

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 22nd November, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Kingston (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire and Spence;
Councillors Beattie, Black, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Hargey, Heading,
Lyons, McAllister, McDonough-Brown, Murphy,
Pankhurst and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillors de Faoite and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mrs. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
Mr. A. Reid, Director of Place and Economy; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Nicholl and Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th November.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of item 2a – Revenue Estimates and District Rate and left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

Schedule of Meetings 2020

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for 2020, all meetings to commence at 9.30 am:

Friday, 10th January (Rate setting, if required)
Friday, 24th January
Friday, 21st February

Friday, 20th March
Friday, 24th April
Friday, 22nd May
Friday, 19th June
Friday, 21st August
Friday, 18th September
Friday, 23rd October
Friday, 20th November
Friday, 18th December

Change of Date of Meeting in December

The Committee approved the change of date of the December meeting from Friday 13th to Tuesday 17th to commence at 9.30 am.

Restricted Items

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

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

Presentations: Ulster Orchestra and the MAC

Prior to consideration of the reports on the Revenue Estimates and District Rates 2020/21 and Financial Reporting Quarter 2, the Committee was advised the representatives of the Ulster Orchestra and the MAC were in attendance to address the Committee in relation to funding issues.

The Committee agreed to receive the presentations and accordingly the representatives were invited to the meeting.

Ulster Orchestra

Mr. Richard Wigley, Managing Director, Ulster Orchestra, stated that the Orchestra was seeking to continue its Additional Funding Agreement with the Council beyond the current endpoint of March 2020. He indicated that it had been a vital part of the Orchestra's success story, and a strong Public Value Proposition, by allowing the Orchestra to focus resources on securing income for its Learning and Community Engagement programme (LGE), and that that needed to continue.

He reviewed what the additional funding agreement covered, including Ulster Hall and Waterfront Hall rent and services, LGE activity and office rent.

Mr Wigley then reviewed what the Ulster Orchestra was able to achieve with the Council's support and what it would allow it to do in the future and how it supported partners and local people. He then referred to its search for a new rehearsal and leaning hub.

In conclusion, he highlighted the Orchestra's 50 performances in one day event to mark its 50th anniversary.

Mr Wigley then answered a number of questions from the Members and the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

The MAC

Ms. Anne McReynolds, Chief Executive, The MAC, highlighted how the venue was animating the city since its opening in April, 2012, in that it was open 365 days a year, was accessible, inclusive, home-grown and international. It had received 27 awards and 12 nominations for the building, the business and its work and had 2.2 million visits to date.

Following a review of its business model in 2017, the MAC had developed a sustainability plan which included bringing the café bar in-house, redeveloping the venue's hire strategy, the creation of a cabaret club and a creative leaning strategy.

This had resulted in a 76% theatre occupancy versus the Northern Ireland average of 50%; an increase of 25% in the sale of tickets compared to year one; and income being nearly doubled since 201/13. Ms. McReynolds then reviewed the income from venue hire, from the cafe bar and from trusts and foundations, corporate sponsorship and donations.

She outlined the financial support received from the Council for the previous three years and stated that for the current year The MAC was seeking a similar level of funding this year as in the previous 2 years.

Ms. McReynolds concluded by outlining the venue's purpose which was "To make Northern Ireland a better place through the creation and enjoyment of and participation in outstanding art" and its vision which was "A creative and confident society that celebrates diversity".

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Ms McReynolds for attending and she left the meeting.

The Committee noted the presentations and noted that any requests for additional funding could only be considered in conjunction with the Financial Reporting Quarter 2 report which is due to be considered later in the meeting.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2020/21

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the development of the Revenue Estimates for 2020/21 which advised the Members of the next steps in the rates setting process.

The Director highlighted the seven key elements to setting the rate, the current Revenue Estimates position, including the recommended Growth Proposals and the Business as Usual costs pressures, the Efficiency Programme, the Growth Proposals – Priority Areas, Capital Finance, the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) and the General Reserves position.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate;
2. noted that party group briefings had been arranged for the week beginning 25th November 2019, with a further report on the setting of the district rate being brought to the Committee at its meeting on 17th December 2019; and
3. agreed that representatives of Land and Property Services be invited to the December meeting to provide a presentation on the outcome of the Non-domestic re-evaluation.

Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2019/20

The Committee considered a report which presented the Quarter 2 financial position for the Council, including a forecast of the year end outturn. It included also a reporting pack with the summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. It also provided a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the report and agreed that, given the departmental and district rate forecasts, no further reallocations or cash flow payments are considered until the Quarter 3 position is presented to the Committee in February 2020;
- agreed that officers proceed with the development of a specification for an Air Quality Assessment and consider its financing as part of the Quarter 3 Financing Report;
- agreed that a specified reserve be established to build up the required level of funding for the hosting in the City of the 2021 Super Cup; and
- agreed that no funding be allocated toward the hosting of the 2020 UEFA Men's Under-19 Euro Championships but to provide in-kind support through, for example, the provision of training facilities.

Strategic Sites Assessment (SSA)

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the emerging Strategic Sites Assessment workstream and the recommendations which had been

agreed by City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 6th November. The report also sought approval from the Committee to explore the feasibility of including a number of priority sites within wider regeneration projects.

The Committee:

- i. noted that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 6th November 2019 had agreed a number of recommendations as set out in the report and appendices;
- ii. Noted the progress on Phase 1 of the SSA and the recommendations from the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 6th November 2019;
- iii. agreed to explore the feasibility of taking ownership of the Department of Finance's (DoF) Corporation Street site, taking into account the capital implications of acquiring the land, including the potential for land swaps with the DoF or a similar arrangement as recommended by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- iv. agreed to the inclusion of the Council's Hope Street North car park and Whitla Street car park within the planning and masterplanning considerations for the Weavers Cross regeneration project and the Yorkgate Train Station project, respectively;
- v. agreed to the inclusion of Gloucester Street within the strategic site delivery programme; and
- vi. agreed to a Phase 2 SSA and that a scoping exercise be undertaken to see what other sites were available throughout the city.

Belfast Agenda – Statement of Progress

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development and publication of a Belfast Agenda statement of progress in November 2019, which was a legislative monitoring requirement for the Council and its community planning partners. The Committee was reminded that the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan, had been published in November 2017 and was led by the Council, in partnership with its community planning partner organisations. The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 required the Council and its partners to publish a statement of progress highlighting delivery towards the outcomes and actions taken every two years. The first statement of progress was due for publication by the end of November, 2019.

At its meeting on 23rd August, 2019, the Committee had agreed the proposed structure and contents of the Statement of Progress, which was in line with legislative guidance issued by the Department for Communities. In addition, the Committee had agreed a proposed timeline for the publication of the report which included consultation with partners and political engagement with members via party group briefings in October 2019.

The draft and detailed statement of progress had been developed in association with and input from all community planning partners. The document also adhered to the full spirit of the legislation and provided detailed information on delivering against the stretched goals, indicators and outcomes as well as progress update on the action plans attached to the Belfast Agenda boards established to drive forward collaborative action. The Statement of Progress also highlighted a number of case studies and noteworthy

achievements showcasing the work of partners over the last 12-18 months in the context of community planning.

After discussion, during which a number of questions were raised by the Members, the Committee:

- a) noted the statutory requirement for the Council and its community planning partners to publish a Statement of Progress in November 2019;
- b) noted the process of engagement and input from community planning partners which had led to the development of the Statement of Progress;
- c) considered the statement of progress executive summary, attached at appendix 1 the full detailed and technical statement of progress attached at appendix 2 to the report;
- d) agreed that both documents be made available and circulated to community planning partners and the Department of Communities;
- e) agreed that the executive summary be published and promoted for the public and the full detailed report would be available on line; and
- f) agreed to convene a meeting of the Elected Members' Working Group to discuss a number of questions which had been raised during the Committee meeting.

**Proposed Public Realm Improvements at
Erskine House, 34-36 Chichester Street**

The Committee considered a report which proposed an approach to deliver a public realm upgrade scheme comprising a new surface, bollards, lighting, seating, paving, kerbs and associated site works at Erskine House, the proposed new office building for HMRC, at 34-36 Chichester Street, utilising a developer contribution which had already been secured for the site.

The Committee:

- (i) agreed that the developer contribution of £110,000 received by the Council in respect of Planning Application Ref. LA04/2016/1789/F (Demolition of existing building at 34-36 Chichester Street and erection of new 8No. storey mixed use development incorporating retail and office ground floor, and 1st-7th floor offices (with associated external plant) be utilised to deliver the approved public realm upgrade scheme at Erskine House (Planning Application Ref. LA04/2018/2650/F; and
- (ii) agreed that the Council enters into an appropriate agreement with the developer and HMRC to ensure that the developer contribution was used solely for the purpose of delivering the enhanced public realm scheme, prior to the occupation of the office space in Erskine House.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion – Unregulated Car Washes

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 4th November, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Newton and seconded by Councillor Graham:

“This Council expresses concern about unregulated car washes and calls for a detailed report to be prepared on the number of unregulated car washes across Belfast. The necessary investigation and production of the report to be led by Council officers and to involve experienced staff from all relevant statutory bodies, in particular, the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The Council requests that the report cover all aspects of unregulated car washes, including potential human trafficking, employee contracts and wages, environmental and health and safety issues.”

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee agreed that the Policing and Community Policing Partnership (PCSP) be consulted and requested to consider the motion and that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be brought back to the Committee.

Motion – Nutrition Support for Children in Out-of-Hours School Clubs

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 4th November, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor McAteer, had been referred to the Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), for consideration:

“Practical healthy eating, supported by positive influence around lifelong food choices, improves children’s wellbeing in physical and mental terms, including their ability to concentrate and learn.

Good nutrition is essential for children to grow properly, do their best in school and be healthy and happy in the future. (Education Authority).

A World Health Organisation commission has described childhood obesity as a ‘growing epidemic’. Department of Health survey statistics indicate that 25% of children in this region are deemed to be overweight or obese. The estimated costs of healthcare attached to weight problems are around £450 million, representing 2.8% of total healthcare expenditure.

Small changes across a range of arenas can help to turn the tide. Implementing healthy snack choices, as part of the daily routine, significantly increases the capacity of positive choices becoming embedded, ultimately, resulting in wider savings to the health sector.

Belfast City Council supports a range of services and programmes for children, including Summer Schemes and Out-of-Hours School Clubs in areas facing disadvantage and food poverty.

Such spaces provide daily opportunities for children to undertake physical activity, learning and play. It is worth noting the capacity for such spaces to further improve the health of children via the provision of small healthy snacks.

It is within this Council's gift to contribute to the improvement of quality of daily life for children and to cement children's positive relationship with food and nutrition.

Accordingly, the Council agrees that a report, looking at clubs located in areas of disadvantage and the potential for such spaces to incorporate healthy snacks, as part of out of school hours provision during both term and non-term time, be prepared."

The Committee agreed that a report on how this could be facilitated, resourced and managed be brought back to the Committee.

Motion – New Year Event

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 4th November, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Pankhurst and seconded by Councillor Verner:

"This Council notes the huge success of our Hallowe'en Monster Mash event.

As a regional capital city, the Council agrees to hold on an annual basis a similar event to celebrate the New Year. The event will appeal to all our citizens and visitors, enhancing the appeal of Belfast as a welcoming and diverse city."

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred without debate to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to a report, on how this could be facilitated, resourced and managed, being submitted to a future meeting.

Motion – NIPSA Strike – Response **from the Department of Finance**

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st October, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Matt Collins:

"The Council notes that NIPSA members have planned strike action for Thursday, 3rd October. Council also notes that public sector workers have faced years of wage freezes and attacks on working conditions. Council believes that in this context strike action is a measured and appropriate response to the paltry pay deal that is currently being offered to public sector workers.

To this end, the Council fully supports NIPSA in their campaign for better pay and better terms and conditions, including strike action. The Council sends particular support to those workers on picket lines on Thursday. Finally, the Council agrees that the Chief Executive should write to Permanent Secretary of the Department for Finance, Sue Gray, to

implore her to immediately revisit the issue of public sector pay and reconsider the offer extended.”

It was reported that, subsequent to the motion being passed, a letter had been forwarded to the Permanent Secretary.

A response had now been received in which she had concluded that there were no plans to re-open negotiations on 2018 pay and she had already initiated negotiations on 2019 pay.

Noted.

Motion on Srebrenica Genocide

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 At the Council meeting on 1st October 2019, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Dorrian and seconded by Councillor McMullan, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f) been referred to the Committee for consideration:

‘This Council continues to stand with those who suffered as a result of the Srebrenica genocide. We will continue to support those who suffered during this shameful time and mark the occasion with a suitable event, which informs the wider community and promotes the message of reconciliation.’

1.2 Subsequently, the Committee noted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be brought back to the Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to approve the following actions:

- That officers liaise with Remembering Srebrenica to ascertain their plans for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary in 2020.
- That officers work in partnership with representatives from Remembering Srebrenica to determine how this period can be marked in Belfast.
- That any proposals be brought to the Shared City Partnership in the first instance for discussion given the remit of the Partnership in this subject matter.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The Srebrenica massacre, also known as the Srebrenica genocide, was the July 1995 massacre of more than 8,000 [Bosniaks](#), mainly men and boys and mostly Muslim, in and around the town of [Srebrenica](#) during the [Bosnian War](#).
- 3.2** In 2005, [Kofi Annan](#), then Secretary-General of the United Nations described the massacre as the worst crime on European soil since the [Second World War](#). Both the International Tribunal to the former state of Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice have ruled the acts committed in July 1995 constituted genocide.
- 3.3** The 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide will occur on 11th July 2020. In previous years, events have been held between 7-10th July given the time of year.
- 3.4** Belfast Council has assisted Remembering Srebrenica NI to mark the Srebrenica genocide in July over the past number of years. This has been in the form of provision of a venue and/or the attendance of the Lord Mayor who usually speaks at the event. Support is also provided through TEO and Remembering Srebrenica UK. The latter provides the resource to bring survivors or relatives of those who were killed to tell their story and emphasise the importance of reconciliation including recognition of the steps that can lead to genocide and tackling prejudice at an early stage in a robust way.
- 3.5** Remembering Srebrenica is a charitable initiative. It organises UK memorial events to honour survivors and keep alive the stories of their loved ones who died. They work with individuals and organisations to help strengthen society by learning the lessons of history to help tackle hatred, racism and intolerance wherever it occurs. They do this through commemoration, education and by taking individuals from communities across the UK to Srebrenica to speak to survivors and families whose loved ones were killed. Following the visit, participants are asked to apply the lessons learned from the experience and apply them in their own community and context to combat prejudice.
- 3.6** Members may recall that the Good Relations Manager was invited to Bosnia by Remembering Srebrenica UK as part of a delegation from Northern Ireland in September which included senior civil servants from The Executive Office and the Department of Finance. Whilst there, the delegation met a number of groups and organisations including the Mothers of Srebrenica to hear about their work in relation to ensuring

the events in Srebrenica and the impact which is still keenly felt today will not only be remembered but will serve as reminder that intolerance and prejudice must be tackled at many levels within society.

3.7 Given that there is already an organisation which has the responsibility to organise a commemoration event, Members are asked to agree the following:

- That officers liaise with Remembering Srebrenica to ascertain their plans for the commemoration this year.
- That Council works in partnership with Remembering Srebrenica to determine how this period can be marked in Belfast.
- That any proposals be brought to the Shared City Partnership in the first instance for discussion given the remit of the Partnership in this subject matter. .

On a related note, Members are reminded that the TEO have asked us to partner with them again to deliver and host International Holocaust Remembrance Day again in January 2020 as next year is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Any event/programme costs would be covered through the Council's Good Relations Action Plan which is 75% funded by The Executive Office.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The District Council Good Relations Action Plan has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs, and screened out."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members

The Committee deferred consideration of the report and agreed that it be referred for Party briefings.

Governance

National Association of Councillors – Attendance at National Executive Meetings

The Committee was reminded that it had eight Members on the National Association of Councillors – Northern Ireland Region. In addition, it was aware that Alderman Sandford had been appointed to represent the Northern Ireland Region on the

National Executive, which would require attendance at a number of meetings in 2020. The meetings were scheduled to be held on 13th January, 11th May and 7th September in London, with the AGM to be held on 28th November in Liverpool. Accordingly, authority was being sought to authorise the payment of travel costs and subsistence for the attendance of Alderman Sandford at those events.

The Committee approved the attendance of Alderman Sandford at the meetings of the National Executive of the National Association of Councillors and authorised the payment of the proposed travel costs and subsistence.

**Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
Annual Conference, Exhibition and Local Government Awards 2020**

The Committee was advised that the NILGA Annual Conference would take place this year at the Crown Plaza Hotel on 20th February, 2020. The Council was represented on NILGA by 10 Members across the political parties and the normal practice was to authorise those representatives to attend the Annual Conference if they so desired. In addition, later that evening the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards dinner would be held, these awards set out to showcase excellence in service delivery across the work of Councils. It was reported that there were two free places for each Council, with a cost for each additional day delegate at the conference only costing - £99 plus VAT; and day delegate plus awards dinner - £145 plus VAT. Any costs for attendance at the conference and or awards dinner could be met from within existing budgets.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Council representatives on NILGA at the Annual Conference, Exhibition and the Local Government Awards dinner on 20th February.

Election Accounts – May 2019

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise the Committee of the cost to the Council of the Local Government Elections in May 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **note the report.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The local council expenditure for delivering Local Government Elections is, under the provision of the Electoral

Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962, constrained by a scale of expenditure set by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

- 3.2 The Local Election Fees and Expenses Scale for Belfast City Council for May 2019 was £650,100. This excludes the cost of candidates' mailing, which is not included within that maximum. However, that cost still has to be covered by the Council.
- 3.3 The Cost of administering the election was £584,374.61, which was within the budget set by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO). With the additional cost of candidates' mailing being £268,634.03 this brings the total cost to the Council to £853,008.64.
- 3.4 Compared with the cost of the Elections in 2014 of £618,114, this is an increase of £234,894.64
- 3.5 This increase is due principally to the fact that in 2014, as well as the Local Government Elections, for which the Council has responsibility, there was also a European Election, which falls under responsibility of the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI), the costs to cover the polling stations, polling staff, etc. was split between the Council and EONI.
- 3.6 As this year was a single election, the Council is required to bear that cost. A breakdown of the costs is set out below:

Limit set by the NIO		£650,100
<u>Direct Costs to Council</u>		
Staff costs	£142,186.60	
Printing of ballot papers	£29,600.00	
EONI - Registration of Electors	£15,543.73	
Public Notices	£10,567.73	
Count security, incl. access passes	£5,536.86	
Equipment Hire	£5,078.00	
Furniture hire	£4,885.00	
Count Stationery and signage	£2,294.17	
	£215,692.09	
<u>EONI costs charged to Council</u>		
Staffing	£222,285.72	
Postage	£99,858.83	
Stationery/Printing	£18,634.85	
Transportation/Travel	£17,291.82	
Use of Premises	£7,188.76	
Hire of Equipment	£3,422.54	
	£368,682.52	
	£584,374.61	£65,725.39
Sub total		

Candidates' Mailing	£268,634.03	
Total cost to the Council	£853,008.64	

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

There were sufficient funds in the relevant specified reserve to meet the election costs. The reserve will need to be maintained and possibly enhanced in the future to meet the cost of the 2023 election.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Appointment of Members to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider the process to be used to identify 8 elected Members to be considered under a public appointment’s process to fill 4 places on the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- employ a one-off proportionality exercise for the purpose of identifying the political nomination of 8 members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Note only 4 members will be chosen.
- to agree which of the proportionality systems it wishes to use.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

3.2 The Belfast Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 provides that a maximum of four of the Harbour Commissioners shall be Members of Belfast City Council.

3.3 Correspondence has been received from the Department for Infrastructure dated 31st October indicating that the Council

should provide to it the names of eight Members who would be willing to serve as Commissioners from which four would be selected by the Permanent Secretary following an interview under a public appointment's process.

- 3.4 The Department has also pointed out that a Councillor would not be permitted to serve more than two terms (normally of four years each) as a Commissioner and no more than ten years in total.
- 3.5 The Committee is reminded that, in June, 2011, when the former City Council was considering the appointment of Members to the Harbour Commissioners, it was decided that a one-off selection process using the d'Hondt system to select 8 nominations was the proper way to proceed rather than including the selection of names as part of the overall pool of nominations to outside bodies.
- 3.6 Again in April 2015, the Council agreed to the use of a one-off selection process, with each of the proportionality systems considered at that time, that is, d'Hondt, Saint Lague and the Quota Greatest Remainder, achieving the same outcome.
- 3.7 In keeping with this principle, a one-off d'Hondt exercise for eight nominations would provide the following result:

1	SF
2	DUP
3	ALL
4	SF
5	DUP
6	SF
7	SDLP
8	ALL

- 3.8 Therefore, Sinn Fein – 3 nominations, DUP – 2 nominations, Alliance – 2 nominations and SDLP – 1 nomination.

3.9 The Sainte Lague method would provide the following result:

1	SF
2	DUP
3	ALL
4	SF
5	SDLP
6	DUP
7	GREEN
8	SF

3.10 Giving Sinn Fein – 3 nominations, the DUP – 2 nominations with the Alliance, SDLP and Green having 1 nomination each.

3.11 The Quota Greatest Remainder method does not produce an order list but would provide the following result and number of nominations:

Sinn Fein	3
DUP	2
Alliance	1
SDLP	1
Green	1
People Before Profit Alliance	0
UUP	0
PUP	0

3.12 Sinn Fein – 3 nominations, DUP – 2 nominations, Alliance – 1 nomination, SDLP – 1 nomination, Green – 1 nomination

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

There are not any financial implications for the Council associated with this report.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The suggested approach to be employed to select Members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners is in keeping with the principles of proportionality established in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Therefore, there are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.”

The Committee agreed:

- to employ a one-off proportionality exercise for the purpose of identifying the political nomination of eight members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and noted only four members would be chosen.
- to the use of the Sainte Lague method.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

City Region Growth Deal – update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree to that the Fraunhofer Institute support the development of the regional digital projects, including the Regional Innovators Network and testbeds.
- Agree the minutes of the BRCD Council Panel held on 23rd October 2019.
- Note the next steps in maximising the cross cutting challenges of the BRCD Programme.

3.0 Main report

Programme Update

3.1 Members will be aware that work to support the development of Phase 2 of the BRCD Programme is continuing with the establishment of an overall governance structure at a regional level and the set-up of a central Programme Office in Belfast City Council (BCC).

- 3.2 The focus of this has primarily been the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for the individual BRCD projects which will help inform the content of the documents required for this phase including
- A Financial Plan and Agreement
 - A Deal Document - detailed document covering all elements included within Heads of terms, including Governance Framework
 - An Implementation Plan - summarising milestones for key deliverables, outputs, resources and risk mitigation for each project
- 3.3 The majority of the OBCs are being progressed through the individual partners, who have committed specific internal and external resources to their development, under the guidance of the Advisory Boards and in consultation with colleagues from UK Government and NICS.
- 3.4 Members will also be aware that the Fraunhofer Institute have been appointed to support the development of the digital projects, given their complexity and specialist nature. The regional aspect of the digital programme, which includes Regional Innovator Networks and testbeds across the city region is a key element of the programme as it enables the benefits of the Digital and innovation projects to be connected across the region and support wider, more inclusive economic growth. Again the further development of these will require specialist input and it is therefore recommended that the Fraunhofer Institute undertake an additional specific piece of work which focuses on the regional aspect of the digital programme to maximise the overall benefits. This work has been costed at £134k and will be paid for by the other five councils within the BRCD.

BRCD Council Panel

- 3.5 The BRCD Council Panel provides a joint forum for members from all six councils to meet to jointly discuss issues, progress and benefits of the BRCD. Each council has four members on the Forum and as agreed by this committee the four nominees from BCC are the party group leaders (or their nominees) of the four largest parties.
- 3.6 The Panel held its first meeting on 23rd October in Belfast City Hall. They agreed terms of reference, received an update on the BRCD programme and discussed items for consideration at further meetings. The minutes of the

meeting are attached at Appendix 1. The next meeting will be held on 29th January 2020 and will be hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Cross Cutting Programme Challenges

3.7 Benefits Delivery:

Given the scale of the BRCD investment programme there is the potential to use planning agreements and social clauses in support of our inclusive growth ambitions, including through the provision of significant new opportunities in terms of training, skills development, employability placements and apprenticeships. The E&S Board will be leading work to review good practice and maximise the impact of the BRCD investment on local communities across the Belfast Region.

3.8 Communication

Progressing OBCs has been and will continue to be the key priority for the BRCD during phase 2. However, it is also essential to ensure that momentum is maintained while detailed project and programme work continues in the background. A small number of key events will therefore play an important part in a communication programme over the next six months in order to effectively communicate our progress to date in delivering such a complex and ambitious programme.

3.9 Business/Private Sector Engagement

It will be vital that planned investments are responsive to industry requirements and that businesses support and invest in them. The BRCD partners are therefore working to ensure more direct business engagement and involvement in the development of projects. This remains challenging, particularly for those projects which are at early stages of development.

3.10 Partnership Working

The city deal process offers an opportunity for developing sustainable relationships which will enable partners to continue working in a more collaborative way in the longer term. The BRCD partnership is continuing to strengthen with increasing evidence of effective joint working between universities, colleges and central and local government.

3.11 NI departments and key agencies such as Invest NI and Tourism NI are now directly engaged in supporting project development and there is a recognition among all parties of the need to keep momentum as the Belfast region is

competing for the proposed investments, in areas such as innovation and digital, with other UK and European cities. In such a complex programme this will require genuine cross-government collaboration, timely decision making processes and a strong focus on the goal of the programme- more and better jobs

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets. The additional £134k for the digital regional piece will be paid for by the other five councils in the BRCD, with no cost to BCC.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Towards a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 SP&R has requested the All-Party Group on the Climate Crisis recommend a process for producing a comprehensive Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for the Council. A Council motion approved by SP&R in October confirmed that a fully costed Climate Plan should be completed by mid-2021 at the latest. At its meeting on the 18th November, the All Party Working Group approved this document for recommendation to SP&R.

1.2 This paper outlines a proposed methodology, governance structure and resourcing for an eighteen-month programme of work to agree targets and produce a Climate Plan. It was developed in consultation with a number of other cities across the 100 Resilient Cities Network to learn from

established practice, and also in consultation with UK cities that are part of the Place Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- approve the proposed methodology, governance structure and resourcing for development of a Climate Plan, and establishment of an internal Programme Board to take this forward.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Many cities globally have developed Climate Plans to set out how to respond to the potential impacts of climate change, and to reduce adverse impacts on the environment, e.g. by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Belfast's city-wide climate plan will aim to deliver the vision set out in the draft Resilience Strategy- *to transition to a low-carbon economy in a generation.*

3.2 The plan will focus on climate adaptation and mitigation. Climate adaptation is the process associated with preparing for the effects of climate change, e.g. building flood defences. Climate mitigation is the process associated with preventing or alleviating the impacts of climate change, e.g. reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing an organisation's carbon footprint. Many organisations produce two separate plans as they tend to involve distinct disciplines. However to reflect the level of urgency attached to the climate crisis by Belfast City Council, it is proposed that adaptation and mitigation are planned together within the Council.

3.3 Separately from the Council's plan, a city-wide Climate Plan amounts to a substantial piece of work, and some cities have spent several years developing plans. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, we are proposing a parallel process; (1) that Belfast City Council develops its Climate Plan by mid-2021, overseen by the All-Party Group on the Climate Crisis, for approval by SP&R and Council (2) a city-wide Climate Plan is developed by stakeholders across the city using existing community planning structures through the establishment of a Resilience and Sustainability Board, which will commence its work in November, and is Chaired by the Commissioner for Resilience. In steering the development of both plans, the Commissioner for Resilience will have responsibility for ensuring they are aligned.

3.4 This document recognises that the core business of Council cannot stop as we put the plan together- therefore the plan

must have sufficient in-built flexibility to be applied to a complex organisation. Existing work on climate change will continue as the plan is developed- e.g. progress on air quality, on urban forestation etc.

3.5 Belfast City Council Climate Plan- Proposed Objectives:

1. To establish a science- based set of targets for decarbonisation (e.g. BCC arriving at a net-zero carbon position and milestones to meet as we progress towards a net zero carbon target)
2. To set out how Belfast City Council will protect its assets from the impact of climate change
3. To agree a range of measures which the Council can take to ensure an inclusive and just transition to a low carbon city –alignment with our Inclusive Growth Strategy. As a core principle, we must ensure that those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are protected.
4. To identify as far as possible the projected costs to the Council associated with climate mitigation and adaptation measures, and to identify financial models and sustainable funding structures in response.
5. To use our existing networks and partnerships effectively to drive this work, e.g. Global Resilient Cities Network (100RC), Place Based Climate Action Network (P-CAN), Eurocities etc.
6. To agree a broad range of costed measures which the Council will take to ensure Belfast is climate resilient (our contribution to the wider city plan)

3.6 Developing the Plan in Three Phases

Phase One (January- June 2020): Understanding the Problem

In recent months, significant work has already been undertaken to understand the scale and nature of the climate challenges for Belfast. This work should be completed by the middle of 2020, and includes the following:

1. Research and Data Collection
 - Use the completed ‘mini-Stern’ to identify a range of priorities for decarbonisation
 - Commission an external review, to consider the range of ways the Council can reduce its own carbon footprint (following the Edinburgh model)
 - Commence work to agree a Carbon Budget for Belfast City Council
 - Complete a climate risk assessment of Belfast City Council assets
 - Undertake adaptation research- examining how climate change will affect Belfast [work through P-CAN network]

2. Governance and Structures

- Establish a Resilience and Sustainability Board to bring together a range of agencies in the city to agree a collaborative adaptation and mitigation plan for the city
- Establish an internal officer Programme Board within BCC to develop the adaptation and mitigation plan for the Council – board will bring papers to All Party Working Group and SP&R for approval

3. Legal and Policy Levers

- Identify and map the legal and policy levers available to Council on climate adaptation and mitigation. For example, how to urgently reduce our own greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. changes to procurement criteria) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the wider city (e.g. planning regulations), and to improve water conservation (e.g. public education and campaigns). This should include opportunities arising from transformational programmes e.g. City Deal implementation.
- Identify legislative constraints which might inhibit climate adaptation or mitigation approaches (e.g. charging policy and impact for adoption of EV infrastructure).
- Map existing climate related policy and programmes across the city
- Identify funding opportunities – EU Commission funding, Innovate UK etc.

3.7 Phase Two (July- December 2020) Agree targets and priorities

Set targets

- **Carbon budget:** Using the data from the Mini- Stern and other relevant tools and sources (e.g. the Tyndall Carbon Targeter¹, used by Manchester City Council) to agree a maximum carbon budget for Belfast, as well as projected emissions reduction pathway, interim carbon budgets and average emissions reduction rate. This will be done in partnership with agencies on the Resilience and Sustainability Board as the target will apply city-wide².

¹ <https://www.tyndall.ac.uk/news/tyndall-carbon-targeter-helps-local-authorities-respond-their-climate-emergency>

² These targets could include, for instance, agreement on a carbon budget and the overall target; agreement on a target year for when our emissions should have peaked ; agreement on a year in which we stop being a net energy importer and become energy self sufficient; agreement on a % of the city's energy coming from renewables

- Identify global standards to work towards (e.g. Destination Sustainability Index, working with Visit Belfast and ICC)
- Based on data from the external review of BCC assets and other sources in Phase One, agree a target to arrive at a net zero carbon position for Belfast City Council's assets/estate. This should include energy efficiency of existing buildings, energy transition and decarbonisation across BCC fleet/transport, decarbonisation of our new build properties/projects etc.

Co-design with communities

- The development of a climate adaptation and mitigation plan is an opportunity to ask communities to shape the future of their city, and to build community resilience to climate change. Many cities globally are currently engaged in community-led climate adaptation and mitigation planning, so there are lessons for us to learn, and models we can adopt from elsewhere. [Learnings already identified from Wales, London, Rotterdam, Gothenburg, Dublin.] Furthermore, the involvement of young people in climate activity at a community level provides an opportunity for proactive engagement with Council, and to build civic leadership among young people. This work should also include capacity building where relevant, and where possible to enhance the capacity of the voluntary community sector in this area. It should also include where possible engagement with schools across Belfast.

Focus on Air Quality, Transport, Energy, Circular Economy and Water

- Take account of/ align with the development of revised Air Quality Plan for the city by 2020- led by City and Neighbourhood Services directorate and ensure appropriate level of ambition in setting strategic goals on air quality. This may include consideration of, for example, Clean Air Zones for the city.
 - Take account of/ align with development of Belfast City Council Transport Plan – led by Economy and Place directorate and ensure that solutions are driven by principles of sustainable development
-

- **Align with ongoing implementation of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy- led by Economy and Place directorate- in particular considering ways to decarbonise the city and design and build sustainable and green solutions for the city centre. This work includes an important focus on sustainable economic development.**
- **Produce an energy plan for the Council aimed at setting and delivering targets on energy transition- led by the Resilience Commissioner and an opportunity to transition to renewable energy as well as becoming more energy efficient. The plan should also include ambitions on renewable energy generation by the Council.**
- **Align with the ambitions set within a future fleet strategy- led by City and Neighbourhood Services directorate. The strategy will outline the future direction for the Council's fleet in terms of type, number of vehicles. The fleet strategy will include medium and long-term ambitions for transition to low-carbon options, powered by renewable sources of energy. It should necessarily include a fully costed range of options and a timeline for transition. The strategy will be informed by piloting/testing of a small number of low-carbon vehicles currently being added to the fleet.**
- **Take account of/align with the Circular Economy strategy. Led by led by the City and Neighbourhood Services Directorate, the work aims to achieve a more sustainable pattern of consumption, production and reuse/recycling in the city, thereby supporting the Belfast Agenda.**
- **Align with Living with Water Programme Board priorities on water resilience for the city and undertake work to identify ways in which BCC can drive greater levels of water conservation and water re-use**
- **Develop a plan for urban forestation – which could potentially encompass a ‘One Million Trees’ initiative- a possible collaboration between resilience, culture and CNS teams and city stakeholders- currently in early development following discussion at People and Neighbourhoods Committee, with future proposals to come before CMT in due course.**
- **Agree actions arising from the blue and green infrastructure strategy which could enable climate adaptation opportunities. Align with work ongoing by DFI to build sustainable urban drainage systems across the city, as identified by the Living with Water Programme Board**

- Identify a range of measures BCC will take to improve our climate resilience through protection of the city's biodiversity
- Consider potential actions BCC can take to contribute to a city-wide focus on sustainability and food

Exploit existing partnerships

- Using existing partnerships and networks (e.g. P-CAN and Dialogue on European Decarbonisation Strategies- DEEDS), identify external funding opportunities to support the delivery of the adaptation and mitigation plan.
- Using our existing city networks, such as Belfast's Economic Forum, and relationships at a global level (such as Resilient Cities Network, Eurocities, World Economic Forum), identify and secure a major global city partner to work alongside Belfast in the development of our adaptation and mitigation strategy.

Climate Finance

- Supported by climate finance expertise in the P-CAN network, put in place a financing strategy for investment in climate mitigation and adaptation- led by Deputy Chief Executive.

3.8 Phase Three: Finalise Actions for Implementation (January – June 2021)

- Ensure a range of planning policies are reviewed/designed to deliver on the targets agreed in Phase Two. This may, for example, include:
 - using plan making and development management/building control functions to enforce energy efficiency standards in new buildings and extensions
 - reduce transport emissions by concentrating new developments in existing areas and/or ensuring communities are well served by public transport
 - work with developers to make renewable energy projects acceptable to local communities;
 - plan for infrastructure such as low-carbon district heating networks, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage systems;
 - Managing Belfast's risk to climate change impacts by considering the location of new developments relative to areas of flood risk.

- Finalise changes to corporate policy as relevant to give effect to the targets outlined above, e.g. changes to procurement frameworks etc. Consider implications for our grant-making function, i.e. requiring prospective partners to demonstrate commitments to sustainable development.
- Use the data gathered from the range of studies in Phase One to establish a city wide single source of data of climate adaptation and mitigation (in collaboration with QUB, UU, Belfast Met or other relevant institution)
- Arising from the plans completed in Phase Two, identify and agree positive campaigns on behaviour change as part of public education on climate adaptation and mitigation.
- Map out fully costed action plan for decarbonisation of BCC assets- including potential revenue streams and financial models
- Seek peer review/external challenge on the draft Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan from P-CAN cities (e.g. Leeds Climate Commission).
- Develop a coherent approach to communication of BCC priorities and in particular find ways to enhance public knowledge and public education on the issue of climate adaptation and mitigation in an accessible way.

It is proposed that a programme board will be established to take forward early planning.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

This paper has been produced as part of the budget estimates process with Climate Resilience identified as a potential growth area for the Council. It is being proposed to establish a small permanent team working to the Commissioner for Resilience to lead the development of the BCC Climate Plan and coordinate the development of the wider city plan. The team as proposed would include the following functions: project management and support; research and statistics; climate adaptation technical advice and climate mitigation technical advice. A programme budget of £150k for the financial year 2020/21 has also been proposed. The total annual cost proposed is £610k.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Climate Plan will be equality screened during the development process for Good Relations and Rural Needs Impacts.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Inclusive Growth Knowhow Network

The Committee was advised that the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), Metro Dynamics (MD), Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) had developed a proposition paper aimed at establishing an Inclusive Growth Knowhow Network based in the UK with international links. The purpose of the network was to equip individuals and organisations leading on inclusive growth with practical “know how” (evidence, knowledge, expertise) through peer learning. It built on the foundation of the combined work at place level by these lead partners and the former Inclusive Growth Commission. The proposed mission statement for the Network was:

“Members of the Inclusive Growth Knowhow Network across the UK have the commitment, knowhow and tools to develop, deliver and measure inclusive growth. Through this, the Network will help to tackle inequalities, alleviate poverty, drive productivity and create sustainable, inclusive local economies.”

It was envisaged that the Inclusive Growth Knowhow Network (IGKN), which was aiming to launch in April 2020, would provide the following:

- A local inclusive growth network of places
- Implementation advice / advisors
- Thematic working groups and workshops
- A website and online communication tools

In the shorter term, the network would comprise up to 12 local areas committed to the inclusive growth agenda. Those areas involved would be required to demonstrate active involvement (to be defined), including relevant senior attendance at the annual workshop, hosting/participation in thematic working groups, and deep place engagement with partner implementation advisers.

The Councils Strategy, Policy and Partnership Manager had been actively engaged with the Network partners over the last twelve months in terms of shaping their proposition to provide practical support to local authorities to support the embedding and delivery of inclusive growth.

Given the Council’s role to date in driving the inclusive growth agenda at the Belfast City and regional level, it was important that the Council continued to be actively involved. The membership of the Network would assist the Council as it began to implement its Inclusive Growth Strategy, which was currently out for public consultation, and would further demonstrate the Members’ commitment to inclusive growth for the city and as part of the Belfast Region City Deal.

There was no direct financial implication arising from participation. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation had committed funding to the IGKN for a period of 4 years, with additional in-kind support from the Centre for Progressive Policy. Participation offered a significant opportunity to access support and resources from across the Network to support the Council’s inclusive growth ambitions.

During discussion, a member requested if some amendments could be incorporated into the mission statement, such as, needing systemic change to tackle inequalities to alleviate poverty and, in addition, references being made to community wealth building and the inclusion of social justice.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy pointed out that a meeting of the Network would be held in due course and discussions could be held in relation to the mission statement to ascertain if the issues which had been raised could be included.

After discussion the Committee agreed:

- that Council participates in the Inclusive Growth Knowhow Network (IGKN);
- that officers continue to work with the IGKN partners in the run up to its official launch next year; and
- that discussions be held with the Network around the mission statement to see if it could amended to include: leading systemic change to tackle inequalities to alleviate poverty; the inclusion of community wealth building; and the inclusion of social injustice.

Draft Consultation and Engagement Framework

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present a draft Corporate Consultation & Engagement Framework, including outline action plan, for approval. This framework is needed in order to meet Local Government Auditor recommendations, to signal a best practice approach and to support delivery of Inclusive Growth and Corporate Plan commitments.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to agree:

- i. the draft policy framework, outline action plan and underlying principles and best practice standards that will guide our approach to consultation and engagement; and**
- ii. to authorise its release for public consultation.**

3.0 Key Issues

Background

3.1 In 2015, following a review of council’s approach to consultation and engagement (C&E), SP&R approved in principle a draft C&E framework. However, a public consultation and final adoption of the framework was

postponed to enable supporting infrastructure to be implemented and for emerging engagement requirements associated with the Belfast Agenda to be more fully taken into account. The draft framework has now been revised to reflect new developments and process, including commitments in the Belfast Agenda and draft Inclusive Growth Strategy.

Why the Framework is needed

- 3.2 The Local Government (NI) Act 2014 reinforced the council's duty to consult. The framework, which aims to improve the quality and consistency of our C&E thereby providing improved value for money, reputation and trust, is an important step in demonstrating council's commitment to consultation. As a result, the Local Government Auditor has highlighted the delay and absence of an agreed corporate C&E framework as a key area for improvement [Assessment Report 2018]. Whilst, council's approach to consultation has improved significantly in recent years, our approach to engagement remains an area for development. An indicative action plan has been developed to support the framework which focuses in particular, on enhancing our engagement capabilities. Ultimately, the framework seeks to ensure that our residents and partners are more involved in the decisions and services that affect them. This brings about positive benefits for public services and for communities and is one of the commitments in our draft Inclusive Growth framework (IG).

Draft Consultation and Engagement Framework 2019

- 3.3 The draft framework is not a programme of engagement events or consultations, but instead provides the policy context in which we will do this i.e. how we will plan, deliver and utilise our C&E activity. The framework outlines the council's approach to C&E and sets out a vision with underlying principles and standards that we will aspire to meet. It aims to improve the quality, value and cost-effectiveness of our consultation and engagement, enabling council to meet statutory duties to consult whilst also helping to manage the increased public expectation to be consulted and involved.

Strengths and Areas for Improvement

- 3.4 Since 2015, council has invested in staff capacity building and an online corporate consultation platform, which over the past 3 years has hosted 167 consultations (public, customer and internal) and generated in excess of 28,000 individual survey responses. In addition, we have held a wide range of engagement events and can reference a number of good practice approaches such as the Belfast Conversation, physical programme and capital projects, cultural strategy and waste collection consultations and

processes. Good practice case studies such as these will form part of the officer toolkit being developed to support the implementation of the framework.

- 3.5 However, if we are to meet growing public expectations and honor commitments in the Belfast Agenda and our draft Inclusive Growth Strategy, then we must build on our strengths and address areas for improvement. In particular, we need to critically examine and improve how we engage with residents on an ongoing basis and earlier in the process using meaningful co-design and co-production methods. To this end, we will work with the Belfast Community Planning Partnership to strengthen civic voice and embed effective community engagement.
- 3.6 A cross-departmental working group has been established to develop a detailed action plan and to support its implementation. This group will work closely with the Belfast Agenda partners and the emerging CVSE Advisory Panel to test and develop shared approaches to community engagement. An indicative action plan has been incorporated within the draft framework. It comprises the following key elements:
- i. Setting the framework
 - ii. Consolidating our consultation and demonstrating impact
 - iii. Strengthening engagement and civic voice (including digital inclusion)
 - iv. Building capacity
 - v. Continuous improvement and alignment to the Belfast Agenda
- 3.7 In particular, Members attention is drawn to the proposed action to develop and deliver at least 3 innovative engagement pilots. Given the correlation between community engagement, our civic leadership role and community planning, it is envisaged that the pilots will align to and support work being developed as part of the wider Belfast Agenda as well as more council focused engagement. The aim is to ensure a seamless engagement for the residents of Belfast moving forward.

Next Steps

- 3.8 Members are asked to approve the draft framework and the indicative action plan and to agree the following next steps, and specifically the publication of the draft framework for public consultation:

<i>Public consultation</i>	As per our Equality Scheme, the draft framework will be issued for public consultation in December for a period of 12 weeks
<i>Action Plan</i>	C&E Working Group to develop a detailed action plan, with specific focus on engagement and civic voice, ensuring alignment to inclusive growth, Belfast Agenda, customer focus and the digital inclusion element of the BRCD.
<i>Publication</i>	Finalised plan to be presented for approval and adoption by SP&R in March / April and published on council website.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no direct financial implication arising from this report. Costs associated with the implementation of the action plan have been factored into current council budgets. Future and ongoing budget implications will be monitored as part of the action plan implementation and learning.

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

There are no equality implications contained in this report. However, the implementation of the framework will help support equality and inclusion.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS)

The Committee noted a report which provided an update on the progress of the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) and provided also an initial update on the findings of the public consultation on the draft strategy.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Assets Management

The Committee:

- i) **Belfast Transport Hub – Proposed land transfer and licences, Belfast City Council to the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company**
 - approved the grant of licences to the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC) on lands at the Blythefield Play Area; and
 - approved the transfer of a plot of land to the NITHC.

ii) **133 Mount Eagles Avenue – Land Transfer**

- approved the transfer of a small plot of grass land at Mount Eagles Open Space to the owner of an adjoining residential property known as 133 Mount Eagles Avenue.

iii) **Dunbar Link Depot – Proposed licence to Limelight Belfast Ltd for Emergency Escape**

- approved a licence to Limelight Belfast Ltd for a period of 18 months for use of Council lands at Dunbar Link Depot to facilitate an emergency escape.

Leisure Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- **Note that site visits to the two completed centres have been arranged for Wednesday 27th November and all Members are encouraged to avail of this opportunity**
- **Note the detail of the ongoing promotional activity in relation to the new centre openings and planned taster sessions outlined at 3.5**
- **Note the update with respect to GLL’s community engagement plans for the new centres and the recommendation that these are funded from the Programme’s Mobilisation budget as outlined at 3.6**
- **Note the update around the next phase of the Programme with respect to proposed closure and start dates for Avoniel and Templemore as outlined at 3.9 and recommend that the current centre at Templemore remains operational until June 2020 and that notice is served on Templemore Users Trust by end December 2019**
- **Note the update with respect to a further leisure development at the Girdwood site as outlined at 3.10**
- **Note the update with respect to the remaining centres within the leisure estate and agree the Terms of Reference to carry out a feasibility study in this regard as outlined at 3.11**

3.0 Main report

Project Updates – Current Phase

Works are well underway on the three new builds and all are currently on schedule.

3.1 Lisnasharragh- Construction works to the building are now largely completed and GLL have begun their mobilisation phase. Staff are now in the building, installing equipment, testing systems and receiving training. The centre is due to open on 2nd December. The initial opening hours for the centre will be 6am-10pm. Initially access to the pool area will be limited to specific sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening to allow for staff training and review sessions. The other facilities including the sports hall, fitness suite, exercise studios and 3G pitch will be fully open. A full programme of activities from Avoniel such as swimming lessons and exercise classes will also be delivered from opening. New programmes will start from January. Members are also asked to note that works on the back of the site (to include the second 3G pitch and new playground) commenced at the start of November and is due to complete in the Spring time.

3.2 Brook- Construction works to the building are now largely completed and GLL have begun their mobilisation phase. Staff are now in the building, installing equipment, testing systems and receiving training. The centre itself is on course to open on 4th December (with the old Brook Activity Centre due to close on 3rd December). The initial opening hours for the centre will be 9am-9pm. Initially access to the pool area will be limited to specific sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening to allow for staff training and review sessions. All the other facilities such as sports hall, fitness suite, exercise studios and 3G pitches will be fully open.

Both centres are due to be officially opened in January and Members will be informed of the opening dates as soon as these are confirmed.

3.3 Andersonstown- The main pool hall is now watertight and tiling is due to commence imminently. The junior pool floor has been tiled and the surrounds will also be tiled over the coming weeks. The gym and studios are currently being floored ahead of the delivery of initial gym equipment. Externally, the pitches are now substantially complete and the base course has been laid to 80% of the car park area. The centre is currently on schedule to be handed over to Council in February 2020 and following mobilisation will undergo a soft opening in late March 2020 before opening to the public in mid-April 2020.

Site Visits- A series of site visits for Lisnasharragh and Brook for a wide range of stakeholders including the media are being organised for late November/early December. **Members will be given the first opportunity to see the completed centres on Wednesday 27th November.** A mini bus will leave City Hall courtyard at 10am for Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and return at 12.00pm. The bus will then leave for Brook Leisure Centre at 12.30pm and return to City Hall at approximately 2.30pm. All Members have received an e-mail invite.

3.4 Communications- Members are asked to note that a full communications plan to promote the opening of the three new centres is in place and officers are continuing to work closely with GLL to coordinate its delivery. Regular updates on the progress of the builds, opening dates, programming details etc. are provided on the Council and GLL websites, Facebook and via social media and are receiving extremely positive feedback. In addition, information stands promoting the centres have appeared in the Kennedy Centre, Victoria Square, Castle Court, Connswater and Forestside shopping centres. GLL have recently launched their formal 'pre-sales' offering and an extensive outdoor advertising campaign has also been rolled out across the city.

3.5 GLL Promotional Activity- As part of the new centre openings GLL will deliver a wide range of promotional activity to encourage people to visit and use the new facilities. In addition to the pre-sales offer which gives users a month's free membership if they sign up prior to opening, GLL are also delivering a variety of free taster sessions to a wide range of stakeholder groups such as: sports clubs, Avoniel users, schools, Council employees and local residents.

- **GLL Community Engagement-** In addition to the plans around opening GLL are also proposing to deliver a range of community initiatives designed to maximise community engagement in the new centres as follows:
- **Schools Membership Initiative-** 51,575 registered school children in Belfast will be issued with a free 'Pay and Play' membership card for all centres across the city. This card gives a 30% discount to all facilities and will encourage young people to access and use the centres.
- **Community Events Programme (USP specific)-** At Brook an outdoor, citywide teenage sports programme will be delivered over a ten week period. Lisnasharragh will host a 'Better' Christmas Swimming Gala and Andersonstown will host a series

of 'Come and try it' days where the facilities will be free to use for the local community.

- **Health Assessments and Fitness Programmes-** Detailed health assessments and devised tailored fitness programmes will be offered to up to 500 'health referral' members at the new centres. Tailored fitness programmes individually designed for 1500 Belfast residents, with progress tracked over 12 weeks to provide health outcomes will also be delivered.
- **Brand X- GLL** will be introducing the Brand X Method into the new centres which is a strength-and-conditioning program specifically designed for children and adaptable to any environment. Brand X focuses on optimising kids' fitness, elevating their athleticism, boosting their sports performance, and pushing back against the forces behind childhood obesity.
- **60+ Events-** GLL will also deliver a range of initiatives at each of the new centres aimed at the 60+ market. These will include a 60+ Club Games event, Danderball tournaments and 60+ 'Come and try it' open days.

- 3.6 The above initiatives will together result in over 35,700 individuals becoming actively involved with the new centres and positively engaging in a range of programmes designed to promote healthy living and more active lifestyles. Delivery of these initiatives has been costed at £126,500 and it is recommended they are funded through the 'Community Engagement' budget line of the Programme's mobilisation budget.

Employment- The creation of the three new leisure facilities will create up to 75 new permanent jobs and up to 100 casual positions for the city. This represents another very positive impact for the Programme and feeds directly into the ambitious job creation targets within the Council's Belfast Agenda. To date GLL have recruited over 60 new permanent posts and 20 casual roles for Lisnasharragh and Brook. Brook's staffing team is now fully recruited and 85% of roles for Lisnasharragh have been filled. Several posts have been filled through the Council's Leisure Academy. The recruitment campaign for Andersonstown will be launched in December at the Leisure Academy Graduation Event.

- 3.7 **Social Responsibility – Economic and social benefit clauses**
- Members are asked to note the following key outcomes which have been delivered to date under the Social Responsibility Plan being delivered by Heron Brothers.

Employment - The creation of employment opportunities was a central component of the Social Responsibility Plan including employment opportunities for the long term unemployed, apprentices and tertiary level students.

Members are asked to note that the following employment opportunities have been delivered as part of the Council's leisure contract and that the overall target number of weeks for employment, apprentices and paid placements has now been exceeded by over 40%.

	Target	Weeks Delivered	Individuals Recruited
Employment for long-term unemployed or economically inactive	620	704	13
Apprentice	620	1475	34
Paid Placement/Work Experience	1100	1100	15
TOTAL	2340	3279	62

GLL have also commenced delivery of the Council's Leisure Employment Academy and support is being provided for those out of work or currently working under 16 hours to compete for the positions that will be created as part of the current phase of LTP. To date the Lifeguard element of the Academy has been successfully delivered with 9 participants completing an accredited training programme, all of whom have now accepted full time posts in the new centres. Heron Brothers have also taken forward a range of other initiatives including promotion of local suppliers and businesses, community initiatives, sports development and various skills and health initiatives.

Project Updates – Next Phase (Avoniel, Templemore and Girdwood)

Plans are well developed to progress the next phase of the Programme as follows:

- 3.8 Avoniel – Members will recall that Heron Brothers, who were appointed to take forward the three current builds, have also been appointed to deliver the redevelopment of Avoniel. Planning permission for the development is due before Christmas and it is currently envisaged that demolition works will commence on the current centre in January 2020. Council officers are working closely with GLL on their demobilisation plans for Avoniel and it is currently envisaged that the centre will close on 1st December in tandem with the opening of Lisnasharragh, currently planned for 2nd December. As previously agreed, there will be no disruption to the continuity of swim provision in East Belfast.

Existing Users/Groups- GLL have consulted widely with all club/group users who currently use Avoniel and, as far as possible, have programmed their requirements into the new programme at Lisnasharragh (both wet and dry activities). All clubs/existing bookings that have been displaced from Avoniel will take up their allocation from the December opening and those bookings/clubs that have come through new expressions of interest will take up their allocations from January 2020. The full Swim School Programme from Avoniel will be transferred to Lisnasharragh in its entirety and the current instructors will be offered their existing hours. The new programme will then grow around this. The Tom Daley Diving Academy will launch in early 2020. Local schools will also be invited for free swimming taster sessions. A breakdown of the Programmes for the main pool, diving/learner pool, sports hall and fitness studios is attached at Appendix 3. Council is also offering free transport from Avoniel to Lisnasharragh for any existing users. Council officers are currently liaising with existing users to determine demand for this service and a further update on uptake will be brought Committee in due course.

- 3.9 Templemore** –The Design Team continue to work on Stage 4 designs and these should be completed before the end of this year. Contractor procurement (PQQ) is due to commence before the end of November with the ITT then going out early in the new year. It is expected that the contractor will be in place by May 2020 and following mobilisation construction will commence in July 2020. In order to maximise leisure provision in East Belfast and ensure the building remains operational as long as possible it is proposed that the current facilities Templemore remain open until June 2020.

Templemore Users Trust (TUT) currently has a lease for the existing Templemore Baths building under which the Council is required to serve a minimum of six months' notice. It is therefore proposed that notice is serviced on TUT by end December 2019 with a view that TUT's current lease will then terminate by end June 2020. Council officers and GLL are also currently liaising with the Templemore Users Trust (TUT) to help ensure they have access to facilities to provide continuity of provision of their services for the period that Templemore Baths is under development. As with previous centres, a full demobilisation plan for Templemore will also be developed in due course.

- 3.10 Girdwood Phase 2** –Officers are continuing discussions with DfC around options for a further leisure development at the Girdwood site. Following Committee approval in September it has now been confirmed that Council will act at the Delivery Partner for the project with DfC retaining the role of Investment Decision Maker. The first phase of the project will involve the engagement of an Integrated Consultancy Team

(ICT) to test the viability of the current options for the site through the development of initial concept designs. Funding for the ICT engagement will be provided by DfC (pending final business approval) from their 2020/21 budget. At this stage it is envisaged that procurement of the ICT will begin in early 2020 in order to have the team in place by April 2020. Members should be aware that at this stage DfC will only approve funding for ICT engagement and design development. Any subsequent capital funding will be subject to a separate business case and Departmental approval process once a preferred option is identified.

3.11 Other leisure facilities - Ozone, Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill, Loughside

Members agreed in September that a feasibility study would be undertaken on the rest of the leisure estate (Ozone, Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill, Loughside) which have not been part of the Leisure Transformation Programme given the age of these facilities. A draft terms of reference for this assignment is attached at Appendix 4. Members are asked to agree the terms of reference. The next step will be to engage consultants to progress this work. Members will be engaged as part of this process and further updates will be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

Financial- Delivery of the proposed community engagement initiatives has been costed at £126,500.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no direct equality implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that discussions be undertaken with GLL regarding the opening times of the Brook Centre.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a as detailed in (Table 1) set below;

- approved the contract extensions as detailed in (Table 2)
- approved the direct award contracts in line with Standing Order 55; Exceptions, as detailed in (Table 3); and
- noted that the Committee had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts.

Appendix 1

Table 1 – Tenders to be Advertised

Title of Tender	Senior Reporting Officer	Proposed Contract Duration
Tender for Consultancy Services for the Development of a Visitor Experience Plan for Belfast Value	Alistair Reid	8 months
Provision of Consultancy Services to Support the Development of the Inclusive Growth Strategy Value	John Tully	Up to 1 year
Delivery of a Transport Employment Academy Term	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Tender for the supply, delivery and offloading of haylage, meadow hay and barley straw, Lucerne and Browse at Belfast Zoo.	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 2 years
Tender for the manufacture, supply and delivery of skips	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years

Table 2 Contract Extensions

Title of Tender	Senior Reporting Officer	Proposed Extension
T1581 Collection and recycling of scrap metal and abandoned vehicles	Nigel Grimshaw	Until end February 2020 when a new contract will be in place

Table 3 Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Supplier	Value of Contract
Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS)	Suffolk Coastal District Council	£66,000 over 3 years

Update for Bobbin Catering Contract – Outdoor Coffee Unit

The Committee was reminded that the contract for the Bobbin was due to be re-let following the Committee's decision of 25th January. The Director of Legal and Civic Services had indicated at that meeting that he was exploring opportunities to increase revenue whilst enhancing the customer experience at the City Hall. Subsequently, at its meeting on 20th September, the Committee had approved, in principle, to the inclusion of an outdoor coffee unit, to be placed periodically in the grounds of the City Hall, into the forthcoming Bobbin catering contract. It was also agreed that a follow up report would be presented to the Committee for final decision.

The unit would enable tourists and locals to avail of tea, coffee and tray bakes whilst enjoying the grounds of the City Hall. The self-contained unit would also provide revenue to the Council as part of the franchise tender and would be included as part of the contractual arrangement in respect of the Bobbin.

The City Solicitor reported that, to ensure the unit was not intrusive on the landscape of the City Hall, the specification of the proposed unit would be small in size (approx. 8ft x 6ft). Officers would work in conjunction with the appointed Bobbin franchisee on the unit specifications, equipment and design. It was important that the unit colour scheme would be in keeping with the heritage palette of the City Hall building façade with colours of cream / grey / copper greens.

The proposed unit would be located along the West Façade of the City Hall, beside the electric power outlet. The West façade was preferred over the East, due to the Visitor Exhibition being located on the East and the desire to not obscure the outlook from the East windows and that footfall was higher on the West façade. The unit would be present during events and busy months of footfall in the grounds (the dates would be pre-agreed with the franchisee). However, it would not be present during the annual Christmas and Spring Continental Market.

The Committee:

- noted the siting, scale and appearance of the unit and operating principles;
- approved the inclusion of an outdoor catering unit in the grounds in the forthcoming Bobbin catering tender as a desirable addition, with operational details to be finalised with the appointed franchisee; and
- approved the leasing/sub-contracting of a self-contained unit for a trial period within the Bobbin tender.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11th November, 2019, including:

- to note the reports in relation to the PEACE IV Secretariat and updates in relation to the CYP, SSS and BPR themes; and
- that authority be delegated to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership and with input from the Special European Union Programmes Body, to proceed with the most appropriate option to facilitate project delivery for the Tech Connects project under the CYP theme.

Response to Department for Communities' Section 75 Equality Action Plan Consultation Document

The Committee was advised that the Department for Communities had issued its Section 75 Action Plan for consultation which set out actions to address the inequalities identified after undertaking an Audit of Inequalities. The key areas of priority were: economic inactivity and unemployment; poverty and disadvantage; area-based deprivation; good relations; sports and arts; housing; public appointments; and community empowerment.

The Equality and Diversity Unit had prepared a draft corporate response, a copy of which is set out hereunder:

APPENDIX 1

Infrastructure and Community Development

Whilst the programmes and actions are welcome, we feel that a greater emphasis on community development is required to enable and equip particular individuals and communities to avail of the support and initiatives available. We are particularly conscious of the need to build confidence and resilience in young people generally and those further removed from the workplace. Joint initiatives with other government departments and community planning partnerships will be required to ensure a greater joined up person and community centred approach to addressing the inequalities.

It is important therefore, that any equality schemes build on this partnership working ethos from the outset. To ensure that this happens and is supported, a particular action design to put in place these building blocks and infrastructure is required. This could be captured under the action heading of "Community Planning" with bespoke actions included that are designed to support collaboration, understanding need and impact (see below) and addressing "voice poverty". Community development is essential for effective community planning and we would welcome greater acknowledgment and support for this. In addition, we would suggest that there is a need for greater emphasis and support for community engagement, as part of community planning and over and above the focus on women's empowerment.

Enabling seldom heard voices and those who are in voice poverty, would help address many of the inequalities and barriers that people face. Voice poverty is when people are unable to influence the decisions that affect their lives and are excluded from the decision-making process. It means that their voices are not heard, or even ignored, by decision makers. Often we speak to the communities that are easiest to reach and we know their views are not necessarily representative of the wider community. Government and the public sector need to do more to improve how we involve underrepresented groups, including young people in the LGBT+Q communities and minority ethnic communities. An action that relates to working partners with community planning partners to improve how we engage and involve community groups and organisations which work with those groups experiencing voice poverty would be welcome.

Partnership Working

We would encourage the ongoing partnership working between the Department and local government to co-design the delivery of actions to meet the needs of local areas as it is essential to ensure alignment between regional programmes and the local areas and labour markets.

Cultural Strategy

We are of the view that the Department should consider including the Council's new ten-year Cultural Strategy which will create new investment models to grow a more sustainable cultural eco-system while also encouraging a more diverse and open definition of what we mean by culture.

Place Based Approaches

The need for place based approaches should be recognised within the delivery of the actions. Opportunities to develop further place-based specific actions that will align to the work of the Belfast Region City Deal should also be considered.

Any other general comments you wish to make?

Equality Data and Impact

The Equality Scheme is written at quite a high level and greater consideration may be needed to delve into more specific equality groups and implications. For example, the document does not make reference to travellers or young people in/leaving care, both of whom face particular challenges and inequalities. Nor does it recognise the impact on people with multiple identities and how this impacts on inequality. A better understanding of the needs of particular groups and the interdependencies between S75 groups is needed if we are to make a real difference. However, this raises key issues regarding the availability and use of equality data.

The Council and our community planning partners have also found it challenging to access meaningful information at a local level across the various S75 categories. A joined-up approach to developing more effective data and, in particular measurements of impact, would be helpful in moving forward. This could perhaps be encapsulated within the community planning programme of work as referenced above.

Outcomes Based Accountability

Embedding equality considerations within an OBA approach is another areas of development which would need further consideration as we move forward regionally through the Programme for Government and locally through community plans. For many of the programmes and interventions set out within the action plan, there is an opportunity afforded through community planning to co-design and support integrated delivery across government and within the community planning partners.

The Council remains committed to working with the Department to maximise the impact of community planning at both a city and local level. There are real opportunities to take a more co-ordinated and targeted approach to addressing many of the challenges facing the city including, for example, the “Local Works” agenda.

The Committee approved the content of the corporate response and its submission to the Department for Communities, on a holding basis, subject to approval by the Council on 2nd December, in order to meet the submission deadline of 22nd November, 2019.

Operational Issues

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 11th November, 2019, as set out in the undernoted appendix:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Visit Belfast	22 November 2019	Cruise Industry Networking Breakfast - network event for Cruise ship shore excursion companies to boost cruise visitors into the City. Numbers attending – 90-100	A & B	No <i>£115 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Bal Feirste	14 December 2019	French Bal Dance Celebration – local community group dance celebration and show-case event. Numbers attending – 50 -100	B & D	No (Community, Not for Profit)	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge No hospitality
North Belfast Area Learning Community	15 December 2019	Post 16 Cross Community Workshop on Resilience – event to promote cross community engagement and education for post primary students in Belfast. Numbers attending – 170	C	No (Community)	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge No hospitality
2020 EVENTS						
Malaysia Students Society of Northern Ireland	29 February 2020	Malaysian Night 2020 – Annual cultural celebration and dinner for the Malaysian community in Belfast. Numbers attending – 300	C & D	No (Community)	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Self Help Africa	19 March 2020	Launch of Twinning Programme for NI with the Teso Region of Uganda – Launch event for the twinning of NI with Teso region to celebrate similarities. Numbers attending – 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees	18 April 2020	70th Anniversary Dinner – celebration dinner to mark 70 th anniversary of the Society. Numbers attending – 150	C	No (Community, Not for Profit)	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(celebrating significant anniversary)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
British Institute of Cleaning Science	28 August 2020	Cleaning Operative of the Year Awards – awards ceremony celebrating excellent industry standards in the province. Numbers attending – 100	B & C	Charge £115	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Belfast Central Mission	1 September 2020	130th Anniversary Celebration – celebration event to mark 130 th anniversary of the organisation in Belfast. Numbers attending – 120	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
UACES	7 September 2020	50th Annual Conference Drinks Reception – welcome reception linked to conference celebrating 50 th taking place in Queen's University. Numbers attending – 400	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(celebrating significant anniversary)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management	8 September 2020	Welcome Reception for the 11th International EIASM Public Sector Conference – welcome reception linked to conference taking place in Queen's University. Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Land and Property Services	14 September 2020	47th Annual Registrars of Title Conference Dinner – dinner linked to national conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending –50	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation	30 September 2020	Annual Conference Reception – welcome reception linked to national conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 100	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
CAMHS, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	9 October 2020	CAMHS Service Improvement Celebration for Young People – celebration event for young people contributing to the success of the organisation. Numbers attending – 150	C	Charge £115 <i>Public Sector</i>	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland	15 October 2020	UGI 2020 conference Gala Dinner – dinner linked to national conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending 300 -400	A & B	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Aisling Events	16 October 2020	Belfast Homecoming Ambassador Banquet – celebration event to recognise those living abroad who have contributed to the Belfast economy. Numbers attending 300	C	Charge £825	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
2021 EVENTS						
Girls' Brigade	14 May 2021	Queen's Award Presentation Ceremony – awards event to celebrate the young people who have completed the Queen's Award. Numbers attending – 300 - 350	C & D	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

Requests for use of the Rooms and the Grounds for the Belfast City Marathon in 2020 and 2021

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider a request of the City Hall function rooms and grounds for the Belfast City Marathon Expo and Pack Collection in April 2020 and 2021.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to

- approve the application by Belfast City Marathon.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 The Belfast City Marathon has been organised since 1982 by an organising committee involving Belfast City Council, Athletics Northern Ireland and other partners and sponsors. The event traditionally took place on the first bank holiday Monday in May.

3.2 The Committee, at its meeting on 27th June, 2018, agreed that, from 2019 onwards, the Belfast City Marathon would be held on a Sunday and approved a revised route for the event.

3.3 The Committee, at its meeting on 13th February, had approved a rolling reduction in the Council's financial commitment to the Marathon, from £26,000 in 2019 to zero support by 2025/26.

3.4 Belfast City Marathon previously held the Pack Collection and Expo at the City Hall in the days prior to the main event. This event was very successful in City Hall, receiving plenty of support from both participants, spectators and Belfast City Council staff. Marathon organisers have received numerous requests for the Expo and Park Collection to return to City Hall.

3.5 In recent years organisers moved the Pack Collection and Expo to other locations including Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Mary Peters Track, however the space available was too small and organisers received complaints that sites were too far away from the city centre. Investigating private locations puts a strain on Belfast City Marathon financially as space needs to be booked in bulk.

Key Issues

- 3.6 Benefits for Belfast City Marathon if approval is granted for Pack Collection and Expo to be located back in City Hall for 2020 and 2021.
- 3.7 With the change of day (Monday to Sunday) and route, the organisers believe the number of participants will increase enabling more international athletes to take part. In 2019 total participant numbers increased 20% on 2018 as follows;
- Marathon 4803 (65% increase)
 - Team Relay 12,055 (11% increase)
 - Walk 967 (8% increase)
 - 911 (4% increase)
- 3.8 In 2019 total economic value to the City through our event was over £2million. Organisers believe that the event in 2020-2021 will continue to increase and having the Expo and Pack Collection at the City Hall would certainly assist with these numbers.
- 3.9 City Hall is an iconic landmark for the City and features heavily on marathon promotional material. The Marathon no longer starts at the City Hall, thus pack collection and expo provides an opportunity for participants to visit this landmark city centre venue. At other major European marathons, the Expo and Pack Collection takes place at an important landmark of their City to promote the City's tourism.
- 3.10 City Hall's central location is more accessible for all participants encouraging use of public and city centre parking. Consequently people can benefit from shopping, eating and other experiences which Belfast City Centre has to offer for that weekend.
- 3.11 City Hall functions rooms and grounds will enable organisers to plan for additional activities that benefits the attendees but also local traders and businesses.
- 3.12 Belfast City Marathon have requested the use of the three functions rooms and grounds for Pack Collection and Expo on 30 April to 3 May 2020 and 29 April to 2 May 2021.
- 3.13 If the Committee is minded to approve the application, then there would be no charge applied for the use of the functions rooms due to the Not for Profit nature of the organisation.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

There will be no cost to the Council in approving this request.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that discussions be undertaken with the event organisers in relation to single-use plastic bottles.

Minutes of Party Group Leaders’ Consultative Forum

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders’ Consultative Forum of 14th November, 2019.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis of 18th November, 2019.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Customer Focus Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Customer Focus Working Group of 6th November, 2019.

Note of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders’ Forum

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders’ Forum of 31st October.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Public Awareness Campaign on the Responsible use of Fireworks - Councillor Long

In the absence of Councillor Long, Councillor McAllister requested to the Committee to consider:

- *“to actively promote a public awareness campaign on the responsible use of fireworks – including specific information on the legal consequence of misuse; the impact of fireworks on vulnerable people and animal welfare; and precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks”*
- *to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays; and*

- *to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display."*

The Committee agreed that a report, on how this could be facilitated, resourced, managed, be brought back in due course.

Chairperson