by the Council and other partners to undertake an enhanced programme of animation and activity in the city centre in the run-up to the important Christmas trading period. The additional stalls were offered to those businesses affected by the fire.

3.3 The evaluation and economic impact report was completed by an independent market research organisation. It involved a survey of 400 individuals who had visited the market, as well as an online survey of market users and visitors to the city. The survey covered a number of areas including:

- levels of satisfaction with the market and opportunities for improvement
- identification of how people were aware of the market – and what made them visit
- an assessment of whether they would recommend the market to others
- an understanding what other activities the market visitors had undertaken as part of their visit to the city
- an assessment of whether visitors had used other city centre facilities as part of their visit to the city.

3.4 The high level findings of the work include:

- more than one million visitors came to the market over the six-week period. The combined total expenditure for those attending was in the region of £87million. This covers items such as accommodation (for out of state and non-Belfast residents); eating out, shopping and entertainment. This does not just involve spend directly on the market but does illustrate the role of the market as a catalyst for spend in the city centre;
- adjusting the figures to take account of those visitors who would not otherwise have visited Belfast if the market had not been present, the evaluation indicates that the total estimated economic impact of the market itself is in the region of £40million;

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 3rd April, 2019**

- **39% of visitors to the market were from the Greater Belfast area; 44% were from the rest of Northern Ireland; 8% from ROI and 10% from elsewhere;**
- **most of those visiting the market had been previously – 85% of visitors. They were aware of the event from their previous attendance but the social media profile also encouraged many visitors to attend;**
- **over a third of visitors planned their visit up to a month in advance – principally those attending from outside Belfast;**
- **over 91% of visitors rated the market as good or very good – an increase of 2% from the 2016 figures. Those who were positive commented in particular on the ambience, the fact that it offered something different to the mainstream brands and the fact that it felt safe. Those who were less positive suggested that there was a need for more variety in the stalls and they also suggested that it was too busy, particularly for prams. 78% of visitors said that they would definitely return next year;**
- **69% of visitors came to the market as they were interested in local products – and 42% of people confirmed that they spent more than they thought on products from local traders;**
- **in terms of suggestions for improvements, the most common comments related to more space (particularly for seating) and additional entertainment. Despite the space constraints, there is overwhelming support for the market to remain in City Hall grounds;**
- **more than 2/3 of those visiting the Christmas Market also shopped in other parts of the city centre. This illustrates the point that the Christmas Market is a significant draw for the entire city centre. 25% of those visiting the market were also planning to eat out elsewhere in the city following their visit to the market; and**
- **97% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that events like the market encourage people to come to Belfast.**

3.5 Officers will work with MPE to review the market for Christmas 2019, taking account of these issues raised. MPE will also be

responsible for the delivery of the Spring Continental Market which will take place at City Hall from 24th till 27th May, 2019.

3.6 St. George's Market

Members will be aware that a three-day market operates at St. George's Market each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The market is a popular attraction for both local residents and visitors to the city. Up to one million visitors came to the market last year, with attendance figures generally ranging between 6,000 and 10,000 people each day. St. George's Market recently won the award for the Best Large Indoor Market at the NABMA Annual conference – the umbrella body representing all markets across the UK.

3.7 The market performs a number of functions. It is an important tourism attraction and is generally considered as a must-see destination for visitors to the city. It is also a popular space for local residents of all ages – bringing together a mixture of food, craft and musical/entertainment performances. The market is also a great location for new business starts – and there are opportunities for new businesses participating in our business start-up programmes to undertake a period of test trading at the market. A number of businesses started life at the market – and many maintain a presence there, despite the fact that they now have stand-alone businesses elsewhere and are trading globally in a number of cases. It also provides a source of income for more than 200 independent traders that are based at the market on one or more of the operating days.

3.8 Taking account of all of these reasons, the market is a significant asset for the Council and all of our investment needs to work towards maintaining and enhancing its reputation. Officers are currently looking at how the market can evolve in the coming years to meet the increasing tourist demand while still serving an important role as an asset for the city, its residents and the businesses that operate within it. Members will be aware that, in 2014, Deloitte undertook work on a development plan for the market. This led to changes in the staffing structure and some of the operating hours of the markets. It also identified some longer-term development opportunities for the market which would require significant investment. Officers work with the market trader representative bodies on an ongoing basis to bring forward collaborative plans for the future development of the market. Areas for consideration in the coming year are likely to include the operating times; venue hire opportunities; enhancing visitor experiences and linking to key city events; opportunities for additional revenue generation to meet overhead costs and mechanisms to build in customer

feedback in order to ensure that services meet with user expectations. Any proposals that significantly impact on the market will be brought back to the Committee for information and endorsement.

- 3.9** In parallel with the future development plans, officers are also placing an enhanced focus on the operational management issues at the market. Given that the team is now at full complement following a series of recruitment exercises, the frontline staffing resources will increasingly be deployed to focus on ensuring compliance with the various guidance documents such as the code of conduct, traders' permit and enforcement policy. The staff also have an enhanced customer service function and will be more visible on the market floor, thereby improving our service standards. Clearly, the traders at the market are obliged to abide by the various legal requirements around food safety, wider health and safety and trading standards. The Markets Management Team works closely with colleagues in Environmental Health and Corporate Health and Safety in order to ensure that individual traders and the market as a whole are meeting these legal obligations. This approach is critical to maintaining the reputation of the market. One of the current challenges is the need to invest in an extraction system for the market. Officers have been working with technical experts to identify how this can be resolved. This is challenging given the nature of the building. A solution has now been identified which involves a number of mobile extraction units for the hot food traders. One of these units has already been tested by an existing trader and the feedback was positive. Significant financial investment is required and officers are currently working to identify how this can be financed.

3.10 Application for an External Market, as part of Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

Members will be aware that anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to the Council for permission to do so. An application has been received for the 'CQ Bazaar' to be held in St Anne's Cathedral, as part of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, from 5 pm till 9 pm on 2nd May 2019.

- 3.11** In line with the overall Belfast City Council Markets Development Strategy, this market will help to enhance this area of the city and, in doing so, drive footfall into Cathedral Quarter and the surrounding area. The market will complement the wider festival and programme of animation in the city at this time, including the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and the Festival of Fools. This will support the

commitments to enhance the city animation activity as part of the City Revitalisation programme.

3.12 Stall numbers are currently being finalised but it is expected that there will be up to 60 stalls at the event. The organisers are Destination CQ Business Improvement District (BID). They will be asked to supply the relevant documentation for this event such as public liability insurance, method statement and risk assessments, HACCP policy and house rule. An Operational plan covering issues such as security and stewarding, first aid provision, environmental health information regarding noise omission, sale of food and beverages, food sampling, alcohol sampling and licensing, waste management and fire regulations will also be sought. Officers from the Markets Development Unit will then engage with the relevant officers across the Council in order to check and verify this documentation and are content that all is in order. Checks will also be carried out during the event, in line with the Markets Rights Policy guidelines.

3.13 **Financial and Resource Implications**

No specific financial implications associated with this report. The applicant for the markets licence will have to pay an application fee of £50 in line with the markets policy. The total amount payable will depend on the number of stalls that are in place.

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

No specific equality or good relations implications. No issue with Rural Needs Assessment.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Monday, 8th April, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Beattie, Black, Johnston, Magee,
Murphy, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

Also attended: Alderman Convery and Councillor Campbell.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. Millar; Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development
Lead Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Lyons),
Aldermen Haire and McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian, Hussey, Kyle and Mullan.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the report associated with the following item 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 the item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Update on Cave Hill Country Park and North Foreshore Development Proposals

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 6th March, it had agreed that a special meeting be held to receive from Rooney Smith Associates a presentation on

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Monday, 8th April, 2019**

the outcome of the strategic study which it had undertaken to identify development options for the Cave Hill Country Park and associated assets, namely, Belfast Castle, Belfast Zoo and the Floral Hall. The Committee had agreed also that representatives of Giant's Park Ltd., the preferred developer, be invited to the meeting to provide an update on the development proposals for the North Foreshore.

Accordingly, Mr. D. Rooney and Mr. M. Smith, Rooney Smith Associates, and Mr. K. Carlin, Mr. P. Johnston, Mr. D. McKay, Mr. J. Millar and Mr. J. Mullan, representing Giant's Park Ltd., were welcomed to the meeting.

Messrs Rooney and Smith reviewed the current status of Belfast Castle, Belfast Zoo and the Floral Hall and outlined for each asset several options which had been identified within the strategic review for consideration. In terms of the current status of the Cave Hill Country Park, Mr. Rooney pointed out that it was presented as a general recreational facility, with Belfast Castle providing it with a strong identity and acting as a key hub, and he highlighted a number of strategic opportunities, again arising from the strategic review, to be taken into account when considering the future vision for the Park.

Mr. Millar informed the Committee that the Giant's Park would provide a world class, diverse, inclusive leisure destination and would complement existing and proposed leisure and tourist opportunities. He drew the Members' attention to the six hubs/zones which would form the key elements of the Park and pointed out that 2,240 jobs and 230 apprenticeships would be created. Approximately three million tourist visits and £9 million of tourism spend would be generated annually. He confirmed that the next steps in the development process would involve the undertaking in May of an extensive consultation exercise and the submission in November of a planning application. It was the intention that planning approval would be obtained by March 2020 and that the project would be completed by 2026.

The Director of Property and Projects informed the Committee that, in light of the issues which had been outlined by Rooney Smith Associates and Giant's Park Ltd., a number of imminent decisions were required, to allow for work to commence around, for example, funding provision, designs, programmes of work and procurement.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to accelerate the decision-making process on the future development of the Cave Hill Country Park, including the associated assets, and of the North Foreshore site and agreed that this be included in the initial series of Party briefings to be organised in the new Council term.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 10th April, 2019

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland, and
Councillors Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Dudgeon, Garrett
and Groves.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Mr. C. McLoughlin, Solicitor;
Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Spence and Councillor Nic Biorna.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th March 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 April, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Delegated Matters

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

Applications Approved under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

To Consider the Renewal of a Stationary Street Trading Licence

The Committee considered the following report:

Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To consider initiating the process to refuse the renewal of the Stationary Street Trading Licence held by Mr Joseph Kerr for

continuing non-payment of Licence fees and failure to use the Street Trading Licence to a reasonable extent.

Recommendations

Members are asked to decide whether: -

1. They are minded to refuse the renewal of Mr Kerr's Licence as he has, without reasonable explanation, failed to pay any fees or charges due to the Council and, without reasonable excuse, failed to avail himself to a reasonable extent of his licence; or
2. If Committee is minded to refuse to renew the licence to agree to consider the refusal of the Licence at a future meeting at which Mr Kerr would be invited to make representation regarding his failure to pay the fees due and non-use of his Licence.

Main report

Key Issues

Legislative Background

The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 places a statutory obligation on the Council to grant an application for a Street Trading Licence unless there are sufficient grounds to refuse it.

Section 9 (1) of the Act sets out discretionary grounds under which a district council may refuse to grant an application. These are as follows:

- a. That –
 - i. The location at which the applicant wishes to trade as a stationary trader is unsuitable;
 - ii. The space in the designated street in which the applicant wishes to trade as a stationary trader is inadequate for the applicant to do so without causing undue interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles using the street;
 - iii. The area or areas of the district in which the applicant wishes to trade as a mobile trader are unsuitable for the applicant to do so without causing undue interference or

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019**

inconvenience to persons or vehicles in the area or areas;

- iv. There are sufficient traders trading in the street, or at premises adjoining it, in the articles, things or services in which the applicant wishes to trade;**
- v. The nature of the articles, things or services in which the applicant wishes to trade is such that their sale or supply, or their preparation for sale or supply, would adversely affect the general amenity of the area in which the applicant wishes to trade;**
- b. That the applicant has, in connection with the application, made a statement which he knows to be false in a material particular;**
- c. That the applicant is, on account of misconduct or some other reason relating to trading activities, unsuitable to hold a street trading licence;**
- d. That the applicant has, without reasonable excuse, failed to avail himself to a reasonable extent of a previous street trading licence;**
- e. That the applicant has at any time been granted a street trading licence by the council, which was revoked or could have been revoked on the grounds that he had refused or neglected to pay fees or other charges due to the council in respect of the licence;**
- f. That the applicant has failed to provide the particulars required by the council to deal with the application;**
- g. That the applicant has failed to provide or identify suitable or adequate arrangements for storing any articles, things or receptacles in or with which he proposes to trade.**

Should Committee be of a mind to use its discretionary power to refuse to renew Mr Kerr's Street Trading Licence, Section 12 of the Act requires that he be afforded the opportunity to make representation relating to the proposal, which must be considered by Committee at a future date before a final decision is made on the application.

Application

Mr Joseph Kerr has applied to renew his Stationary Street Trading Licence, which allows him to trade in Fountain Lane (45ft from its junction with Donegall Place) selling confectionery, toys, clothing accessories, Halloween accessories, gift-wrap, souvenirs and tour tickets including bus tours. The licence permits trading from Monday to Sunday from 08.00hrs to 22.00hrs.

The Street Trading Act (N.I.) 2001 permits the Council to refuse to renew a Licence if it is satisfied that the Licence holder has, without reasonable explanation, failed to pay any fees or charges due to the Council and if the Licence holder has, without reasonable excuse, failed to avail himself to a reasonable extent of his Licence.

Committee is reminded that Mr Kerr has a long history of non-payment of Licence fees. Members are reminded that the Licensing Committee previously reconsidered Licences held by Mr Kerr for sites at Fountain Lane and Fountain Street, for the non-payment of the Licence fees at their meeting on the 19 March 2014, 17 October 2018 and 12 December 2018.

At its October 2018 meeting, the Committee agreed to revoke the Stationary Street Licence held by Mr Kerr for Fountain Street for non-payment of fees. Members may wish to note that Mr Kerr lodged an appeal to the Magistrates' Court. The Court have informed the Council that Mr Kerr was asked on a number of occasions to complete a Notice of Appeal, no Notice was submitted to the Court and no papers were served on the Council. The Licence expired on the 18 January 2019, no renewal application was submitted.

At its meeting in December 2018, Committee heard from Mr Kerr regarding how he was going to address his outstanding debt and future licence fee payments. Mr Kerr informed the Committee that he had set up a direct debit with the Council's Central Transactions Unit to pay the licence fee and the arrears accrued from non-payment of fees and that he would be willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Council to pay the remaining arrears.

The Committee agreed not revoke Mr Kerr's Street Trading Licence on condition that Mr Kerr met with officers and entered into a formal agreement to pay the outstanding monies and the monthly licence fees.

Following the December Committee meeting, officers met with Mr Kerr on 27 December 2018 when he again promised to make payments and agreed to sign a formal agreement. Mr Kerr has never returned the signed agreement to the Council; as such, no agreement is in place.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019**

Mr Kerr has not paid his Licence fees since 4 December 2018 and is not engaging with us at all to recover his debt and currently owes the Council £3098.34, despite efforts to contact him.

Members may wish to note Mr Kerr only trades sporadically. Mr Kerr trades without any other Licence infringements.

Financial and Resource Implications

If this Licence is refused, there will be a loss in annual Licence Fees of £1250. However, there is sufficient interest in this site and it is expected it will be filled within a short time.

The Service will work with Central Transactions Unit and Legal Services to take steps to ensure any outstanding debt will be recovered.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no issues associated with this report.

The Committee was minded to refuse to renew the licence and agreed to consider the refusal of the Licence at a future meeting at which Mr Kerr Would be invited to make representation regarding his failure to pay the fees due and non-use of his Licence

**Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival –
Application to Provide Entertainment
beyond 11pm within a Marquee at Custom House Square**

The Committee considered the following report:

Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will run their annual musical arts festival over eleven nights within a marquee at Custom House Square from Thursday 2 May to Sunday 12 May 2019. This report is to consider a request from the organisers to permit entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on four of those nights.

Recommendations

Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either:

- 1. Agree if the four proposed nights should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or;**

2. Refuse any or all of the extended hours as requested.

Main report

Key Issues

Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and they currently hold both a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence (Marquee) for the Square.

The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.

In addition, the following Conditions are attached to the Entertainments Licence:

1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals;
2. Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council;
3. Any requests to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event;
4. Should the Council receive a significant number of noise complaints for any event which has successive nights of entertainment permitted beyond 11.00 pm or if a complaint about an event beyond 11.00 pm is of major concern, then those successive nights with later hours may be subject to reduction and the promoter should have appropriate arrangements in place should this occur.

The Cathedral Quarter Arts festival has been taking place for the last 19 years and includes a wide programme of events of local, national and international music, literature, comedy and drama. The event is also regarded as being an integral part of the arts and cultural calendar in Belfast.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019**

Members will recall that in previous years the Committee has granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival. This was last considered by the Committee at your meeting on the 21 March 2018 when the organisers requested that entertainment be permitted beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on two nights of the event. After consideration, you agreed to grant the request to extend the hours.

Whilst recognising that such music events contribute to the overall 'vibrancy' of the City it is also the case that noise from these events has the potential to cause widespread disturbance to those living and working in the vicinity.

Before granting any extension the Committee has always carefully considered the financial and commercial benefits of such events against the interests of residents within the area and has, on occasions, agreed with respective promoters to reduce the number of nights they had originally intended to go beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm in order to reduce the impact the event may have upon them.

The organisers are still in the process of finalising the programme of entertainments for this year's festival, but they have confirmed that the type of entertainment will be similar to previous years consisting of mainly local talent mixed with some headline acts.

The organisers have requested that you consider permitting four nights of the event to run beyond 11.00 pm as follows:

Friday 3 May	12.00 am
Saturday 4 May	12.00 am
Sunday 5 May (Bank Holiday)	12.00 am
Friday 10 May	12.00 am

Rationale for additional hours

The organisers have advised that the two weekends of the festival are regarded as the busiest evenings and they see more visitors from outside the city and further afield attending these festival events.

They hope that the extended hours will provide their visitors with a memorable festival experience and value for money and allow them to 'make a night of it' by availing of the many other venues and local restaurants before attending the event.

The organisers have also advised that the extra hour enables them to add local support acts to the bill and give them the opportunity to raise their profile and support a headline festival act.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019**

As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Indoor Entertainments Licence for a Marquee, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing Licence Condition there is no requirement to advertise the application.

Officers have also discussed the resident's notification and how this is essential to the success of events at the venue, particularly if hoping to operate beyond 11.00 pm. We will continue to liaise with organisers to ensure that the letter is issued to the correct addresses prior to the event taking place.

Representatives of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival.

PSNI

The PSNI have been consulted regarding the event and the request to operate four nights of the event to 12.00 am. The police have confirmed that they have no objections to the application.

NIFRS

The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to the application and have confirmed that they have no objection to it.

Health, safety and welfare issues

Officers from the Service have carried out inspections for previous festivals and have always found the organisers to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of each individual event during that time.

A pre-event planning meeting will be arranged with the organisers, PSNI and NIFRS to ensure that everything is being done to protect public safety, review traffic management and wider operational issues for the event.

Noise issues

The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on four of the eleven nights at the venue.

Due to the cumulative impact of the consecutive nights proposed and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents, Officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019**

Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

Last year's festival generated two complaints but no further action resulted.

Officers will work with the organisers and their representatives on appropriate noise management plans and procedures for the festival to ensure that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to both the commercial and residential premises of the area.

Financial and Resource Implications

Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event, but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no issues associated with this report.

The Committee agreed to permit four nights of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival to run beyond 11.00 pm as follows:

Friday 3 May	12.00 am
Saturday 4 May	12.00 am
Sunday 5 May (Bank Holiday)	12.00 am
Friday 10 May	12.00 am

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 9th April, 2019

PRE DETERMINATION HEARING

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Councillors Armitage, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Hutchinson, Johnston, Mullan and
Nicholl.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development
Management);
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

**Pre Determination Hearing to consider Planning Application
LA04/2017/2811/F and LA04/2017/2783/DCA – Demolition of
existing building and erection of 16 storey residential building
comprising 90 units (30 x one bed and 60 x two bed), ancillary
ground floor uses including management suite, café,
servicing (refuse/recycling/cycle storage/general storage),
plant room, substation and associated public realm works
at 81-87 Academy Street & 2-6 Exchange Street**

The Planning Manager (Development Management) reminded the Members that applications LA04/2017/2811/F and LA04/2017/2783/DCA had originally been considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 16th October, 2018, when the Committee had resolved to grant planning permission, subject to clarification of the consultation response from DfI Roads, satisfactory amendments to the design of the public realm enhancements, the submission of a satisfactory Travel Plan, and securing travel cards for the occupants of the development for five years.

He advised the Members that the Planning (Notification of Applications) Direction 2017 provided that, since there had been an objection to the major application from the Historic Environment Division (HED), it had been necessary to notify the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) because the resolution to approve was contrary to the views of a statutory consultee. He explained to the Committee that, on 26th March, 2019, the DfI

**Pre Determination Hearing,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

had confirmed that it did not consider it necessary for the applications to be referred to it for determination.

He explained to the Committee that, under Regulation 7(1) of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Council was required to hold a pre-determination hearing to hear the views of interested parties and for the Committee to seek clarification from those parties on the facts surrounding the development.

The Committee was reminded that a decision on the applications would not be reached at that meeting but that they would be formally considered at the Planning Committee later that evening. The Planning Manager highlighted to the Members that the hearing should focus on the material planning considerations.

The Planning Manager provided the key aspects of the planning applications to the Committee, including various viewpoints of the proposed building in relation to surrounding buildings.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the case officer's report, which included the original committee report of 16th October, 2018 and the Late Items report from that meeting. The Planning Manager advised the Members that the reports provided the background to the applications, the consultation responses and the relevant key issues to be considered.

He advised the Committee that DfI Roads had subsequently withdrawn its earlier objection to the application as reported in the Late Items report, on the understanding that there would be an updated Travel Plan and that public transport travel cards would be provided for each residential unit for the first five years of occupation. He advised that, on that basis, DfI Roads had withdrawn their requirement for on-site parking.

The Members were advised that HED had objected to the applications as it felt that the proposals would adversely affect the setting of nearby Listed Buildings and that the proposal was out of keeping with the context and character of the setting and both the listed buildings' relationship with their setting and the detailed design was out of keeping with the listed buildings in terms of scale, form, massing and proportions.

Since the Planning Committee's meeting of 16th October, 2018, the Committee was advised that the Council had received further objections in relation to application LA04/2017/2811/F, including that:

- the height of the proposal would detract from the Cathedral area;
- the height of the new Ulster University buildings was now being used as a precedent;
- the height restrictions set out in BMAP should be adhered to;
- the demolition on the site was concerning, particularly in relation to how long it would last and noise and vibration concerns and the impact on neighbouring businesses;
- the lack of parking provided within the site; and

**Pre Determination Hearing,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

- the building would be overly-dominant and failed to accord with SPPS and Policy BH11 of PPS6, and was out of keeping with the Conservation Area.

The Committee was advised that officers' responses to the concerns which had been raised were covered within the report, a number of which had been addressed in the original case officer's report of 16th October, 2018.

The Chairperson then welcomed to the meeting Mr. A. Best, the Applicant, Mr. M. Gordon, Turley, and Mr. S. Levrant, Architect, and advised them that they had ten minutes to address the Committee.

Mr. Gordon outlined to the Committee that:

- the application, as the City's first build-to-rent scheme, would contribute to the Council's ambitious housing targets as set out in the Belfast Agenda;
- it was an important investment in the City's residential stock; and
- he believed that the proposal had struck a balance between development in the City and protection of the City's heritage.

Mr. Levrant advised the Members that:

- the proposal was taller than those buildings around it, but that it should not be taken as a negative, as change was necessary in the development of a vibrant City, in terms of increased density;
- it was not an arbitrary height or size, it was in response to the City's requirements;
- the juxtaposition between the proposals and both the Education Authority office and the Cathedral was appropriate, as both were impactful buildings in their own merit, and the application would act as a foil to those; and
- while he acknowledged that there would be a minor adverse impact upon one view of the site, it was offset by the major benefits of the scheme, namely, the replacement of the dreadful building on site currently, and the creation of much-needed accommodation in the area.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation.

Mr. B. McKervey, Historic Environment Division (HED), declined the opportunity to address the Committee but advised that he was in attendance to answer any questions from the Committee. No questions were posed to Mr. McKervey.

The Committee noted that it would consider the application formally at its meeting which would commence later that evening.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 9th April, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Hutchinson, Johnston, Mullan and
Nicholl.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development
Management);
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March 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 April, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson, Councillor Garrett, declared an interest in Item 7b, LA04/2019/0436/F - Single storey side extension at 14 Brooke Park, in that he was the applicant and he left the meeting for the duration of discussion on the item.

Committee Site Visit

Pursuant to its decision of 12th March, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 21st March in respect of the following planning applications LA04/2018/0059/F - Demolition of 2 storey rear return, external steps and single storey outbuilding of former Parochial House, demolition of existing vestry entrance porch, external steps, single storey boiler house and part of internal wall to tower and relocation of internal spiral staircase of former Holy Rosary Church, and change of use to Hotel and licensed restaurant on lands at 348-350 Ormeau Road and LA04/2018/2157/F - New

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

children's hospital and associated infrastructure, incorporating the demolition of Bostock House on the Royal Group of Hospitals site, 274 Grosvenor Road.

Abandonment

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to an application from Newington Housing Association in conjunction with the Department for Justice, for the abandonment of a length of alleyway which had originally provided rear access to properties between Duncairn Gardens and the former Hillman Street. The Committee noted that the area had subsequently been redeveloped and that no houses backed onto the area.

The Committee noted the correspondence.

Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 5th March and 1st April, 2019.

Miscellaneous Item

Local Development Plan Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on:-

- the LDP Metropolitan Working Group (MWG);
- An invitation from Lisburn City Council (LCCC) to attend a meeting to discuss their Consultation and Engagement Strategy with neighbouring councils; and
- the recently published Ards and North Down Borough Council (AND) Preferred Options Paper (POP);

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the updates on the MWG, the invitation by LCCC on their engagement strategy and to agree to delegate responsibility to officers to respond on behalf of the council to the AND POP.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The MWG provides a liaison forum on spatial planning and includes cross boundary aspects of economic development, housing, transport and general infrastructure issues arising at regional and sub-regional level. The MWG met on 11 March 2019 and this report sets some of the main issues that were discussed. Minutes from the meeting are available on mod.gov.
- 3.2 The council has received an invitation from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to attend a meeting on their 'Consultation and Engagement Strategy with Neighbouring Councils' which is designed to seek feedback from neighbouring councils on their draft Plan Strategy in advance of public consultation. The meeting has been scheduled for 10am on 18th April 2019 in the Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn. The invitation is targeted at senior planning officers from those councils adjoining LCCC. A copy of the invitation is available on mod.gov.
- 3.3 Public consultation on the AND POP began on 28 March 2019 and will be open for a period of 12 weeks, ending at 5pm on 20 June 2019. Feedback from the public consultation will inform the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy. It is the last POP to be published within the metropolitan area and this report outlines some of the proposed strategic approach. The summary of the AND POP is available on mod.gov.

4.0 Main Issues

The Metropolitan Working Group Update

- 4.1 The main issues discussed that the MWG on 11 March 2018 are set out below.
- 4.2 In terms of updates, BCC advised that we had recently met with the Dfl and PAC regarding process and next stage of plan development. We provided an update of our revised timetable and the publication of our plan responses following our engagement on the DPS. We also advised that we are currently summarising those responses and completing our

own response to the PAC in advance of the independent examination.

- 4.3 LCCC and Antrim and Newtownabbey (ANBC) currently intend to publish their draft Plan Strategies in the autumn. ANDBC advised that it will be publishing its POP imminently (*now published*).
- 4.4 Concerns were raised by Dfl, LCCC and ANDBC at the previous meeting about engagement by BCC prior to publication. This was also raised in their formal response to our DPS last autumn. LCCC is required to set up their own consultations for their LDP as they have different adjoining council and they suggested they would take an alternative approach to this.
- 4.5 Dfl is intending to produce a two stage Transport Strategy and Transport Plan. However, the timetable for these has continued to slip. Dfl raised concerns about BCC publishing its DPS prior to production of the Dfl Transport Strategy. This was also raised in its formal response to the DPS last autumn. Unfortunately there is still no draft Transport Strategy or Plan from Dfl despite comments at the last meeting that suggested that this would be available March. There is yet to be a Transport Plan Board meeting.
- 4.6 Dfl is required to set up consultations for the development of the transport plan but it has yet to formally outline the processes or timescales. Dfl in January published 'guidance' on transport policy for councils without any prior consultation.

Ards and North Down Preferred Options Paper (POP)

- 4.7 Public consultation on the Ards and North Down Borough Council POP began on 28 March 2019 and will be open for a period of 12 weeks, ending at 5pm on 20 June 2019. It is the last POP to be published within the metropolitan area and indeed in Northern Ireland. As members will be aware, the POP is the first public consultation stage in the LDP process and its main purpose is to encourage debate on key issues affecting the area, including the Council's preferred approach to guiding future development.
- 4.8 The ANDBC POP sets out three strategic objectives, as follows:
- Ensuring cohesive and safe communities; and, supporting healthy lifestyle

- Protecting and enhancing the environment;
- Promoting economic vitality.

4.9 It proposes five overarching principles that all development proposals must have regard to:

- Improving Health and Well-being;
- Creating and Enhancing Shared Space;
- Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth;
- Supporting Good Design and Positive Place Making;
and
- Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment.

4.10 The proposed growth strategy seeks to guide the majority of development to locations within large towns that have adequate capacity and infrastructure. Bangor and Newtownards are designated as ‘large towns’ at the top of the proposed settlement strategy, followed by a number of small towns, such as Holywood, Comber and Ballygowan. It proposes to allocate land to accommodate 8,190 new houses over the LDP period to 2030, in line with the RDS 2016 housing growth indicators. It notes that land zoned for housing in existing development plans can meet almost all of this allocation and, in addition, there are other lands within settlements with potential for new housing, with a total of over 10,000 potential housing units identified.

4.11 The POP supports local economic development and seeks to identify land to support the creation of up to 7,500 jobs in line with the target set in the ANDBC’s Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy. It notes that there is sufficient land already zoned for employment uses to meet future growth. In addition, it also seeks to protect and enhance the rural economy across the area.

4.12 The POP sets out preferred approaches across a wide range of other planning matters, including the natural and built environment, flooding and climate change, sustainable travel and retailing.

4.13 In overall terms, the POP seeks to grow the ANDBC area in an inclusive and sustainable way. Its general approach is to meet local needs, including increased employment opportunities throughout the area. There is a clear acknowledgement of the need for a sustainable approach, including in relation to environmental protection and sustainable/active travel. In this regard, the overall proposed approach is in line with regional planning policy.

- 4.14 The POP public consultation period runs to 20 June 2019. Having regard to the general nature of the issues raised in the POP and the committee timetable over the coming months, permission is being sought from members to delegate the submission of a written response to officers in this instance.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 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 the item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Outstanding Accounts

The Director of Planning and Building Control informed the Committee that, during the summer of 2008, under part IX of the Belfast Improvement Act 1878, work had been undertaken by the Council’s contractor at a site in the north of the City. He advised the Committee that the debtor had been invoiced by the Council for the cost of the works undertaken and that they had been written to on numerous occasions regarding repayment of the debt. The Committee noted that the advice from Legal Services was that no further legal action be taken in relation to the outstanding debt.

The Committee agreed to write off the debt of £7,567.52.

Planning Applications

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)

LA04/2017/2811/F and LA04/2017/2783/DCA - Demolition of existing building and erection of 16 storey residential building comprising 90 units (30 x one bed and 60 x two bed), ancillary ground floor uses including management suite, café, servicing (refuse/recycling/cycle storage/general storage), plant room, substation and associated public realm works at 81-87 Academy Street & 2-6 Exchange Street

The Committee was reminded that a Pre-Determination Hearing had been held immediately prior to the meeting to hear the views of interested parties and for the

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

Committee to seek clarification from those parties on the facts surrounding the development.

The Planning Manager (Development Management) advised the Committee of the key points of the application.

He explained that, since the Committee had originally considered the applications at its meeting on 16th October, 2018, the Council had received additional objections to application LA04/2017/2811/F, which had been addressed within the main body of the report.

He advised the Committee that Members present had received a deputation from Mr. A. Best, the Applicant, Mr. M. Gordon, Turley, and Mr. S. Levrant, Architect. In response to the Chairperson's offer to address the Committee again at this meeting, they declined and requested the right to reply to any points raised by any objectors.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. B. McKervey, Historic Environment Division (HED), was in attendance and wished to present to the Committee.

Mr. McKervey advised the Committee of HED's objections in relation to the applications, which included:

- concerns in relation to the height of the proposed building in a conservation area, particularly in relation to the Education Authority building and St. Anne's Cathedral;
- that, if the Committee was to grant approval to the applications, it would set a precedent for future applications in the area, in terms of height, scale and massing;
- that he believed it was wrong that recent high-rise buildings should determine a new setting for an area in contrast to the historical buildings; and
- that, while he welcomed a residential development in the area, he would not support one at the scale, height and massing as contained within the proposed plans.

The Chairperson invited Mr. Gordon, the agent, and Mr. S. Levrant, Architect, to respond to any comments raised by Mr. McKervey. They stated that:

- each application was to be judged on its own merits;
- it was a tall building, but that scale was not size, it was the relationship between parts;
- the historic setting had, and must, change in order to be vibrant;
- the proposals would fulfil the residential need in the city centre;
- the proposals would set a new tone for the area, weaving into the fabric of the City without adverse affect.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions, including a condition

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

to secure the public realm enhancement works and, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to resolve the outstanding issues and the Section 76 Planning Agreement to secure the submission and implementation of a final Travel Plan and the provision of Travel Cards as detailed within the report.

(Alderman McGimpsey joined the meeting at this point)

(Deferred) LA04/2018/0059/F - Demolition of 2 storey rear return, external steps and single storey outbuilding of former Parochial House, demolition of existing vestry entrance porch, external steps, single storey boiler house and part of internal wall to tower and spiral staircase of former Holy Rosary Church. Change of use to hotel and licensed restaurant. Elevation changes and associated works on Lands at Nos. 348-350 Ormeau Road Belfast

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had agreed to defer consideration of the application at its meeting on 12th March, so that the Committee could undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site. She explained that the site visit had taken place on 21st March.

The Committee was provided with an overview of the principal aspects of the application and the issues which had been considered in its assessment against planning policies. The case officer explained that the site was located within the development limits for Belfast in both the BUAP (2001) and the draft BMAP (2015). She explained that both the church and hall buildings were listed.

The Members were advised that the principle of the proposal was acceptable and that the re-use of the Listed Building in the form and detail proposed was acceptable to the Historic Environment Division (HED).

The case officer explained that 63 objections had been received, the majority of which related to issues with parking and noise issues and, following the publication of last month's report, an additional five written objections had been received, all citing the lack of parking within the development.

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where the applicant had submitted a Travel Plan for the application on 2nd April. The Members were advised that DfI Roads had reviewed the Travel Plan and had recommended a condition, which included targets and an annual review, to be agreed with the Planning Service prior to the development becoming operational.

The Committee was advised that DfI Roads had been consulted on two separate occasions in relation to the application and that it was content and had no objections in respect of the impact of the proposal on existing parking provision.

She confirmed to the Committee that Environmental Health had cited no concerns with noise, nuisance or disturbance but, as detailed in the addendum report, had

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

submitted its final response to the consultation recommending seven conditions, if the application was to be approved.

The Committee received representation from Mr. S. de Faoite who explained that he was in attendance to raise concerns on behalf of local residents regarding the lack of parking facilities proposed at the site. He made a number of points, which included:

- while he appreciated that the proposal would bring a vacant, listed building back into use, he did not feel that the applicant had done enough in terms of addressing residents' concerns in relation to parking;
- residents in the surrounding streets already had regular occurrences of their bins not being collected due to a high density of parked cars blocking streets and alleyways;
- there was only one entrance/exit at the proposed site, onto the Ormeau Road, which has a bus lane – this would create further congestion on an already busy road; and
- that the bus route has been suggested as a potential glider route in the future.

The Committee then received representation from Councillor Boyle, who spoke in support of the application. He advised the Committee that:

- he welcomed the application, in that it would bring a listed building back into use, which had been vacant since the mid-1980s;
- the applicants were professional operators of licensed premises;
- the application should be approved as it would create employment and increase the rate base for the Council; and
- while he understood the parking concerns raised, he didn't believe the application would make the parking issues any worse than they currently were.

The Committee received representation from the agents for the application, Ms. S. Tinsley, Turley, Mr. L. Power, Architect, and Mr. D. Fletcher, Traffic Consultant.

Ms. Tinsley and Mr. Power informed the Committee that:

- the heritage-led project would secure the future of a vacant, Grade B1 listed building which was on the Buildings At Risk register;
- all statutory consultees had responded without objection;
- amendments had been made by the applicant in response to feedback, in order to minimise the impact on neighbouring properties by reducing the scale and massing of the original proposals, from 21 bedrooms to 18;
- the Travel Plan would be conditioned; and
- it was in the wider public interest to regenerate the buildings.

In response to a Member's question regarding how the number of car parking spaces required for the site had been determined, Mr. Fletcher confirmed to the Members

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

that a Trip Rate Information Computer (TRIC) was a long-established system which collated real time information for similar sized developments throughout the UK. He explained that, while Planning Parking Standards would suggest the provision of 104 parking spaces, DfI Roads had agreed to the use of TRIC trip generation analysis to determine the parking requirement for the proposed development, which had determined that 27 vehicles would require parking at the site at any one time. He confirmed to the Committee that the parking survey had illustrated on-street availability well in excess of 27 on each survey time in the catchment area.

During discussion, the Traffic Consultant confirmed that the Travel Plan applied to both the staff and guests of the development. He confirmed that public transport information would be provided to guests at the time of booking.

In response to a Member's query regarding the nearby Church car park, which involved crossing the Ormeau Road, Ms. Tinsley confirmed to the Committee that the applicant had engaged with the Church to explore the possibility of hotel guests using its carpark, but that it was being explored in good faith and did not form part of the Planning application.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. L. Walsh, DfI Roads, was in attendance and he was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Walsh advised the Committee that the bus lanes on the Ormeau Road were operational city-bound in the mornings and country-bound in the evenings. He explained that Translink operated 74 metro services along the Ormeau Road each day. He advised the Members that DfI Roads had determined that there were adequate pedestrian crossings close to the site and that there was sufficient on-street parking in the vicinity.

A Member stated that they had been advised by the PSNI that parking partially on the pavement was illegal but that it was too difficult to monitor, particularly in narrow streets such as those off the Ormeau Road.

In response to a Member's query as to whether the applicant would be required to retain and restore the stained glass and the interior staircase, the case officer confirmed to the Committee that they would be conditioned and phased as a priority.

The case officer confirmed, in response to further questions from a Member regarding deliveries and glass collections at the hotel site, that a number of conditions would be added if Planning Permission was granted, as detailed in the addendum report, and that the Management Plan would also ensure good neighbourliness. The Divisional Solicitor added that the Management Plan for the development could be flexible to take future considerations into account.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Johnston, and
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee grants approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

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

(Reconsidered) - LA04/2018/2157/F - new children's hospital and associated infrastructure incorporating the demolition of Bostock House on the Royal Group of Hospitals site, 274 Grosvenor Road

(Councillors Carson and Nicholl took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 12th March, when it had originally been considered)

(Councillors Carson and Nicholl left the meeting at this point)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had considered the major application at its meeting on 12th March, when it had agreed to defer consideration to enable the Committee to receive a briefing on the Travel Plan for the site, and to undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site and the surrounding residential streets.

He advised the Members that the briefing on the Travel Plan and the site visit had both taken place on 21st March, with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads in attendance.

The case officer reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 12th March, a number of members had raised concerns relating to the parking provision to serve the proposal and the impact that it would have on traffic flow and on the amenity of nearby streets.

He explained that, in light of further discussions with DfI Roads, a condition had been added to ensure that there was designated parking to serve the proposed children's hospital. The Committee was advised that the condition would ensure that 97 car parking spaces would be permanently retained as dedicated car parking for visitors and patients of the Children's Hospital. He clarified to the Members that these 97 spaces would be in addition to the 24 new spaces, which were included as part of the application.

The Members were advised that Condition 11.10 within the original report of 12th March had been amended to ensure that the Travel Plan was agreed and implemented prior to the operation of the Children's Hospital.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items pack, where the Planning Service had detailed that the timeframe for the Travel Plan for the entire hospital should be implemented within twelve months from the commencement of development, and not six months as detailed within the report. Further late items included details of correspondence between the agent and the Planning Service to clarify the wording of conditions relating to car parking and the Travel Plan for the site, a Briefing Note which

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

had been submitted by the agent further to the Committee's site visit, and clarification from DfI Roads in relation to its position on parking at the site. The case officer advised the Members that the Planning Service's response to each correspondence was addressed within the pack.

The Committee received representation from Ms. K. Brookes, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and Ms. U. Somerville, Aecom. Together they outlined to the Committee that:

- they appreciated the previous concerns raised relating to parking and had had significant engagement with DfI Roads and the Planning Service since the previous Committee meeting, resulting in the two conditions referenced by the case officer;
- this was the first time that a site specific Travel Plan would be developed for the RVH campus;
- the focus of the Travel Plan was on staff, it would be reviewed annually and it would contain a mixture of incentives and penalties; and
- they would like the Committee to consider extending the implementation period for the Travel Plan to "within 18 months from the demolition of Bostock House", instead of 12 months.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr L. Walsh, DfI Roads, was in attendance. In response to a Member's question regarding the encouragement of active travel, specifically cycling, contained within the Travel Plan, Mr. Walsh advised the Committee that the Eastern Division of DfI Roads was currently undertaking a gap analysis of the cycle network in Belfast to identify safe routes for cyclists.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions as set out within the case officer's report and within the Late Items Pack, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

(Councillor Nicholl returned to the Committee table at this point)

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Hutchinson left the meeting at this point)

LA04/2019/0578/LBC - Conservation led works to Bank Buildings involving the removal of the 1970s brick wall insertion from the Bank Street façade

The Committee was apprised of the key aspects of the application for the partial dismantling of one section of a red brick wall of Bank Buildings, which had been constructed in the 1970s following bomb damage to the building.

The Planning Manager (Development Management) reminded the Members that Bank Buildings was a category B1 Listed Building, within the Belfast City Centre

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

Conservation Area, which had suffered severe damage by a fire that started on 28th August, 2018.

He advised the Committee that the Historic Environment Division (HED) had raised no objection to the proposal subject to conditions. The Members noted that a replacement wall was required to be erected within two years from the date of consent, subject to details to be agreed between the Council and HED.

The Committee was advised that no third party representations had been received.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

(Alderman McGimpsey returned to the Committee table at this point)

LA04/2018/2784/F - Proposed toboggan run (324m winding descent with 241m straight return) and associated single storey prefabricated building with access road, car parking, pathways, lighting, supporting planting and site works Colin Glen Forest Park 163 Stewartstown Road

The Committee was apprised of the principal details of the application for a toboggan run in Colin Glen Forest Park, which was in receipt of Council funding.

The case officer explained that the site was currently designated as existing open space in the adopted Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 and Draft BMAP. She confirmed to the Members that the principle of development and the proposed use as open space would continue to be used as recreational open space, with enhanced facilities and would provide for the wider community benefit.

She outlined to the Committee that eight objections had been received raising concerns including the impact of the proposal on a priority habitat, protected species and loss of ancient woodland.

The Members were advised that all statutory consultees were content, subject to conditions. The case officer explained that the Council's Tree Officer had raised concerns regarding the loss of trees, mitigation planting and the impact of construction works on trees to be retained. She advised the Committee that, as the principle of the installation of a recreational use into the open space was acceptable, it was considered that a suitable mitigation plan could be achieved.

In response to a Member's query regarding the ability of the emergency services to access the toboggan path, the Chairperson advised the Committee that Ms. K. Jenkinson, Aecom, and Mr. C. O'Neill, Colin Glen Trust, were in attendance and were welcomed to the meeting.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

Together, Ms Jenkinson and Mr O'Neill confirmed to the Committee that a Management Plan would be in place and that the emergency services could reach the toboggan via pathways along the route. The case officer confirmed to the Committee that this was not a planning consideration.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2017/1784/F - Retention of existing residential premises
3 & 5 Dunmurry Lane, retention & extension of existing
residential premises 7 & 9 Dunmurry Lane, and the erection
of 1 apartment block comprising of 27 x 2 bedroom apartments
and 16 x 1 bedroom apartments at. 148-158 (Evens) Kingsway
Dunmurray and 3-11 (odds) Dunmurry Lane**

The Committee was provided with the details of the proposal, which included the erection of 27 two bedroom apartments and 16 one bedroom apartments.

The case officer explained to the Members that the principle of the proposal was acceptable on the basis that the site was within the development limits in both the extant and draft plans, and was zoned for housing in dBMAP.

She advised the Members that 23 objections had been received relating to overlooking, dominance, loss of light, over-development, increase in traffic, issues with parking, waste disposal arrangements, out-of-character with surrounding area and increased risk of flooding. The Committee was advised that the issues were addressed within her report.

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where a consultation response had been received from DfI Roads, confirming that it had no objections to the proposal and that the provision of both Private Streets Determination details and conditions be included, if it was granted approval.

She advised the Members that all consultees had offered no objections.

In relation to car parking on the site, she advised the Committee that 40 spaces would be provided and that the site was accessible by public transport as well as close to shops and other services.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

LA04/2018/1932/F - Residential development comprising 90 no units (47 dwellings, 40 apartments, 3 bungalows) and associated access, parking, landscaping and play park on lands directly to the south of Kilwee Business Park Upper Dunmurry Lane, Dunmurry

(Councillor Mullan left the meeting at this point)

The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the principal aspects of the major application for ninety social housing units, to including parking, associated landscaping and a play park.

He outlined to the Members that the site was located within the development limits of Belfast in the BUAP 2001 and Draft BMAP 2015 (dBMAP) and was zoned for housing under dBMAP.

The Committee was advised that Environmental Health, Rivers Agency, NIEA, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and NI Water had been consulted and had expressed no objection to the proposals subject to conditions.

The case officer explained that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads was currently finalising the Private Streets Determination and would be in a position to provide conditions and informatives thereafter.

The Members were advised that the application had met the Policy tests PPS 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 15.

The case officer outlined that three representations had been received, citing overdevelopment, not in keeping with the existing general housing characteristics of the area and environmental concerns. He advised the Committee that the response of the Planning Service to the concerns were outlined within the body of the report.

In response to a Member's query regarding the overhead electricity lines and the proposed playpark, the case officer confirmed that Northern Ireland Electricity had been consulted and had expressed no objection but that they would be provided with the details of the playpark and that the details would be covered by condition.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LAO4//2018/2049/LBC & LA04/2018/2271/F - Extension and refurbishment of original 18 & 19 Donegall Sq East, demolition of rear return and infill buildings and the provision of a new rear extension and link to provide accommodation for commercial use to the basement, ground floor and 4th floor with associated roof terrace, and office accommodation on 1st-6th floors with roof top plant, public realm works

The Planning Manager (Development Management) provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for the extension and refurbishment of the listed buildings, the demolition of rear buildings and the erection of a new extension to the rear which fronts onto May Street.

The Members were advised of the main issues which had been considered in assessing the proposals and that the site was located within Belfast City Centre, an Area of Parking Restraint, the Civic Precinct Character Area and the City Centre Conservation Area.

The Planning Manager explained that Transport NI, Environmental Health, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, HED and NI Water had been consulted on the proposals. He explained that NI Water's response was currently outstanding but that it was not anticipated that it would raise any significant concerns. The Committee also noted that Environmental Health was considering the Noise Impact Assessment and that delegated authority was sought to resolve final conditions to resolve those matters.

He advised Members that representations had been received from the Belfast Civic Trust and the Ulster Bank, and that their concerns had been addressed in the case officer's report.

He drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where the Historical Environment Division (HED) had recommended an additional condition regarding lighting, should the approval be granted. He also advised the Committee that replacement elevation and basement/ground floor drawings had been submitted by the applicant, with minor changes, and were considered acceptable.

The Planning Manager outlined to the Committee that, having regard to all the submitted information and representations, officers had concluded that the proposed design was appropriate in the context of the conservation area and listed buildings and provided an innovative and visually interesting design.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control to resolve the outstanding matters in relation to the consultation responses from Environmental Health and NI Water, and for the final wording of the conditions.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

LA04/2018/2712/F - Change of use from retail unit to an amusement centre on ground floor at 115-119 Royal Avenue

(Councillor Canavan left the meeting at this point)

The case officer provided the Members with the key aspects of the application for a change of use from retail to an amusement arcade.

He explained to the Committee that the application sought the relocation of an existing amusement arcade from 13 North Street to facilitate redevelopment of the area.

The Committee was advised that the site was located within Belfast City Centre and Cathedral Conservation Area, and fell within the primary retail core of the city centre. The case officer pointed out to the Members that there were a number of listed properties within the immediate location of the site.

He confirmed to the Committee that DfI Roads and the Historic Environment Division (HED) had been consulted and had no objections to the application. The Members were advised that Environmental Health had requested an amended noise impact assessment and that their comments were outstanding in this regard.

The case officer explained that ten objections had been received and that the Planning Service's assessment of those objections had been addressed within his report.

A Member expressed concerns regarding the site's proximity to the Belfast Central Library, which was used by school children, the offices of Start360, which provided support to vulnerable people, and the offices of Extern and the Probation Board NI.

The case officer explained to the Committee that Building Control had advised that the proposed change of use did not comply with one of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy criteria (May 2013), namely "retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast", as it was a new arcade in that location. He advised that Building Control had confirmed, however, that the proposal complied with the other four criteria of that Policy, namely, the cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location, the impact on the image and profile of Belfast, proximity to residential use and proximity to schools, youth centres and residential institutions for vulnerable people.

In response to a Member's query, he stated that, as the application was for the relocation of an amusement arcade to facilitate redevelopment, as opposed to an additional arcade, it was considered that it would not result in the proliferation of non-retail units in the retail core and was therefore acceptable in Planning terms.

The Divisional Solicitor clarified to the Members that it would be for the Licensing Committee to determine if the proposed amusement arcade met the requirements under the Council's Amusement Permit Policy, where the Policy would perhaps carry more weight.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

She confirmed that the concerns raised by the Planning Committee in relation to the proposed site's proximity to the aforementioned venues, including Belfast Central Library, would be submitted to the Licensing Committee for its consideration.

The Committee was advised that a Section 76 Planning Agreement would be drawn up to ensure that both the existing and proposed premises would not operate concurrently as amusement arcades.

In response to a Member's concerns, the Director of Planning and Building Control and the Divisional Solicitor confirmed to the Committee that the Section 76 Agreement could restrict the publically accessible floor space of the premises at 115-119 Royal Avenue.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions and, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to resolve the outstanding issues and the Section 76 Planning Agreement.

LA04/2019/0025/F - Demolition of existing residential building and construction of 90. apartments with associated car parking and landscaping at Parklands, Knocknagoney Dale

(Alderman McGimpsey left the meeting at this point)

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the major application for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of 90 apartments on an established residential site.

He outlined to the Committee that planning permission had been granted in 2015, by the former Department of the Environment (DOE), for 165 apartments and more recently by the Council in January 2018, for 105 apartments. He explained that the current proposal was a further reduction in the number of apartments, from 105 to 90, in three 4 storey blocks.

The Members were advised that Environmental Health, DFI Roads, DAERA, Rivers Agency and NI Water had submitted no objections in principle to the proposals and, subject to the provision of satisfactory technical details, were content.

The Committee noted that no objections had been received.

The case officer provided the Committee with the regional and local planning policies which the proposal had been considered against.

He outlined to the Members that, as a major application, it would be subject to a legal agreement with the Council, under Section 76 of the Planning Act, and that the developer had expressed a willingness and commitment to provide a financial contribution towards the provision and improvement of open space and recreational facilities, including pedestrian access to the adjoining Knocknagoney Park.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions and, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to resolve the outstanding issues and the Section 76 Planning Agreement.

LA04/2018/2496/F - Performance space, with outdoor seating area and covered stage, MUGA playing surfaces with goal posts & basketball nets & 6 metre high ball catch netting along eastern boundary, with outdoor gym equipment, steel storage container and security fencing at John Paul II Youth Club Brookfield Place

The case officer outlined the principal aspects of the application, whereby the applicant was in receipt of funding from the Council.

She explained to the Members that the principle of use as a recreational space was established, as, currently, it was the outdoor amenity space for the Youth Club and for parking. The Committee was advised that the proposed development would continue this recreational use with enhanced facilities which would provide for the wider community benefit.

The Committee noted that no third party objections had been received and that DfI Roads had no objections to the proposals.

The Members were advised that Environmental Health had requested further information in respect of noise and light spill. The case officer explained that, given that no objections had been received from neighbours, that the space was currently used by the Youth Club for recreational activities and that the new facilities would serve existing patrons only, the application was recommended for approval with authority delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to conclude outstanding issues regarding noise and lighting.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions, including the conclusion of outstanding issues with Environmental Health relating to noise and lighting.

LA04/2019/0143/F - Bike Shelter Upper Newtownards Road, Ravenscroft Avenue

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, where the Council was in current ownership of the land.

The case officer explained that the application was for the provision of a secure bike shelter for up to 20 bikes associated with the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

She outlined to the Members that the site was identified as whiteland in BUAP 2001 and within the draft Ravenscroft Avenue Area of Townscape character in dBMAP 2015. The Committee was advised that the proposed location for the bike shelter was on a small grassed area of open space within a largely commercial area. She pointed out that it was considered, on balance, that the provision of the facilities for the wider community outweighed the loss of open space.

She pointed out that DfI Roads had been consulted and had offered no objections subject to conditions.

The case officer advised the Committee that the Tree Officer had confirmed that they had no objection, subject to further conditions as detailed in the Late Items Pack.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions, specifically regarding the protection of the trees on site.

LA04/2019/0273/F - Change of use to HMO at 95 Donegall Avenue

The case officer outlined the details of an application for the change of use from a single dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

The Committee noted that two letters of objection had been received, one from Blackstaff Residents and one from the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland. The concerns raised included parking issues associated with HMOs and the use of traditional terrace housing for HMOs.

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where an amendment had been made to paragraph 2 of the report, with the removal of flat roof dormer to read velux roof light.

The case officer advised the Committee that, as the proposed site was not located within an HMO Policy Area, or HMO Node in the Subject Plan for the Council's area, Policy 5 applied. She explained that the policy permitted the change to HMO use at a value of up to 10% of any street or, in specifically long streets, 300m either side of the street. She explained to the members that records indicated that the 10% figure had been exceeded within a distance of 300m to either side of the site and that it was recommended, therefore, that planning permission be refused.

The Committee agreed to refuse the application as it was contrary to Policy HMO5, in that 10% HMOs use within 300m either side of the site had been achieved.

LA04/2019/0353/F - Installation of external lighting to complement play park improvements at Robert Bradford Memorial Park

The case officer advised the Committee that the application, for the installation of external lighting at Robert Bradford Memorial Park, was a Belfast City Council application.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

She explained the key issues which had been assessed and advised the Members that it was considered that the proposal would not have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area, or any adverse impact on public safety.

The Committee was advised that DfI Roads had offered no objections. The case officer explained that Environmental Health had requested further information relating to a light spill assessment and the proposed hours of operation, but pointed out that any issues could be resolved prior to the issuing of the decision.

The Members were advised that no third party representations had been received.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/0137/F - Upgrade of existing MUGA pitch to synthetic 3G pitch, with floodlighting and fencing Whiterise MUGA, Dunmurry

The case officer advised the Members that the application, for the upgrade of an existing Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to a synthetic 3G pitch, was a Belfast City Council application.

She outlined the principal aspects of the application to the Committee, highlighting that the principle of open space/recreational development had already been established and deemed acceptable at the location.

The Committee noted that Environmental Health and Transport NI had been consulted and had offered no objections. The case officer explained that the response from NI Water was outstanding and that no third party representations had been received.

The case officer explained that the proposal was considered to comply with SPPS, BUAP, Draft BMAP, PPS3 and PPS8.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/0436/F - Single storey side extension at 14 Brooke Park

(The Chairperson, having declared an interest in the item, left the meeting at this point)

(In the absence of the Deputy Chairperson, the Committee agreed that Councillor Armitage take the Chair)

The case officer advised the Committee that the application for a single storey side extension had been submitted by an Elected Member.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019**

She explained that the site was within a residential area characterised by two storey terraced and semi-detached dwellings. The Committee noted that no representations had been received.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

Brexit Committee

Thursday, 11th April, 2019

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Dudgeon and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
Ms. C. Toolan, Chief Executive of BWUH Ltd. and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor McAteer.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st March 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 April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Correspondence - Federation of Small Businesses

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st March, a deputation from the Federation of Small Businesses Northern Ireland (FSB NI) had delivered a presentation to the Members on its proposal for Northern Ireland to be designated as an Enhanced Economic Zone.

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Members that, subsequently, a letter had been received from Mr. B. Kearney, FSB NI Regional Group Chair, indicating that FSB NI was keen for further engagement with the Committee, particularly in the event of a no-deal Brexit scenario.

The Committee agreed that further engagement with FSB NI would be beneficial and noted the contents of the report.

New Structures Established as part of UK Withdrawal

The Commissioner for Resilience informed the Committee that, under the withdrawal agreement, there was a range of new structures that would be put in place if it were to be passed. She informed the Members that a Joint Committee would be established between the UK and European Union to oversee the withdrawal agreement and its implementation and that it would have six sub-committees, one of which would specifically relate to Northern Ireland.

She informed the Committee that the Joint Committee would work at Ministerial level, the specialised committees would work at Official level and that there would also be a sub-committee that would include a joint consultative working group comprised of officials and experts.

The Commissioner for Resilience reminded the Committee that, at its last meeting, it agreed that that early engagement be made with the Executive Office, to understand how the new institutional arrangements would operate and, in particular, how the Joint Consultative Working Group on Northern Ireland would operate. She informed the Committee that, although the withdrawal agreement still hadn't been passed, the Members may wish to correspond with Mr. David Sterling, Head of the Civil Service, to indicate that the Council would like to engage formally, with regard to preparations. She informed the Members that the Department for the Economy had commissioned Queen's University to undertake a piece of work on the proposed structures and that Queen's University had asked the Council to engage with the process and that the engagement was ongoing.

Following discussion, the Commissioner for Resilience undertook to circulate a presentation that Queen's University had produced on future structures.

The Committee agreed that the Commissioner for Resilience would liaise with the Chairperson to draft a letter on behalf of the Brexit Committee to Mr. David Sterling, indicating that the Council wishes to engage with the processes that were taking place.

Update on Potential Implications of Brexit on ICC and Ulster Hall

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 4th March, at the request of Councillor Walsh, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Brexit Committee outlining the impact that Brexit was having on the ICC Belfast and the Ulster Hall.

Ms. Catherine Toolan, Chief Executive of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. provided the Committee with a report outlining the ongoing and potential impact of Brexit on the Belfast ICC and Ulster Hall. She provided the Members with feedback which she had received from her attendance at various trade shows across Europe and from her discussions with European Associations and Conference Organisers when considering Belfast as a venue for their conference.

The Committee noted the content of the report and, following discussion, agreed that a legal opinion be sought from the City Solicitor as to whether the report on the

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 11th April, 2019**

implications of Brexit on the Belfast ICC and Ulster Hall could be made public, with any confidential and/or commercially sensitive information redacted.

Day 1 Preparedness Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its previous meetings, updates had been noted with regard to ongoing work in relation to identifying potential Brexit Day 1 service delivery implication and that officers, in making preparations for a no-deal scenario, had undertaken the following actions:

- the Council's critical services had completed Brexit Resilience Measures templates to identify the potential impact of Brexit on service delivery over the period after exit from the EU and the necessary resilience measures that needed to be taken before the exit date;
- Responsible Officers had reviewed and updated their Business Continuity Plans to provide assurances around service delivery post Brexit and disseminated the plans amongst relevant staff.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services informed the Members that emergency planning staff were providing situational reporting and weekly position statements on critical services and, where appropriate, would forward the information to Chief Officers, Heads of Service, Corporate Communications and Elected Members. He reported that officers were also working with relevant partners in relation to a central command hub and were taking a business continuity approach, considering the immediate and potential future implications of Brexit on Council services.

Concerns were raised by a Member regarding the planning process and information flow. He highlighted that it was important for the Members to be kept informed and regularly briefed as part of the preparation process.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Update on Support for Businesses

The Committee considered the following report:

Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to outline for Members the support that is currently available for businesses with regard to Brexit.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note this update.

Key Issues

Members have received a range of advice with regard to potential impacts and benefits from Brexit. In particular, a special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (November 2017) held a discussion of the potential economic impact. The meeting also

considered Belfast's resilience to meet any challenges and take advantage of any opportunities associated with Brexit within the context of the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan. This discussion was informed by a range of experts including Prof Neil Gibson (EY) and Dr Eoin Magennis (Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC), Dr Stevie Nolan (Trademark) and Dr Katy Hayward (Queen's University Belfast). Research prepared by the Nevin Economic Research Institute was also circulated to inform discussions.

At the end of October 2018, representatives from various sectors across the city met with members at a workshop to discuss their views on Brexit and identify any concerns or opportunities.

At the same time, work was progressing on the Belfast City Region Deal. The deal was developed with consideration of the potential implications of Brexit through economic research and modelling by the UUEPC. The Economic Growth Forum, which includes representatives from the city's anchor institutions, and business representative groups such as the CBI and Chamber of Trade was also involved in discussions on Brexit and contributed to the development of the deal.

The implications for businesses, identified via the work outlined above, can be broadly classified as immediate/short-term, and longer-term.

Shorter-term support

In the shorter-term, the main issues relate to uncertainty and confusion as to what the final version of Brexit will be, and the resulting practical implications, especially relating to cross border imports and exports. The committee has already heard about most of the support mechanisms that are in place. These include:

InterTrade Ireland - support for SMEs is available on their website. The main support available for SMEs is a financial contribution of up to £2,000 towards professional advice in relation to Brexit matters. This support is available to companies based on the island of Ireland. The eligibility criteria for applying for the support is:

- Applications must be from an SME (250 employees or less) and Turnover < €40M or £ sterling equivalent;
- The business must have a satisfactory trading record;
- The assistance requested must relate to a Brexit issue;

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 11th April, 2019**

- **Companies based in Ireland must submit a valid tax clearance access number, along with their application form.**

Additionally Inter-trade Ireland are providing:

- **Brexit events to provide advice and information;**
- **An advisory service;**
- **Information on the tariffs that would apply in the event of a no-deal;**
- **Advice on cross-border trading.**

InvestNI – are providing a range of services to support businesses in relation to Brexit. These include:

- **A “Get Ready for Brexit” website offering best practice guides, information advice and support;**
- **An online assessment tool to help businesses identify any action they may need to take;**
- **Regional workshops to help businesses understand the implications, risks and opportunities of Brexit;**
- **A Brexit Preparation Grant providing financial assistance to Invest NI customers.**

The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry provide Brexit advice in the form of a FAQ and checklist, and links to other sources of help.

The UK Government – provide a range of Technical documents including:

- **Step-by- step guidance on exporting and importing, which is designed to help businesses understand the key actions they will need to carry out in order to continue trading with the EU in the event that the UK leaves the EU without an agreement;**
- **General advice and preparing for Brexit (a Brexit readiness tool);**
- **Specific guidance on issues such as exporting animal products, importing high risk foods, consumer rights, etc,; and**
- **Helping EU employees to stay in the UK after Brexit (EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit).**

NI Direct also provide signposting to various sources of Brexit advice via their website.

The Irish Government – provide a range of advice and support for businesses. As well as more general Brexit information. Whilst this information is aimed at Irish businesses some of it may also be of use to those business who export to and import from Ireland. For example, there is information about road haulage.

Council – are signposting businesses to our services and other sources of advice via our website, the City Matters Magazine, and through our business networks.

Officers are also working with partners to host an information day on the UK Settlement Scheme, as requested by the Brexit Committee. As well as being supportive of local residents, this will help local businesses in the short term by helping them to retain EU Employees.

For certain sectors we are providing more direct support and specific online guidance. For example, Brexit may affect local food producers/exporters. Consequently, the Council's Port Health Unit have been working closely with DEFRA, DAERA, the Food Standards Agency and local importers to develop and roll out a new UK IT system for the pre-notification of import of high risk food to replace the existing EU TRACES system which may no longer be available, we have also gathered and analysed data to estimate and prepare for additional checks that may be required for transited products (imported foods travelling through the EU destined for the UK)

In a no deal scenario every export consignment of animal origin destined for the EU must be certified as meeting the necessary health requirements. Whilst this is primarily a DAERA responsibility, council EHOs may certify fish, eggs and products containing. We have been assisting DAERA by contacting businesses to establish their certification requirements and establishing procedures for businesses to apply to Councils for certification by EHOs where possible. We have been working closely with DAERA and the FSA to support the organisation and delivery of workshops and taking opportunity to signpost government advice to help businesses understand the potential changes and how to prepare for a no deal BREXIT. Guidance for the food industry has been provided on the Council's website - online guidance.

We are providing additional training for EHOs both inland and at Port on the new IT systems and processes and to ensure we have sufficient trained officers to deliver additional services on exit.

Longer-term support

The Belfast Agenda set out the key challenges for the city – the need to grow the population, increase the business base and the value of

exports, whilst encouraging innovation and tackling the levels of economic inactivity in the city. While there are different opinions about the eventual impact of Brexit, in basic economic terms any impacts or opportunities are likely to involve either a decrease or an increase in:

- **Business start rates;**
- **Business growth rates;**
- **Export opportunities and potentially different export destinations;**
- **Levels of investment;**
- **Employment levels;**
- **Demand for different skill sets.**

In addition to major programmes such as the Belfast Region City Deal, the council has been increasing the support it offers in all of these areas over the last few years and now has a range of interventions and strategies in place. The City Growth & Economy Committee approved the programmes of work for Growing the Economy, Working and Learning, and International Relations for 2019/20 on 6th March, 2019. These include a range of programmes to help:

- **People to start a business via training, mentoring, awareness of opportunities, access to financial support, and space to start to trade;**
- **Growing an existing business via better management, marketing & sales, procurement, and accessing new export markets, etc.;**
- **People to invest in Belfast and so support local businesses and jobs. Additionally we will be delivering the International Relations Framework as well as targeting investors through activities such as MIPIM;**
- **Employment Academies across a range of sectors including transport, tourism, health and care, construction etc.;**
- **Youth initiatives to tackle educational inequalities and to provide coherent pathways to training and employment;**
- **Support for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive.**

However, the exact nature of Brexit is still unknown and so therefore are the final impacts. Hence there may be a need to tailor and adapt our approaches to address problems and opportunities as they emerge. Depending on the scale of the impacts, it may also become an option to change the level of support that council provides to particular areas. Officers will continue to work with the city's major

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 11th April, 2019**

stakeholders and members to monitor these changes and discuss options for emerging issues as appropriate.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no immediate financial implications relating to this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.

The Committee noted the content of the report.

Chairperson