

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

1st March, 2019

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 6th March, 2019 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. **Presentations**

- (a) Visit Belfast Business Plan 2019-20 (Pages 1 - 4)

3. **Request to Present - Now Project**

(To consider a request from the Chief Executive of the Now Project to attend a future meeting to brief the Committee on the work of that organisation.)

4. **Restricted Items**

- (a) Independent Safety Report - Belfast Zoo (Pages 5 - 24)
- (b) City Revitalisation Programme (Pages 25 - 38)

5. **Growing Business and the Economy**

- (a) Growing the Economy : Programme of Work 2019/20 (Pages 39 - 48)
- (b) Working and Learning : Programme of Work 2019/20 (Pages 49 - 56)
- (c) Update on International Relations and Forward Work Plan (Pages 57 - 68)
- (d) Application for a Markets Licence - HMS Caroline (Pages 69 - 72)
- (e) Update on Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Capital Programme (Pages 73 - 76)

6. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018-19 (Pages 77 - 86)

7. **Strategic and Operational**

- (a) Request for Special Meeting - Cave Hill Country Park/North Foreshore Development Proposals (Pages 87 - 90)



Subject:	Visit Belfast Business Plan 2019/20
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext. 3427

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to present the request for funding from Visit Belfast for the 2019/20 financial year and to set out the organisation's strategic plan, focused on increasing visitor numbers and tourism spend in the city. Visit Belfast will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to present the detail of its 2019/20 plan.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the draft Visit Belfast business plan 2019/20 and the areas where Council funds will be invested. The overall funding requirement for Visit Belfast in the coming financial year has been taken account of in the revenue estimates that have already been approved by the Council; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the funding allocation of up to £1,997,500 for 2019/20 expenditure, subject to the development of a funding agreement establishing priority areas of activity and agreed targets.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that Visit Belfast is the principal Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the city of Belfast. Visit Belfast leads on the tourism marketing activities in Belfast. It is a membership organisation with more than 500 member businesses across the wider hospitality industry. Visit Belfast works, on behalf of its members, with a range of public and private partners such as the Belfast Chamber and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to promote Belfast as a tourism destination.
3.2	Visit Belfast targets both the leisure and business tourism markets. It has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICC Belfast to drive new business to the city. There have been significant successes in this field and business events and conferences taking place in the city in this financial year are projected to deliver a return of around £60 million.
3.3	Visit Belfast is a public/private partnership. Its current Chairman is Howard Hastings OBE from the Hastings Hotel Group. Belfast City Council has four Councillor representatives on the Board: Councillor Arder Carson, Councillor John Hussey, Councillor Kate Nicholl and Councillor Mairead O' Donnell.
3.4	The tourism and hospitality industry in Belfast continues to go from strength to strength. Belfast continues to drive the regional tourism economy; in 2017 (last published Local Government District tourism statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency), Belfast hosted 30% of all tourism trips to Northern Ireland (1.4m trips) and tourism spend amounted to £328m, 35% of Northern Ireland tourism spend.
3.5	Forecasts suggest that the sector will account for around 15% of new jobs in the coming decade. While it currently accounts for only 5% of the regional GDP, in many other locations, this is more than 10% of the GDP. This illustrates the potential for additional growth within the sector. One of the key growth areas is in hotel accommodation: over the past twenty years, annual hotel room sales increased by 314%, from 324,000 hotel rooms sold in 1999 to 1.34m in 2018. Visitor enquires have also increased by 343% reflecting the growing interest in visiting Belfast. One of the biggest tourism successes has been the growth in cruise visitors – in 2018, this had increased to 115 ships carrying an estimated 189,000 passengers and crew.

3.6	<p>Visit Belfast is focusing on growing overnight stays, servicing the day trippers, increasing the length of overnight trips and increasing visitor expenditure in the city. Visit Belfast continues to drive visitor numbers and spend focussing its activities in the areas that offer the biggest market opportunity; namely short-breaks, business tourism, day-trips and cruise arrivals. It also manages three gateway visitor information centres, one in Belfast city centre at one at each of the two Belfast airports.</p>
3.7	<p>The mid-term review of the Integrated Tourism Strategy for Belfast, references the “demand-side” and the “supply-side” interventions in the tourism industry. Visit Belfast – along with Tourism Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and other marketing partners – are largely responsible for the “demand-side” activities, principally marketing the city to those interested in visiting. In parallel, “supply-side” activities such as local tourism initiatives, product and experience development, skills development and infrastructure investment are required in order to build the sector and ensure that there is a credible, quality product that can be marketed to target audiences. The review notes that the Council has a significant role to play in supporting and shaping the product development, which will be driven through the new Cultural Transformation Strategy. Additionally, the report recommends skills development activity and investment in tourism marketing – driven by Visit Belfast – is at least maintained in the context of an increasingly competitive tourism market.</p>
3.8	<p>The 2019/20 operational plan is the second year of the Visit Belfast Strategy 2018-2022 and although Year 1 results are yet to be reported, Visit Belfast expects to achieve targets set out for 2018-19 and remain on course to achieve its four-year cumulative targets.</p> <p>With a proposed 2019-20 budget of £4.2m, Visit Belfast’s marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity aims to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 390,000 bed nights, both leisure and conference; • 286,000 cruise visitors; • 946,000 visitor enquiries; <p>Details of specific activities will be set out in the presentation to the Committee.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>In the current financial year, Belfast City Council’s funding arrangement with Visit Belfast is £1,997,500. An allocation of £1,997,500 has been set aside within the Departmental estimates for the financial year 2019/20. This will include income from Tourism NI towards</p>

	<p>the delivery and marketing of the annual Maritime Festival - £35,000 allocation from Tourism NI to be allocated to Visit Belfast for the marketing of the event.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.10	<p>No specific equality or good relations implications. Visit Belfast also works with Councils outside of Belfast, as part of the Regional Tourism Partnership.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>N/A</p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Growing the Economy: Programme of Work 2019/20
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Assistant Economic Development Manager (Local Economic Development), ext. 3520

Restricted Reports	
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After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed programme of work to be delivered in the 2019/20 financial year as part of the Committee's ambitions to support delivery of the targets under the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the Council's performance and contribution to delivering against Belfast Agenda ambitions to grow the Belfast economy, focusing on Starting a Business; Growing a Business and Investing in Belfast;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. note that the associated activity will support the creation of up to 957 jobs in the course of the year; iii. approve the 2019/20 Work Plan to support the delivery of these ambitions, as set out in sections 3.4 to 3.7 and as detailed in the attached appendix, including the associated budget commitment of £1,342,075 (excluding Innovation Factory costs); and iv. approve the proposed approach to requests for financial contributions to support conferences and events aligned with the Economic Development Unit's profile of activity. To be administered in-line with the the delegated authority granted to the Director of Economic Development and Strategic Director of Place and Economy Department.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that, at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 11th April, 2018, approval was given for the delivery of the Growing the Economy work plan for the current financial year. The work plan was developed as part of the Council's contribution towards the commitments identified under this theme within the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.2	<p>Since April 2018, the Council has developed and delivered a range of activities to address the challenges around low levels of start-up, innovation, competitiveness and productivity. Whilst work is ongoing to deliver the 2018/19 work plan, key achievements to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 770 individuals engaged through Enterprise Awareness activates this year, providing them support and guidance to start a business or social enterprise - By the end of January 2019, we had supported 311 individuals through the Go For It programme supporting the creation of 196 jobs - Through our Go Social programme, we have supported 32 Social Enterprises and Co-operatives, creating 31 jobs - We provided support for 60 university/FE college student entrepreneurs to develop their new businesses while still in education. We also launched a new initiative providing grant assistance to programme participants in partnership with Invest NI which aims to provide a salary and wrap around support for one year to enable them to start their business

- We successfully launched high growth start-up support which has to date engaged 64 new high growth businesses based in Belfast
- We continue to support the Innovation Factory (IF): occupancy levels are forecast at 55% by end of March 2019 representing approximately 249 jobs across 40 offices and 22 dedicated desks (excluding 22 business members and virtual office users). Through its social regeneration programme, IF has facilitated 60 work placements, engaged with 461 businesses and has achieved a procurement spend of 96% of its budget within the Belfast area
- We have provided business mentoring support for 130 small businesses, creating an additional 65 new jobs. We have also supported 150 businesses through SME skills development workshops on strategy and leadership, finance and talent management
- This year we supported 20 local high growth businesses to access intensive acceleration support through scaling programmes in partnership with Invest Northern Ireland and Catalyst Inc. Companies received support around pitching, targeting investment and partnership development and accessed opportunities to network with other Boston-based companies to develop new partnership arrangements and collaborations
- We reached agreement on a new Enterprise Framework for Belfast, in partnership with our enterprise and business growth stakeholders across the city. This Framework sets the vision for Belfast to become “a city recognised for its diverse community of entrepreneurs, who benefit from a comprehensive, planned and coherent system of enterprise support, which fulfils their needs at all stages of the business growth life-cycle”
- The City for Investment Service pilot has just completed its first year. To date the service has supported 57 businesses attracting a potential £72 million investment to the city.

3.3 Building on these achievements, the proposed work programme for the next financial year (2019/20) continues to align to the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda. Across this work programme, it is expected that 1,752 Individuals will access support to start a business, 1,619 businesses will be supported through business growth initiatives and 110 targeted through the City Investment Service. This work will also be shaped by the emerging City Deal proposals, including the investment in digital connectivity, infrastructure and innovation. Likewise, there will continue to be a significant focus on activities as part of the City Revitalisation programme with a view to ensuring the future stability of the city centre in the aftermath of the Primark fire in August 2018. A detailed overview of the proposed projects

and financial implications is attached and a number of key areas of work are detailed below. This work is informed by economic research identifying business challenges and barriers to growth; key growth sectors (digital; technology; tourism and hospitality); opportunities for investment and impact of technology on the world of work. The programme is focused on three main areas, namely:

- Starting a Business
- Growing a Business
- Investing in Belfast.

Starting a Business

- 3.4
- **Enterprise Framework in Action:** With the Enterprise Framework now in place, we are tasked with working in partnership with stakeholders across the city to put in place an Action Plan to 2021 and also looking at the longer-term ambitions to increase the number of new business starts and to make existing businesses more productive and competitive. A number of priority projects will be delivered in the coming year, including the development of a shared brand, communication strategy and potential Management Information System (MIS) to create a more joined-up provision for participating businesses, new interventions to support businesses that have the potential to scale and financial incentives for those moving from unemployment to start a new business (in partnership with Department for Communities)
 - **Improving the business start-up offer:** The Northern Ireland Business Start-up Programme (NIBSUP) has a limited budget and therefore the ability of the delivery partner to offer any dedicated follow-on support is restricted. The Council has been able to attract additional ERDF support to supplement the existing offer, including some limited financial incentives for qualifying businesses. Officers are also looking at how the Council can use its assets and resources to support new businesses, for example setting aside a limited number of stalls at St George's Market for test trading of new products and services.

Growing a Business

- 3.5
- **Support to Grow and Scale:** One of the key challenges identified through the enterprise framework is the need to encourage more businesses to grow and scale to turnover of more than £3million. We are currently developing support for those businesses in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI to build on the work that has been undertaken through Mass Challenge Belfast and the Way to Scale Initiative – both of which were previously supported by this Committee. Other resources such as the Innovation Factory

will provide critical “feeders” to these initiatives. Investment in activities of this type are critical to improving city competitiveness and productivity

- **Digital Transformation support:** many small businesses are unable to understand how new digital technologies can help them transform their business and generate new business opportunities. We have secured ERDF resources to support a series of targeted interventions which will help businesses generate more online business, enhance their business processes and improve their customer engagement and experience by introducing new digital technologies
- **Procurement support:** we have been working closely with Corporate Procurement Services and with other public sector commissioners to look at how we can help local businesses to enter the supply chain for works and services. Achieving the balance of competitiveness, efficiency and access for small businesses is an ongoing challenge for all public sector organisations. We are also exploring how we can help major development schemes to fulfil their social clause criteria around supply chain engagement (as well as employability and skills support). There are also significant opportunities through private developments: one of the most significant infrastructure schemes in the coming decade will be the Heathrow expansion: we are currently bidding to host a logistics hub on North Foreshore and one of the drivers for this has been the potential to encourage the local supply chain to access opportunities arising from this £15billion investment scheme.

Investing in Belfast

3.6

The two-year pilot City for Investment service proactively works with investors, both indigenous and FDI, providing professional and personal connections to help businesses be successful in Belfast. In addition to the continuation of the City for Investment Service, further development will be undertaken to position Belfast in key markets (including London and Dublin) as an investment location of choice for businesses in key growth sectors. Working in partnership with the City Regeneration and the International unit this will provide support for indigenous businesses in key sectors to develop their international partnerships to expand the business as well as profiling Belfast as a dynamic investment location. There will also be close collaboration with the work of the International Relations team, linking the Sister Cities activity and maximising the trade and FDI linkages from our collaboration with partners in those cities. Additional detail on this activity is set out in the International Relations report.

City Centre Development

3.7 The city centre support activity will focus on contribution to the City Revitalisation programme, following the Bank Buildings fire. Priority activities will include trader engagement and support, physical improvements and city animation.

Approach to supporting Conferences and Events

3.8 The Economic Development Unit has seen an increase in requests for contributions of financial support towards events and conferences to support activity that is – to a greater or lesser extent - associated with the unit’s priorities, as set out above. While these events can often act as a useful promotional vehicle for Council interventions and can help secure referrals to programme activity, many of these requests tend to be last-minute requests for relatively small amounts of money and provide little measurable return.

3.9 In order to assess the impact of the requests, officers have developed a process to measure and score these requests based on their alignment to the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda, the contribution to the work of the economic development unit as set out in this report and the potential to profile the Council activities and generate interest and demand for the services. The total budget to support contributions to events and conferences in this financial year is £70,000 and it is proposed that each application for support will be capped at a maximum of £10,000. Objectives and outputs will be agreed through a funding agreement with the event organisers.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.10 The recommended budget allocations based on contractual commitments and pending funding applications are summarised below:

Starting a Business	£688,785
Growing a Business	£395,290
Investing in Belfast	£60,000
City Centre Development	£98,000
Contribution to events and conferences	£70,000
Evaluation of Impact	£30,000

3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure consideration is given to equality and good relation impacts throughout the delivery of each project.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
4.1	Appendix - Growing the Economy delivery actions, outcomes and expenditure – 2019/20

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Appendix 1 - Growing the Economy delivery actions, outcomes and expenditure – 2019/20

	Programme	2019/20 Outcomes			Cost	Income	Net Cost (BCC)
		Participants	Jobs	Other			
Starting a Business	Enterprise Awareness: Supporting individuals in under represented groups to overcome the barriers to starting a business, and providing support to progress their business ideas. This includes the NI Female Enterprise Challenge delivered in partnership with WIB, Invest NI and the other councils in the region	690		80 individuals engaged from under represented groups 300 referrals to other business support 20 business starts	£81,100		£81,100
	Providing targeted support for university and college graduates to set up in business - including a financial incentive for the first year of business operation	45	25	40 referrals from BCC to other stakeholders £150,000 salary support for graduates provided by Invest NI (funding arrangements to be agreed)	£201,588	£150,000	£51,588
	Starting a Business Programmes: business plan development, mentor support and access to incentives to increase the number of new business starts and enhance business survival rates.	620	415	106 referrals to other stakeholders £135,000 incentives provided to businesses	£403,360	£80,240	£323,120
	Social Enterprise in Action: support to raise awareness of the potential of social enterprise as a business model and to increase the number of social enterprises and cooperatives by providing access to mentoring, networks and test trading opportunities	300	32	5 referrals to Invest NI	£129,537	£40,000	£89,537
	High Growth Start-up: supporting the development of new high growth businesses enabling them to become more competitive and sustainable	67	63	£216,000 external funding secured to support programme delivery	£160,000	£66,560	£93,440
	Enterprise Framework in Action: Work in partnership with enterprise and business growth stakeholders across the city to address the city's key challenges and put in place actions as identified through the Enterprise Framework for Belfast. A number of priority projects will be delivered including the development of a shared brand, communication strategy and potential Management Information System (MIS) to create a more joined-up provision for participating businesses	30		Strategic Partnership developed; city enterprise framework developed and agreed by all partners as basis for future investment; new start up starts agreed	£50,000		£50,000
Growing a Business	Business Growth Support: To create new employment opportunities by supporting small and micro businesses to become more competitive through growth mentoring support, support to encourage businesses to implement new technologies and strategic skills development opportunities	760	146	12 referrals to Invest NI £191,360 external funding secured to support programme delivery	£293,050	£191,360	£101,690
	Procurement Support: Enhance skills in tendering for SMEs and social enterprises. Enable participants to successfully tender for work outside of their normal scope of business. This will include the work on Heathrow Hub as well as Council and wider public sector opportunities, linked to city regeneration	60	46	1 strategic partnership developed £58,400 external funding secured to support programme delivery	£73,000	£58,400	£14,600
	Creative and Digital Industry Support (Output Belfast): supporting development of the creative and digital sector in Belfast including International Development (including attendance at key events such as SXSW); Skills Development; city animation; developing new products and innovation that can compete internationally	400		5 new products developed £100k in external sales secured 5 referrals to other support	£50,000		£50,000
	Scale and Growth: support to enable Belfast based businesses to scale and grow to turnover of more than £3million in partnership with Invest NI and Catalyst Inc. Development of support for businesses in key growth sectors including; business and professional services, financial services, IT, advanced engineering and life and health sciences.	50		Improvement of CEOs' confidence, ambition, leadership and strategic skills. Increase in international connections for participating companies. External sales secured. Investment funding secured to support company development. In-kind contributions from project partners currently being agreed.	£112,000		£112,000

	Programme	2019/20 Outcomes			Cost	Income	Net Cost (BCC)
		Participants	Jobs	Other			
Growing a Business	Innovation Factory: providing of workspace and business support service for small, growth-focused businesses. Working towards target occupancy levels of 71% by March 2020	129	138	Intensive programme of engagement with tenant businesses including industry specific programmes, masterclasses to increase R&D and specialist mentoring support aimed at accelerating the rate of growth of local businesses and creating collaborations. In addition to business programmes, the social ethos of the centre ensures that tenants contribute to local economic regeneration. These services are administered under Council's contract with Oxford Innovation and they are reported separately to committee. Costs for professional support services of £7,250 are the only costs profiled as part of the core Local Economic Development Budget.			£0
	Sales development and footfall generation in local areas: working with businesses in areas affected by regeneration schemes to help drive footfall and spend in the areas	200		15 Jobs sustained 200 referrals to other support 6 strategic partnerships developed	£65,000		£65,000
	International Trade and Export Development: Support businesses with their export development plans for the first time and / or new markets, lead prospecting and skills development.	20		15 jobs sustained 15 new products developed £100k in external sales secured 5 referrals to other support	£52,000		£52,000
Investing in Belfast	Belfast: City for Investment Service: Proactively working with investors, providing the professional and personal connections to help businesses be successful in Belfast	100	90	Jobs sustained 45, referrals to other stakeholders 100, strategic partnerships 4	£30,000		£30,000
	Lead development for the financial and professional services sector to position Belfast in key locations including London and Dublin as a city open for business	10	2	Jobs sustained 10, referrals to other stakeholders 5, strategic partnerships 2, new sales generated £200,000	£30,000		£30,000
City Centre Development	Support for city centre development, in line with the City Revitalisation programme including storage and installation of festive lights by Belfast City Centre Management.				£98,000		£98,000
Contribution to events and conferences	Financial support to contribute towards events and conferences to support activity associated with the unit's programme for delivery, set out in this report	3000		Number of referrals to other Belfast City Council support	£70,000		£70,000
Evaluation of impact	Annual independent evaluation to measure the Economic Development Unit's performance across the Growing the Economy work stream. This evaluation will provide a full measure of the economic performance of the service areas and value for money assessments.				£30,000		£30,000
TOTAL		6481	957	-	£1,928,635	£586,560	£1,342,075



Subject:	Working and Learning: Programme of Work 2019/20
Date:	6 th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager, ext. 6167

Restricted Reports	
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If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a programme of work to be delivered in the 2019/20 financial year under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda.
1.2	The proposed work programme supports the inclusive growth ambitions of the Council by addressing barriers to progression, focusing on educational underachievement and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. approve the 2019/20 Work Plan and associated budget of £1,280,491 to support the delivery of the Working and Learning strands of the Belfast Agenda, as summarised in section 3.5 and detailed in the attached appendix; and ii. note the ongoing development work being undertaken with key partners through governance structures including; the Belfast Agenda Working and Learning Board, BRCD Employability and Skills Steering Group and Employability NI Programme Board.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that, at the Committee meeting on 11th April 2018, approval was given for a series of activities under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda. At that meeting, members agreed a number of guiding principles of the Council’s investment in this area of work including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment-led: focusing upon identified employment opportunities and gaps in provision; - Needs-led: in order to deliver against the principles of Inclusive Growth, targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or underrepresented groups while being accessible and open to all; - Ambitious: to increase visibility and awareness of Council’s role within the environment and strategically build our position in this area; - Intelligence-led and evidence based: ensuring that our investment in based on a sound rationale; - Adding value: ensuring we do not duplicate existing provision; - Flexible: allowing for interventions to be developed around emerging market needs/opportunities; and - Scalable: delivered seamlessly across the City, in line with need and opportunity – trying out new solutions on a pilot basis and increasing their coverage if they have a positive impact.

3.2	<p>Whilst work is ongoing to deliver the 2018/19 work plan, key achievements on track to be achieved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 2,750 participant engaged in employability programmes, with more than 800 expected to progress into employment this year - Over 3,500 young people supported through youth initiatives - Almost 7,500 participants engaged through career events and job fairs.
3.3	<p>Some of the key activities undertaken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment Academies: we have extended this employer-led initiative to include new sectors providing a broader spectrum of employment opportunities to local residents. Across the 18/19 financial year around 500 residents have or will participate in academies, and it is expected at least 350 will progress into employment. Sectors currently engaged through these academies include hospitality and tourism, transportation, childcare, health and social care and construction. Although these academies are principally focused on helping the unemployed into employment, officers have also been exploring how we can support upskilling into higher-level employment opportunities. As an example of this work, we have developed and delivered upskilling academies in the childcare sector. Through these interventions, over 30 Belfast residents will have secured employment in career progression roles whilst simultaneously completing a level 3-5 accredited qualification this year. This type of intervention is essential in order to address the challenge of low skills levels, particularly in some part of the city. - Youth Initiatives: a key focus of the Belfast Agenda is to tackle educational inequalities and to provide coherent pathways of support to enable young people to positively progress. To support these ambitions, a range of activity has been undertaken to support young people to make informed career choices, support digital skills development, access work experience opportunities and support those at most risk of not achieving and/or being NEET (Not in Education, Employment and/or Training). Across these interventions over 3500 young people have been supported across the current financial year. - European Social Fund (ESF): as part of the Council's efforts to support the long-term unemployed and economically inactive to enter the labour market, match funding was awarded to five European Social Fund (ESF) projects. Since 1 April 2018, 2442

	<p>participants have been engaged with 985 accredited qualifications achieved and 656 entering employment.</p>
3.4	<p>In addition to the delivery of these priority interventions, officers have also been working on a wider programme of engagement with public and private partners to develop new collaborative approaches to city skills and employability challenges. This includes engagement through relevant governance and partnerships (Belfast Agenda Working and Learning Board; Belfast City Region Deal Employability and Skills Group) as well as focusing on potential project ideas such as bringing forward proposals for a City Youth Pledge and exploring opportunities to deliver on the Belfast Agenda commitments to support inclusive growth.</p>
3.5	<p>The proposed work programme for the next financial year (19/20) continues to align to Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda and to support the inclusive growth ambitions by targeting barriers to progression, addressing educational underachievement and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities. It will also inform and shape the development work on the Belfast Region City Deal approach on employability and skills, which will be a focal point for activity in the coming year. Across this work programme, over 3000 Belfast residents will be supported through a range of targeted employability and skills interventions with nearly 1000 progressing into employment. Over 1700 young people will be engaged through targeted youth activities, with 495 receiving intensive support to address educational underachievement and/or support them into positive outcomes (employment, education and/or training). A summary of the proposed projects and financial implications is contained within the attached appendix. Key areas of work are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to employment: we will continue to support Belfast residents to enter the labour market and to progress and advance in employment. The principal instrument for delivery of this commitment is through the successful Employment Academies approach. In the coming year, these will focus on both entry-level positions and upskilling employment opportunities. Pilots will also be undertaken specifically aimed at supporting young people (aged 16+) to access part-time employment opportunities in key sectors. Taking an employer-led approach, we will continue to support key sectors including; tourism, hospitality and leisure, health and social care, construction and transport industries. In this year, we will also expand the programme into other key growth sectors including the financial services and creative and digital industries. New delivery models,

incorporating employer incentives will be trialled. We will work in partnership with the Department for the Economy and Department for Communities to deliver joint academy models when appropriate, in order to maximise the scale and impact of Council investment.

To support those furthest from the labour market, we will continue our support for the five ESF projects ((LEMIS+ consortium, Workforce Learning, USEL, Specialisterne and Springboard) year two delivery. Funding levels allocated to each of the five supported projects will be maintained into year two delivery with a total funding of £315,518 (£240,000 Belfast City Council and £75,518 Urban Villages funding).

- **Focus on young people:** one of the commitments as part of the Belfast Agenda included the development of a City Youth Pledge. The ambition was to create a coherent progression pathway for young people to enable them to progress into employment, further education and training. To inform the development of the Youth Pledge and wider youth provision, officers have undertaken a range of research pieces and the headline outcomes were presented at the September 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. Engagement with key stakeholders including government departments, City Youth Forum etc. has identified the need for long-term investment with a partnership approach, incorporating private sector employers. Key initiatives for the coming financial year will include a dedicated programme of support targeting young people (14-24 year olds) at risk of becoming NEET and further development work on the City Youth Pledge through the Working & Learning Board to secure partner and employer commitment to its establishment and delivery.

One of the key issues identified in the Belfast Skills Barometer was the low levels of educational attainment, particularly in some parts of the city. In order to address this problem, officers have engaged with partners across the city and are proposing the extension of an initiative that currently operates in east and west Belfast and that has been shown to have some considerable success. The “Easter School” and intensive revision support programmes will provide additional support for young people to help them achieve Grades A-C in key subjects – particularly English and Maths.

- **Strategic Engagement:** working in partnership with government departments we will continue to develop joint areas of working to facilitate better alignment between regional employment and skills programme and the needs of the Belfast labour market. This will

	<p>include the development of new “test and learn” pilots with the Department for Communities. At present, details of potential pilots are being finalised but they are likely to include targeted initiatives to help the unemployed/economically inactive to start a business, as well as developing new ways of working to enhance employer engagement. These projects will involve Belfast-specific activities as well as initiatives that cover the Belfast City Region area, as part of the City Deal work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive Growth: we will continue to focus on maximising the economic and social impact of the Council’s spending and investment in the local area by re-focusing our work on social clauses. We will also look at other mechanisms such as developer contributions and development briefs to secure employability and skills benefits for the city and, in particular, those neighbourhoods where the skills challenges are most significant. - Citizen Basic Income Scheme: Officers will continue to investigate the feasibility of a citizen basic income scheme, in response to the notice of motion brought to the Council in October 2017. This will include reviewing the outcomes of an existing feasibility studies and development of pilot models being undertaken by the Scottish Government and a similar pilot recently concluded in Finland. <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.6 The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2019/20 budget for the Employability & Skills section of Economic Development Department budget. Detailed budget breakdowns are included in the appendix to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.7 Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and a rural needs assessment completed. Considerations given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Appendix - Working & Learning Project Summary – 2019/20

Appendix 1: Working & Learning Project Summary – 2019/20

Programme	Description	Expected Outcome/BA Indicator	Participants	Jobs	Level 2-5 accreditation	Other Accreditation	Budget	Income	Net Cost (BCC)		
1 Access to Employment											
1.1	Employment Academies	Continuing the delivery of the Belfast Employment Academy Programme supporting those furthest removed from the labour market and low earning individuals to move into and/or advance in employment. Academies will be delivered across a range of core sectors including the hospitality, leisure & tourism, transport, construction and care based sectors. New sectors expected to be engaged in the 19/20 financial year include Creative & Digital Industries and Business & Financial Services.	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity, *Decrease the proportion of the working age population with no skills, * Increase the proportion of level 2 skills within the working age population	450	350	70	361	£450,000		£450,000	
1.2	Employer incentives	Priority Growth Sectors: Employer Incentives Pilot targeting small and micro employers to support a time-limited paid internship for a Belfast resident with low skills, unemployed and/or underemployed. Employers will be vetted to identify the potential to offer a paid position or move to other support (e.g apprenticeship), following the initial internship.	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity, *Decrease the proportion of the working age population with no skills, * Increase the proportion of level 2 skills within the working age population	20	20			£180,000		£180,000	
1.3	European Social Fund Projects	Employability programme supporting the Belfast residents to positively progress into employment, further education and/or further training. Programmes include mentoring support, accredited and non accredited training, work experience opportunities etc. Client groups supported through this activity include: unemployed, economically inactive, young people (aged 19-24) Not in Employment, Education and/or Training, individuals with disabilities. Projects supported include: Ashton Community Trust (LEMIS+) Workforce (Path to Employment - P2E) Springboard (Job Works+) USEL (STRIDE Project) Specialisterne (Recruit++)	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity * Decrease the proportion of the working age population with no skills	2375 102 130 50 7	502 46 52 15 1		1825	£3,699,558 £241,536 £126,869 £965,589 £74,188	£3,600,592 £186,837 £99,623 £915,589 £65,108	£98,966 £54,699 £27,246 £50,000 £9,080	
			3134	986	70	2186					
2 Focus on Young People											
2.1	Schools based employment academies	Continuation of the Schools-Based Employment Academies supporting young people in Year 12 at greatest risk of not achieving or dropping out of education. Support provided includes tailored interventions aligned to the individual needs of participants including: mentoring, job insight days, work experience, career support etc. The focus of the programme is to enable participants to positively progress into employment, education and/or training.	* Increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into education, employment and/or training	55	22		10	£48,000		£48,000	
2.2	Career Development Programme (year 2)	Continuation of the Career development programme supporting young people within years 11-14 in schools across Belfast. Through this support young people will have access to information and experiences to help them identify career pathways.	* Increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into education, employment and/or training * Reduce the gap in educational attainment	1250				£15,000		£15,000	
2.3	Supporting Educational Attainment	The Citywide GCSE Revision Programme will build on successful Easter School and community revision programmes to provide citywide coverage of the support provided in parts of the city. It will support young people in year 12 at risk of not achieving grade C GCSE in English and Maths, through the provision of intensive revision. Targeted support will be provided in geographical hot spots with concentrations of underachievement through community revision sessions delivered over a 10 week programme.	*Reduce the gap in educational attainment * Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualifications	250		175		£50,000		£50,000	
2.4	Youth Initiatives: City Youth Pledge	This project will engage with the education, care and criminal justice system to identify young people at risk with the intention of supporting them into a positive pathway into employment, education and/or training. The project will work alongside existing interventions offering young people to enable to sustain positive life and career choices. Alongside the development of this programme, engagement work will be undertaken with employers and key stakeholders to develop a City Pledge for young people.	* Increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into education, employment and/or training, *Reduce the gap in educational attainment * Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualifications	150	90		100	£100,000		£100,000	
			1705	112	175	110					
3 Strategic Engagement / Partnership Working and Skills Development											
3.1	Collaboration with Department for Communities: Employment Support Services	To inform future employment services provision work is ongoing with DfC to pilot new approaches in the Belfast area. Agreed areas for collaboration to be developed and implemented within the 19/20 financial year include:	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity, * Decrease the proportion of the working age population with no skills, * Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualifications	Report to be submitted to future meeting of City Growth & Regeneration Committee seeking members approval for test and learn pilots developed. Match funding to be levered from departments.				100,000		£100,000	
3.2	Department for the Economy: NEETS Action Plan	To inform the development of the new NEET's strategy and associated action plan test and learn pilots are being undertaken with department. Pilot activity is targeting young people who are or at risk of being NEET, interventions are specifically targeted towards individuals engaged through youth justice activities and/or linked to anti-social behaviour.	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity * increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into education and/or training	40	20		20	£40,000	£22,500	£17,500	
3.3	BRCD City Deal Employability & Skills Proposition	Ongoing work will be undertaken in 19/20 to inform the development of the employability and skills interventions to be delivered through the BRCD city deal. Priority areas for intervention include education, skills development and support employability for all.	Development work undertaken in 19/20 will inform the outcomes to be achieved and resource implications								
4 Inclusive Growth											
4.1	Developer Contributions	Ongoing employability and skills consultancy support to facilitate the integration and implementation of employability and skills requirements through developer contributions, procurement (social clauses/value) and through developer briefs (North Foreshore).	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity; * Increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into employment, education and/or training.	Demand-led approach, to be reported to committee on a rolling basis.							
4.2	Procurement: social value										
4.3	Developer briefs incl. North Foreshore	Support is also offered to contactors/developers linking employment opportunities through to existing mechanisms of support i.e. employment academies.									
5 Intelligence & Research											
	Economic inactivity: qualitative research & procurement support	Research and intelligence gathering to support the targeting of interventions and new innovative programme design. Expected areas of focus will include qualitative research on the economic inactivity, employer engagement and best practice delivery of employability and skills including procurement and contract management arrangements. Procurement support to develop new contracting arrangements for demand led skills needs.						£45,000	£15,000	£30,000	
	UUEPC Sponsorship providing economic intelligence to inform the Working & Learning and Growing the Economy work strand	To provide economic intelligence to inform the Working & Learning and Growing the Economy work strand						£40,000		£40,000	
6 Events											
	Job Fairs and career events	These will include Skills NI careers fair for young people aged 15-19 and the Belfast Jobs Fair in partnership with DfC.	* Reduce levels of economic inactivity; * Increase the proportion of school leavers progressing into employment, education and/or training.	2000				£10,000		£10,000	
Totals				1218	245	2316		£6,185,740	£4,905,249	£1,280,491	

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Subject:	Update on International Relations and Forward Work Plan
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European and International Relations Manager, ext. 3577

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – update the Committee on the delivery of the International Relations Framework focusing on activity over the 6 months since October; 2018 and – seek approval for the delivery of the 2019/2020 Action Plan and associated budgets.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the range of activity and associated outputs of International Relations actions over the course of the second half of this financial year; and

	<p>ii. agree the International Relations Action Plan outlining activity commitments for 2019/2020 as set out in sections 3.8 – 3.12.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.
3.2	The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage as a place to invest, work, visit and study. The Framework is delivering primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through our Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with the City of London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.
3.3	Members will be aware that, at the Committee meeting on 10th October, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were set out for endorsement. This report provides an update on the activities and associated outcomes over the six-month period from October 2018 to March 2019, and outlines an Action Plan for international activity and associated costs for 2019/2020. A number of the activities are still under development and further updates or requests for approval may be brought back to the Committee for information and endorsement in the course of the year.
3.4	<p>The International Relations activity set out in this report focuses principally on our established relationships with our Sister Cities and partner cities. The Council is also involved in a range of additional engagement activity in international markets. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support for Visit Belfast to promote the city as a vibrant tourism destination for both leisure and business tourists. The Council investment in additional conference and exhibition space at Belfast ICC has meant that the venue is now able to attract additional national and international conferences and events – thereby increasing visitor numbers from new markets – Promoting the city for international real estate investment: a Council-led delegation will take part in the annual European property investment showcase in Cannes in March 2019 – MIPIM. The public-private partnership will promote the city as an investment location, focusing on attracting both investors and end-users in the key FDI sectors as well as hospitality and international education and training opportunities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting local companies to export and develop an international presence: Members will be aware of the city’s presence at the annual music, digital and convergence event in Austin, Texas – SXSW. We have also supported local businesses to develop international partnerships and benefit from international expertise. This includes our partnership with Invest NI and Catalyst Inc. on the Way to Scale programme which targets local businesses with the potential to scale and attract investment.
3.5	<p>This range of activity is delivered in collaboration with the council’s private and public stakeholders represented on the various stakeholder groups set up to support international framework delivery. This includes key agencies such as Invest NI, Queen’s University Belfast, Ulster University, the Consulates and the NI Executive Office. The attached appendix outlines some of the key activities and outputs for the last six months. By their nature, these activities often take some time to deliver on outcomes so it can be difficult to track the impact of the Council’s investment over a short period. However, through our partnerships and stakeholder arrangements, we have taken a collective approach to developing linkages and activities in our priority areas of focus and have a shared investment in activities. In the coming year we will improve how we demonstrate outcomes on business tourism and education.</p>
3.6	<p>With regard to the key activities for 2019/2020, it is proposed that these will be driven by a number of the priority outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda. Activities will be assessed in order to consider how they can deliver on these outcomes before making investment decisions. The key outcomes will contribute to the ‘Growing the Economy’ theme of the Belfast Agenda. The Council’s national and international relationships are also an important foundation for the developing City Deal. Outcomes will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building the City’s position as a magnet for FDI - Maximising the City’s connections worldwide to drive growth - Positioning the City internationally as a key tourism, education and business destination. Helping local companies to internationalise their business and increase business connections and exports.
3.7	<p>While many of the activities are still under development, it is proposed that the 2019/2020 Action Plan will focus on the following priority areas in order to maximise the return on investment, given the limited resources available:</p>

Shenyang

3.8

Civic/Political

- Support for an inaugural “China in Belfast” Programme”: this programme is still under development but is likely to involve re-packaging many existing and planned partner activities to highlight the depth of the linkages with China across many partner organisations in the city. Details of potential civic and business inward visits are currently being finalised and will be presented to Members as more information becomes available. The Belfast City Council associated budget for supporting activity associated with the “China in Belfast” programme will not exceed £20,000
- Ongoing support to the Chinese Consulate team and the new Consul General to support relevant civic visits
- Support for the 2020 Chinese New Year in Belfast at a cost not to exceed £10,000
- Participation in the 5th China-UK Regional Leaders Summit to be held in Scotland in 2019. Further detail and costings to follow.

Business

3.9

- Development work underway with The Executive Office, Invest NI and NI Councils engaged in China, to explore the feasibility of a business mission to China in Autumn 2019. This activity will build on official linkages made by the five other NI Councils during the third China UK Regional Leaders Summit held in Dalian in October 2018. It allows Belfast City Council to focus in on the economic, business and investment pillar of the International Relations Framework and work with the City of Shenyang, its economic Stakeholders and Free Trade Zone. It is anticipated that each Council would identify a number of companies at the appropriate state of readiness to do business in China. The costs associated with this event will not exceed £25,000.

Tourism

3.10

- Ongoing support to Visit Belfast in their follow up to the 2018 joint Tourism Showcase in Shenyang. Visit Belfast is preparing for two inward familiarisation visits from the Shenyang and greater China tourism industry. Work is already underway to develop bespoke tourism products with industry partners to encourage them to become China Ready and exploit the opportunity of the two new direct flights from Dublin
- Ongoing support to the new NI China Tourism Cluster to significantly develop a Northern Ireland Strategy and Action Plan for engaging in China, increasing both leisure and business visitors.

Education/Culture

3.11

- Hosting an education mission from Shenyang in May 2019, in partnership with the Department of Education, The Executive Office and other relevant stakeholders
- Ongoing support to both Universities, Belfast Metropolitan College and the educational sector overall in developing their teaching, research and foreign student market with partner Institutions in China.

Boston

Business

3.12

- Belfast will host two Business Missions from the Boston area in 2019. From 29-30 April 2019, 25 companies will travel with the British American Business Council of New England. This mission is being promoted by Mayor Walsh's Economic Development team and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and will involve a targeted business to business programme in partnership with Invest NI. From 4-8 December 2019, the Boston Irish Business Association will travel to Belfast with up to 20 companies to attend the annual International Homecoming Conference and undertake a programme of business to business meetings
- Exploratory work is currently under way to scope out a potential Belfast visit to Boston in the course of 2019. There are a number of areas of interest for this visit including engagement with Mayor Walsh and his relevant officials, exploring potential cooperation on Resilient Cities and City Recovery work, support for some of the sports-based events and partnerships (including Friendship Four) and a tourism showcase event in conjunction with Tourism Ireland. Details of this planned activity will be brought back to the committee at a future date for endorsement. Costs of any visit will not exceed £10,000
- Belfast City Council has been asked to support the 7th Annual International Homecoming Business and Investment Conference at a cost of £10,000. It is proposed by the organising Committee (attended by BCC Senior Officers and Councillors) that the theme of the 2019 Conference is focused on the Belfast Agenda, promoting achievements to date but setting challenges to the International visiting experts on proposing solutions to some of the cities work areas e.g. regeneration, corporate social responsibility, resilience, business growth post Brexit etc.

3.13	<p><u>Education/Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plans are at an advanced stage of development to connect Belfast’s two teacher training colleges to schools in Boston focusing on the methodology of teaching of STEM subjects – Plans are now in place to hold the first Belfast/Boston Hackathon on 6 April 2019 which will enable young people in both cities to address the challenge of city regeneration and neighbourhood revitalisation.
3.14	<p><u>Nashville</u></p> <p><u>Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plans are at an early stage of development to identify opportunities along with Invest NI and Catalyst Inc to lead a small business mission to Nashville in 2019. Members will recall the May 2018 inward mission from Nashville and the very positive feedback from the companies and Venture Capitalist delegates. A further report will be presented to Members with regard to this in the near future. Members are asked to agree in principle to a working budget of £15,000 for this mission, subject to detail being brought back for approval.
3.15	<p><u>Education/Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Planning work is at an advanced stage to coordinate a second Nashville in Belfast Programme from 12-16 June 2019 in partnership with key stakeholders. This year’s programme will build on the previous year’s event. Council support of £20,000 is requested to support the communications and marketing campaign and the hosting of the Nashville delegation who will be in the city at the same time – Cinemagic undertook an exploratory visit to Nashville in December 2019, making key contacts, and will return in March 2019 to work with disadvantaged Nashville youth, to write and produce a music video (keeping in theme of Music City). This will ultimately be linked to a three-way project with Nashville, Boston and Belfast around film making skills, development and employability of young people in all three Sister Cities.
3.16	<p><u>Support for Eurocities Network</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that Belfast has been a member of the Eurocities network for some time. Eurocities is a network of more than 140 major European cities, made up of the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. Eurocities is structured through a range of working groups on issues such as Culture, Social Affairs, Knowledge Society and Environment. Belfast has participated in a number of the working groups and has developed</p>

collaborative projects with other cities facing similar urban challenges. The city has also shared learning on a range of topics and has availed of the network to engage with the key EU institutions in order to influence policy. In order to maintain access to these networks and to ensure that Belfast retains the insight and high-level contacts in Brussels and other cities, particularly in a post-Brexit context, it is proposed that Belfast City Council renews its annual subscription to Eurocities at a cost of €16,700.

Other International Engagement Activities

3.17

- Belfast City Council has received a sponsorship request for a contribution of £5,000 towards the annual New York New Belfast Conference in June 2019. Members will recall that this event showcases the new Belfast to the US-based audience and is a useful channel for promoting our key business, investment and cultural messaging. If endorsed by members, officers will work with the organising team to influence the agenda in line with city and council priorities. If the Committee agrees to financial support, it is also requested that the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the Director of Economic Development, or nominees, attend and participate in the conference
- Belfast City Council will be requested to provide input into a number of potential inward missions on 2019. The level of engagement will be assessed by officers, and will be commensurate with the potential return for the city. Early indications include interest from both Seattle and Philadelphia. Any costs arising from these visits will be met within existing unit budgets.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.18

It is proposed that Members approve and agree financial support for the range of activities and events set out in sections above. These allocations have been included in the budget estimates for 2019/2020.

Shenyang/China

3.19

- Support for an inaugural China in Belfast programme 2019/20 at a maximum cost of £20,000
- Support for 2020 Chinese New Year event in Belfast at a maximum of £10,000
- Support the development work and delivery of a pilot China Business Mission in partnership with other relevant players. The cost of this will not exceed £25,000

<p>3.20</p> <p>3.21</p> <p>3.22</p> <p>3.23</p> <p>3.24</p> <p>3.25</p>	<p><u>Boston</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development and delivery of a civic and business mission to Boston in 2019 (date tbc). Details are currently being developed and will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for endorsement. The cost of this will not exceed £10,000. <p><u>Nashville</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the promotion and marketing of the second Nashville in Belfast week and host a Nashville delegation at a maximum cost of £20,000 - Support an outward business focused mission to Nashville in 2019 at a maximum cost of £15,000 (subject to agreement with partners) <p><u>New York/New Belfast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to sponsor the June 2019 NYNB Annual Conference to a value of £5,000 and agree attendance of the Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee and Director of Economic Development or nominees at a maximum cost of £2,500. <p><u>International Homecoming Conference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to sponsor the 2019 Homecoming Conference at a maximum cost of £10,000. <p><u>Eurocities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree to renew the council’s annual newsletter of the Eurocities Network at a cost of €16,700. <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications. The International Relations Framework has been equality screened. No rural need impacts.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Document Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix - International Relations Outputs: September 2018 – March 2019.</p>

Appendix 1

International Relations Activities and Outputs

September 2018-March 2019

China/Shenyang

Political/Civic

- Belfast City Council won the Chinese Government Certificate of Honour for Sister City work and cooperation with China 2018
- Belfast City Council's Lord Mayor and senior staff attended the 2018 Chinese National Day celebration
- The Lord Mayor hosted a farewell lunch for Madam Wang, departing Consul General and a welcome event for incoming Consul General Madam Zhang
- Belfast City Council supported the varied programme of Chinese New Year events 2019, and in particular the 3rd Spring Festival international performance in City Hall and financial support for the highlight celebration event at the Waterfront Hall.

Tourism

- Belfast City Council supported Visit Belfast to deliver a highly successful Belfast Tourism showcase in Shenyang in September 2018. Follow up activity has continued since this event
- Visit Belfast will host two familiarisation visits from the Shenyang and the wider China tourism industry in 2019
- Visit Belfast hosted a follow up visit from Shenyang's biggest tour operator, Golden Bridge Tours, and is working to develop a tailored product at the request of the company to promote to their clients
- Visit Belfast has developed three bespoke itineraries aimed at the Chinese tourism market
- Visit Belfast continues to build on its "China Ready" accreditation and is delivering more training to its frontline staff
- Visit Belfast and Belfast City Council are participating in a Task and Finish Working Group known as the NI China Tourism Cluster. This group will develop a NI China Tourism and Strategy to ensure coordination throughout the industry and to ensure Belfast and NI are preparing for the increase in Chinese visitors, in light of the two new direct flights from Dublin and anticipated additional flights.

Business and Investment

- Belfast City Council worked in partnership with Invest NI and the NI Executive Office hosted small focused business delegations from Tinjan in China and Hong Kong, who were here to explore market opportunities
- Belfast City Council continues to produce business and investment information in Mandarin for incoming and indeed outgoing business delegates.
- Belfast City Council connected a number of local businesses with Chinese contacts in the course of the year

Education

- Belfast City Council continues to support the China engagement work of both universities and Belfast Metropolitan College and to work with the schools and teacher training colleges involved in international activity. The Council is now a member of a NI-wide International Education Steering Group to promote the region as an education destination
- Belfast City Council supported the promotion of the 2nd HSBC British Council Mandarin Speaking Competition and held a meet and greet send-off for the three schools who succeeded to the UK National finals
- Belfast City Council hosted the second of a three-year robotics conference and competition to be held in NI involving 60 local students and 30 visiting Chinese students studying science and robotics.

Boston

Business

- Following the Council, Invest NI and Catalyst Inc. led programme to Mass Challenge in 2018, the partnership engaged in phase II of the programme facilitating a week-long mentorship and coaching programme at MIT for ten Belfast growth tech companies, along with 90 other USA and globally located companies. This will be followed up by a return visit to Boston in March 2019 to allow the companies to undertake targeted business plan pitches to future investors and to enter into the US market
- In October 2018, Belfast hosted an inward business, government and education mission from Boston, coinciding with the annual International Homecoming Conference and the 2nd Belfast Invitational Basketball tournament. This mission led to the following activities:
 - Linkages made with New England Revolution soccer and the IFA to explore a young people's tournament in 2019/20 – work ongoing
 - Linkages made with Short Strand youth football team who will travel to Boston (self-financed) in Spring 2019. Their programme has been widened to incorporate the Sister City related activity with Boston communities.
- Linkages made with the Active Communities Network in Belfast to make new connections for their new annual youth exchange with the Boston Youth Empowerment programme
- Plans now in place for Belfast to host an incoming business mission from the British American Business Council of New England in partnership with Create Boston, Chamber of Commerce and the Boston Mayor's office for Economic Development as well as an inward mission from the Boston Irish Business Association in December 2019
- Ongoing support to Belfast-based businesses and social enterprises to build partnerships and business linkages in Boston (at least four live projects ongoing).

Tourism/Culture/Arts

- BCC connections led to a 6 month US Fulbright Scholarship in Belfast, January – July 2019. Professor Bob Scanlan from Harvard University is currently:
 - Teaching at QUB Seamus Heaney Centre
 - Co-producing with the MAC theatre and working with Mayor Walsh's office to replicate the MAC model in Boston

- Seeking to make new Sister City connections to Belfast communities.
- Cinemagic produced a first film with Belfast and Boston youth in November 2018, making connections and raising finance through Boston Sister Cities.

Education

- Belfast City Council continues to support Boston/Belfast university summer school exchanges and university linkages where requested e.g. Lord Mayor meet and greet events
- Belfast City Council financially supported and helped coordinate the 4th annual Friendship Four ice hockey tournament in November 2018. Belfast City Council in partnership with Invest NI and Food NI held the first annual Business-Education Showcase in City Hall. Plans are ongoing through the Ice Hockey Commission to include a cohort of sports data technology companies to present at a major spring conference in Philadelphia
- Following the Friendship Four tournament, Stranmillis College is progressing an educational partnership with a visiting Bostonian college – Lasell
- Belfast City Council financially supported and helped coordinate the 2nd Belfast Hall of Fame Basketball tournament in December 2018.

Nashville

Business

- Discussions underway to explore potential of a business mission to Nashville in 2019, in partnership with Invest NI
- Facilitated connections for Food NI with relevant Nashville players
- Hosted three inward visits from Nashville-based tourism and cultural contacts, all of whom are exploring future opportunities for engagement with Belfast-based partners.

Education and Culture

- Supported the third annual intake of Harpeth Hall students exchange with Strathearn College in January 2019
- Facilitated the connections between Cinemagic and relevant sectoral players in Nashville in advance of their Youth Film Making project
- Facilitation of connections for Queen's University in advance of their March visit to refine key linkages
- Further programme of Nashville-Belfast Youth discussions on prominent issues affecting youth in both cities.
- Ongoing work to prepare an inaugural joint legal summer school between Queen's University, Ulster University and in partnership with Invest NI to provide industry placements. A second element of this legal cooperation strand will be to encourage the exchange of both Bar Associations.

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Subject:	Application for a Markets Licence - HMS Caroline
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Gary Montgomery, Markets Duty Manager, ext.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to grant a licence for a market to be held at HMS Caroline car park in May 2019, as part of the Belfast Maritime Festival. The application is being made by the HMS Caroline Preservation Company.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to agree to grant the licence to the HMS Caroline Preservation Company to host the Maritime Festival Makers Market from 24 th till 26th May, 2019.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>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 “Maritime Festival Makers Market” for a market to be held in HMS Caroline car park, Alexandra Wharf, Queens Road, Belfast.</p>
3.2	<p>In line with the overall Council’s Markets Development Strategy, this market will help to enhance this area of the city and in doing so drive footfall into Titanic Quarter and the surrounding area. The market will complement the wider festival and programme of animation in the city at this time. This will focus not only on the Titanic Quarter area but will also extend across the wider city area, in line with the commitments to enhance the city animation activity as part of the City Revitalisation programme.</p>
3.3	<p>This market will be held as part of the Belfast Maritime Festival. Numbers are currently being finalised but it is expected that there will be between 30 – 40 stalls at the event.</p>
3.4	<p>The event is being organised by HMS Caroline Preservation Company. The organisers 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, traffic management system and 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.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The applicant will have to pay a fee in line with the markets policy. The amount payable will depend on the number of stalls that are in place.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Impact Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Update on Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Capital Programme
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager, ext. 3770

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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 Department for Communities' (DfC) Access and Inclusion programme, including details of the organisations that will benefit from the support provided through this programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report, in particular, the number of organisations which will benefit and the amount of funding that will be distributed by the end of March, 2019.

3.0	Main report
3.1	At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 9th January, Members agreed to the Council acting as the management agent for DfC's Access and Inclusion Capital Programme and supporting organisations to access the funding.
3.2	The Access and Inclusion Capital Programme aims to increase accessibility at cultural venues across Northern Ireland. DfC invited all local councils to act as a conduit for the funding with an available regional budget of £750,000. The programme is designed to support the capital costs (either works or purchase of items) of projects which will improve accessibility to local cultural venues in the city. The maximum grant available to each project was £30,000. Projects and spend are to be completed by 31st March, 2019.
3.3	Eligible organisations across the Belfast City Council area were invited to submit applications to the Council by 18th January, 2019. The applications were assessed by a panel of Council officers who made recommendations to DfC for final approval. The Council received 22 applications, and eligible projects were ranked based on an agreed set of criteria, including demonstration of need, state of readiness and ability to deliver within the timeframe.
3.4	Additionally, officers worked alongside colleagues in Legal Services and Property and Projects, as well as the unit's Business Manager, to ensure compliance with the overall terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer, in order to mitigate against any potential risks in the oversight of the programme.
3.5	<p>A total of 16 applications have been awarded support under this programme, with a total investment of £301,074. Details of these projects and the funding awards are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accidental Theatre - £29,999 – Disabled lift repair and upgrade 2. Belfast City Council - £2,300 – Visitor exhibition hearing portable loop system 3. Belfast City Council - £17,100 – Chair lift at rear City Hall access door 4. Belfast Photo Festival - £27,081 – Disability Exhibition Facility 5. Black Box - £26,785 – Access and Inclusion Project 6. Crescent Arts Centre - £24,977 – Disability Access & Inclusion Project 7. Exchange Place Resources - £29,500 – Making Accessible Exchange Place 8. McCracken Cultural Society - £24,800 – Disability door access and toilet upgrade 9. Ormeau Table Tennis Club - £8,117 – Accessible table tennis facilities 10. Quotidian Word on the Street - £6,000 – Disability accessible poetry jukebox

	<p>11. Spectrum Centre - £24,864 – Spectrum Inclusion lift upgrade</p> <p>12. Strand Arts Centre - £21,385 – Mobile Screening Project</p> <p>13. Strand Arts Centre - £16,012 – Audio Visual Accessibility Programme</p> <p>14. Theatre NI - £20,022 – Captioning Support Programme</p> <p>15. University of Atypical - £11,220 – Access to Art project</p> <p>16. Ulster Orchestra - £10,912 – Access and inclusion programme.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>DfC has offered the Council up to £301,074 to support up to these 16 projects. The Council will contribute sufficient officer resources in order to provide effective oversight. There is no requirement for match-funding from the Council. DfC has indicated that the Programme may re-open for applications during 2019/20.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.7	<p>The impact of this Programme will have positive implications for equality of accessibility to various cultural venues, touring products, and festivals across the city. No specific rural needs impact as this activity is all taking place in Belfast but the programme is available across NI.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018/19
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid; Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	David Orr, Business Manager, Place and Economy Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report presents the Quarter 3 financial position for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary is attached. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 210 1471 591">Overall Council Financial Position The forecast year-end position for the Council is an under spend of £1.689m which is 1.2% of the budgeted net expenditure. This was reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 22nd February 2019. The Quarter 3 forecast from LPS remains a clawback of £1.2m. Given the shortfall in available balances to meet the Primark commitments, the rates clawback and holiday back pay, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to maintain its position that no further reallocations or cash flow payments are considered until the year end position is presented to the Committee in June 2019.</p> <p data-bbox="272 663 836 689">Committee Financial Position 2018/2019</p> <p data-bbox="272 712 1471 842">3.2 The Quarter 3 position for the Committee is an under spend of £172k (1.3%), with the forecast year-end position being an under spend of £55k (0.3%) which is within the acceptable tolerance which is 3%.</p> <p data-bbox="272 913 1471 1043">3.3 The main reasons for the Committee under spend relate to staffing costs as a result of vacant posts across a number of services, reduced expenditure on programme costs, reduced expenditure on premises costs and grants offset by reduced income.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1115 788 1142"><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1164 932 1191">3.4 The report sets out the 2018/19 quarter 3 position.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1263 1198 1290"><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1312 925 1339">3.5 There are no equality implications with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	C G and R Quarter 3 Performance Report



















City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

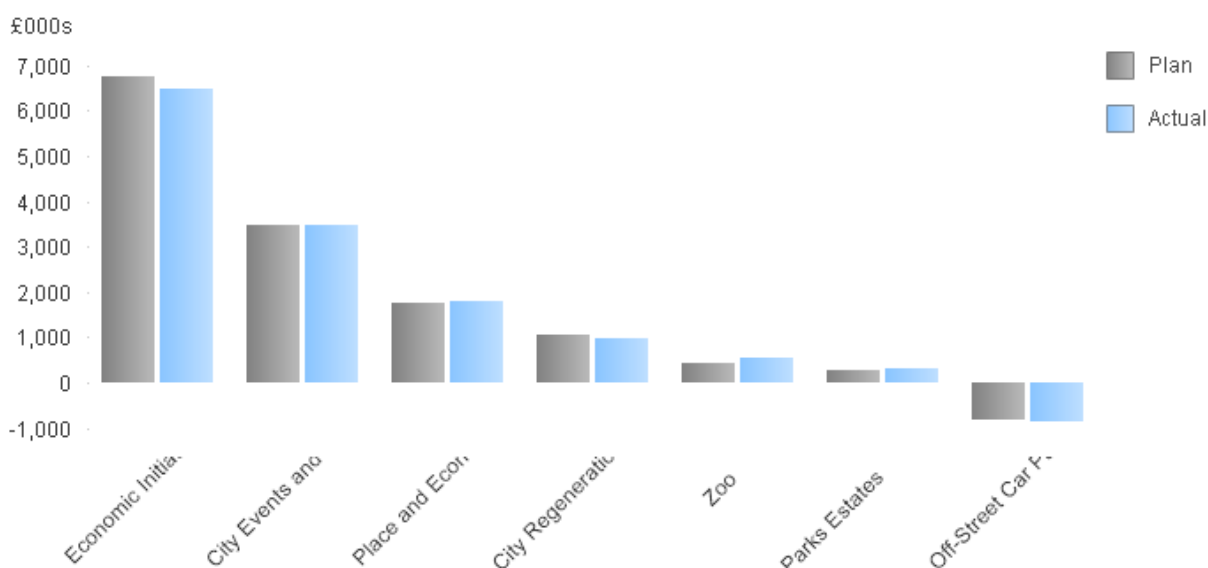
Report Period: Quarter 3, 2018/19

Dashboard

Quarter 3, 2018/19

Revenue Section							Page
Committee	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	3 - 7
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt		(241)	(3.6)%		(203)	(2.3)%	
City Events and Venues		(3)	(0.1)%		0	0.0%	
Place and Economy Directorate		24	1.4%		43	1.6%	
City Regeneration		(59)	(5.6)%		0	0.0%	
Zoo		124	29.5%		130	14.3%	
Parks Estates		14	5.0%		0	0.0%	
Off-Street Car Parking		(32)	4.1%		(25)	2.3%	
Total		(172)	(1.3)%		(55)	(0.3)%	

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



The **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget is under spent by £171,821, or 1.3% of its net budgeted expenditure of £13m at the end of quarter 3 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

The Committee's budget is made up of the following profit centres:

- ✚ **Economic Initiatives** (P&E):- Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts; Economic Development; Markets; European Unit and International Relations
- ✚ **City Events and Venues** (P&E): City Events; Belfast Waterfront; Ulster Hall
- ✚ **Place and Economy Directorate** (P&E): Belfast Bikes; Business Research and Development; Directorate
- ✚ **City Regeneration and Development** (P&E)
- ✚ **Estates Management** (CNS): Malone House; Belfast Castle; Stables Restaurant; Adventure Playground
- ✚ **Zoo** (CNS)
- ✚ **Off Street Car Parking** (CNS)

Economic Initiatives & International Development (EIID) is under spent by £241,003 (3.6%), City Regeneration and Development is under spent by £58,735 (5.6%), Off Street Car Parking is under budget by £31,969 (4.1%) and City Events & Venues is under spent by £2,856 (0.1%) whilst Parks Estates Management are over spent by £14,349 (5%); the Zoo is over budget by £124,076 (29.5%) and Place and Economy Directorate is over spent by £24,318 (1.4%) at the end of quarter 3 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

There are five main areas that give rise to the current overall £172k (1.3%) under spend within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee budget at the end of quarter 3 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year. These are as follows:

1. Gross Income was £186k less than budgeted income to the end of December 2018. This variance relates to more income being received than planned in Off Street Car Parking £39k; EIID £6k and City Events £5k; which are offset by less income than planned in the Zoo £124k, Directorate £75k and Parks Estates £37k.
2. Employee costs are £56k less than budget with under spends in Place and Economy

Directorate £92k; EIID £65k, City Regeneration £45k and Parks Estates £6k as a result of vacant posts which are offset by additional employee costs in the Zoo £72k and Off Street Car Parking £78k.

3. Premises expenditure was £96k less than budget with additional costs in EIID £48k offset by under spends in Off Street Car Parking £61k, Parks Estates £46k and the Zoo £37k.
4. Supplies and Services expenditure was £191k under budget. Under spends in EIID £117k, City Regeneration £13k, the Zoo £18k and Off Street Car Parking £11k are offset by additional expenditure in Parks Estates £28k and Place and Economy Directorate £39k.
5. Subscriptions, contributions and Grants are £112k under budget. Under spends in EIID £99k and the Zoo £15k are offset by an over spend of £3k in City Events.

Service Analysis

EIID are under spent by £241,003 at the end of period 9

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £6,740,350; Actual Net Expenditure: £6,503,347).

Underspends in programme costs in Economic Development £117k; employee costs £65k and subscriptions and grants £99k are offset by increased premises costs £48k (health and safety related).

City Events and Venues are currently underspent by £2,856

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £3,492,614; Actual Net Expenditure: £3,489,758).

City Events are currently £3k under spent at the end of Quarter 3, mainly as a result of additional income.

The Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall is currently on budget at the end of Quarter 3.

Directorate are currently over spent by £24,318

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £1,770,120; Actual Net Expenditure: £1,794,438)

Within Directorate there is a current over spend of £24k. This is mainly the result of less than expected income for the Belfast Bike Scheme £75k with the loss of sponsorship income as a result of the contract renewal and a reduction in bike hire income year to date and an over spend in supplies and services of £39k off-set by an under spend in employee costs of £92k in relation to vacant posts.

The Zoo is over spent by £124,076 at the end of quarter 3.

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £420,602; Actual Net Expenditure: £544,678)

Zoo net expenditure at Quarter 3 is £124,076 over budget due to income being down £124k and staff costs being over spent by £72k. Reduction in supplies and services has offset some of this over spend.

Parks Estates are over spent by £14,349 at the end of quarter 3.

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £289,549; Actual Net Expenditure: £303,898)

Parks Estates net expenditure is £14,349 (5.0) over budget. This is primarily due to a reduction in income and expenditure on an essential piece of equipment.

Off Street Parking is under budget by -£31,969 at the end of Quarter 3.

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: -£770,608; Actual Net Expenditure: -£802,577)

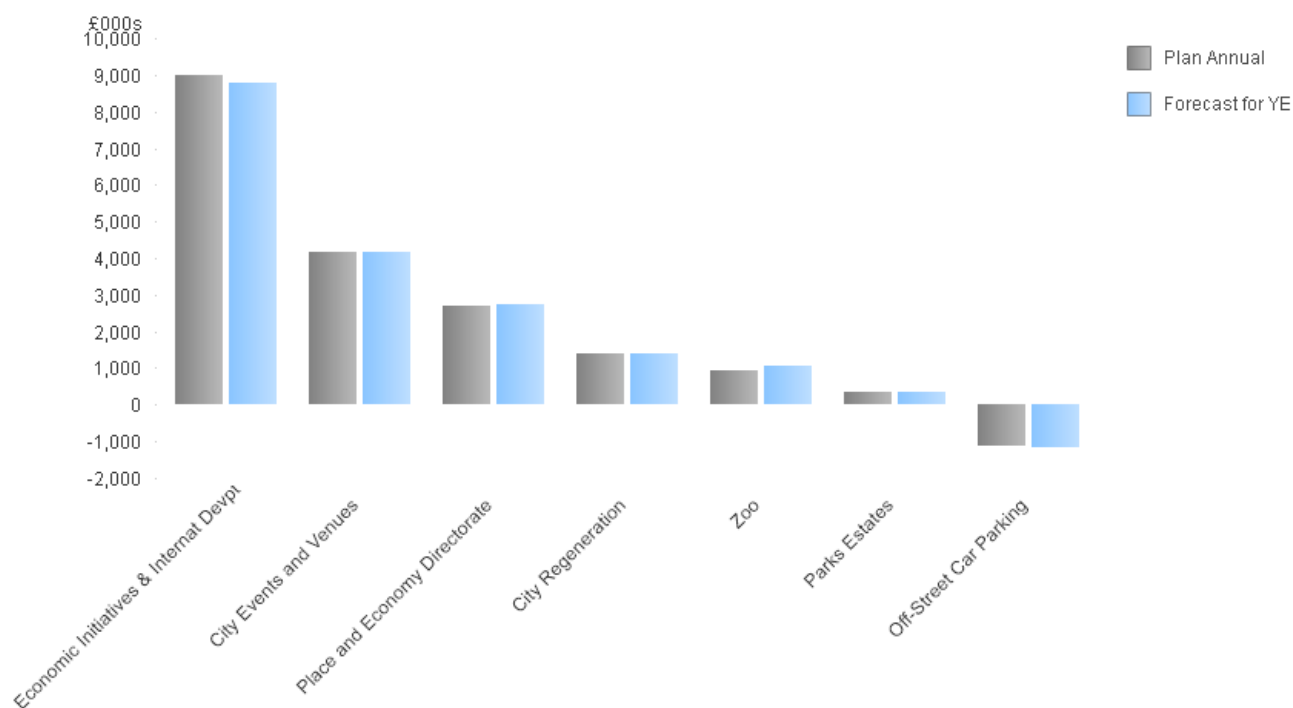
Off Street Car Parking net expenditure is £31,969 under budget due to higher than anticipated income as a result of NI Water's use of Little Victoria Street for sewer improvement works and higher than capacity usage.

City Regeneration and Development is under budget by £58,735 at the end of quarter 3 of the 2018 /2019 Financial Year.

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £1,056,503; Actual Net Expenditure: £997,768)

City Regeneration and Development net expenditure is £58,735 (5.6%) under budget due to vacant posts £45k and reduced programme expenditure of £13k.

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End



It is forecast that the **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget will be under spent by £55k, or 0.3%, of its budgeted net expenditure of £17.4 million at year end.

The Economic Initiatives and International Development division are forecast to be underspent by £203k (2.3%) at year end as a result of an underspend in programme costs in the Economic Development Unit which offset additional health and safety with City Markets.

The City Events and Venues service is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Place and Economy Directorate are forecast to be overspent by £43k (1.6%) at year end as a result of loss of Belfast Bikes sponsorship income and reduction in membership fees which are offset by savings in vacant posts.

City Regeneration and Development is forecast to be on budget at year end.

The **Zoo** net expenditure is forecast to be £130k (14.3%) overspent due to income targets not being achieved

Parks Estates net expenditure is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Off Street Car Parking is forecast to be £25,000 (2.3%) below budget due to additional income being offset against additional premises costs forecast to take place in 2018.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Section Expenditure Budgetary Analysis & Forecast

Service	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2018/2019 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P9 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
City Events and Venues	3,493	3,490	(3)	(0.1)%	4,163	4,163	0	0.0%
City Regeneration	1,057	998	(59)	(5.6)%	1,409	1,409	0	0.0%
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	6,744	6,503	(241)	(3.6)%	8,994	8,791	(203)	(2.3)%
Off-Street Car Parking	(771)	(803)	(32)	4.1%	(1,098)	(1,123)	(25)	2.3%
Parks Estates	290	304	14	5.0%	364	364	0	0.0%
Place and Economy Directorate	1,770	1,794	24	1.4%	2,675	2,718	43	1.6%
Zoo	421	545	124	29.5%	911	1,041	130	14.3%
Total	13,003	12,831	(172)	(1.3)%	17,417	17,362	(55)	(0.3)%

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Subject:	Request for Special Meeting - Cave Hill Country Park/North Foreshore Development Proposals
Date:	6 th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, ext. 3260
Contact Officer:	Brian Carr, Project Sponsor, ext. 3279

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the commissioning of a strategic study to identify and assess potential development initiatives with respect to Cave Hill Country Park and associated assets, highlighting synergies with development proposals currently being progressed at the North Foreshore.
2.0	Recommendation
1.2	The Committee is requested to agree that a special meeting be held at 5.15 p.m. on Monday 8th April 2019 to receive a detailed update from the consultancy team undertaking the strategic study for Cave Hill Country Park and representatives from Giants Park Ltd, who are developing proposals for the North Foreshore.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 210 421 239"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 257 1465 439">3.1 Rooney Smith Associates were appointed in February 2019 to undertake a strategic review and viability assessment of current and any newly identified development initiatives with respect to Cave Hill Country Park and associated assets, namely: Belfast Castle, Belfast Zoo and Floral Hall.</p> <p data-bbox="165 510 1391 589">3.2 The consultancy team has been tasked to complete the following within their scope of work:</p> <ol data-bbox="272 663 1465 1350" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain an understanding of current development initiatives under consideration and assess viability; 2. Identify new development opportunities; 3. Assess enabling actions to unlock/facilitate new and existing development opportunities; 4. Identify stakeholder roles and responsibilities required to facilitate development and identify potential stakeholder issues and constraints; 5. Identify any planning issues/considerations that may arise from development proposals; 6. Identify any infrastructure projects required to maximise development gain; 7. Identify the potential for private sector investment and other commercial opportunities; 8. Identify any public sector investment required to support agreed recommendations; and 9. Assess community impacts of any recommended proposals/actions and outline the community benefits associated with recommendations; and 10. Recommend a critical path and mitigating actions for emerging preferred option/s <p data-bbox="165 1417 1465 1496">3.3 The consultancy team has also been tasked to identify synergies with development proposals being progressed at the North Foreshore.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1570 1465 1899">3.4 Members will be aware that Council has agreed initial proposals to regenerate 250 acres of the North Foreshore site into a major visitor attraction for the city. The proposed £93 million investment by Giant’s Park Belfast Ltd, will create four distinct zones or hubs:</p> <ul data-bbox="272 1720 778 1899" style="list-style-type: none"> • a welcome hub • a leisure and sports innovation hub • an adventure hub • a theme part hub.

3.5	The project, which is due to complete by 2026, will bring jobs to the local and wider area, both through the development phase and upon completion.
3.6	The Committee is asked to convene a special Committee meeting on 8 th April 2019 so that Members can receive a detailed update and provide feedback on the key findings and recommendations of the Cave Hill study and receive a presentation from representatives from Giant's Park Ltd with respect to development proposals for the North Foreshore.
3.7	The Committee is asked to agree that Members of the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group attend this meeting given the over-arching aspects of these presentations.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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