

Public Document Pack

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Tuesday, 1st October, 2019, immediately following the conclusion of the special meeting scheduled for 5.30pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 18)
5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from Ms. B. Ruddy, Chair of College Park Residents Association to address the Council in relation to the motion on Anti-social Behaviour - Holylands being proposed by Councillor Groogan.

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 19 - 78)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 79 - 104)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 105 - 168)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 169 - 180)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 181 - 200)
12. Brexit Committee (Pages 201 - 218)
13. Notices of Motion
 - a) Attacks on Places of Worship

Proposed by Alderman Copeland

Seconded by Alderman Rodgers

“That this Council notes recently published research from the charity CARE NI, that found 445 attacks have been recorded on places of worship in Northern Ireland in just the last 3 years: Notes with concern that 147 of these despicable attacks were recorded in the Belfast City Policing District; unreservedly condemns all attacks on places of worship, no matter of faith or denomination, and upholds the important human right for individuals to be free to worship and live out their faith in this society.

This Council also notes the operation of the Places of worship Security Scheme in England and Wales and expresses regret that a similar scheme is not available in Northern Ireland; and therefore agrees to write to the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Office calling for the swift introduction of a similar scheme locally”.

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Integrated Education

Proposed by Councillor McAllister

Seconded by Councillor Graham

“Belfast City Council, in seeking to encourage and support reconciliation in Northern Ireland, congratulates the Integrated Education Fund and the Northern Ireland Council on Integrated Education, on being nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Animal Cruelty

Proposed by Councillor McKeown

Seconded by Councillor Flynn

“Council condemns animal cruelty in all forms; notes the effective framework currently in place for punishing offenders and imposing appropriate sentences which serve as a deterrent to others; recognises the excellent enforcement work of Council Animal Welfare Officers and that of the USPCA in challenging cruel behaviour toward animals as well as supporting rehoming initiatives for those animals that have suffered abuse or neglect; further notes with concern that there is no centrally accessible register of those convicted of animal cruelty offences and resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary at the Department of Justice and the Irish Government to raise these concerns and propose a central all-island register of animal abusers.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Electricity Price Hikes

Proposed by Councillor Michael Collins

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

“Council condemns plans to hike electricity and energy prices across Belfast, with, for example, Power NI planning to raise their prices by 6%, SSE Airtricity by almost 7% and Electric Ireland by 8%. Council notes that some of these companies have increased their prices for the past 3 years. Council believes that this is grossly unfair, particularly given the fact that prices on the wholesale gas market have fallen by 49% over the last 12 months. Council believes that every effort should be made to oppose these hikes and wishes to see an immediate energy cap put in place. Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the utility regulator to argue for the above”.

(To be debated by the Council)

e) NIPSA Strike

Proposed by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins

“Council notes that NIPSA members have planned strike action for Thursday 3 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, Council fully supports NIPSA in their campaign for better pay and better terms and conditions, including strike action. Council sends particular support to those workers on picket lines on Thursday. Finally, 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.”

(To be debated by the Council)

f) Imposition of Non-Devolved Legislation on Abortion

Proposed by Alderman Kingston

Seconded by Councillor Bunting

“This Council deeply regrets the recent amendment of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill at Westminster to include the imposition of major changes to abortion law in Northern Ireland. The immediate implications of this Bill are that abortion on request will be legalised to the point of viability and potentially beyond, up to 28 weeks depending on legal interpretation.

Council notes that no consultation took place with the people of Northern Ireland on the amendments at Westminster related to the Abortion clause. The process which led to this section being passed into law was deeply flawed and has significant detrimental consequences for devolution and for local people.

We consider this course of action goes far beyond the public conversation which has been happening in Northern Ireland over recent years about amending the law to allow abortion in cases of life-limiting conditions deemed fatal before, during or shortly after birth. This Council recognises that a restored Northern Ireland Assembly would consider these cases within its own legislative remit and that is where these matters should be determined.

Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Julian Smith MP, to express our strong opposition to this over-riding of devolved legislation on this fundamental matter of conscience”.

(To be debated by the Council)

g) Srebrenica Genocide

Proposed by Councillor Dorrian

Seconded by Councillor McMullan

“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.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

h) Alley-gating Programme

Proposed by Councillor Brooks

Seconded by Councillor M. Kelly

"This Council will undertake a review of the effectiveness of its alley-gating programme to date, and look to build delivery partnerships with other agencies, should internal funding not be available to gate those areas still on waiting list".

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

- i) Anti-social Behaviour - Holylands

Proposed by Councillor Groogan

Seconded by Councillor McKeown

"This Council condemns the persistent and serious anti-social behaviour that residents of the Holylands and the surrounding area endure throughout the year due to the high numbers of HMOs that exist there.

This council will review its policy for dealing with all aspects of anti-social behaviour in the Holylands area, particularly around on-street drinking, noise and littering and bring forward an action plan for tackling the ongoing problems experienced in this area.

This council also notes the worryingly high levels of crime in a small, densely populated area of this city and commits to working with statutory partners to bring back CCTV units to the area as one of the means to tackle this issue."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

- j) Notice of Motion Update

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl

Seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds

“That this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:

1. Date received
2. Notice of motion title
3. Submitted by which Councillor
4. Council meeting date
5. Committee motion is referred to
6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated
7. Month it will be reported back to committee
8. Other action to be taken.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

k) Environmental Implications of Decision Making

Proposed by Councillor de Faoite

Seconded by Councillor McKeown

“This Council:

Recognises that many of the decisions taken by Council can and will have environmental implications, whether intentional or not;

Believes that information about the environmental impact of decisions made by Council can help to inform elected members and officers about more sustainable and resilient practices and approaches;

Agrees to include details of the environmental implications of proposals or decisions in all reports which are brought to Council or any of the Standing Committees or Working Groups”.

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

l) Climate Change

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara

Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara

Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins

"This Council notes the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, which tells us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities and notes the UK Governments target of reducing emissions to net-zero by 2050. Council also notes the recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reports on global species and habitat loss. This Council has supported a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and in light of these, this Council commits to a more ambitious and more urgent target of net-zero emissions than 2050. This target will be informed by the work undertaken below and will reflect the ambition of similar cities in the UK with an initial interim target of 80% by 2030.

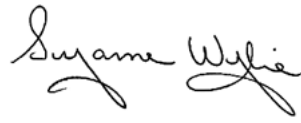
Council therefore;

- Commits to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation as urgently as possible, and will publish an evidence-based decision on a target year by 2021 (including Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol);
- Requests that the Chief Executive reports back to Council within eighteen months with an Action Plan and 'roadmap' to ensure that Belfast City Council becomes a carbon-neutral organisation by a recommended date;
- Requests that the Chief Executive reports back to Council by 2021 with detailed information about how the Council will work with partners across the Belfast City Council Area and with central and devolved government to seek to ensure that Belfast District's net carbon emissions (Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3) are reduced by 80% as speedily as possible compared to 2005 levels. This will include a resourcing plan for the Council and what that will require in terms of council decision making on the rates consequences. The working group will also receive a report on the costs and activities required to develop a deliverable plan, including the expertise that will need to be procured;
- Requests that Council immediately establish a Resilience and Sustainability Board similar to that in Manchester, to underpin our efforts to decarbonise Belfast;
- Requests that the Council writes to the Central and Devolved government requesting:

(a) additional powers and funding to make our climate mitigation and adaptation work possible; and

(b) that Ministers work with other governments to ensure that the UK maximizes carbon reduction urgently in line with the overriding need to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C."

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a large 'W'.

Chief Executive

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd September, 2019
at 5.30 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); the High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Black, Hanvey, Howard, Mulholland and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Notice of Motion

Suspension of Parliament

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor de Faoite proposed:

“This Council

- condemns the undemocratic actions of the Prime Minister, whose suspension of Parliament is an attempt to frustrate the efforts of a majority of MPs opposed to a no deal Brexit and to limit further scrutiny of the British Government's preparatory planning for no deal Brexit which has already outlined the likelihood of checks along the border;

**Special Meeting of Council,
2nd September, 2019**

- expresses grave concern at the failure of the Government to recognise the damage which will be done by a no deal Brexit to the Good Friday Agreement, devolution, North/South relations and East/West relations;
- notes that Belfast City voted to remain in the European Union, and has since elected a majority of Belfast City Councillors who are opposed to a no deal Brexit; and
- resolves to take legal action against the Government to prevent the suspension of Parliament, to prevent a no deal Brexit and to ensure full democratic accountability at a vital moment for the future of these islands.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Whyte.

Councillor de Faoite sought and was granted approval by the Council to amend the final bullet point of his motion to read as follows:

“resolves to join and/or take legal action against the Government to prevent the suspension of Parliament, to prevent a no deal Brexit and to ensure full democratic accountability at a vital moment for the future of these islands.”

At the request of Councillor Ferguson, the proposer agreed to the inclusion of the following bullet point at the end of his motion: “notes that civic bodies, including the Irish Congress of Trades Unions and NUS-USI, have launched a “no to no deal” Brexit campaign and agrees to add Belfast City Council to the list of signatories supporting the initiative.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

That the motion standing in the name of Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor Whyte, as amended, be amended to provide for the deletion of everything after the words “This Council” in the first sentence and the insertion of the following:

“is concerned but not surprised by the actions of the British Prime Minister in his attempt to prorogue the British parliament to drive through his own “No Deal Agenda” and notes the concerns from the CBI, Chamber of Commerce and from local business and citizens at the potentially devastating impact of a no-deal Brexit on the economy of Belfast.

This Council strongly objects to the people of Northern Ireland and the rights of citizens being used as pawns in a British negotiation strategy.

**Special Meeting of Council,
2nd September, 2019**

While this Council is sympathetic to legal action currently being taken to stop the British Prime Minister, it believes, while this British Government is still in place, it will continue to circumvent its own institutions for its reckless agenda.

Therefore, the Council will write to the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and the European Union's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, to reaffirm our support for the Backstop and the retention of the Single Market and Customs Union, as well as pressing them to hold firm and not to re-negotiate the Draft Withdrawal Agreement of November, 2018."

On a recorded vote twenty-four Members voted for the amendment and thirty against and it was declared lost.

For 24	Against 30
The Lord Mayor (Councillor (Finucane); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson, Corr, Donnelly, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, M. Kelly, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl and Walsh.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, de Faoite, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Graham, Groogan, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, T. Kelly, Kyle, Lyons, McKeown, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth, Verner and Whyte.

The original motion, standing in the name of Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor Whyte, as amended and set out hereunder, was thereupon put to the meeting:

"This Council

- condemns the undemocratic actions of the Prime Minister, whose suspension of Parliament is an attempt to frustrate the efforts of a majority of MPs opposed to a no deal Brexit and to limit further scrutiny of the British Government's preparatory planning for no deal Brexit which has already outlined the likelihood of checks along the border;
- expresses grave concern at the failure of the Government to recognise the damage which will be done by a no deal Brexit to the Good Friday Agreement, devolution, North/South relations and East/West relations;

**Special Meeting of Council,
2nd September, 2019**

- notes that Belfast City voted to remain in the European Union, and has since elected a majority of Belfast City Councillors who are opposed to a no deal Brexit; and
- resolves to join and/or take legal action against the Government to prevent the suspension of Parliament, to prevent a no deal Brexit and to ensure full democratic accountability at a vital moment for the future of these islands; and
- notes that civic bodies, including the Irish Congress of Trades Unions and NUS-USI, have launched a “no to no deal” Brexit campaign and agrees to add Belfast City Council to the list of signatories supporting the initiative.”

On a recorded vote twelve Members voted for the motion and eighteen against, with twenty-four “no votes” and it was declared lost.

For 12	Against 18	No vote 24
Councillors Matt Collins, Michael Collins, de Faoite, Ferguson, Flynn, Groogan, Heading, Lyons, McKeown, O’Hara, Smyth and Whyte.	The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, T. Kelly, Kyle, Pankhurst and Verner.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor (Finucane)); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson, Corr, Donnelly, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, M. Kelly, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl and Walsh.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd September, 2019
at 6.40 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); the High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Black, Harvey, Howard, Mulholland and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in Item 14c, namely Soft Opt-Out Organ Donation, in that he worked for the Public Health Agency and he was involved in promoting organ donation in line with Department of Health policy, and he left the room for the duration of the discussion.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane),
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of 1st July and of the Special meetings of 1st July and 2nd August be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

**Extract of Minutes of Special Meeting of
1st July, 2019**

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that, at a special meeting on 1st July, it had passed the following motion in relation to the Removal of Banners and Paramilitary Flags:

“In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Beattie proposed:

This Council is alarmed at the increasing number of offensive displays of banners and paramilitary flags across Belfast.

Paramilitary flags and banners supporting British regiments are being used to divide, offend and cause hurt to victims.

The British Ministry of Defence and the Parachute Regiment do not endorse these flags or banners and have stated they should only be displayed in certain circumstances.

Re-traumatising victims with offensive displays is wrong and should have no place in our society.

Standing by and allowing our citizens to be divided and hurt is no longer an option.

This Council agrees to take legal action against the Department for Infrastructure enforcing it to remove:

1. all Paramilitary flags, unless permission is granted by the Department for Infrastructure with protocols that protect citizens; and
2. all banners without planning permission on Department for Infrastructure property, unless permission is granted with protocols that protect citizens.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor D. Baker.”

She advised the Council that the decision had subsequently been called-in and that an external legal opinion had been sought.

A copy of the Barrister’s legal opinion had been tabled to all Members at the meeting.

After discussion, the Council agreed to refer the decision back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the legal advice.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

Changes to Committees

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received of the following changes to Committees:

Democratic Unionist Party

- Alderman McCoubrey to replace Councillor Pankhurst on the Planning Committee; and
- Councillor Dorrian to replace Alderman McCoubrey on the Licensing Committee.

Social Democratic and Labour Party

- Councillor McCusker to replace Councillor Heading on the Licensing Committee.

Alliance Party

- Councillor McAllister to replace Councillor Nicholl on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Council approved the changes.

Official Announcements

Expressions of Sympathy

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended his condolences to Councillor D. Baker on the death of his mother, Edna.

A Member paid tribute to Mr. Ciaran McKeown, a founding member of the Peace People, a journalist and a civil rights activist, who had passed away at the weekend.

A number of Members paid tribute to the late Mr. Tommy Breslin, a former player and Manager of Cliftonville Football Club. At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Lord Mayor agreed to send a letter to Mr. Breslin's partner conveying the Council's condolences.

Congratulations

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended his congratulations to Alderman Spence on the occasion of his engagement.

He also passed on his best wishes to Councillor O'Hara, on the occasion of his upcoming Civil Partnership.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

The Lord Mayor, at the request of Councillor Magennis, agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the local boxer, Mr. James Tennyson, regarding his recent victory against Mr. Atif Shafiq.

Councillor Brooks, amongst other Members, congratulated Linfield Football Club on their recent success, having narrowly missed out on the group stages of the Europa League, and wished the team success for the rest of the season.

A number of Members congratulated the North Belfast Harriers, who had recently won the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for services to the community, and who had been instrumental in bringing parkrun to Belfast.

Announcement

A Member advised the Council that Tuesday, 3rd September, was Merchant Navy Day in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand and that Belfast City Hall would be one of around 1,000 venues in the U.K. to fly the Red Ensign to mark the day.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th July, and of 23rd August, be approved and adopted.

Innovation and Growth Commission

At the request of Councillor Hargey, it was agreed that the name of the Commission would be changed to the "Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission".

Adoption of Minutes

Subject the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th July, and of 23rd August, were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Michael Collins,
Seconded by Councillor D. Baker,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th August be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Kingston
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 6th August under the heading "Air Quality in Belfast" be amended to provide that the second bullet point, in relation to Eco Belfast's Campaign, be removed and accordingly the Council does not support it.

On a vote by show of hands, eighteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-four against and it was declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th August were thereupon approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th August be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor S. Baker,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 14th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 2nd July and 13th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

A Member requested that the City Solicitor would refer a Planning Application back to the Committee for further consideration. The Chief Executive reminded the Council

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

that, as the item had been dealt with under delegated authority, the item could not be referred back to the Committee.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 2nd July and 13th August were thereupon approved and adopted.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Moved by Councillor Flynn,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 19th and 23rd August be approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor McKeown and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 22nd August be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Equal Protection for Children Legislation

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

“This Council notes and welcomes the work of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People’s work in promoting positive parenting and Equal Protection for Children.

In recognition of this work by the NICCY and in support of other agencies such as the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, this Council will write to Assembly Party Leaders, the Executive Office and other NI Councils to champion the inclusion of Equal Protection for Children legislation in the Programme for Government.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor Canavan, to the following addition to the last paragraph of the motion:

“which would remove the defence of reasonable chastisement for parents who physically punish their child and provide more support and guidance for parents to promote constructive and effective ways to encourage better behaviour and development for their children.”

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

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

Climate Strikes

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Matt Collins proposed:

“This Council notes the global call made by young people, workers, environmental organisations and concerned citizens to mobilise “climate strikes”, beginning on 20th September, 2019.

The Council wishes to see an immediate end to the age of fossil fuels and the implementation of urgent action to avoid climate breakdown and catastrophe.

Belfast City Council supports the climate strikes taking place in this city on 20th September, and pledges to help publicise, facilitate and lend practical support to climate activists taking to the streets on this historic day.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Smyth.

The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor Baker, to the replacement of the second paragraph of the motion with the following:

“The Council wishes to see a transition to the end of fossil fuels and the implementation of urgent action to avoid climate breakdown and catastrophe.”

Amendment

Moved by Councillor D. Baker
Seconded by Councillor Murphy

That an additional paragraph be added to the end of the motion, namely:

“This Council aims to be a leader on tackling climate change and, therefore, will carry out a scoping exercise to identify both Council and public land which would be suited towards the planting of trees and reforestation of our City and furthermore commits to making our own Council fleet carbon neutral by 2030, which is in line with our statutory agencies’ ambitions.”

The Chief Executive advised the Council that the additional paragraph, if agreed, would be required to be referred to the People and Communities Committee for its consideration.

After discussion, the motion, as amended, was put to the meeting.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-seven Members voted for the motion and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

Soft Opt-Out Organ Donation

(Councillor McKeown declared an interest in the item and left the room for the duration of the discussion)

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

“This Council will support the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation here in the North which will follow the example led by the introduction of the same legislation in Wales (2015), Scotland and England (2020) and the calls from the Minister of Health in the South of Ireland, Simon Harris TD, for the same to be introduced there”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hargey.

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-seven Members voted for the motion and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

Rally for Choice

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

“Belfast City Council notes the recent Westminster amendment which will decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland on 21st October, unless an Executive is formed before that date.

This Council also notes the trauma experienced by 20 women and pregnant people each week who have to leave our shores to avail of reproductive healthcare as we continue to criminalise them.

This Council therefore welcomes and supports the Rally for Choice on September 7th, 2019, as an expression of public protest against the current law and the need to ensure decriminalisation of abortion so that no other woman or healthcare professional faces the prospect of arrest and prosecution over the procurement of necessary reproductive healthcare services.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groogan.

On a recorded vote, thirty-four Members voted for the amendment, with fourteen against and 3 no votes, and it was declared carried.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

<u>For 34</u>	<u>Against 14</u>	<u>No Vote 3</u>
<p>The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl, O'Hara, Smyth and Walsh.</p>	<p>The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, T. Kelly, Pankhurst and Verner.</p>	<p>Aldermen Copeland and Rodgers; and Councillor Kyle.</p>

Rewilding our Wards

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

“We commend this Council for the work and projects it undertakes across the city to enhance biodiversity and increase environmental protection.

Rewilding spaces in the heart of our communities not only enhances and adds to the good work already undertaken to protect the environment; but also confirms our commitment as a Council to challenge the climate emergency we have already recognised is upon us.

We call on this Council in each of our city’s 60 electoral wards to rewild, as a minimum, 1 extra space each year outside of what is already planned or programmed.

We further call on this Council to promote this initiative and working alongside members in each ward to identify achievable and appropriate sites, where working with the community we create rewilded spaces that local communities can feel part of challenging climate change.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Canavan.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

EuroPride

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor S. Baker proposed:

“This Council recognises the significant impact that Belfast Pride has on our City. It makes our City a more diverse and welcoming city for all.

We also recognise the economic impact that Belfast Pride creates within the city, generating income for business and creating employment.

This Council will task our officers to work with Belfast Pride and assist in their bid to bring EuroPride to our City.

EuroPride will have a huge economic and social impact to Belfast and showcase to the world on how progressive and open our City is.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAteer.

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

Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman McCoubrey proposed:

“This Council recognises the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities, and undertakes to engage with those in the sector who can best advise on making play facilities more accessible.

An audit should be undertaken of current facilities across the city and opportunities for disability improvements identified, work to be completed through the course of the current council term.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Smyth.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

Desecration of Graves within Belfast City Cemetery

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Copeland proposed:

“That this Council:

Notes with grave concern and mounting anger the recent desecration of graves within Belfast City Cemetery, and resolves to renew and redouble its efforts to upgrade the facilities at the cemetery and to work with other

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

partner agencies to ensure that such wanton rampage of destruction is never repeated, and that those responsible are brought before the courts.

This facility is for everyone, and we as a Council need to look after the needs of all the communities who are buried, visit and are bereaved.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rodgers.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

Silver Poppies of Remembrance

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor T. Kelly proposed:

“With the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, this Council wishes to recognise the contribution of those who fought in that war from Belfast.

It notes that every year the number of surviving veterans is reducing and time to provide appropriate recognition is running out. The Council, therefore, should come together to provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) with a silver Poppy of Remembrance, to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism.

These poppies will be presented to all surviving veterans who live in the Belfast Council area week commencing 4th November 2019.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Graham.

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

Transgender Day of Visibility

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

“This council recognises the contribution that our Transgender community makes to the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland. This council notes that many within the Trans community still suffer discrimination and that visibility of the community is a hugely important part of raising awareness and overcoming discrimination.

As a statement of our solidarity with the Trans community, this Council agrees to illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Trans flag to coincide with the Transgender Day of Visibility every year on 31st March; as a continuation of our solidarity with the community, this Council also agrees

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

to fly the Transgender flag over the City Hall from dawn to dusk on 31st March every year to coincide with Transgender Day of Visibility.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Copeland.

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

E-Petition Mechanism

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O’Hara proposed:

“This Council supports the development of an e-petition mechanism for Belfast City Council.

E-petitions are an opportunity for citizens of the City to bring forward issues of concern over which this Council has authority. They widen access to the democratic process and bring governmental structures closer to the citizens we represent. Similar processes are in place across these islands and Europe at a variety of administrative levels. In the continuing absence of a local Assembly and the democratic deficit it creates, it is imperative that this Council does what it can to enhance and broaden access to the democratic process.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hutchinson.

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

Citywide Multi-Agency Task Force on Mental Health and Suicide

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor D. Baker proposed:

“This Council notes with serious concern the growing number of people who have taken their own life over recent times and extends its deepest sympathy to all those effected. We call on the Lord Mayor to convene a citywide multi-agency task force to respond to the serious concerns regarding mental health and suicide in our City.

The task force, using all their collective resources, should map out an action plan of front facing initiatives such as the successful Multi agency `road safe road show` to engage schools, youth organisations, businesses and citizens on our response to resilience, emotional well-being and positive mental health.

This Council needs to use every partner, every power and every strategy at its disposal to reach out to our citizens, let them know we care and we are there for them and that is ok not to be ok.”

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

The motion was seconded by Councillor Magennis.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

Economic Future Planning

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

“This Council recognises that economic future planning is crucial in the period ahead, particularly given the impending withdrawal from the European Union.

This Council should plan for, and bring forward an economic plan for the future of this Council area in the event of the north of Ireland retaining membership of the European Union, following a referendum on Irish Unity. The economic plan should draw on the numerous existing reports of an all-island economy, including, but not limited to; ‘Modelling Irish Unification’ by Dr Kurt Hubner, ‘The Economic Effects of an All Island Economy’, by Paul Gosling, ‘The Economic Case for Irish Unity’, by Michael Burke and the Joint Oireachtas Committee Report, ‘Brexit and the Future of Ireland – Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity’.

This Council should be prudent in planning for the future to maximise our potential and secure future economic growth and to compete effectively with other Cities across the Island of Ireland.

The economic plan should examine how this Council would prepare for this scenario and how this Council area could position itself within this potential new constitutional arrangement, in order that Belfast maximizes all opportunities for city growth in this context.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hargey.

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

Community Impact of Needle Finds

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

“This Council notes with alarm the increased volume of needles found on streets in inner city surrounding communities, both used and otherwise. The safety ramifications for families who reside in such areas are extensive and obvious.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd September, 2019**

This Council has a duty of care to the citizens of Belfast including assisting them in fulfilling their ambitions and striving towards the goals of the Belfast Agenda.

Urban inner city surrounding communities are lived in neighbourhoods, not fully part of the City Centre but neither are they suburbs. Such localities face problems associated to air pollution, high volumes of commuter car parking, dense housing developments, fractured infrastructure and historical failings associated to place and space planning.

One contemporary impact of such failings resides in limited usable green and natural safe play sites.

The evidenced needle finds across urban inner city surrounding communities are ordinarily in sites of overgrown shrubbery, vacant green sites, beside hedge rows and alongside well used play and walking areas.

This Council cannot and should not accept increased street needle finds as a natural and inevitable consequence of a growing City. Such an acceptance is a direct contradiction to the aims and visions of the Belfast Agenda. This neither supports those at risk of addiction or resident families.

Whilst we recognise the massive value of the work undertaken by the Council's Community Safety structures and the Sharp Removal Programme, this motion seeks a report focused on the immediate areas surrounding the city centre in the contemporary context, detailing the volume of finds, associated costs of removal, correlations if and where they exist, site contexts and recommendations moving forward based on good practice elsewhere."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Donnelly.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th September, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Hutchinson.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beattie declared an interest in relation to item 2a – City Centre Investment Fund-Presentation, in that he was a member of the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 2 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

City Centre Investment Fund - Presentation

It was reported that Mr. T. Prior and Mr. E. McClean were in attendance to provide a presentation in relation to proposals for a City Centre Investment Project and they were welcomed to the meeting. Mr. Prior and Mr. McClean then provided a detailed presentation to the Members of the Committee on proposals for a major tourist offering in the city.

After discussion, the Committee:

- Agreed, in principle, that the Council would invest up to £2.5 million of CCIF money on an equity basis in the major tourist offering located in Belfast as presented to the Members; and
- Agreed also to officers carrying out a due diligence exercise in conjunction with Belfast Harbour on the investment. The outcome of this exercise would then inform the Committee when making the final decision on the investment.

Motion: Removal of Paramilitary Flags and Banners

The Committee was reminded that, at the special meeting of the Council on 1st July, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor D. Baker had, been passed by the Council

“This Council is alarmed at the increasing number of offensive displays of banners and paramilitary flags across Belfast.

Paramilitary flags and banners supporting British regiments are being used to divide, offend and cause hurt to victims.

The British Ministry of Defence and the Parachute Regiment do not endorse these flags or banners and have stated they should only be displayed in certain circumstances.

Re-traumatising victims with offensive displays is wrong and should have no place in our society.

Standing by and allowing our citizens to be divided and hurt is no longer an option.

This Council agrees to take legal action against the Department for Infrastructure enforcing it to remove:

1. all Paramilitary flags, unless permission is granted by the Department for Infrastructure with protocols that protect citizens; and

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

2. all banners without planning permission on Department for Infrastructure property, unless permission is granted with protocols that protect citizens.”

The Committee was also advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 2nd September, Members had been advised that the decision had subsequently been called-in and that an external legal opinion had been sought. A copy of the Barrister’s legal opinion had been tabled to all members at that meeting and circulated again for information.

The City Solicitor pointed out that the Council had agreed to refer the decision back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the legal advice.

He pointed out that in respect of the call-in, the Barrister’s opinion found that there was merit in relation to the decision insofar as it related to the removal of banners. Essentially the opinion reflected that banner is broad enough to include a flag and that, as the flying of the Union and Ulster flags are associated with a cultural tradition of the PUL community, any such decision would be required to be equality screened. The opinion took account of the fact that the relevant legislation to be applied by the Department for Infrastructure makes no differentiation between a flag and a banner.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the Committee agrees that a consultation be undertaken with the public in relation to flying of the flags in the City and for the report on how such a consultation may be undertaken being brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

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

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion – EuroPride

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor S. Baker and seconded by Councillor McAteer:

“This Council recognises the significant impact that Belfast Pride has on our City. It makes our City a more diverse and welcoming city for all.

We also recognise the economic impact that Belfast Pride creates within the city, generating income for business and creating employment.

This Council will task our officers to work with Belfast Pride and assist in their bid to bring EuroPride to our City.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

EuroPride will have a huge economic and social impact to Belfast and showcase to the world on how progressive and open our City is.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed to work with Belfast Pride and the LGBT Community to support their bid to bring EuroPride to the city.

Motion - Silver Poppies of Remembrance

The Committee considered the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor T. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Graham, and which, in accordance with Standing order 13(f), had been referred to the Committee:

“With the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, this Council wishes to recognise the contribution of those who fought in that war from Belfast.

It notes that every year the number of surviving veterans is reducing and time to provide appropriate recognition is running out. The Council, therefore, should come together to provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) with a silver Poppy of Remembrance, to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism.

These poppies will be presented to all surviving veterans who live in the Belfast Council area week commencing 4th November 2019.”

After discussion , the Committee agreed that the matter be referred in the first instance to the Party Leaders Consultative Forum, with a report to be brought back in due course which would provide information on the costs associated with providing Silver Poppies of Remembrance.

Motion - Transgender Day of Visibility

The Committee was advised that, at the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Alderman Copeland, had been referred to the Committee in accordance with Standing order 13(f):

“This Council recognises the contribution that our Transgender community makes to the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland. This Council notes that many within the Trans community still suffer discrimination and that visibility of the community is a hugely important part of raising awareness and overcoming discrimination.

As a statement of our solidarity with the Trans community, this Council agrees to illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Trans flag to coincide with the Transgender Day of Visibility every year on 31st March; as a continuation of our solidarity with the community, this Council also agrees to fly the Transgender flag over the City Hall from dawn to dusk on 31st March every year to coincide with Transgender Day of Visibility.”

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

The Committee agreed to support the motion to illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Trans flag and to fly the Transgender flag from dawn to dusk to coincide with the Transgender Day of Visibility every year on 31st March.

Motion - E-Petition Mechanism

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson:

“E-petitions are an opportunity for citizens of the City to bring forward issues of concern over which this Council has authority. They widen access to the democratic process and bring governmental structures closer to the citizens we represent. Similar processes are in place across these islands and Europe at a variety of administrative levels. In the continuing absence of a local Assembly and the democratic deficit it creates, it is imperative that this Council does what it can to enhance and broaden access to the democratic process.”

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

The seconder of the motion, Councillor Hutchinson, was in attendance, and he addressed the Committee and sought its support for introducing an E-Petition Mechanism.

The Committee agreed that officers research the issue and bring back a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed.

Motion - Economic Future Planning

The Committee was reminded that the following motion which had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Hargey had been referred by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council recognises that economic future planning is crucial in the period ahead, particularly given the impending withdrawal from the European Union.

This Council should plan for, and bring forward an economic plan for the future of this Council area in the event of the north of Ireland retaining membership of the European Union, following a referendum on Irish Unity.

The economic plan should draw on the numerous existing reports of an all-island economy, including, but not limited to: ‘Modelling Irish Unification’ by Dr Kurt Hubner, ‘The Economic Effects of an All Island Economy’, by Paul Gosling, ‘The Economic Case for Irish Unity’, by Michael Burke and the Joint Oireachtas Committee Report, ‘Brexit and the Future of Ireland – Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity’.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

This Council should be prudent in planning for the future to maximise our potential and secure future economic growth and to compete effectively with other Cities across the Island of Ireland.

The economic plan should examine how this Council would prepare for this scenario and how this Council area could position itself within this potential new constitutional arrangement, in order that Belfast maximizes all opportunities for city growth in this context.”

After discussion it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the motion and that Council officers research the issue and then bring back a report on how such a plan would be developed, resourced and led.

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

Governance

Amendments to Standing Orders

The Committee was advised that Standing Order 47 in relation to call-in did not (as currently drafted) reflect the Council’s statutory obligations arising from the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014, Section 41(1), which requires Council’s to make provision for reconsideration of decisions, with such a “decision” to include a decision of the Council. Therefore, Counsel has recommended that Standing Orders be amended to include “a decision of the council” in the list of decisions which may be subject to call-in.

In addition, Section 41(4) requires that Standing Orders specify the section of the inhabitants of the district who may claim to be adversely affected under Section 41(1)(b). The statutory requirement is not that the persons seeking the call-in of the decision specify the section of the inhabitants of the district, rather, the statute requires that standing orders do that in advance. The Council’s Standing Orders do not appear to do so as currently drafted.

In order to rectify this situation, the City Solicitor recommended that, as a minimum, the Council specify at least those categories of persons set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in standing orders. It was of course open to the Council to specify further sections of the inhabitants of the district, subject to the usual public law boundary of Wednesbury reasonableness.

Whilst the Act is not prescriptive as to the sections which should be specified, the Draft Standing Order Regulations 2016 (which have not yet been ratified by the NI Assembly) do provide a legislative interpretation of sections of the district which is wider than just the Section 75 groups: “section of the inhabitants of the district” means any section of the inhabitants that is clearly identifiable by location, interest or other category.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

Therefore, it was recommended that the Council amend Standing Order 47(3)(b) to incorporate the wording from the draft Standing Order Regulations with reference to the Section 75 categories as one of the “other” categories.

This approach would appear to reflect the intention of the legislation as originally drafted and would prevent call-in being limited to just those section 75 groups.

The Committee agreed:

- that Standing Order 47(a)(1) be amended to include “a decision of the Council” in the list of decisions which may be subject to call-in; and
- after Standing Order 47(3)(b)(3) part 4 be included and in this part it should read that “section of the inhabitants of the district” means any section of the inhabitants that is clearly identifiable by location, interest or other category (including those categories identified in Section 75(1) of the NI Act 1998).

Area Working Groups - Terms of Reference

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th April, it had agreed that officers would review the role of the Area Working Groups and update the Terms of Reference. It was reported that, previously, five Area working Groups (North, South, East, West and Greater Shankill) had been established in 2012 and the Terms of Reference were agreed at that stage. Following the Local Government Elections in 2014, the Area Working Groups were reconvened on a North, South, East and West Belfast basis, with Greater Shankill being incorporated within the West, using the existing terms of reference.

One of the key priorities of the Belfast Agenda was to deliver better outcomes for our Neighbourhoods, through inclusive growth, and building sustainable capacity within communities.

The Corporate priorities recognised the importance of Neighbourhood Regeneration and advocate a place shaping approach to drive the effective use of resources by the Council and other partners/stakeholders within specific areas where opportunities exist to maximise impact. The proposed approach will include:

- Council service and facility provision;
- External or multi-agency service and facility provision;
- Agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people;
- Longer term regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources).

Within that context, officers had been working to review the Area Working Groups Terms of Reference to make recommendations to Members on their future role. Taking that into consideration, the Committee would be recommended to agree to the draft Terms of Reference and that the first Area Working Group meetings be held in January 2020.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Inclusive Growth Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 Members will be aware that officers have been drafting a document outlining the Council’s commitments to inclusive growth, in line with their ambition to create an inclusive city.
- 1.2 At SP&R on 23rd August the range of policy commitments were presented with a commitment to send out the full version of the document to Parties week commencing 26th August for review and comments. Officers subsequently liaised with each Party and have updated the document.
- 1.3 During these discussions it was requested that the Council’s commitment to *‘doing all we can to eradicate poverty and inequality in our city’* was re-emphasised in the concluding paragraph of the inclusive growth statement contained in section 2 of the document. Therefore, this additional text has been inserted.
- 1.4 This report provides Committee with the final document for approval and outlines the next steps that will be undertaken to ensure that a public consultation commences in November, alongside an All-Party launch.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the final document outlining the Council’s commitments to inclusive growth for publication.
- Agree to an All-Party launch of the commitments and public consultation commencing October 2019.
- Agree to testing/engagement of the commitments with key anchor institutions, businesses, CVSE and trade unions commencing October 2019.
- Agree to the establishment of the Inclusive Growth Oversight Group to ensure collaborative working across the organisation.
- Agree to the additional text inserted into the inclusive growth statement of *‘doing all we can to eradicate poverty and inequality in our city’*.

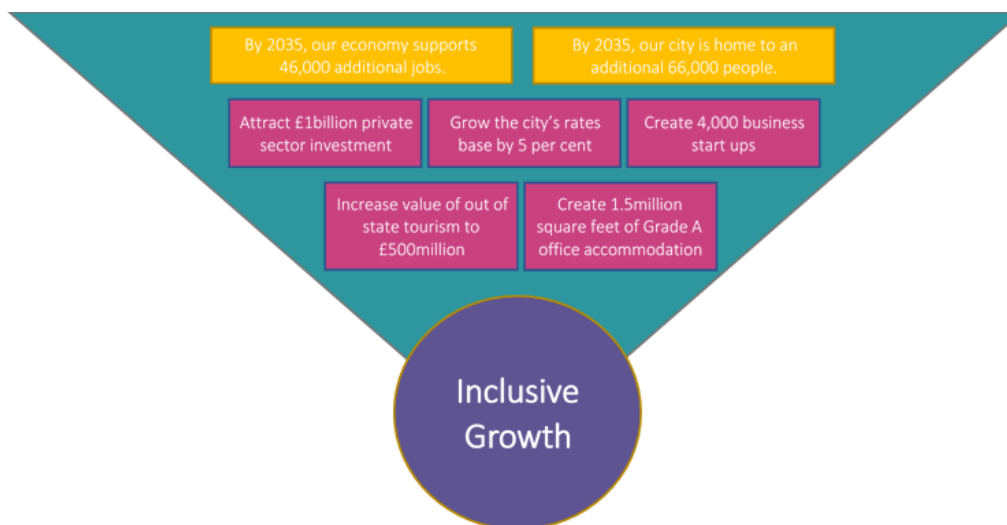
- 2.2 Please note there is a requirement for a full-time permanent Inclusive Growth Policy and Implementation Support Officer to embed the commitments via the development of policy, support for implementation across Council departments and anchor institutions and the ongoing monitoring of implementation.
- 2.3 There is also a requirement for two full-time permanent support officers (policy and data) to further the work on inclusive growth and the wider Belfast Agenda implementation through data analytics and building a strong evidence base that informs decisions at a local level. The above additional resources will be considered as part of the estimates process.

3.0 **Main Report**

- 3.1 At SP&R Committee on 20th April 2018, members agreed to a five step approach to developing an inclusive growth framework for the city. Since then officers from within the Strategy, Policy and Partnerships team have been working with departments to develop the policy commitments.
- 3.2 At SP&R Committee on 7th December 2018, a draft bespoke Belfast City Council inclusive growth decision-making framework was presented and agreed. This framework is designed to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions.
- 3.3 Members also agreed, that in the first instance, our efforts would be focused on the following four target inclusive growth groups:
- Workless residents
 - Residents with low skill levels
 - In work, low earning individuals
 - Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

The focus of our inclusive growth commitments

- 3.4 The inclusive growth commitments outlined in the attached document sit within the overarching framework of the Belfast Agenda and are closely aligned to its economic growth ambitions.
- 3.5 The Belfast Agenda is an ambitious plan for the city, with a strong economic focus and far-reaching targets for population and jobs growth. In order to address the long term challenges facing people in Belfast such as health and educational inequalities, the need for good relations, ensuring people feel safe and have good living conditions, we need to focus on growing our economy and ensure the benefits are felt by everyone.



- 3.6 Council has therefore rightly set out an ambitious economic growth agenda – this is highlighted by our success and commitment to securing the Belfast Region City Deal, the creation of a range of investment funds and interventions designed to make Belfast a great place to locate and start a business. We are also committed to creating a strong and vibrant city centre – its development is vital for attracting private sector investment, creating revenue and enabling the sustainability of council expenditure and service delivery

Addressing wider inequalities, their causes and consequences

- 3.7 It is accepted that not everyone in Belfast has benefited in the past from economic growth and unless there is a paradigm shift in our policy framework this will continue. The development of our commitments towards inclusive growth is one aspect of the work that is underway with partners to ensure that the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda are met. This includes working with partners to address many of the underlying causes of poverty and exclusion such as health inequalities (specifically mental health), educational underachievement, transport and community infrastructure. Specific detail on these strands of work is included within the paper being presented to the SP&R Committee today titled 'Belfast Agenda - Update on Community Planning'.
- 3.8 It is important that as we consult and engage on our commitments we will also ensure that key stakeholders understand the wider work that the Council is providing leadership on across the City.
- 3.9 The commitments within this inclusive growth document focus strongly on our role as an inclusive corporate body looking at what we do in areas of:

- procurement – social value and sustainability
 - employment – recruitment, fair work and employability & skills
 - investment - decision making framework
 - service design/provision – inclusive
- 3.10 It also focuses on our influencing and civic leadership role, acting as a call to action to others across the City.
- 3.11 This inclusive growth document has been designed to be a living document and to support this the first year action plan has been included within the document. It is intended that an updated action plan be produced for each subsequent year thereafter. Members are asked to note that development of the policies and initiatives required to create an 'Inclusive Belfast' will continue alongside the public consultation.
- 3.12 It is important to note that implementation will require ongoing policy development and operational decisions. With papers on the development of procurement policy, city wide charter, apprenticeship and social enterprise/ cooperatives (etc) being brought to committee on a regular basis.

Consultation and engagement

- 3.13 As part of the consultation and engagement process associated with finalising our commitments to inclusive growth, we will ensure that consultation on the work being undertaken across the council to address the wider inequalities, such as poverty alleviation, will be considered.
- 3.14 A key focus of this engagement will be working together with others across the City, such as anchor institutions, businesses, Community and Voluntary Sector and wider public sector partners to hear their ideas as to how we can develop an inclusive growth agenda for Belfast. It is important that, as well as gathering their views on the overall content of the commitments, that we use this engagement opportunity to focus on how we can work in partnership to co-design and develop key initiatives, such as the development of the inclusive growth city charter.
- 3.15 A key element of the work to inform the development of our commitments was examining and adapting international best practice to meet the specific needs of Belfast. To support this, the Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships, Christine Robinson, participated in an All-Ireland Eisenhower Fellowship in May 2019. The purpose of Christine's fellowship was examine approaches to inclusive growth at a city, state, community and business level.

Key aspects of the study trip have been included in this document and will be used to shape the ongoing policy development required to bring the ambition to life. The fellowship was fully funded by the Eisenhower Fellowship programme, however Christine completed the trip as a council employee and therefore retrospective approval for participation in the fellowship is required.

Next steps

3.16 The following steps are recommended:

- October 2019 – All-Party public launch of our commitments to inclusive growth
- October 2019 – January 2020 – Complete public consultation on draft commitments and associated comprehensive equality screening to further inform final document.
- October 2019 – Commence testing/engagement of draft commitments with key anchor institutions, businesses, CVSE and trade unions.
- October 2019 – Establishment of the Inclusive Growth Oversight Group.

Financial/ Resource Implications

3.17 Should SP&R Committee approve recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 above, revenue cost implications of these posts will be calculated and brought to SP&R Committee as part of the estimating process. All other costs will be delivered through existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.18 The Council’s commitments to inclusive growth, as outlined in the attached draft document, are inherently inclusive and are aimed at bringing about inclusive economic growth to all residents, irrespective of identity. A draft comprehensive screening has been completed and will be consulted on alongside the draft commitments.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Innovation & Inclusive Growth Commission

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

This paper provides an update to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the work of the newly-established Innovation and

Inclusive Growth Commission. Regular updates will be provided to this Committee throughout the Commission's lifetime.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked:

To note the update and in particular the proposed approach to ensuring good governance and oversight of the Commission's work.

3.0 Main report

The Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission was set up to support the Council and city partners in the further development and implementation of the priorities as set out in the Belfast Agenda. A particular focus has been given to the priorities of (1) growing the economy and (2) city development. The Commission will seek to deliver the core objective of inclusive growth. Core membership of the Commission is as follows:

- Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
- Michael Lyons, Chair- English Cities Fund
- Matthew Taylor, RSA (previously led RSA Inclusive Growth Commission)
- Owen Reidy, or nominee, ICTU (tbc)
- Emma Cariaga, British Land
- Alice Charles, World Economic Forum
- Joe O'Neill, Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Paddy Nixon, Vice Chancellor and President, Ulster University
- Ian Greer, Vice Chancellor and President, Queen's University Belfast
- Rotha Johnston
- Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
- Anne McGregor, NI Chamber of Commerce
- Judith Totten, INI Non-Exec Board Member
- Ed Vernon
- Angela Magowan, Director, CBI Northern Ireland
- Neil Gibson, EY

However, the Commission will also take advice from a wide range of organisations including the Nevin Institute and JRF etc.

Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

At the previous meeting of SP&R, it was agreed that the Commission's membership would be broadened to include a wider range of economic expertise and viewpoints. Since the meeting,

and following invitation to join the Commission, ICTU has confirmed it will nominate a member. The Nevin Institute has also been contacted to provide advice and insight to the Commission. As the Commission's work proceeds, it will also seek advice from Trademark and other similar organisations to ensure that insights and practice on co-operative development inform the Commission's work. We are also seeking insight from social enterprise organisations to provide advice throughout. As agreed, inclusive growth has been re-emphasised in the Commission's terms of reference and its title brief, and Commission members were also briefed on the importance attached to inclusive growth at its first meeting. Specific reference has been made to cities that have developed economic strategies with inclusive growth or 'good growth' as core goals, and officers have been tasked with seeking input and insights from cities that can demonstrate success in this area. As the Commission develops it will align with ongoing work on climate change and sustainable development and seek advice from Leeds Climate Commission, Place based Climate Action Network (PCAN), Friends of the Earth etc

Governance and member engagement

At its previous meeting, SP&R discussed governance and oversight of the Commission's work, and discussed how elected members would engage with the Commission.

The Commission is a collaboration between four city institutions-Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour, Queen's University and Ulster University. Each organisation will take part in the Commission as per its own system of governance.

The following approach is being proposed for Belfast City Council:

1. That SP&R remains the primary committee through which the Chief Executive will report on the Commission's work. SP&R will ultimately approve early and final drafts of outputs produced by the Commission, for formal ratification by Council. City Growth and Regeneration Committee will also be consulted.
2. Three events, attended jointly by BCC members and Commission members, will be held throughout the Commission's work. The first will take place in the autumn to inform the Commission's early thinking; the second in early 2020 when some initial themes have begun to emerge and the third to inform draft conclusions.
3. Party briefings will take place in the normal way to ensure parties are informed continuously throughout.

4. A summary note of each Commission meeting will be produced for SP&R.

Summary note of the Commission's first meeting

- The first meeting was a general introduction and context setting meeting- held on the evening of the 9th and all day on the 10th September.
- The meeting included presentations from local SME sector and large local and global businesses based in Belfast. It also included an overview of the UK Industrial Strategy – to ensure alignment with wider policy goals. Data was presented on Belfast's existing economic and 'good growth' performance and how it compares with other cities across Europe and globally, as well as presentations and discussion on cities as drivers of inclusive economic growth.
- Some critical issues emerged in the discussion:
 1. Belfast has an immense opportunity to align its economic ambitions with its social and environmental goals. For example, the transition to a low-carbon economy must be an equitable one, and this therefore presents an opportunity to significantly reduce and perhaps eradicate fuel poverty over time. Recent successes by industry (e.g. exceeding our targets on renewables) must be learned from and scaled up.
 2. The Commission's eventual conclusions/outputs must ensure that Belfast builds on its strengths- where it has already proven to succeed. However, its work will be impacted by national (UK) policy and we must be cognisant of that—an example is UK government policy on visa restrictions for international students.
 3. The Commission does not intend to work 'behind closed doors' for a year, and then produce a report. It wants to focus on practical solutions to drive city growth in the interests of communities, and will be looking for ways that the four anchor institutions (BCC, Belfast Harbour, QUB and UU) can work collaboratively to deliver 'good growth'.
 4. Belfast has significant advantages given its proximity to Dublin and London. Both cities will continue to be successful in a post-Brexit environment, and therefore we must find ways to better leverage this connectivity and proximity, given the scale and nature of growth in both cities.
 5. The major issues remain those we've been debating for years- how to build skills among those furthest from the labour market and those economically inactive, so that they feel there are opportunities for them, as well as ensuring

that we do not lose talent from the city. Skills already emerging as a major challenge.

6. The city has many strengths but we are one of many cities that is promoting our distinctive 'offer'. Belfast has yet to really 'hone' what makes us unique. For example, the fact that the city is a leader in cyber security and food security is little known outside of these niche sectors. Generally speaking, there's a perceived lack of strategy on our economic future- other successful cities are clearer about their assets (economic, social and environmental) and focused on what they are going to do with them. A grand vision is needed- e.g. the Oxford/Cambridge corridor has a vision to be the R&D Centre for the UK.
7. A focus on inclusive growth and/or 'good growth' (term used by Edinburgh) is an example of how we can be competitive and distinctive... Glasgow has done this by stressing its quality of life and really pursuing a strong environmental agenda- which is increasingly being sought by people visiting the city and those investing in the city- both companies and workers.
8. Several presenters/contributors emphasised the importance of focusing on the current drivers of growth – investing more in them rather than trying to do too many things.

Future meetings/themes/areas of focus:

- Transition to a low-carbon/carbon neutral economy, and how we do this in an equitable way
- Learning from economic shocks and how the poorest and most economically vulnerable have been impacted- including across the generations
- Opportunities from energy transition- retro-fitting our existing stock and possible job opportunities for this/next generation

Financial & Resource Implications

None

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Agenda - Update on Community Planning

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The report provides an update for Members on key priority strands of work being taken forward, in collaboration with community planning partners, to deliver the Belfast Agenda and sets out proposals to further enhance the involvement of partners and key stakeholders in supporting delivery.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) note the work currently underway across community planning partners to deliver the Belfast Agenda;
- b) note the proposed establishment of a ‘Growing the Economy and City Development Board’ and a ‘Sustainability and Resilience Board’ as part of the Belfast Agenda city governance arrangements;
- c) consider and approve that a Members’ Belfast Agenda Reference Group be formed comprising the Party Group community planning nominated leads; and
- d) consider and approve the implementation of measures to strengthen the representation and involvement of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors in community planning.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Belfast Agenda, the city’s first community plan, was published in November 2017 and was led by the Council in partnership with its community planning partner organisations and shaped through a substantial engagement and consultation process. It is a long term framework outlining how the Council and its community planning partners will work collaboratively to deliver an ambitious and inclusive vision that will create a better quality of life for all citizens in Belfast.
- 3.2 Following the publication of the plan, the community planning team undertook a series of engagements with partners across the Belfast Agenda’s four priority areas. The purpose of which was to identify and define the specific range of activity underway/planned

across partners in support of the Belfast and to consider and identify key strategic gaps or opportunities to deliver collaborative gains from working in partnership under community planning. Action plans had been developed and approved by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in October 2018 and are now being implemented through the agreed governance structures including a series of delivery focused boards, comprising CPP partners, formed on a phased basis linked to the priority pillars of the Belfast Agenda. Boards focused on Living Here and Working and Learning have been established and giving focus to the following priority areas for collaborative gain. Appendix 1 provides more detail on the specific work underway.

3.3

Living Here		
Initial Priority Areas for Collaborative Focus	Design and deliver an integrated city programme to address health inequalities , including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.	<p>There has been significant partnership working and related programmes of work targeted at reducing health inequalities over many years in Belfast. However, Partner engagement has identified that deeper systemic change is required to achieve the Belfast Agenda Ambition of a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Partners have highlighted the opportunity to use Community Planning as a vehicle for driving whole system change across all partners in ensuring a more joined up approach to tackling health inequalities in Belfast. It is recognised that this presents a vast and complex challenge, and CPP partners agreed the initial focus would be alcohol, drugs and mental health challenge(s) facing the city. Intended that this approach would help develop a partnership model and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely to other health inequality challenges.</p>
	Collaborative planning to address winter pressures on health services and communities.	Lead by the Health and Social Care Board and supported by the community planning partners, work is underway to develop and deliver an integrated programme to reduce the number of avoidable deaths caused as a result of winter/cold weather.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

	Planning for housing that meets the needs of everyone.	Focus on delivering the social and affordable housing ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda alongside creating the conditions to attract an additional 66,000 people in Belfast by 2035.
	Integrated approach to neighborhood regeneration & improvement.	Transforming local neighbourhoods and maximising the social, economic, environmental and regeneration benefits from physical and revenue investment in local areas and helping to build greater connectivity in the city.
	An integrated, inter-agency approach to early intervention, early years and family support.	Improving outcomes for children and young people and their families with a focus on early and preventative interventions throughout an individual's life.

3.4

Working and Learning		
Initial Priority Areas for Collaborative Focus	Deliver an integrated city programme to address educational underachievement	Develop an integrated programme to help alleviate educational inequalities across the city and reduce the education attainment gap which exists, particularly between those entitled to free school meals and those who not.
	Improving outcomes for children and young people.	Area-based demonstrator pilot brought forward by the Education Authority and Greater Shankill Partnership and agreed by the Community Planning Partnership and Working and Learning Board. The focus is to apply an evidence based approach to assessing local service needs and challenges and considering possible service delivery model options to improve the life chances and outcomes for children and young people. Intended that this approach would help develop an inter-agency approach and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely across the city.
	Deliver a Belfast Employability & Skills Pathway (Belfast Workplace)	Working alongside employers and service providers to identify, plan and prepare for emerging job opportunities and to develop effective pathways for individuals (including those furthest from the labour market) to

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

	enter into and progress through employment.
Harnessing collective recruitment powers of CPP partners & anchor institutions	Targeted programme of work underway with CPP partners and anchor institutions to identify future workforce needs, and associated skills required, and to maximise opportunities to connect and support individuals to specific employment or training opportunities (including possible placement or apprenticeship opportunities).

3.5 Growing the Economy and City Development

Given the clear synergies between the Growing the Economy and City Development pillars of the Belfast Agenda it is proposed that a single board is established in October 2019 to give focus, build momentum and act as a catalyst for collaborative action across city partners/stakeholders in key areas such as, for example:

- Inclusive Growth
- Sustainable Transport and Connectivity
- Sustainable Infrastructure for the City
- Enterprise & Business Development and Growth
- Cultural and Tourism Development

3.6 A key focus of the Board will be the delivery and mainstreaming of inclusive growth and widening the engagement with and consideration of the emerging BCC Inclusive Growth Framework (NB. separate paper included on the Committee agenda). It is important that we create the right conditions to enable the widest range of people to both contribute to and benefit from economic growth and development within the city. It is also important that we maximise the social impact of our economic and physical investment in terms of, for example, creating additional jobs and providing pathways to employment, supporting income generation and distribution across the city and delivering social value for local communities. The establishment of this Board will provide a collective focus across and help build momentum with community planning and key city partners.

3.7 Notwithstanding the formal establishment of the combined Growing the Economy and City Development Board, there is a significant programme of work underway in collaboration with city partners to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda priorities, examples of which is included in Appendix 1.

3.8 Sustainability and Resilience

Members will be aware of the significant environmental and sustainability challenges and chronic stresses facing the city and their potential to constrain future city growth. It is proposed that a Sustainability and Resilience Board be formed as part of the wider Belfast Agenda governance arrangements to give collaborative focus across city partners/ stakeholders to such challenges and bring forward a programme of work specific work around, for example, climate change, city energy, waste and sustainable development.

3.9 Community Planning Partnership

The next meeting of the Belfast Community Planning Partnership is scheduled for 30 September 2019. As part of its business, the partnership will consider the proposal to amend the Belfast Agenda governance structures to combine the Growing the Economy and City Development board and create a separate board focused on Resilience and Sustainability.

3.10 VCSE Sector Engagement Model

At SP&R in June a report was tabled seeking agreement to move forward with the implementation of arrangements to strengthen representation of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors in community planning. During the committee session, members requested that approval be postponed to enable a workshop with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships to be completed. This workshop was carried out on 5th September – the feedback from this session, along with the wider engagement with the sector in June, continue to inform the proposed structures and forms of engagement. By way of reminder a short overview of the mechanism for improved engagement is outlined in Appendix 2. Members will note that these mechanisms will continue to be developed in association with the sector and will, when implemented, greatly improve the involvement of the voluntary and community sector in community planning.

3.11 Members' Engagement

It is important to note that each Political Party had previously a nominated elected Member lead to be represented on the Community Planning Partnership and help inform the identification of initial priority areas for collaborative gain. Following the recent elections, each political party has been asked to renominate a lead member onto the Community Planning Partnership. In order to enable members to have focused consideration and input into the ongoing work and future planning

around the Belfast Agenda, it is proposed that the Party nominees form a reference group which are brought together in lead up to CPP meetings as well as at other key milestones. Regular updates on the Belfast Agenda will also be brought into Committee for Members' consideration.

3.13 Key Next Steps

Key strands of work to be progressed over coming months:

- VCSE Sector Engagement Model – planned establishment of VCSE Advisory Forum and wider sectoral network (Oct/Nov 2019)
- Inclusive Growth Strategy – securing Council approval and launch strategy for public consultation and engagement (Oct/Nov. 2019)
- Establish combined Growing the Economy and City Development Board (Oct/Nov. 2019)
- Establish Sustainability and Resilience Board (Oct/Nov. 2019)
- Publish Belfast Agenda 'Statement of Progress' (Nov. 2019)
- Establishment of the Members' Area-Based Working Groups.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Alignment of resources to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda is part of the ongoing organisational and financial planning processes.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Belfast Agenda has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment at a strategic level and a Rural Needs impact statement at the time of its publication.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Committee considered the following 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 the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1-3.5
- note that site visits to the three new centres have been arranged for Tuesday 25th September and that all Members are encouraged to avail of this opportunity (see 3.6)
- note the update on communications around the opening of the new centres (see 3.7)
- note the update on employment opportunities as arising from the new centres (see 3.8)
- note the update on the Social Responsibility Plan which is being delivered (see 3.9)
- note the update around the next phase of the Programme with respect to proposed closure and start dates for Avoniel and Templemore (see 3.11 & 3.12)
- note the update with respect to a further leisure development at the Girdwood site as outlined at 3.13 and agree the request from DFC that the Council acts as Delivery Agent for the project under the current LTP Governance structures. Members are further asked to note that the next steps will include working up options (further options can be added), appointing Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) and developing concept designs before carrying out public consultation. Members are asked to note that DFC are funding the appointment of the ICT
- agree that a feasibility study is undertaken on the rest of the Council's leisure estate with a focus on Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill and Loughside with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course

3.0 Main report

Programme level

- 3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council's £105m leisure programme, which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre opened January 2017. Continues to exceed performance indicators Phase 2 (outdoor space) officially opened at the end of May 2018
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1
Lisnasharragh	Aquatic Centre	£20m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Centre will close and works will begin once Lisnasharragh opens
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Heritage Fund funding secured. Planning secured. Detailed designs being developed
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

Project Updates

Current builds

- 3.2 Works are well underway on the three new builds. All are currently on schedule and are moving towards construction completion. Members are asked to note that each new centre requires a period of commissioning following construction completion – this is to allow for testing of equipment etc. Following this period of commissioning each centre will have a ‘soft opening’ during which the centres will be open to schools, community groups etc. for**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

taster sessions before the centre is officially opened to the public. A summary of the status is outlined below and photos showing ‘the current status of the builds are attached at Appendix 1.

Centre	Construction complete	Opening
Lisnasharragh	Mid October	Soft opening – December Official opening – January 2020*
Brook	End October	Soft opening – December Official opening – January 2020*
Andersonstown	February 2020	Soft opening March Official opening – April 2020*

** All centres will have an official opening – the dates of these are to be agreed and will be brought back to Committee in due course.*

- 3.3 Lisnaharragh-** Tiling to the main pool hall and changing rooms has been completed, the diving board structures have been installed and the flooring to the gym and sports hall is currently being fitted. Externally all utilities connections are in place and the 3G pitch and installation of fencing is almost complete. In addition, the community facility is now completed. The finished centre is due to be handed over to Council in mid-October. Following this there will be a period of approximately 6 weeks of mobilisation during which the centre will be furnished, machines installed, staff trained and systems tested. The centre itself will then undergo a ‘soft opening’ in December where various groups will be invited to use the facility before it formally opens to the public at the start of January 2020. Members will be aware that discussions are ongoing regarding the proposed facilities at the rear of the site and Members will be verbally updated on this at Committee.
- 3.4 Brook-** Tiling to the ground floor is almost complete and the timber floor is being fitted in the sports hall. Third fix M&E is now underway with pool lights now installed. Externally groundworks continue with pathways being formed and 3G pitch carpets laid. The centre is due to be handed over to Council at the end of October. Following mobilisation period of approximately 4 weeks it is then envisaged that the centre will undergo a ‘soft opening’ in early December before opening to the public at the start of January 2020.
- 3.5 Andersonstown-** The slides and tower are now in place and internally the building is continuing to be fitted out with the children’s splash adventure area and surf machine now installed.

The underfloor heating is currently being installed and tiling to the main changing areas has been completed. The building is about to be made watertight which will allow completion of the main pool hall. Externally the 3G pitch is currently well underway. 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.

- 3.6 **Site Visits-** visits to the three new builds have been organised for Members for next Tuesday, 24th September. A bus will leave City Hall at 10am for Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and return at 12.30pm. The bus will then leave for Andersonstown and Brook Leisure Centres at 1.00pm and return to City Hall at approximately 4.30pm. All Members are invited to attend these site visits and are encouraged to take up this opportunity. Further visits can be arranged if these dates do not suit Members and if this is required then Members can contact the Physical Programmes Department.
- 3.7 **Communications-** Members are asked to note that a full communications plan to promote the opening of the three new centres is in place and BCC officers are working closely with GLL to coordinate its delivery. Regular updates on the progress of the builds are being provided on the Council website, Facebook and via social media and are receiving extremely positive feedback. In addition, information stands promoting the centres will be appearing in the Kennedy Centre, Victoria Square, Castle Court, Connswater and Forestside shopping centres over the coming weeks. GLL will also shortly be launching their formal 'pre-sales' offering allowing people to join the new centres prior to opening. An extensive outdoor advertising campaign will also be rolled out across the city.
- 3.8 **Employment-** The opening of the three new 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 Leisure Transformation Programme and feeds directly into the ambitious job creation targets within the Council's Belfast Agenda. To date GLL have recruited all the management posts for the new centres, including General and Duty Managers and are now focusing on some of the more customer facing posts such as Customer Service Staff, Recreation Assistants and Fitness Instructors. Many of these posts will be recruited through the Council's newly established Leisure Academy (see below).
- 3.9 **Social Responsibility – Economic and social benefit clauses -** In line with Council policy our leisure contractor, Heron Brothers, have developed a Social Responsibility Plan which maximises the social, economic and environmental benefits of the contract through focusing on a number of areas including employment,

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

promotion of local businesses and community and social initiatives. Members are asked to note the following key outcomes which have been delivered to date under the Social Responsibility Plan –

- **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. Employment outcomes are principally measured in employment weeks although additional indicators are also being monitored in terms of the number of jobs created, salary levels, duration of employment etc. In regards to the employment opportunities targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive, the Employability & Skills Team have co-designed and delivered a **Construction Employment Academy** targeted at supporting the contractor to fulfil the employment and employments weeks, ensuring optimum outcomes in specific relation to those unemployed, economically inactive, apprentices/trainees and higher-level students. As of September 2019 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 35%.**

	Target	Weeks Delivered	Individuals Recruited
Employment for long-term unemployed or economically inactive	620	700 (up from 489 in Feb 19)	12
Apprentice	620	1435 (up from 1196 in Feb 19)	34
Paid Placement/Work Experience	1100	1040 (up from 746 in Feb 19)	15 (up from 14 in Feb 19)
TOTAL	2340	3175	61

- In addition to the Construction Academy the Council’s Economic Development Unit have recently launched a Leisure Employment Academy to provide support for those out of work or currently working under 16 hours to compete for the 75 new permanent jobs and 100 casual positions that

will be created as part of the current phase of LTP. This Academy will provide participants with job specific skills and the relevant qualifications required to access the employment opportunities identified. GLL have recently been awarded the contract to deliver this training and the academies have been split into a number of different occupational areas as follows:

- Wetside Employment Academy (National Pool Lifeguard NPLQ)
- Wetside Employment Academy (STA Swimming Teachers)
- Dryside Employment Academy (Fitness Instructor)
- Dryside Employment Academy (Customer Service)

The investment per person involved in the Academy will be approximately £1,700 and each successful participant is guaranteed an interview with GLL. It is envisaged that approximately 40-50 permanent and casual posts will be filled through this route. The Academy has been widely publicised through a series of roadshows, radio ads and press articles and will commence delivery in late September.

- 3.10 In addition to this Heron Bros Ltd. have also taken forward a range of other initiatives under their Social Responsibility Plan including promotion of local suppliers and businesses, community initiatives and engagement, sports development and skills and health initiatives. Further details of these are attached at Appendix 2.

Next Phase

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

- 3.11 Avoniel – Members agreed in April 2016, that Avoniel would become a ‘dry’ centre with a focus on outdoor soccer facilities and that Templemore would become the ‘wet’ centre for inner east Belfast. Members will also be aware that a comprehensive consultation and engagement process was held in relation to the development proposals for Avoniel and Templemore between November 2017 and January 2018. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 97% of respondents expressing support for Templemore and 85% expressing support for Avoniel. As part of the planning process for Avoniel a further consultation event was held in Avoniel Leisure Centre on Wednesday 20th March from 3pm - 8pm. This event produced 31 individual responses with 49% expressing support for the project and 32% expressing opposition. There was significant representation at the event from the Avoniel

‘Over 50s’ group with 66% of respondents coming from the 55+ age group. Several clubs also attended the consultation including Glentoran FC, East Belfast FC and two local hockey clubs, all of whom expressed strong support for the plans. The main comment from those opposed to the plans was a request to keep Avoniel open until the redevelopment of Templemore is complete. Members have previously considered and rejected this request, as any deviation from the previously already agreed phasing would have serious financial and contractual implications on the delivery of the Programme. Members had also previously reflected that officers relook at the design and cost implications to see if it would be possible to incorporate a café within the new Avoniel. Members are asked to note that officers have looked at this and given that the facilities mix has been signed off and ‘design freeze’ is in place that the costs of this and the wider impact on the design would be prohibitive within the budget envelope. The development of a café would also compromise the design in that it will require losing one of the two multi-purpose rooms which has been designed in to ensure that the building is as flexible as possible and can deliver a range of activities and classes.

It is planned that works will commence at Avoniel in January 2020. Council officers are working closely with GLL on their demobilisation plans for Avoniel. As agreed, there will be no disruption to the continuity of swim provision in East Belfast and Avoniel will not fully close until Lisnasharragh is fully operational.

- 3.12 Templemore – Following the decision by the ‘Heritage Fund’ (HF) (previously the ‘Heritage Lottery Fund’) to fund the project, officers have been working closely with HF to secure formal ‘Permission to Start’. Planning Permission for the project was granted in June and the formal paperwork has just been received. This completes HF’s requirements and Permission to Start notification is expected before the end of September. The Design Team are now working 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 September with the ITT then going out before Christmas. It is expected that the contractor will be in place by mid-April 2020 and following mobilisation construction will commence in June 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 May 2020.**

Council officers and GLL are 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. These discussions are ongoing and a further update will be brought to

Members in due course. As with previous centres, a full demobilisation plan for Templemore will also be developed in due course.

- 3.13 **Girdwood Phase 2** – Members will be aware that officers have been in discussions with DfC, as the land owners of Girdwood Park, around options for a further leisure development at the Girdwood site. A high-level options paper has been developed by DfC, which outlined 3 options with regard to the facilities mix. These options included (i) Indoor Basketball Arena + community pool, (ii) High performance boxing facility + community pool and, (iii) Specialist Climbing Facility + community pool. These options were presented to a cross-party (political) group in December 2017 and the Girdwood Community Forum in May 2018; no issues or constraints outside of financing and statutory approvals were identified. It is therefore proposed that these options are taken forward for viability assessment. This will involve the engagement of an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) to further test the options and develop concept designs, which will then be subject to consultation. It is important to note that at this stage DfC have not ruled out the potential to explore further options should these emerge during the development process, providing they still reflect the broad objectives for the site as outlined in the options paper. The proposed facilities mix for this facility must also take into account the Council's other facilities across the city (both current and planned), particularly in terms of USPs, usage, catchment area and revenue implications.

Given the Council's capacity and experience with respect to the delivery of leisure facilities, the current governance structures already in place for LTP, and its current £6m commitment to the project, DfC have now formally requested that Council act as the Delivery Agent for this project. DfC have ring-fenced budget to cover the costs of ICT engagement and have requested that Council lead this procurement. The estimated costs for the new indoor sports facility are currently projected at £14m and consideration for DfC to fund the balance of the project (£8m) will be subject to the outcomes of the Business Plan process, budget priorities and availability of Ministerial approvals. A high level timeline for the new Girdwood facility which is indicative only at this stage is - Concept design 2020/21, Planning and detailed design 2021/2022, Construction 2022/2023-2024 (18 months build).

- 3.14 **Other leisure facilities** – Members will be aware that there are a number of other leisure facilities across its estate which have not been part of the Leisure Transformation Programme. A number of these are aging and to ensure that leisure continues to be looked at on a city-wide basis it is proposed that a feasibility study is undertaken on the rest of the leisure estate with a focus on

Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill, Loughside given the age of these facilities. Members are asked to agree that a feasibility is now undertaken with further detail to be brought back to Committee. The costs for this feasibility will be met from the Feasibility Fund.

3.15 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.

Costs for taking forward the feasibility studies for the

Resource- relating to Council acting as Delivery Agent for the designs development stage of Girdwood II using the existing LTP Governance structures

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications.”

During discussion, a Member requested that the Committee consider the erection of dual language signs in English and Irish at the Brook and Andersonstown Centres.

In response to a question, the Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that there would be no additional cost associated with the request as the signs had still to be produced. He also advised the Members that the final recommendation in relation to a feasibility study should also have included the Ozone Centre.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees to the erection of dual language signage, in Irish and English, in the Andersonstown and Brook Centres, subject to an equality screening being undertaken.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the issue of dual language signage be referred in the first instance to the Party Leader’s consultative forum for discussion.

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

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

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

The Committee adopted the remaining recommendations in section 2.1 of the report and agreed that the Ozone Centre be added to the list of Centres for which a feasibility study would be undertaken.

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers over 150 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast Investment Fund, Local Investment Fund, Social Outcomes Fund and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report highlights projects recommended to be move through the approval stages.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

Proposed movement

- **agree that the Boodles Dam abandonment and redevelopment project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that this be held at Pre-Tender Stage pending planning approval and the tender return price at which stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver**

Externally funded programme

- **agree to the request by DFC to administer its Access and Inclusion Capital Programme 2019/20 in the Belfast City Council area.**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Proposed Movements – Capital Programme

Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to agree to the following movement on the Capital Programme

Project	Overview	Stage
Boodles Dam Abandonment and Redevelopment	To safely decommission Boodles Dam and develop the site for amenity use (located at Ligoneil Park – off the Ligoneil Road)	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held at Pre-Tender stage pending tender return

Any project which is being moved from Stage 2 to Stage 3 under the Capital Programme is required as part of the Council three stage approval process to complete an Outline Business Case (OBC).

3.2 Project Update – Boodles Dam

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	19 August 2016
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

Members will be aware that in August 2016 the Committee agreed to move Boodles Dam project to Stage 2- Uncommitted. Members have been previously updated that a Section 10 safety report has set out a recommendation for Boodles Dam to be abandoned due to the risk of a landslip from the landfill and park on the adjacent western slope. The Dam has a heavily populated urban development downstream, and as a result is defined as a Category A reservoir and as such carries requirements for the Council under

the Reservoir Safety Act. The most recent monitoring survey (Ligoniel Park - 2019 Ground Movement Survey) undertaken in July 2019 provides evidence of ongoing movement of the ground uphill of the dam and therefore in order to ensure that the Council complies with its statutory requirements under the Reservoirs Safety Act works to Boodles Dam must now be undertaken.

- 3.3 Members are asked to note that the OBC for the Boodles Dam project has been completed and reviewed internally and found to be consistent with the required abilities (feasibility, affordability, deliverability, sustainability, strategic fit. The proposed scope of the project includes works to address Section 10 Report requirements along with some wider environmental improvements and upgrades including paths, landscaping and new fencing. This ensures the council meets its statutory obligations with respect to the management of reservoirs. In addition it will open up the site up for community use as an amenity.
- 3.4 Members are also asked to note that this project is linked to the Reservoir Safety Programme (currently at Stage 2- Uncommitted project) a city wide initiatives which look at the council's responsibility for the management of reservoirs that retain over 10,000m³ of water above natural ground level. These reservoirs includes the Waterworks Upper and Lower, Alexandra Park and Half Moon Lake. Monitoring of these reservoirs is ongoing in line with our requirements under the Act. Following these monitoring regimes, future works and requirements will be identified and an OBC will be prepared.
- 3.5 In order to comply with its statutory requirements under the Reservoirs Safety Act it is therefore recommended that the Boodles Dam project be moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that this be held at Pre-tender stage pending planning approval and the tender return price. At this stage the final budget will be brought back to the Committee for sign-off and confirmation that is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement process be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
- 3.6 Delivery of externally funded programme – DfC Access and Inclusion

All local councils in NI have been approached again by DfC to request that they administer the DfC Access and Inclusion Capital Programme 2019/20 within their respective local council areas. The Council acted as the lead management partner for the 18/19

Access and Inclusion Fund within Belfast. This programme supports small-scale capital investments up to £30,000 and aims to improve access to arts and cultural activities, including leisure and recreation facilities, by people with disabilities. The Council is eligible to apply for support as well as community groups and arts and cultural venues, where demonstrable need is evidenced. The available budget across the 11 council areas is £500,000. The Belfast programme will be administered by the Place and Economy Dept, in line with the process initiated in 2018/19, with support from the Physical Programmes Dept.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – Boodles Dam abandonment and redevelopment – as above

DFC Access and Inclusion Fund - There is no requirement for match-funding from Council. The funding will be provided by DfC up to a maximum of £30,000 per eligible project. The total available funding across NI is £500,000.

Resources – Officer time to deliver as required

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process

DFC Access and Inclusion Fund – working closely with the Council’s Equality Unit and DfC to ensure positive equality implications which is the central component of the Fund.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

**Belfast City Council Statement
of Accounts 2018/19**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2019.

1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 12/19 dated 29 March 2019.

1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- Agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September 2019.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Audit Opinion

3.1 It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the

Department for Communities directions issued thereunder;
and

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 is consistent with the financial statements.

Reserves

3.2 General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £25,796,988 (of which £12,957,466 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

Opening Balance	£24.4m
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 1.4m</u>
Closing Balance	£25.8m
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£13.0m</u>
Balance Available	<u>£12.8m</u>

3.3 Capital Fund £25,288,151

The Capital Fund is made up of:

- Belfast Investment Fund (£5,559,723) -created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources
- Local Investment Fund (£1,425,280) to fund smaller local regeneration projects
- City Centre Investment Fund (£15,154,012) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans
- Social Outcomes Fund (£3,149,136) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment.

3.4 Leisure Mobilisation Fund £1,441,702

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

3.5 Capital Receipts Reserve £5,200,457

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

3.6 Other Fund Balances and Reserves £1,063,919

This relates to the Election Reserve (£674,607) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£322,667) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£66,645) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

3.7 Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 10 years, reducing from £7.5m at 31 March 2009 to £2.5m at 31 March 2019. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

Table 2 : Analysis of Trade Debtors

	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Less than three months	£2,131,221	£2,859,979
Three to one year	£128,050	£154,081
More than one year	£285,208	£736,633
Total	£2,544,479	£3,750,693

3.8 Creditors

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,520 invoices totalling £163,474,395.

3.9 The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 15 days for the year ended 31 March 2019. The Council paid 39,940 invoices within 10 days, 56,029 invoices within 30 days, and 5,491 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices

as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

3.10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2018/19, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

3.11 The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

None

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the priorities and work in progress to establish the efficiency agenda and associated targets for 2020/21 - 2022/23.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the challenges to be taken into consideration in setting the efficiency programme

- Agree an interim efficiency target of £3m for 2020/21 subject to review as the rates process progresses.
- Note that a further report on progress will be brought to Committee in October/November as part of the Rate Setting timetable.
- Agree the work streams needed to support the efficiency agenda going forward.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Over the past 14 years the Council has delivered over £29m year on year cash efficiency savings. For the 2 year period 2018/19 to 2019/20, Members increased the target from £2m to £3m, the efficiencies to be realised from reductions in spend (£2.5m) and increased income (£0.5m). The potential for securing efficiencies beyond this time frame required transformational change and revised targets would be set in tandem with the priorities of the new Council.

3.2 Current Position

Efficiency targets for 2020/21 and future years have not been finalised. As advised at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 23rd August, a number of factors need to be considered as part of the rate setting process including business as usual risks, existing priorities growth priorities and efficiencies. These can be further considered in terms of uncontrollable and controllable.

Uncontrollable Costs

Employee Related

- 3.3** Employee related costs are one of the major uncontrollable costs faced by the Council. As advised at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 23rd August the National Pay Award and NILGOSC Triennial Valuation will be the key pay pressures. Both are still subject to review.
- 3.4** A Regional Briefing on the Future Pay Settlement was being held by NILGA on 10th September to allow Northern Ireland Councils to consider the Trade Union Side new pay claim for the year commencing 1st April 2020. Negotiations between the Employer side and Trade Unions are ongoing.
- 3.5** The Actuary is currently in the early stages of work for the 2019 NILGOSC valuation. However, NILGOSC have advised that by the

end of September they should be able to provide an estimate of what the Employers' Contribution Rates for the next three years are likely to be. Officers from Finance will be attending a seminar on 9th October and again will report back as part of the rate setting process.

In the interim, for the purposes of medium term financial planning, a 2% pay rise and a 1% increase in pension contribution has been assumed for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

3.6 Other uncontrollable costs

Brexit and the current political climate make it difficult for departments to budget for central government funding streams. CPI is forecast to be between 1.9% - 2.2%. Although inflation may be viewed as an uncontrollable cost, Departments are required to absorb inflationary increases as part of their budget submission for 2020/21. At this stage it has been assumed that there will be no budget increases to support inflationary pressures.

3.7 Waste Plan

Waste related costs are also considered uncontrollable in that contract fluctuations are outside the control of the Council.

A summary of these uncontrollable cost increases is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Summary of Estimated uncontrollable cost increases

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Pay Rise	£1.60m	£1.64m	£1.67m
Pensions	£1.04m	£1.12m	£1.20m
Waste	£0.67m	£1.01m	£1.20m
Total	£3.31m	£3.77m	£4.07m
District Rate Impact	2.03%	2.26%	2.39%

3.8 Controllable Costs

A summary of other financial risks which officers and Members have more influence over are included in Table 2 below:

Table 2

Other Financial Risks

City Deal	In previous years Members have agreed to include rate supported funding to help build the City Deal fund for Belfast.
Belfast Agenda	Cultural Strategy, Inclusive Growth Strategy and Climate Resilience
Existing Capital Programme	As reported to Committee in August 2019, a capital financing deficit of £526k is forecast for the 2021/22 financial year.
Physical Programmes	There is pressure for additional budgetary support in a number of areas including the Leisure, upgrades to parks and pitches, neighbourhood tourism, neighbourhood regeneration, Climate Resilience and Maintenance, etc.

3.9 Departments will submit growth proposals for the above additional cost pressures as part of the rate setting process. These will be scrutinised by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, with approved proposals brought to Committee for their consideration in November.

3.10 **Efficiencies**

As can be seen from the analysis in Table 1, early indications are that extending the previous year level of efficiencies (£3m) to the 2020/21 to 2022/23 would not fully offset the increase in uncontrollable costs. However setting an interim target of £3m for 2020/21, which will be subject to review as further work on priority areas are agreed, will allow most of the uncontrollable costs to be met from this target.

3.11 The Council is committed to ensuring that key priorities will be delivered while at the same minimising the rate burden on ratepayers. Therefore in order to support medium term planning

and the delivery of future efficiencies, a number of workstreams where efficiency opportunities exist are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3

Work Streams 2020/21 to 2022/23

Workstream	Areas for Review
Organisation / Service Redesign / Voluntary Redundancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings generated through employee cost reduction in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workforce Planning Strategy ○ Business Support & HR Reviews ○ Customer Focus ○ Streetscene ○ Smart Cities ○ Review of overtime and agency
Procurement / Spend Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement support to identify efficiency opportunities from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tender / Quotation savings through strategic procurement ○ Demand management and challenge ○ Contract management ○ Category management
Commercialisation / Income Maximisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement support to identify efficiency opportunities from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maximising income from existing commercial activities ○ Securing additional income streams ○ Review of Zoo, Malone House, Belfast Castle ○ Use of assets

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

Rates Maximisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing IRRV reviews of valuation list• SBRI Pilot Project
Budgetary Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of recurring underspends• Reviewing discretionary and non discretionary spend

3.12 A detailed report on this programme will be brought to Committee in October.

3.13 Rate Base

Members will be aware of the non domestic revaluation which will form the basis for the 2020/21 EPP. Officers will work with LPS on the impact for the Council and bring an update to Committee in October. The Acting Director of Valuation will present an overview of the revaluation exercise to Members in October.

3.14 Members will also be aware of the review of business rates. The Director of Rating Policy will make a presentation to Members on 27th September.

Updates on the EPP will be brought to Members as part of the rate setting process.

3.15 Next Steps

Departments will submit their business as usual estimates for 2020/21 with zero increase on 2019/20 estimates by the end of September. They will also submit growth proposals to support the issues identified in Table 2 by the end of September. Departments will undergo a challenge on their budgetary submissions from the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources with approved submissions being brought to Committee for consideration in November.

3.16 Officers will continue to quantify the financial risks in the above areas, their impact on the revenue estimates for 2020/21 and the medium term and develop the efficiency programme to counter the cost pressures. Based on the information available at present, Members are asked to agree an indicative efficiency target for 2020/21 of £3m which will offset to a large extent the uncontrollable costs shown in Table 1. However this will be subject to ongoing review until the outcomes from the Pay Award and Employers' Pension Contributions negotiations are finally agreed.

3.17 Progress in these areas will be reported to Committee in October and November as part of the Rate Setting timetable.

3.18 Financial & Resource Implications

An indicative target of £3m efficiency savings for 2020/21 to be agreed by Committee. Monthly updates on estimates and additional efficiencies will be provided to Members as part of the rate setting process.

3.19 Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Local Full Fibre Networks Procurement

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that the Council applied for and has now been awarded £11.5M from the Department of Culture Media and Sport’s (DCMS) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme. Digital Services has now completed the procurement of gigabit fibre optic network services which will connect and future proof the network connections of 201 Council buildings across the city for the next 35 years.

1.2 This report provides an update on the outcome of the procurement, the potential benefits of a full fibre network for BCC and estimated timescales for delivery.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Approval is sought to enter into a Digital Fixed Line Infrastructure Wayleave Agreement with Virgin Media in respect of the installation of electronic communication apparatus at locations within BCC ownership.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Virgin Media has been awarded the BCC Full Fibre network contract that will connect 201 BCC sites across the city with gigabit fibre optic network connectivity.

The new BCC gigabit fibre network will:

- Meet our network connectivity and digital business requirements for the next 35 years,

- Deliver almost unlimited bandwidth potential of optical fibre,
- Provide a more secure purpose built point-to-point network,
- Open up new possibilities for the underlying fibre infrastructure to:
 - support the development of new 'smart' technology initiatives now and in the future,
 - and enable more efficient delivery of digital services like telephony and CCTV for the Council.

- 3.2 Virgin Media will utilise their existing fibre optic network to provide a fibre solution to Belfast City Council. 80% of the network will be provided through existing infrastructure, significantly reducing potential disruption caused by street works.

The remaining 20% of the network will be new build, meaning that there will be some requirement for street works. Early engagement with the Highways division and Virgin Media's experience in network deployment will hopefully ensure that disruption to communities and businesses is kept to a minimum.

- 3.3 The provision of the new BCC network will provide several additional benefits by:

- Allowing Virgin Media to extend its fibre footprint in Belfast to an increased number of businesses and communities,
- Increasing procurement opportunities for Belfast businesses and consumers for digital connectivity,
- Indirectly leading to:
 - increased investment in Belfast,
 - encouraging economic growth,
 - and creating new job opportunities.

- 3.4 Virgin Media Business' existing network footprint within Belfast ensures that implementation timescales will be much shorter than originally anticipated. It is expected that roll out of the new BCC full fibre network will be completed in under a year, with an estimated timescale for delivery of September 2020.

- 3.5 Successful delivery of the network will require assistance from several Council departments, including:

- Estates and Legal Services
 - Virgin Media are required to enter into a Wayleave Agreement with BCC to record the locations and terms of the installation of electronic communication

apparatus at sites within BCC ownership. The final destinations of the full fibre apparatus are still to be determined, Members are requested to delegate authority to the Estates Manager and Legal Services to agree the locations and terms of the Wayleave Agreement with Virgin Media.

- Facilities for power, asbestos surveys and other internal works
- Relevant departments to provide key holders for building access
- Planning for any required planning permissions
- Financial planning

3.6 The Virgin Media proposal has also come with offers of free internet service provision and access to Virgin Media's Wi-Fi solution for a period of 5 years. These have the potential to either enhance or replace parts of the Belfast Wi-Fi service and deliver significant cost savings.

3.7 **City Centre Broadband Infrastructure**

A second phase of the BCC Local Full Fibre Programme will attempt to improve broadband infrastructure in the City Centre.

3.8 Improvements to the Street Ahead zone within the city centre have resulted in the area receiving very little investment in fibre broadband infrastructure. This is due to the extremely high cost of civil works in this area as a consequence of the cost of replacing very expensive granite footpaths.

3.9 Some publically owned ducting assets that have never been used before are available in the City Centre. It is BCC's ambition to attempt to survey and repair these ducts so that they can be offered out to commercial broadband providers to make investment in fibre infrastructure in the City Centre commercially viable. This could potentially enable businesses in this area to avail of full fibre connectivity at a cost effective price which currently is not possible.

3.10 Digital Services has procured a contractor to conduct a survey of the ducting infrastructure. Survey work started in late November 2018 but could not be fully completed due to the impact of the Primark fire which sits over some of the ducting infrastructure. It is hoped that the survey can be completed in the next few months to allow planning to begin around how these ducts can be made available to the telecoms marketplace.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

A delivery team has already been established within Digital Services to oversee the implementation of both strands of the BCC LFFN programme outlined above.

3.12 BCC will contribute the support and maintenance costs of £450,000 over the lifetime of the project funded from revenue savings released by ceasing the network links that are currently in operation across the Council's ICT network.

3.13 These savings will also allow the Council to employ an additional network engineer in Digital Services who will be needed to support a more complex and diverse network infrastructure.

3.14 The cost to implement the scheme in its entirety is £9.6million.

- BCC has been awarded £8M from DCMS to cover the capital costs of both strands of the LFFN programme
- The overall contribution to the scheme from the Council is £1.6million in staff and revenue costs which represents 16% of the BCC LFFN programme costs.
- Existing Revenue spend for our current network services will now be used to support the LFFN programme meaning that there will be no revenue growth.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None."

The Committee granted approval to enter into a Digital Fixed Line Infrastructure Wayleave Agreement with Virgin Media in respect of the installation of electronic communication apparatus at locations within Belfast City Council's ownership.

Commercial and Procurement Services Update

The Committee noted the activities detailed in the report which had been undertaken to establish the Council's new Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) function.

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director to award the most economically advantageous tender using pre-agreed criteria;

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

- Agreed to accede to Standing Order 55 exceptions in relation to contracts detailed in Appendix 1 Table 2;
- Noted the contracts awarded from June to August 2019 inclusive as detailed in Appendix 1 Table 3; and
- Noted that it had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts.

Appendix 1 –

**Schedule of Tenders and Contracts Awarded
for Consideration/ Notation**

Table 1 - New Tenders

Title of Tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for collection and recycling of scrap metal including abandoned vehicles	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Tender for the Supply of Electric Panel Vans	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year
Tender for the Supply of Diesel Panel Vans	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year
Tender for the supply and delivery of protective gloves	John Walsh	Up to 3 years
Tender for the provision of the Bobbin coffee shop franchise	John Walsh	Up to 3 years
Tender for the catering provision at City Hall functions	John Walsh	Up to 3 years

Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Title of tender	Supplier	Annual estimate
Giraffe Stock at Belfast Zoo	J&G Fencing	£65,000
Continuity of service of arboriculture services	Clive Richardson Ltd	£700,000

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

Table 3 – Contracts Awarded (June to August 2019)

Title of tender	Successful Supplier	Senior Responsible Officer
T1963 – Delivery of a New Social Enterprise and Cooperative Programme	Work West 301 Glen Road	Alistair Reid
T1953 – Provision of an Employee Counselling Service	Apheideo Associates Regus Business Centre, Forsyth House Cromac Street Belfast BT2 8LA	John Tully
T1954 – Provision of Occupational Health Physician Services	OHRD Ltd Princes House, 44-46 Princes Street Belfast BT1 3FP	John Tully
T1966 – Delivery of a New GCSE Maths and English Revision Support Programme	West Belfast Partnership Board 218-226 Falls Road Belfast BT12 6AH	Alistair Reid
T1979 – Proposals for a Creative Lighting Programme for Christmas 2019	Galaxy Facilities Management Ltd 148 Glen Road Drumquin, Omagh BT78 4RD	Alistair Reid
T1961 – Delivery of a New Student Enterprise Programme	Deidre Fitzpatrick & Associates 64 Garland Hill Belfast BT8 6YL	John Geer
T1916 – Tender for Provision of an Asset Management System	Concerto Support Services Floor 1 & 2 Main Street Frodsham Cheshire WA16 7AB	Alistair Reid
T1922 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Grounds Maintenance Plant and Equipment (17 Lots)	Mr Andrew Ferguson Broderick Grass Machinery NI Ltd 33A Commercial Way Mallusk BT36 4UB Mr David Laird Laird Grass Machinery Ltd 275A Middle Road Islandmagee BT40 3TG Mr Harry Gillespie	Nigel Grimshaw

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

	<p>Cyril Johnston & Co Ltd Ballynahinch Road Belfast BT8 8DJ</p> <p>Mr Richard Neill Johnston Gilpin & Co Ltd 7b Lisnoe Road Lisburn BT27 5LT</p> <p>Mr Andy Magowan TBF Thompson (Garvagh) Ltd 6-10 Killyvalley Road Garvagh BT51 5JZ</p>	
T2002 - Tender for the supply of 8 x Loose Waste Collection Vehicles	<p>NI Trucks Ltd 3 Mallusk Road Newtownabbey BT36 4PP</p>	Nigel Grimshaw
T1910 - Tender for the provision of metal fabrication and welding services under general fleet maintenance (multi lot)	<p>Lakeland Recovery 12 Kinglass Road Macken Enniskillen Co Fermanagh BT92 3FJ</p> <p>R.D. Mechanical Services Ltd. Unit 11, McKinney Industrial Estate Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT36 4PX</p>	Nigel Grimshaw

Update for Bobbin Catering Tender

The Committee was reminded that the contract for the Bobbin was due to be re-let following the decision of the Committee on 25th January 2019. At that meeting, the City Solicitor had indicated that he was exploring opportunities to increase revenue whilst enhancing the customer experience at the City Hall. Accordingly, approval was being sought for the inclusion of an outdoor self-contained catering unit in the Bobbin tender to offer small scale catering in the grounds of the City Hall. The unit would be present during events and busy months of footfall in the grounds (the dates to be pre-agreed with the franchisee and Function Management Unit but not including the annual Christmas and Spring Continental Market). The unit would be a welcome addition to the grounds for tourists and locals to avail of tea, coffee and traybakes whilst enjoying the grounds environment. This self-contained unit

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

would 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 Committee approved the recommendation in respect of a self-contained catering/coffee unit in the grounds of the City Hall to be included in the Bobbin tender and noted that the decision at this time was an in principle one and further authority would be sought with further details on the siting, scale and appearance of the unit and operating principles at a later date.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes held on 9th September 2019 including:

- to note the contents of the 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme report, and include the findings and recommendations within the independent monitoring and evaluation report in any deliberations regarding a framework for an approach to bonfires.
- to agree to the rescheduling of the Building Positive Relations 4 (BPR4) Belfast and the World study visit to March 2020.
- that subject to the Legal Services Section confirming that the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, in conjunction with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and other relevant legislation and policies, was fit for purpose, there was no requirement to adopt a separate definition in this instance, as sufficient protection was afforded to all citizens including those who were Jewish.
- that the Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership would meet with Mr. S. Jaffe, in response to his request.
- in principle, to allocate support costs to assist with storage for donations relating to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, including £300 this financial year and £300 the following financial year, subject to the DfC advising why it was unable to cover the costs.
- that funding of up to £5,000 be made available for contributions of up to £500 for a maximum of ten groups to deliver the Goodwill Christmas events at interfaces across the City, with authority given to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to allocate funding awards;
- that a contribution of up to £2,000 from the Good Relations budget be made available to the TASCIT group to develop a programme of Good Relations activity for the proposed Upper North Belfast Confidence Building Forum; and
- that the Shared City Partnership would support the ongoing work of TASCIT, through providing facilitated conversations with members and Council staff, and the provision of a room and small scale hospitality as outlined.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

Rural Needs: Annual Monitoring Report 2018-19

The Committee was advised that the Council had a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The rural population of Belfast was approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.

The requirement to monitor and report applied to all Northern Ireland Departments and District Councils from 1st June, 2017. The Council was required under Section 3(1) of the Act to:

- compile information on the exercise of its functions under Section 1(1) of the Act;
- include that information in their annual report; and
- send that information to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return.

The Committee approved the Council's Annual Monitoring Return to DAERA for 2018-19, on a holding basis, subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.

Operational Issues

ONUS Annual Awards Ceremony 2019

The Committee was advised that Onus was a social enterprise organisation offering best practice advice and specialist training on domestic violence and abuse for employers and their staff. The Council had participated in the Onus Workplace Charter since 2013 and last year had been presented with the Platinum Award (the highest award available). The award involved an annual assessment process to ensure that best practice was sustained.

The annual award ceremonies are hosted by participating organisations, in most instances other councils, with last year's event being hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. At the meeting of the Committee in June, it had agreed to a request from Onus for the use of the City Hall for this year's award ceremony taking place on 19th November, 2019 and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits. Since that Committee approval, Onus had requested the additional provision of a light finger buffet and it was the understanding that such hospitality had been provided at previous awards ceremonies by the host organisation.

The Committee agreed the provision of additional hospitality at the Onus 10th Annual Awards Ceremony on 19th November.

**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 6th September, 2019, as set out in the undernoted appendix:.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Eastside Partnership	11 October 2019	Launch of Eastside Greenways – strategic Plan to build on Connswater Community Greenway to develop links and networks. Numbers attending – 50	B & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Department for Communities	24 October 2019	NI Civil Service Recognition Awards – celebrate the achievements of individuals, team and projects. Numbers attending – 250	C	Charge £300	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Du Dance	1 December 2019	Youth Engagement showcase – young people from Belfast, Dungannon and Ballymoney work together in workshops and a performance of Dance for parents. Numbers attending – 60	C	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	Approve 1 in 3 No Charge No hospitality
Translink	4 December 2019	Long Service Awards – celebrate of employees who have attained 35 years or more service with awards and dinner reception.	C	Charge £300	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers attending – 90				
2020 EVENTS						
Boys Brigade	9 April 2020	Queens Badge Celebration – celebration event to present young people with their Queen's Badge Award, the highest award within the Boy's Brigade. Numbers attending – 450 maximum	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Irish League of Credit Unions	24 April 2020	Irish League of Credit Unions 60th Anniversary Conference Reception – welcome reception to celebrate 60 th anniversary of organization, linked to conference taking place in ICC. Numbers attending – 250 – 300	A, B & C	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast and celebrating significant anniversary)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
BACCN NI	13 May 2020	All Ireland Critical Care Pre-Conference Dinner– Welcome reception and dinner as part of 2 day conference taking place in Assembly Buildings.	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers attending – 100				
Accelerate	10 June 2020	Conference Dinner – Welcome reception and dinner as part of 5 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences	2 September 2020	Welcome Reception - Welcome reception as part of 3 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
BSPED	12 November 2020	Bioscientifica Conference Dinner – Welcome reception and dinner as part of 3 day conference taking place at the ICC. Numbers attending – 120	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

Requests for use of the Council Chamber

The Committee was advised that two requests had been received for the use of the Council Chamber.

The first was from the British Council for the use of the Chamber on 11th February, 2020 for its Mock Council of the European Union. The event would be two debates for school children, aged 16-18 years and this annual event had been running for fourteen years.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

The British Council had also requested the use of the Banqueting Hall for lunch for the students. If the Committee was minded to approve the application, then there would be no charge applied for the use of the Banqueting Hall due to the charitable nature of the organisation and this function would meet the criteria for the Use of the City Hall as agreed previously by the Committee.

In addition, a request had been received from the Queen's University Belfast Student Union for the use of the Council Chamber on 4th February, 2020 for its monthly meeting. The Student Union Council was made up of local and international students and the event would be tabled motions and exact topics to be debated and would be provided to the Function Management Unit two weeks prior to the event for approval.

The Committee approved the application by the British Council and the application from Queen's University Student Union for the use of the Council Chamber and to the use of the Banqueting Hall for lunch by the British Council.

Report of Audit and Risk Panel and Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 10th September, 2019.

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 12th September, 2019.

Minutes of Active Belfast Limited Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 9th September, 2019; and agreed to utilise the mobilisation fund to offer those of an age 16 and under and 5 and over a membership card for leisure facilities free of charge.

Minutes of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis

Prior to consideration of the minutes, the City Solicitor drew the Members' attention to the decision under the heading "Sustainable NI Working Group" agreeing that it be represented on the Working Group by Councillors Smyth and Ferguson.

He pointed out that the Council made appointments to outside bodies based on proportionality using the Saint Lague System and that this had been done at the June meeting of the Committee.

However, the Committee also agreed a process to deal with any additional requests from outside bodies for Council representation during the Council term, in that the Party or Parties who would have had the next available choice(s) under the Saint Lague table would be asked to nominate a representative(s).

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

The nominations to that Working Group fell under this policy and therefore the two places should be offered in the first instance to the Parties who had the next two choices, namely Sinn Féin and the Green Party.

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis of 16th September.

Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

Following SP&R discussion in August, to consider next steps towards declaring a Climate Emergency.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That SP&R considers the actions which should be undertaken in advance of Belfast being in a position to declare a Climate Emergency.

2.2 To consider the recommendation of the All-Party Group on the Climate Crisis that Council should immediately declare a Climate Emergency.

3.0 Main report / key issues

3.1 The August meeting of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed to refer a previous motion to declare a climate emergency to the All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis. The Committee also agreed that a report be submitted to its monthly meeting in September, setting out proposed actions to be undertaken in advance of Belfast being in a position to declare a Climate Emergency, with the aim of that being before the end of 2019.

3.2 On 16th September, the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis met, and discussed its programme of work and the steps it will take in the coming months to better understand the scale and nature of climate risks for Belfast. It agreed that it would work to produce a substantive report to SP&R by December, which would set out with as much detail as possible a programme of work on climate resilience.

3.3 The December report will be informed by the following:

- Conclusion of the ‘Mini Stern’ – an economic analysis of CO2 reductions for the city

- Conclusion of a high level risk assessment of the city’s infrastructure and the impact of various climate related scenarios
 - Ongoing learning from cities such as Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow in developing a methodology for assessment of climate risks and a mitigation and adaptation strategy
 - An appraisal of the costs associated with developing a climate adaptation and mitigation plan as part of the annual estimates process
- 3.4 This work has been commissioned as part of the ongoing development of the city’s Resilience Strategy.
- 3.5 The All Party Working Group also discussed the matter of whether it should recommend to SP&R to declare a Climate Emergency as soon as possible. It recognised that there is merit in waiting to conclude the work outlined above. However, in the context of a range of recent national and global reports that point to clear and persistent risks to the city arising from climate change, the Working Group felt it should reflect the urgency of the climate crisis, and as other local councils have done, should declare a climate emergency forthwith.
- 3.5 The Working Group reiterated its commitment to undertake the actions outlined in 3.3
- 3.7 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- There are no financial and resource implications at this time. The final report presented in December will include indicative costings as described above.
- 3.8 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**
- There are no Equality or Good Relations/ Rural Needs Assessment implications at this point.”

The Committee approved the recommendation of the All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis that the Council should immediately declare a Climate Emergency.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Shared Future Proofing decisions - Councillor McAllister

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McAllister raised the issue of shared future proofing decisions.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the matter be referred in the first instance to the Party Group Leaders’ Consultative Forum.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 20th September, 2019**

Single Use Items

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Committee was advised Councillor McReynolds had proposed the following:

“This Council recognises the significant detrimental effect that single use items have in Belfast; calls for the creation of an internal strategy to do away with single use item usage; and, agrees to review our internal waste policies alongside supporting any resulting recommendations with appropriate funding and necessary resources.”

The Committee agreed that a report on single use items be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 10th September, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Collins (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
Alderman McCoubrey; and
Councillors D. Baker, Black, Bunting,
Cobain, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, M. Kelly,
Kyle, Magee, McLaughlin, Newton,
Smyth and Verner.

Also Attended: Councillor Nicholl.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors McMullan and Mulholland.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th August were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the report associated with the following two 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 on the following two items as, due to their nature, 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.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

Fossil Fuels

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 6th August, it had considered an item in relation to fossil fuel extraction planning applications.

The Committee noted the legal advice which had been provided by the City Solicitor, where he had outlined that the Council could not adopt a policy in relation to planning applications as proposed as the Planning Committee had a duty to consider each application on its own merits, against the relevant planning policies and legislation.

In response to a request from a Member, it was agreed that the Operational Director would consult with the City Solicitor and the Director of Planning and Building Control to provide the Member with further information regarding the Council's approach towards the use of fossil fuels and towards carbon reduction within the Local Development Plan, as well as giving consideration to what other Councils were doing in relation to the issues raised.

Request for use of Council Facilities

The Committee was provided with the details of four requests which had been received for the use of the Council's Parks.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Committee that approval was sought for the events on the basis that the event organisers would:

- resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and
- consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of a request for "Boucher Road – Music Festival" for one month to allow further information to be provided.

The Committee granted approval for the use of the below Parks for the following events, in accordance with the details in the report:

- The Falls Park - Draíocht Children's Festival;
- Alexandra Park – North Belfast Magical Festival and Lantern Parade; and
- Boucher Road Playing Fields – Planet Fun

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

**Homelessness Status - Response from
Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

The Committee noted that a response had been received from the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Mr. C. Bailie, in response to a motion which the Council had passed on 1st July in relation to Homelessness.

The Committee noted the response and that a representative from the NIHE would be attending the Special Housing Meeting on 16th September, and that Homelessness would be added to the agenda, subject to the relevant NIHE officers being available to attend.

The Chairperson explained that he had received a request from the Practice and the Participation of Rights (PPR Project), who wished to present to the Committee on the #FDANoDelay campaign at a future meeting.

The Committee agreed that the PPR Project be invited to present to a future meeting.

Motion - Rewilding our Wards

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Canavan, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“We commend this Council for the work and projects it undertakes across the city to enhance biodiversity and increase environmental protection.

Rewilding spaces in the heart of our communities not only enhances and adds to the good work already undertaken to protect the environment; but also confirms our commitment as a Council to challenge the climate emergency we have already recognised is upon us.

We call on this Council in each of our city’s 60 electoral wards to rewild, as a minimum, 1 extra space each year outside of what is already planned or programmed.

We further call on this Council to promote this initiative and working alongside members in each ward to identify achievable and appropriate sites, where working with the community we create rewilded spaces that local communities can feel part of challenging climate change.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to adopt the motion;
2. that it should be considered in conjunction with the previously agreed motion regarding the “Greening of derelict sites”;

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

3. that it should be considered in conjunction with the ongoing work of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis; and
4. that a report on the issues raised would be submitted to a future meeting.

Motion - Play Facilities for Children with Disabilities

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Alderman McCoubrey and seconded by Councillor Smyth, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council recognises the need to improve play facilities for those children with disabilities, and undertakes to engage with those in the sector who can best advise on making play facilities more accessible.

An audit should be undertaken of current facilities across the city and opportunities for disability improvements identified, work to be completed through the course of the current council term.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to adopt the motion;
2. that the audit should include consultation with the parents of, and the children and young people with disabilities; and
3. that consideration be given to children with sensory disabilities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), as well as to those with physical disabilities.

Motion - Desecration of Graves

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Alderman Rodgers, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“That this Council:

Notes with grave concern and mounting anger the recent desecration of graves within Belfast City Cemetery, and resolves to renew and redouble its efforts to upgrade the facilities at the cemetery and to work with other partner agencies to ensure that such wanton rampage of destruction is never repeated, and that those responsible are brought before the courts.

This facility is for everyone, and we as a Council need to look after the needs of all the communities who are buried, visit and are bereaved.”

During discussion, a Member stated that the upcoming Heritage Lottery Funding would be a major boost for the Cemetery and that work was ongoing to tackle the antisocial behaviour in the Cemetery.

The Committee adopted the motion.

**Motion - Citywide Multi-Agency Task Force on
Mental Health and Suicide**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor D. Baker and seconded by Councillor Magennis, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes with serious concern the growing number of people who have taken their own life over recent times and extends its deepest sympathy to all those effected. We call on the Lord Mayor to convene a citywide multi-agency task force to respond to the serious concerns regarding mental health and suicide in our City.

The task force, using all their collective resources, should map out an action plan of front facing initiatives such as the successful Multi agency ‘road safe road show’ to engage schools, youth organisations, businesses and citizens on our response to resilience, emotional well-being and positive mental health.

This Council needs to use every partner, every power and every strategy at its disposal to reach out to our citizens, let them know we care and we are there for them and that is ok not to be ok.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

Motion - Climate Strikes

The Committee was reminded that the Council agreed, at its meeting on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Matt Collins, seconded by Councillor Smyth:

“This Council notes the global call made by young people, workers, environmental organisations and concerned citizens to mobilise “climate strikes”, beginning on 20th September, 2019.

The Council wishes to see a transition to the end of fossil fuels and the implementation of urgent action to avoid climate breakdown and catastrophe.

Belfast City Council supports the climate strikes taking place in this city on 20th September, and pledges to help publicise, facilitate and lend practical support to climate activists taking to the streets on this historic day.”

At that meeting, the Council further agreed to the addition of the following paragraph, which was proposed by Councillor D. Baker, which would be referred to the People and Communities Committee for its consideration:

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

“This Council aims to be a leader on tackling climate change and, therefore, will carry out a scoping exercise to identify both Council and public land which would be suited towards the planting of trees and reforestation of our City and furthermore commits to making our own Council fleet carbon neutral by 2030, which is in line with our statutory agencies’ ambitions.”

The Committee agreed:

1. to adopt the additional paragraph of the motion;
2. noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the ongoing and planned reinvestment in the Council’s fleet; and
3. noted that, in relation to the Climate Strikes taking place on 20th September 2019, Corporate Communications and Human Resources would be issuing advice to Council staff.

Motion – Community Impact of Needle Finds

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 2nd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor Donnelly, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes with alarm the increased volume of needles found on streets in inner city surrounding communities, both used and otherwise. The safety ramifications for families who reside in such areas are extensive and obvious.

This Council has a duty of care to the citizens of Belfast including assisting them in fulfilling their ambitions and striving towards the goals of the Belfast Agenda.

Urban inner city surrounding communities are lived in neighbourhoods, not fully part of the City Centre but neither are they suburbs. Such localities face problems associated to air pollution, high volumes of commuter car parking, dense housing developments, fractured infrastructure and historical failings associated to place and space planning.

One contemporary impact of such failings resides in limited usable green and natural safe play sites.

The evidenced needle finds across urban inner city surrounding communities are ordinarily in sites of overgrown shrubbery, vacant green sites, beside hedge rows and alongside well used play and walking areas.

This Council cannot and should not accept increased street needle finds as a natural and inevitable consequence of a growing City. Such an acceptance is a direct contradiction to the aims and visions of the Belfast Agenda. This neither supports those at risk of addiction or resident families.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

Whilst we recognise the massive value of the work undertaken by the Council's Community Safety structures and the Sharp Removal Programme, this motion seeks a report focused on the immediate areas surrounding the city centre in the contemporary context, detailing the volume of finds, associated costs of removal, correlations if and where they exist, site contexts and recommendations moving forward based on good practice elsewhere."

The Committee agreed:

1. to adopt the motion; and
2. that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the issues raised, including details of any action that the Department of Health was taking in relation to diversionary services for drug misuse.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Pre consultation to seek views on the successor strategy to the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2

The Committee was advised that the Department of Health had agreed to the Committee's request to extend the pre-consultation period on the successor strategy to the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2.

The Committee considered the Council's draft response to the consultation document which was available [here](#).

At the request of a Member, the Committee agreed that the following comments be submitted in relation to the consultation document itself:

- that it was misleading to say that drug misuse amongst young people had fallen significantly – this was based on unreliable statistics as they themselves admitted, as the question changed in 2016. It may have fallen for Queen's, but it had not within East Belfast;
- the document was somewhat complacent – it stated that the majority of the 141 outcomes were on track for achievement, however, this was misleading. There was increased public concern, increased drug and alcohol related deaths, increased admissions for alcohol related conditions, and increased instances of Hepatitis B and HIV.

The Committee also agreed, at the request of the Member, to the following amendments to the Council's consultation response:

- that the Member was absolutely opposed to the legal reclassification of drugs (answer 14);

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

- that the Portuguese model in relation to Drug-use was widely misrepresented – it did not produce the abundant outcomes which were often reported. (The Portuguese system was about decriminalisation, not legalisation, and that they were very different things);
- there was extensive evidence that Minimum Unit Pricing had been the most effective way of targeting alcoholism;
- that an update needed to be sought on the Crisis De-Escalation Centres;
- that there should be street-level, walk-in clinics to provide immediate help for those with drug addictions; and
- that referral pathways for medical professionals were unclear and that they should be much more easily accessible.

Council Response to Draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council recently received an invitation from the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), to participate in the consultation on the draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Full details of the consultation are available at the following link [Consultation: Draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021](#) Members should note that although the consultation closed on 30 August 2019, Council has been granted an extension to this date, to allow members to consider and agree the Council's response.
- 1.3 The aim of the consultation is to seek views on what the CYCSP should be addressing to improve outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to:
 - inform Members of the CYCSP consultation exercise; and
 - seek approval of the proposed consultation response from Council, which is attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.5 Subject to approval by this Committee, it is proposed that a final consultation response is submitted to the CYPSP, with the proviso that, the response is subject to full Council approval at its meeting on 1 October 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Consider the proposed consultation response to the draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan and endorse the response to the CYPSP.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The CYPSP is a multiagency strategic partnership, comprising senior leaders from all key agencies across statutory, voluntary and community sectors that have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in NI.**
- 3.2 The CYPSP has been developed and supported by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to support the Children's Services Planning process.**
- 3.3 The draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2021 is the third CYPSP Children and Young People's Plan. The initial CYPSP plan covered the period 2011-2014, the second plan covered the period 2014-2017 following which it was reviewed and extended annually, to cover the period up to March 2019.**
- 3.4 In line with the Children's Services Planning Guidance the CYPSP had agreed to move its planning cycle to align with the Programme for Government (PfG) and Comprehensive Spending Review.**
- 3.5 The Children (1995 Order) (Amendment) (Children's Services Planning) Order (Northern Ireland) 1998 allows for either a modification of an existing plan (2(b)(i)) or a new plan (2(b)(ii)). This is a new plan and it is intended to sit within the context of the Programme for Government, the new Children and Young People's Strategy and refreshed Families Matter.**
- 3.6 The overall work of the CYPSP is encapsulated in this plan and the supporting plans produced by the Outcomes, Locality and Regional Planning Groups. Full versions of these plans are all available on the CYPSP website (www.cypsp.org).**
- 3.7 The draft consultation response is attached at Appendix 2 for Members' consideration.**

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated in responding to the consultation.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications in responding to the consultation.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 1 Finance Report 2019/20

(Ms. J. Wilson, Business Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Business Manager summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 1 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. She explained that the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed an under-spend of 329k (1.5%), with the forecast year-end position being an over-spend of £206k (0.25%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee was advised that the reasons for the Quarter 1 underspend were due to vacant posts across a number of services, the receipt of additional income and the timing of grants and programmes.

The Committee noted the contents of the Quarter 1 financial update.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

Partner Agreements Update

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and he then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for April – June 2019.

He advised that regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance had been undertaken and that all sites had been fully compliant.

The Director reminded the Committee that funding of up to £20,000 per annum was available for each partner for the delivery of a programme (supporting the Sports Development Plan). He reported that letters of offer had been sent to all partners based on approved sports development plans in the current financial year and added that full payments had been made to all Partners in this Quarter.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

He explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and he advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. He drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners up to the end of June 2019.

The Members were advised that the Rosario Football Club committee was finalising its proposal for a revised management model based on a long term lease of Ulidia Playing Field and that it intended to submit it to the Council for consideration within the next few months.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**IFA Intermediate Football League Restructuring
and Ground Criteria**

The Committee considered a detailed report on proposals from the Irish Football Association (IFA) in relation to restructuring Intermediate League Football in Northern Ireland and associated changes to pitch criteria.

During discussion, a number of Members expressed concerns with the proposals, particularly given the potential cost implications and queried whether the IFA had consulted with local football clubs.

The Committee agreed to invite the IFA to a future Special meeting, to discuss its proposals to restructure Intermediate League Football in Northern Ireland, including the potential impacts for the Council and clubs, and particularly whether an equality impact assessment had been carried out on the proposals.

Operational Issues

**Proposal for naming new streets and the
continuation of an existing street**

The Committee agreed to the naming of Hazel Heights, off Hazel Drive, BT17, and to the proposed continuation of an existing street, namely Mill Valley Way, off Mill Valley Road, BT14.

**Recent Government consultations on New Model Licence Conditions
for Caravan Sites and Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in NI**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of two recent consultations, the first issued by the Department for Communities (DfC), 'Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in Northern Ireland' (Appendix 1) and the second issued by the**

Department for Infrastructure (DfI), 'New Model Licence Conditions for Caravan Sites' (Appendix 2). Both responses were due by 30th July 2019. At present there are no licensed caravan sites in Belfast but there is potential for applications to be made in the future and both consultations impact on Traveller sites.

- 1.2 This consultation is timely considering the publication of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission report (NIHRC) 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers' Accommodation in NI' published in March 2018. The report recommended that the Department for Infrastructure review the legal and policy framework concerning site licences, including the development of a model site licence setting out the minimum standard of provision and safety requirements for each type of Travellers site in NI and including with enforcement powers for any breach.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to

- Note the key comments from Belfast City Council highlighted in both consultation responses.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues:

- 3.1 The Department for Infrastructure has taken the opportunity to amalgamate the current Model Licence Conditions for holiday caravan sites as well as residential caravans into one document, in an attempt to create greater clarity and ease of reference for all.

These model conditions will replace the existing model conditions which were introduced in 1994.

- 3.2 The updating of the existing design guide for Traveller' sites by DfC is also timely given that the existing design guide was issued in 1997. However, concerns have been raised regarding the compatibility of the new design guide with other publications.
- 3.3 Council officers were involved in a working group organised by NILGA and had an opportunity to inform the response to both consultations.

Department for Communities consultation on a Design Guide for Travellers' Sites in NI

- 3.4 The response highlighted the importance of collaborative working between the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that policy and enforcement is consistent for Traveller accommodation.
- 3.5 The response seeks clarification regarding the implementation schedule of these proposals, particularly for existing sites and whether the design guide is statutory guidance or a best practice document and how it would be viewed by authorities such as the Planning Appeals Commission.
- 3.6 It was suggested in the response that there needs to be consistency between the DFC draft Design Guide and the DFI draft Model Licence Conditions, particularly in respect of the three different types of sites outlined in the Design Guide.
- 3.7 In the response, it has also been requested that the Fire Safety requirements be examined as a priority, given that they are inconsistent with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Fire Safety Guide for Caravan Site Operators (Appendix 3).
- 3.8 Some inconsistencies were noted between the 2 documents for location of sites on areas prone to flooding, road widths, distance between caravans, garage shed provision and storage space.
- 3.9 References in the consultation to the Travelling Communities culture of, working activity on the sites, are welcomed, however the design guide appears to discourage working from sites therefore this issue requires clarification from the Department. There is also a reference to water metering which requires clarification from the Department.

Department for Infrastructure consultation on New Model Licence Conditions for Caravan Sites:

- 3.10 In the consultation, the Department for Infrastructure states that the new conditions should be considered when:
- Applying licence conditions to new sites
 - Applying license conditions to sites that have been substantially redeveloped
 - Renewal or review of a current licence

- 3.11 Belfast City Council does not currently have any licensed caravan sites so these conditions would only apply to any new applications.
- 3.12 The Department requests that Councils should also consider Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Fire Safety Guide for Caravan Site Operators (Appendix 3) and the Department for Communities (DFC) Guide for Travellers when applying conditions on a site licence. NILGA has requested greater clarity as to the relationships between the 3 documents to enable Councils to apply them appropriately.
- 3.13 Greater clarity from DFI and DFC is required in relation to the implementation time and the statutory significance of these conditions for Council licensing and planning officers.
- 3.14 In relation to Travellers sites, it has been suggested that there should be a separate section of the model licence condition to adequately and appropriately cover the three types of travellers' sites (Serviced Site, Transit Site and Emergency Halting Site) given the specific needs and culturally sensitive accommodation required for travellers' sites. The proposed model conditions do not adequately address these issues and e.g.: communal buildings, individual/private amenities, space for work and animals etc.
- 3.15 The absence of disabled person's condition has been noted. Clarification of equality screening or equality impact assessment findings would need to be provided.
- 3.16 There is reference to Council's undertaking risk assessment in relation to legal proceedings. It has been requested that reference must be made to Council's enforcement policies.
- 3.17 Copies of the response made by NILGA are attached in Appendix 4 and 5 for information.
- 3.18 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- There are no financial implications associated with the report
- 3.19 **Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment**
- There are no equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report for Belfast City Council."

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

A Member requested that the Council's response be sent to the Belfast Inter-Agency Forum on Travellers for its reference.

The Committee:

1. noted and endorsed the key comments from Belfast City Council highlighted in both consultation responses; and
2. agreed that a copy of the Council's response would be sent to the Belfast Inter-Agency Forum on Travellers.

Request for the hire of Botanic Gardens for a series of music events

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members are reminded that on 4th June 2019 a formal request was received by Aiken Promotions to host a series of music events during the month of June in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in Botanic Gardens

1.2 Members agreed to defer a decision and await a report concerning the music events in Botanic Gardens in June 2019.

1.3 Members received a report on 6th August 2019 concerning the recent music events held in June 2019 in Botanic Gardens. Members agreed to defer a decision and requested confirmation concerning a number of issues;

- **Impact of underage drinking**
- **Social clauses in License Agreements to support youth services**
- **Charges for use of Council Services to Promoters during music events.**
- **Option of reviewing 3 year contract on an annual basis.**

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Grant authority to Aiken Promotion request:

- **for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022; and**
- **to include set up and take down.**

2. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:

- the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- the promoter meets all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence

To address concerns raised by Members, Officers will ensure that the license agreement includes clauses that requires the promoter to;

- Consider the genre of music as suitable for the urban environment.
- Provide a plan which seeks to address and provides adequate welfare support, including links with other service providers, to deal with any potential underage drinking, should this be relevant to the event.

The licence agreement will also include a review clause which allows for consideration of any issues both during the event and prior to any authorisation for the future year.

3. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy.

Key Issues

3.1 In November 2018 this committee approved five music events in Botanic Gardens over the period 21st-28th June 2019, hosted by Aiken Promotions. This was subject to

- the promoter resolving all operational issues to the satisfaction of the Council,
- an appropriate legal agreement was put in place between the Council and the promoter and,
- the promoter met all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms & conditions of the Parks Entertainment licence.

- 3.2 All of the above were completed to the satisfaction of the Council and the promoter complied with all aspects of the legal agreement and the Entertainment licence.
- 3.3 Approximately 20,000 people attended Botanic Gardens over the five days. There were six noise complaints received in total before, during and after; one pre-event enquiry.
- 3.4 Only one complaint relating to music noise levels was received on the first day during sound checking. Officers monitored levels at front of house and spot checks were carried out at locations close to the venue. The noise conditions included in the licence agreement were adhered to throughout the event.
- 3.5 There was one corporate complaint regarding closure of the park during preparation for the music event.
- 3.6 The complaint was responded to by email and after satisfactory resolution the case is now closed.
- 3.7 Social media feedback suggested there was concern from regular users of the Botanic Gardens in relation to the Gardens being closed for set up during each event, the number of events and the timeframe of engagement.
- 3.8 A public meeting was held on 28th May 2019 in which the Promoters met with various residential community groups to provide an update on the events taking place. In addition, approximately 1000 letters were sent to households in the surrounding area providing details of the upcoming music events. (See Appendix A).
- 3.9 The Gardens were closed to the public at 3.00pm to allow for preparation for each music event.
- 3.10 The Gardens were cleaned of litter every evening and were open to the public every morning at 7.30am, including the lawn area where the music events were taking place. Lower Botanic Gardens was not affected by the events and remained opened throughout the period.
- 3.11 Positive elements of written feedback included better use of the park for everyone across the City to enjoy, good 'buzz' about Botanic Avenue and fabulous venue.
- 3.12 There were no incidences reported by the PSNI over the course of the events in Botanic Gardens.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy. The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services will authorise the relevant level of the necessary bond of intent and reinstatement bond

3.14 Equality, Rural proofing or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality, rural proofing or good relations issues associated with this report.”

A number of Members expressed concerns with the proposed three year contract with the promotions company and suggested that an annual review would be more suitable.

In response to a Member’s question, the Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed to the Committee that a review meeting took place between Council officers and the promoter after each event to discuss any issues.

A further Member suggested that the agency which provided the welfare support at an event should be included in the post-event review meeting.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed to grant authority to Aiken Promotions’ request for the use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the year 2020, to include set up and take down;
2. agreed to grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed, as outlined within the report;
3. noted that, to address concerns raised by Members, Officers would ensure that the license agreement included clauses that required the promoter to;
 - Consider the genre of music as suitable for the urban environment.
 - Provide a plan which sought to address and provide adequate welfare support, including links with other service providers, to deal with any potential underage drinking, should this be relevant to the event.
 - The licence agreement would also include a review clause which would allow for the consideration of any issues both during the event and prior to any authorisation for the future year.
4. granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy; and

5. further agreed that those agencies which were involved in providing the welfare support in relation to such events would be invited to be involved in the event debrief with officers.

Issue Raised in Advance by a Member

**Bin Collections in Belvoir –
Councillor Nicholl to Raise**

The Chairperson invited Councillor Nicholl to address the Committee. She explained that a number of residents in the Belvoir area had contacted her in relation to ongoing issues with bin collections, largely due to parked cars.

A number of Members stated that they had similar issues in the areas which they represented.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on waste collections, to include information on:

- the key issues which prevented bins being emptied;
- the cost to the Council of adding missed streets to the next day's route;
- the upcoming waste pilot in the Castle DEA;
- the acquisition of narrow-bodied bin lorries;
- how the Council could best work with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in relation to recurrent access issues for certain streets; and
- consideration of technological solutions which were used by other Local Authorities.

The Committee further agreed to pass on its thanks to the hard working staff within the waste management section who went above and beyond to rectify missed bin collections on a regular basis.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

People and Communities Committee

Monday, 16th September, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);
and Councillors D. Baker, Black, Bunting, Corr,
Donnelly, M. Kelly, Magee, McLaughlin and Smyth.

Also attended: Councillors Ferguson and Heading.

In attendance: Ms. V. Brown, City Services Manager;
Mr. I. Harper, Building Control Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Michael Collins), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds) and Councillors McCusker, Mulholland and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Committee was informed that representatives of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive were in attendance to brief the Committee on the Housing Investment Plan for Belfast 2019-2023 and to discuss the recent Cavity Wall Insulation Research Report and the motion on Homeless Status, which had been passed by the Council on 1st July.

Accordingly, Mr. C. Bailie, Chief Executive, together with Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Assistant Director, Housing Services, Mr. R. Hawe, Senior Principal Officer, Regional Services, Mr. P. Isherwood, Director of Asset Management, and Mr. D. Moore, Director of Corporate Services, were welcomed to the meeting.

Housing Investment Plan

Mr. Bailie submitted for the Committee's consideration the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Housing Improvement Plan for Belfast for 2019-2023.

He reported that the Plan, which was the second four-year plan to be formulated, provided an overview of the housing market within the Belfast City Council area and examined cross tenure housing issues and detailed social housing investment at a local level. The Plan reflected four high level outcomes, as identified by the Housing Executive, namely, helping people to find housing support and solutions, delivering new and better homes, fostering vibrant sustainable neighbourhoods and delivering quality public services.

Special People and Communities Committee
Monday, 16th September, 2019

He drew the Members' attention to the following key issues for Belfast, which had been identified within the Plan:

- the Housing Executive accounted for 25,653 housing units, whilst housing associations accounted for 13,500 units;
- there were 10,747 applicants on the waiting list, with 8,011 of those in housing stress;
- 5,457 households presented as homeless;
- 3,790 were accepted as homeless;
- there had been 1,998 social housing allocations in 2018/19;
- 386 new social homes had been completed in 2018/19 and work had commenced on another 344; and
- 555 new social housing units were programmed for 2019/20.

A number of other key housing issues were also identified, around land availability, the continued growth of the private rented sector, affordable housing/City centre opportunities, the impact of Brexit, chronic homelessness, bonfires/site clearance, the Tower Block Strategy and the relocation of the Belfast Regional Office to Adelaide Street.

Mr. Bailie confirmed that the total Housing Executive spend for 2018/19 had amounted to £133.29 million and reviewed the projected spend for 2019/20. He concluded by confirming that the Housing Executive would regularly monitor progress against the objectives set out within the Housing Investment Plan and would report to the Council on an annual basis.

In response to a number of issues which had been raised during discussion, the representatives confirmed that:

- the Housing Executive was putting in place measures to increase its stock of key components and fuel in the lead up to Brexit;
- the Housing Executive had no input into the rents charged by Housing Associations;
- the Housing Executive favoured a mix of social and private housing in the City centre and recognised that there were potential issues around sewerage and water infrastructure;
- the Housing Executive had been tasked with bringing forward an implementation plan for delivering a City centre waiting list;

**Special People and Communities Committee
Monday, 16th September, 2019**

- the Housing Executive was examining ways of boosting housing supply in areas of high demand;
- the Housing Executive was assessing the implications arising from the removal of welfare mitigation measures;
- cladding in Housing Executive tower blocks met the required fire safety standard and any cladding being removed during demolition works would be handled in accordance with the requisite regulations; and
- a toilet was available on the ground floor of the office in Adelaide Street office for use by the public and baby changing facilities would be provided;

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Motion – Homeless Status

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st July, had passed the following motion on Homeless Status, which had been proposed by Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor Walsh:

“This Council commends the #FDANODELAY campaign and recognises that people living in hostels and other temporary/emergency accommodation across our society are homeless and deserve to be legally recognised as such by having Full Duty Applicant status awarded.

The Council calls upon the NIHE’s Chief Executive to meet with an all-Party delegation to outline the measures which the NIHE will now take to accurately audit the extent of the problem regarding homeless people who are not recognised as such and what steps will be taken to remedy these oversights.”

The Democratic Services Officer reviewed the response which had been received from Mr. Bailie and reminded the Committee that it had, on 10th September, agreed that the matter should be placed on the agenda for this meeting, given that Mr. Bailie would be in attendance to address other issues.

It was reported that Ms. M. McMahon, representing the #FDAnoDelay/Homeless Not Voiceless Campaign, together with Ms. J. Carberry, had sought approval to address the Committee.

The Committee agreed to hear from Ms. McMahon and Ms. Carberry and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. McMahon informed the Members that the #FDAnoDelay campaign sought to ensure that people who found themselves to be homeless and living in temporary accommodation were recognised as being in priority need of housing and awarded Full

Special People and Communities Committee
Monday, 16th September, 2019

Duty Applicant status. She reviewed the ongoing difficulties being experienced by homeless people in relation to securing accommodation and stated that Mr. Bailie's response had been unsatisfactory and had provided them with no reassurance.

Ms. Carberry explained that she had been homeless since March, 2019 and was currently living in a hostel outside the City, away from her family, friends and support network. She referred to the four criteria for assessing homelessness referred to within Mr. Bailie's response and pointed out that she, like others, had met those criteria, yet had failed to secure Full Duty Applicant status. It was only when she had lodged a human rights based complaint that her case had been reassessed and she had attained Full Duty Applicant status. She confirmed that the #FDAnoDelay campaign was neither calling for the adoption of a blanket approach to awarding Full Duty Applicant status nor for a change in legislation but was requesting that Mr. Bailie engage fully with the Council and with the campaign group to ensure that the Housing Executive met its obligations regarding homelessness.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Ferguson affirmed her support for the #FDAnoDelay/Homeless Not Voiceless Campaign and raised concerns around the legal test underpinning the homelessness scheme. She expressed her disappointment at Mr. Bailie's response to the Council's motion and at the fact that he had failed to meet with the campaign group, despite being invited on several occasions to do so.

Mr. Bailie explained that any person who was deemed to be homeless was subjected to a robust legal test, which was fairly and equally applied. He pointed out that the Housing Executive sought at all times to meet its legal obligations and stressed that no one who was entitled to Full Duty Applicant status would be refused it, providing that all of the required information was available. He added that officers would be content to meet with Ms. Carberry to determine if lessons could be learned and that he had no issue with homelessness being raised at the Committee meeting or through another forum.

Mrs. Hawthorne informed the Committee that the homelessness scheme was a statutory scheme and that it was administered by the Housing Executive, in accordance with the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1998. She pointed out that the Housing Executive funded a number of organisations, including Housing Rights, to support applicants through the process and those who disagreed with an outcome had a statutory right of appeal, including through the court. They could avail also of the Housing Executive's complaints process and, ultimately, could contact the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that an all-Party delegation from the Council should still meet with the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to discuss in greater detail the issues which had been raised.

Cavity Wall Insulation Research Report 2019

Mr. Isherwood informed the Committee that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had in 2017 commissioned research into the condition of cavity wall insulation and any impact which it was having in terms of thermal efficiency and associated technical defects.

Special People and Communities Committee
Monday, 16th September, 2019

He explained that a report on the outcome of that research had been published on 9th May, 2019 and provided an overview of its findings in relation to the 825 dwellings from the Housing Executive's social housing stock and 113 private homes which had been surveyed. He confirmed that the report had made a series of recommendations which, for social housing stock, had focused primarily on the monitoring of work, professional development training, competency and compliance, advice for residents and contracts and guarantees. Recommendations had been made also for private homes around remediation costs, property maintenance and guarantees.

Mr. Isherwood confirmed that a draft action plan, addressing the issues highlighted within the research report, would be formulated over the next two months and would be followed by an extensive consultation process. He added that, whilst the Housing Executive would be seeking to address the immediate issues highlighted within the report, there were competing priorities in the longer term.

During discussion, several Members welcomed the report. However, it was felt that there was a need to consider it in the wider context of, for example, affordable warmth, fuel poverty, health and lifestyle.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that a meeting, involving the Council, the Department for Communities, the Department of Health, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the National Energy Association and other relevant stakeholders, be convened to consider these issues in greater detail.

(The Northern Ireland Housing Executive representatives left the meeting at this point.)

Department for Communities

Affordable Warmth Scheme

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that the Department for Communities had confirmed that the business case to extend the Affordable Warmth Scheme to 2024 had recently been approved. He drew its attention to a draft Service Level Agreement which had been formulated for 2019/20, details of which are set out below:

- referral targets had been set at 18 per month;
- funding would be reduced from £68,780 in 2018/19 to £41,256;
- there remained no flexibility with the monthly target for referrals;
- the home improvement measures remained the same and in the same priority order of insulation, heating, windows and solid wall insulation;
- the Department for Communities had reinforced the targeted nature of the scheme, with only 20% to be self-referrals; and
- funding for the scheme remained equally split across the eleven councils.

Special People and Communities Committee
Monday, 16th September, 2019

He pointed out that, given the current levels of funding provided , the Council could now only recruit one officer to the scheme, was not permitted to make up any shortfalls in referrals in subsequent months and , given the targeted approach, would be unable to deal with the historical increase in self-referrals as winter approached. The Council was also of the view that the equal split in funding between Councils did not reflect the levels of deprivation in Belfast or meet the desire for inclusive growth set out within the Belfast Agenda.

It was reported that two representatives of the Department for Communities, namely, Mr. D. Polley, Director of Housing Policy and Supply, and Ms. A. Hiles, Principal Officer with responsibility for Fuel Poverty and Homelessness, were in attendance to address any issues surrounding the Affordable Warmth Scheme and they were welcomed to the meeting.

In relation to the proposal to again split funding equally across all eleven councils, Mr. Polley confirmed that research had indicated that fuel poverty was more prevalent in rural areas and pointed to higher energy costs due, for example, to a lack of access to the gas network and a higher proportion of older houses with solid walls.

Ms. Hiles confirmed that the proposal not to allow referrals to be carried over to subsequent months was primarily an operational issue and reflected considerations such as programme planning, processing times and contractors' availability.

In terms of funding, Mr. Polley pointed out that the capital budget for the Affordable Warmth Scheme for 2019/20 had been set at £12 million and confirmed that officers were working to identify and bid for funding from other sources.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Polley and Ms. Hiles for their contribution, following which the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 28th August, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston and Spence; and
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Ferguson,
Garrett, Graham, Heading, T. Kelly, McLaughlin,
Murphy and O'Hara.

Also attended: Alderman Rodgers.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and
Development; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Flynn, Lyons and Whyte. An apology for Alderman Copeland was also reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Cultural Strategy

(Mrs. E. Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, attended the meeting in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed ten year cultural strategy for Belfast, *A City Imagining*, including:

- The findings from the public consultation
- The emerging investment model including plans for a new multi-annual grant
- Draft implementation plans

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the findings of the public consultation and approve the updated strategy document as the final version for publication.
- Approve the final Equality Impact Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.
- Approve the opening of a new cultural multi-annual grant scheme in October 2019 to enable that funding awards are in place for April 2020. Officer recommendations will be brought back to Committee in February 2020 for ratification by Council in March 2020.
- Note the contents of the draft implementation plans and the full investment model and agree to receive a further report in October 2019 with the final plan and budget approved in advance of April 2020.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

In December 2018 Members of City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed for officers to develop a 10 year cultural strategy for Belfast to drive transformation in the city. For the first time the scope of this strategy would bring together under one compelling vision a number of areas including:

- Support Belfast to become a recognised cultural destination through a coherent approach to events and festivals. This would include a range of approaches from bidding for major events to supporting local festivals and importantly creating a portfolio of Signature homegrown Belfast Events.
- Support sustainability and growth of the cultural sector across the city.
- Build on the work undertaken during European Capital of Culture to make the approach to cultural development more people centred and support cultural expression, identity and diversity.
- Support significant strategic projects that celebrate Belfast's unique culture and positions the city internationally.
- Build local capacity and skill development through specific initiatives such as neighbourhood tourism.

- 3.2** Members will be aware that in March 2019 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved that the draft ten-year cultural strategy for Belfast, *A City Imagining*, be subject to a 12-week public consultation exercise.
- 3.3** The draft strategy was the culmination of an extensive research, engagement and development programme including a co-design process with citizens and city partners that amounted to:
- Holding 62 civic conversations
 - Engaging with 5361 citizens
 - Supporting 625 creators
 - Working with 106 artists
 - Across 85 places
 - Through 137 events
- 3.4** The strategy was also informed by a review of existing programmes and frameworks including:
- Review of Tourism Strategy 2015-2020
 - Review of Cultural Framework for Belfast 2016-2020
 - Events and Festivals Review 2017/18
 - Review of core multi-annual funding for arts and heritage organisations 2016-2020
 - Review of project funding for arts and heritage organisations
 - Review of Community Festivals Funding
- 3.5** The draft strategy was shaped by two external bodies of work. The first is Agenda 21 for Culture – an international methodology that supports cultural development in cities and regions. The focus of Culture 21 is to embed culture as the fourth dimension of sustainable cities alongside existing economic, social and ecological pillars. Belfast’s participation in the Culture 21 pilot cities programme has already been approved and this programme will support the implementation of the strategy.
- 3.6** The second set of recommendations that have helped inform this strategy is the recently published Cultural Enquiry by the Core Cities network of which Belfast is a partner member. This enquiry presents a number of practical recommendations on investment and governance of culture in cities. This presents an opportunity for a collaborative model to be taken forward that complements the community planning process and sets shared priorities for culture along with a more effective approach to investment to maximise the overall return. This

involves working closely to leverage new sources of finance including public-private models.

3.7 The draft strategy

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

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

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

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

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

3.9 Four strategic priorities are set out for each theme. The result is a strategic framework consisting of 16 key priorities to be delivered by 2030. Each of these priorities have been further developed in the detailed draft implementation plans.

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

- Launching a new approach to events and festivals in the city
- Producing an international year of culture *At Home in 2023*
- Bidding for UNESCO *City of Music* in 2021
- Delivering a new visitor attraction in the city centre
- Developing a long-term local neighbourhood tourism programme

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

deliver this type of long-term transformation clearly positioning Belfast as a regional driver.

3.12 The purpose of the strategy document is to present the overall approach and commitments with the intention of developing detailed implementation and actions plans to support the delivery of the strategy over the ten-year period.

3.13 The public consultation

The draft cultural strategy, *A City Imagining*, was open for public consultation between 17 April and 10 July 2019. In keeping with this ethos of citizen-led design and engagement, Council committed to an in-depth consultation process for this new strategy. This involved various engagement strands from the traditional online platform, *Citizen Space*, to opening a consultation hub in the city centre.

3.14 Other methods included citywide exhibitions and one to one meetings led by officers. The results of the overall process have been extensive reaching over 3000 residents and visitors, in one to one engagement through 80 events taking place in Belfast. A further 134 responses were received online or in writing. Additional awareness raising was achieved through the distribution of the full strategy document, a citizen summary and a short film.

3.15 There has been overwhelming support for the vision set out in *A City Imagining* from citizens and the cultural, creative and tourism sectors. However with this support has come a recognition that for this strategy to be successful it will need resources, investment and new levels of partnership working both within Belfast City Council and externally.

3.16 The public consultation aimed to:

- Test whether the strategy effectively represented the long-term engagement process that had taken place
- Identify clear areas for reconsideration or revision
- Inform the development of the implementation plans including the investment model.

3.17 In order to ensure the aims of the consultation were realised all feedback was assigned an action as follows:

Supports Strategy: the comment specifically supports/agrees with an aspect of the strategy

Do nothing/ Commentary: the comment doesn't need action and is general commentary

Consider Revising: consider taking on board the feedback and revising the strategy accordingly

Implementation Plans: the issue raised will be dealt with in the Implementation Plans

Equality Impact: a specific equality issue has been highlighted and will be addressed.

3.18 Through this process the following changes have been made:

- Revisions in language to the Cultural Statement and Tourism Narrative to ensure that the vision for inclusivity and diversity is explicitly articulated.
- The 16 priorities are valid and however, some revisions have been made to a number of them in order to increase clarity or extend focus. Such examples include:
 - Ensure that cultural rights includes the principle of respect for other people's rights.
 - Increase references to heritage.

3.19 A number of recommendations in relation to the strategic projects have helped to shape the proposed approach and actions to be taken forward in the implementation plans.

- Further detail on the proposed governance model has been included with emphasis on the need for cross-sector partnerships in line with feedback received.
- Feedback on the investment model has been considered as part of the design of new funding programmes. Specific feedback taken on board is that the open definition of culture within the strategy while positive must then be supported by robust investment criteria. Each funding stream will have very clearly defined eligibility criteria and quality assessment.

3.20 Full details of the public consultation are included at Appendix 1 with the revised strategy included at Appendix 2.

3.21 **Draft implementation plans**

A significant amount of feedback received during the engagement and public consultation process has helped to inform the draft implementation plans. From the outset, whilst

there was a recognised need for a long-term commitment through a ten-year strategy, this approach required shorter implementation phases that could both support the overall vision and be responsive to constantly changing local and global environments. The first implementation phase will be 2020 -2023. Appendix 3 sets out full details, however it is important to note that this is a draft document and Committee are asked only to note the work to date and agree to receive future updates in advance of agreeing the final plan. Between September 2019 and March 2020 further consideration will be given to these plans including internal and external engagement and the setting of baselines and key performance indicators. Annual service plans will also be developed.

3.22 The following areas are covered in the draft Implementation plans:

- Actions to support the 16 strategic priorities set out in *A City Imagining*
- Actions to support specific strategic projects or areas of focus such as UNESCO City of Music and At Home in 2023
- Priority areas and actions for tourism development
- Overview of the proposed investment model
- Details of the proposed governance model
- Proposed approach to Communications and Evaluation

3.23 Subsequent reports will be taken to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee with final approval due following rate setting in early 2020. Final plans will become operational from April 2020.

3.24 The investment model

To support the delivery of the cultural strategy consideration has been given to a fit for purpose investment model. Full details of this draft model is included at Appendix 4 however this is subject to further consideration and budget allocation. The recommendation is that this model is introduced in phases with the first phase being approval for a new multi-annual grant to replace the existing core multi-annual funding for arts and heritage (due to end in March 2020) and previous one-off funding agreements to events and festivals awarded via Committee on either a year to year or adhoc basis. Members are asked to approve the opening of the multi-annual scheme in October 2019 in line with the criteria outlined below and on pages 7-11 of Appendix 4: DRAFT Approach to investing in culture.

3.25 Core multi-annual grants

In April 2013, Council introduced core multi-annual funding for arts and heritage organisations. In April 2016 this scheme was repeated with 56 organisations receiving funding.

3.26 The purpose of the core multi-annual funding was to support core costs and associated programme costs, offering longer term sustainability for Belfast based arts or heritage organisations that have full time staff and ongoing annual costs, and that produce work which substantially benefits the city.

3.27 Assessments were made only on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form, programme of activities and supporting documentation such as business plans and strategies. Assessors considered the strategic fit of the proposed programme against the agreed Cultural Framework. Contracts associated with this programme are due to come to an end in March 2020.

3.28 The extensive monitoring and evaluation of core multi annual funding indicates the success of a multi-annual approach, however, revisions were necessary such as the introduction of a tiered approach including a 4 year and 2 year option as this would offer greater equality of opportunity especially for developing or newer organisation. It is therefore recommended that a new multi-annual funding programme is opened in October 2019 to support organisations from April 2020 onwards in line with the priorities set out in the new cultural strategy, *A City Imagining*.

3.29 Events and Festivals

In 2017/18 an independent review of events and festivals was carried out by Festivals and Events International (FEI). This review recommended that in line with the established approach for arts and heritage that a multi-annual funding programme with published criteria was also introduced for festivals and events in the city. This was considered critical to ensuring greater accountability and transparency of funding and to increase the impact and return on investment.

3.30 The proposed approach

The recommendation is that a new cultural multi-annual grant (MAG) is introduced with two strands of multi-annual grants (MAGs) available, that is grants for:

1. Festivals and events with an audience of more than 10,000
2. Arts and heritage organisations with a year-round programme of activity

There are also two tiers of investment available: two- and four-year.

3.31 Arts and heritage MAGs

Arts and heritage MAGs are designed to help sustain our existing cultural offer. They are open to organisations that have a recurrent, year-round programme of work and ongoing costs. It is expected that organisations sustain their programme over the period making a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city. It is not intended for short- or fixed-term projects or single or one-off events.

3.32 Festivals and events MAGs

A festival or event is an activity or a series of activities with a common theme that occurs on one day or over a period of several successive days.

3.33 Festivals and events MAGs are designed to develop large events and festivals that will help Belfast become an events destination. Applicants will have to demonstrate how they will grow their audience by the end of the contract period. This means that new festivals and events, and festivals with audiences less than 10,000 people, can still apply.

3.34 Eligibility and Criteria

The eligibility criteria has been drawn up in relation to the potential scale and impact of the organisation and programme and takes into consideration areas such as turnover, audience and staffing. An online eligibility quiz will guide organisations through this stage of the process.

3.35 Quality criteria

The quality criteria for all strands and tiers are directly related to the priorities of the new cultural strategy. If an application is deemed eligible, it will be scored against the following criteria.

Criteria	Weighting %
<p><i>Quality of programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Quality of content • Quality of audience experience • Marketing 	30
<p><i>Impact of activity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets • Contribution to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>A City Belonging</i> (impact on people) ○ <i>A City Challenging</i> (impact on place) ○ <i>A City Creating</i> (impact on sector) ○ <i>A City Exploring</i> (impact on worldview/our place in the world) • Monitoring and evaluating impact 	40 Note: applicants must score 75 per cent or over (that is, 30 marks or more) in this section to be eligible for a MAG
<p><i>Readiness for investment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Financial management • Governance • Skills • Environmental impact 	30

3.36 Applications must score at least 65 per cent overall to be considered for investment. Even if an application scores 65 or over, this is not a guarantee of funding as this scheme is expected to be very competitive, and the funding threshold will depend on demand, quality of applications and resources available.

3.37 Principles of the Assessment Process

Applications received will be eligibility checked by the Central Grants Unit before being passed to Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts or City Events officers for scoring.

3.38 A five day rule is implemented by the Central Grants Unit at the eligibility check stage for missing information such as accounts. This only applies to information that is not scored. Thereafter, officers do not return to applicants to request any additional details in relation to their applications.

3.39 Officers undertake a thorough assessment of all eligible applications. Assessments and applications are discussed and agreed at an internal moderation panel.

3.40 An independent assessment panel co-ordinated by Central Grants Unit and made up of Head of Service and Unit managers is also convened. The role of this assessment panel is 'to ensure that the scoring of applications has been undertaken in an appropriate fashion and to provide verification or validation of sampled applications and the overall process'.

3.41 It is recommended that for applications to 4 year funding for large festivals (Imagine) that the assessment and moderation stages include input from an external independent expert to be appointed via quotation.

3.42 Officer recommendations will be brought back to Committee in February 2020 for consideration and approval. Letters of offer will be issued following Council ratification in March 2020. In order to mitigate against any impact of the new multi-annual scheme project funding for arts, heritage, festivals and events will remain unchanged in 2020/21.

3.43 Promotion of grants

In recognition that this core funding programme is an open and competitive process the necessary measures will be taken to ensure that all eligible organisations have an equal opportunity to apply. This will include:

- Public advertisements via newspapers and websites
- Email notifications
- General Information Sessions in locations across the city

- An offer of one to one advice session to any potential applicant with a Tourism, Culture, Arts & Heritage officer or a City Events officer

3.44 Full details of the multi-annual grant are available in the relevant section of the Investment Model included at Appendix 4.

3.45 *Other considerations for City Events*

It is important to note that the proposed multi-annual grant for events and festivals will not be the only investment available. Project funding including support for neighbourhood festivals will continue through the Community Festivals Fund.

3.46 Council will also continue to directly deliver a number of city events including the Maritime Festival and St Patrick's. However these events will be reviewed with an increased focus on partnership working and delivery.

3.47 Finally, Council will continue to work in partnership with other stakeholders to bid for and secure major events for the city. A report will be taken back to Committee in October with an update on proposals for the period 2020-2025.

3.48 *Financial & Resource Implications*

There are no direct financial resource implications at this time. The recommendations for funding will be presented to Committee for approval in February 2020 and will be subject to agreed budgets for subsequent years.

3.49 The full delivery of the strategy will be considered as part of the rate setting and final implementation plans will be agreed pending the outcome of this process. A further detailed report setting out operational and financial implications will be taken to City Growth and Regeneration Committee in October 2019.

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

The cultural strategy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EAIQ) included at Appendix 5 and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNS) at Appendix 6. Where any issues were raised during the public consultation these have been addressed in the strategy, implementation plans and investment model and the EQIA and RNIA have been updated accordingly. The multi-annual grant has also been equality screened and rural needs assessed. All subsequent strands

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 28th August, 2019**

of the investment model will be equality screened and rural needs assessed.”

The Cultural Regeneration Manager provided a detailed overview of the Cultural Strategy. She presented the consultation process, influences on the strategy, and the implementation strategic priorities. She outlined the Investment Model and explained further the multi-annual grants that would be available and the criteria which would be used to assess them. She reiterated that the multi-annual grants would open in October, 2019 and be fully operational by April, 2020, once the implementation plans, funding recommendations and approvals had been completed.

During discussion, Members welcomed the Cultural Strategy and praised the Cultural Regeneration Team for their comprehensive process and outcomes. The Members raised a number of points in relation to ensuring that the grants were not out of reach for community groups and the need to develop emerging talent and advance the city in a fair way.

The Cultural Regeneration Manager highlighted that there would be a wraparound service for those organisations who might not qualify for the new grant system, to help them apply for other grants.

The Chief Executive confirmed that any impact of the new Investment Model might have on the Rates would be considered by Members as part of the Rate Setting Process in October.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to:

- Note the findings of the public consultation and approve the updated strategy document as the final version for publication;
- Approve the final Equality Impact Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment;
- Approve the opening of a new cultural multi-annual grant scheme in October, 2019 to enable the funding awards to be in place for April, 2020 and note that officer recommendations would be brought back to the Committee in February, 2020 for ratification by the Council in March, 2020; and
- Note the contents of the draft implementation plans and the full investment model and to receive a further report in October, 2019, with the final plan and budget approved in advance of April, 2020.

Presentations

Northern Ireland Water (NIW)

(Mrs. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience, attended the meeting in connection with this item.)

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. S. Venning, Chief Executive, Dr. S. Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, and Mr. P. Brow, Head of Living with Water Programme, representing Northern Ireland Water.

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 28th August, 2019**

Mrs. Venning provided an overview of the work which had been undertaken by NI Water in relation to Water Supply and Wastewater services. She advised that protecting safe, clean, drinking water supplied to houses and business would always be the organisation's top priority. She informed the Committee that there were Wastewater capacity constraints in the infrastructure and, of the 260 larger WWTW, 50 per cent were now either at full capacity or fast approaching full capacity and that they expected the number of these areas to increase further before 2021. She confirmed that Water and Wastewater were fundamental to enabling Belfast's goals and ambitions.

She emphasised that NI Water could only spend within its Annual Public Expenditure budget and, as there was a shortfall in their funding, there was an impact on investment, economic growth, protecting the environment, and public health. She highlighted that there was the potential, in the future, that Wastewater new connection applications could be refused because of the capacity constraints.

Mr. Brow provided an overview of the Living with Water Programme which had been established in 2015 following Northern Ireland Executive Approval. He reported that the programme aimed to develop a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan for Belfast to protect against flood risk, enhance the environment and support economic growth. He presented an illustration of potential flooding risks in Belfast of the sewers, surfaces, rivers, sea and asset failures. He reiterated that more investment was required to fix the current drainage infrastructure but also to expand the capacity of Waste Water Treatment Works.

During discussion, the representatives answered a number of questions from the Members in relation to protecting the environment, the relocation of Sydenham Wastewater Treatment Works and flood risks. The Members also praised the NIW Elected Member Helpline.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC)

It was reported that Mr. D. Bannon, Belfast Area Manager, representing NITHC was in attendance and he was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Bannon explained the need for significant investment in Northern Ireland's public transport system and the key role that Belfast played as the key economic driver for the region.

He outlined the principal aspects of the Metro Network Development 3 phased plan, from 2019 – 2025/6, to deliver a 25 per cent increase in customers. He advised that Phase 1 would be introduced on 2nd September and would include assisting regeneration efforts of the city, in particular North Belfast, accompanied by route enhancements in East Belfast and the renumbering and the refresh of the network presentation. He highlighted

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 28th August, 2019**

that, in the short-term, they would also encourage a reduction of the Bank Buildings cordon as soon as possible to lessen the impact on North Belfast.

He reported that Phase 2, from 2020 – 2023, would include improvements to South and East (Lisburn Road, Malone Road and Tillysburn Park and Ride as well as enhanced connections between North and South Belfast); and Phase 3, from 2023 – 2025/6 approximately, would include BRT Phase 2 (North-South via city centre).

He advised that 600k journeys were made on the Metro and Glider every week, helping to:

- Boost employment;
- Encourage active travel;
- Build local communities and promote social mobility – 30% of Belfast households which had no access to a car;
- Enable access to healthcare, education and employment;
- Support a vibrant city centre – servicing the heart of the city, helping to drive Belfast’s retail and leisure economy;
- Create a positive economic impact; and
- Pledge to invest in new eco-technologies and ultra-low emission vehicles, thus helping the environment.

He described how the City Centre Cordon, after the Primark Fire, had impacted on the service with loss of patronage, increased costs, connectivity of network, reliability and timeliness of service and restricted access to north Belfast.

He confirmed that the ‘Phased Improvement’ approach would deal with frequency and capacity enhancements, high specification fleet and better air quality. He presented the new Investment in Metro branding and numbering which included 23 new high specification fleet; eco hybrid, USB chargers, leather seats, together with service enhancements. He highlighted that they were also working towards a low/zero emission fleet.

He advised that following the success of Belfast Rapid Transport (BRT) Phase 1, they had been working with Department for Infrastructure to prioritise Phase 2 (North/South).

In answer to Members’ Questions, Mr. Bannon advised further on the reallocation and updating of bus shelters, the renumbering of bus routes, timescales for the BRT2, electrification of fleet, potential for new park and ride services, the removal of bus stops, air pollution, and the business impact of BRT on the Falls Road,

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. K. Monaghan, Eastern Divisional Manager, Ms. L. Loughran, Director of Safe and Sustainable Division, Mr. A. O’Callaghan, Belfast Section Engineer, Mr. P. McParland, Belfast South Section Engineer,

**Special City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 28th August, 2019**

Mr. T. McLay, Belfast North Section Engineer, representing the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Monaghan provided an overview of the Spring Report which included updates on the main strategic transportation schemes for the City and highlighted key statistics within the Council area of the Eastern Division, together with updates on bus lanes, street lighting, cycle measures and parking.

He outlined to the Members that pressures remained on both capital and resource funding in 2019/2020 but that his staff would continue to develop resurfacing and traffic management schemes to enhance safety, improve traffic flow and provide measures for pedestrians and cyclists. He advised the Committee that additional schemes would be implemented as capital funding became available through the year and £10m had been set aside for a roads recovery fund which would be used to address areas of immediate need across the road network.

The Members raised a number of other matters, a number of which are set out hereunder:

- The maintenance and conditions of alleyways;
- The expansion and improvements to the Safe Cycle Network;
- The potential for further residential parking schemes across the city;
- Proposed coach parking near the Ulster Museum, Stramillis;
- Mount Eagles – Adoption of land;
- Developer Reinstatements;
- Translink – impact on level of service;
- The low level of grass cutting on verges and roundabouts together with the potential of Wild Flowering; and
- Park and Ride Services.

In response to Members' queries in relation to overgrown alleyways, Mr. Monaghan advised that they would work with the Council to gain access to remove weeds in any alleyways within the Alleygating Scheme. He confirmed that he would update the Committee in regards to the location of the proposed coach parking at Stramillis Road and that the Department's Public Transport Division would respond in relation to any proposed service changes to the public service provision.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives from DfI for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

Chairperson

D1534

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 11th September, 2019

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors S. Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Ferguson,
Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Hanvey, Heading, Howard,
T. Kelly, Lyons, McAllister, McLaughlin, Murphy,
O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. S. Dolan, Senior Development Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

Retail Analysis

The Committee was reminded that Pragma Consulting Limited had been commissioned by the Council to undertake a retail analysis of the City centre, with its scope being developed in conjunction with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. McVicker, on behalf of Pragma Consulting, explained that the retail analysis had focused upon five key areas, namely, current catchment and shopping patterns, a trading gap analysis, independent traders, future trends and, finally, practical steps to be taken by the Council and its partners to support the City's retail offer. He reviewed the key findings associated with each of those areas, including benchmarking with other cities, and drew the Committee's attention to recommendations and suggested actions which Pragma Consulting Limited had made, specifically around leisure provision, place making, transport, city centre living, office development/working space and policy and governance. These would, he pointed

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

out, assist in creating a dynamic destination for shoppers and in strengthening the economic, social and physical regeneration of the City.

The Director of Development added that a report would be submitted to a future meeting providing details of a Retail/High Street Action Plan and work programme, aligned to the recommendations set out within the retail analysis.

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

Restricted Items

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

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

**Belfast Zoo – Performance Update
Quarter 1 2019/20**

(Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services, and Mr. A. Cairns, Zoo Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered a report which outlined the performance of the Zoo for the period from April till June, 2019, under five key areas, namely, Animal Collection/Welfare, Education Services, Financial Performance, Marketing and Events and Visitor Services. The report provided an update also on the implementation of recommendations arising from independent reviews which had been undertaken of Animal Welfare and Safety and Security.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the next quarterly update should provide details of the priority recommendations identified within the aforementioned reviews.

**Proposed City Centre Public Realm
Catalyst Projects**

The Committee's attention was drawn to a report which set out an approach for developing, in partnership with the Department for Communities and other stakeholders, where appropriate, a programme of small scale catalyst public realm projects, based upon financial developer contributions which had already been received or been agreed through completed planning agreements. The report provided also the locations of developments within the City centre to which signed planning agreements related and for which approval for three potential catalyst projects was being sought.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. agreed the emerging proposals to bring forward small scale, public realm catalyst projects for the following three cluster areas, which could utilise pre-existing developer contributions, subject to additional funding being secured from the Department for Communities or other sources:

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

- Chichester Street/Callender Street;
 - Greater Clarendon and Sailortown; and
 - Blackstaff Square and its environs;
- ii. noted that the Belfast Streets Ahead Project Board was supportive of further work being undertaken to explore these public realm projects, in conjunction with the Council;
- iii. noted that, once the scope and cost of proposed projects were identified, a report would be prepared for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, outlining the proposed approach for bringing these forward, in partnership with the Department for Communities and other stakeholders, as appropriate, and seeking approval for the use of financial developer contributions;
- iv. agreed that this report be presented firstly to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for consideration; and
- v. noted that existing financial developer contributions must be spent in line with the associated planning agreement, which specified the location, purpose and timeframe (usually seven years) of expenditure, and that failure to meet these requirements would result in repayment to developers.

Belfast Off Street Parking Order

(Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services, and Mr. D. Connolly, City Protection Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of City Services reminded the Committee that responsibility for off-street public car parking had, on 1st April, 2015, transferred from the Department for Regional Development Roads Service to the Council, as part of Local Government Reform. Prior to that, operating arrangements for car parks, including tariffs, had been set by the Department for Regional Development through the Off-Street Parking Order (Northern Ireland) 2000 and its numerous amendments.

She explained that those arrangements had now been reviewed, taking cognisance of the Council's Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan for Belfast, and it was proposed that a new 'Belfast City Council Off-Street Parking Order' be introduced. She highlighted a number of key amendments which would be included within the new Order and confirmed that the Council would, as part of the statutory process, undertake a twelve-week public consultation exercise. The results of that consultation, together with the final draft of the Order, would be presented to the Committee in due course for consideration. Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee approve the following consultation document, together with the commissioning of suitably qualified persons to report on the findings to the Council:

Draft Off Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order

Made - - - - XXXX

Coming into operation -
XXXX

ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

1. Citation and commencement
2. Interpretation

PART 2

USE OF PARKING PLACES

3. Specified parking places
4. Vehicles of a specified class
5. Position in which a vehicle may wait

6. Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles
7. Parking bays for electric vehicles
8. Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait
- 9.. Use of parking place other than for parking
10. Issue of licences
11. Surrender and revocation of licences

PART 3

TARIFFS AND TICKETS

12. Requirement to pay appropriate tariff
13. Payment of charges
14. Pre-paid tickets
15. Use of telephone parking system
16. Display of printed tickets in Pay and Display car parks
17. Particulars of ticket in a Pay and Display car park
18. Season tickets

PART 4
RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING
PLACES

19. Requirement to stop the engine of a vehicle
20. Trading in a parking place
21. Sounding of horn
22. Driving in a parking place
23. Ball games
24. Miscellaneous activities
25. Means of passage – Rights of Way
26. Consumption of intoxicating liquor
27. Use of entrances and exits, and direction of travel
28. Erection of structures and lighting of fires
29. Supermarket trolleys
30. Reserving a parking bay
31. Suspension of parking places
32. Use of car park or sections of for the purposes of temporary meeting place

SCHEDULE 1 — PARKING PLACES

SCHEDULE 2 — TARIFFS

SCHEDULE 3 – REVOCATIONS (Legal
considering whether any
revocations need to be included)

XXXXXXXXXXXX(a) makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 10, 11, 13, 14 and 26(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(b) and Article 43 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005(c), and now vested in it(d).

The Council has consulted such persons as the Council considered appropriate in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 to that Order.

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

-
- (a) S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(1)
 - (b) S.I. 1997/276 (N.I. 2)
 - (c) S.I. 2005/1964 (N.I. 14)
 - (d) S.R. 1999 No. 481 Article 6(d) and Schedule 4 Part IV

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as XXXXXXXXXXXX Off - Street (Public Car Parks) Order XXXX and shall come into operation on ^{xx} day of XXXX

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

“charging hours” means the period during which the driver is required to pay a charge for the use of a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 in accordance with the scale of charges set out in column 6 of Schedule 1;

“driver” means the person who whether as owner or otherwise has the charge or control of a vehicle or being present is entitled to give orders to the person having charge or control thereof;

“electric vehicle” means any vehicle which uses one or more electric motors for propulsion;

“electric vehicle charging post” means apparatus which supplies electricity for the charging of electric vehicles;

“hand-held device” means apparatus used by a traffic attendant which is programmed to interface with the telephone parking system;

“intoxicating liquor” means spirits, wine, beer, cider and any fermented, distilled or spirituous liquor with an alcohol content exceeding 1.2 per cent by volume;

“light goods vehicle” means a motor vehicle, constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods, the permissible maximum weight of which does not exceed 3.5 tonnes and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type;

“motor car” means a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed solely for the carriage of passengers and their effects, seating not more than 6 persons in addition to the driver and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type;

“motor cycle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle not being an invalid carriage or motor car having fewer than 4 wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kgs;

“parking bay” means a space which is marked out in a parking place for the leaving of a vehicle;

“parking charge” means any charge set by the Council for leaving a vehicle in a parking place authorised by this Order.

“parking ticket” means a ticket issued by a ticket machine relating to any parking place for which a charge is made identified in Schedule 1;

“pay and display parking place” means an off-street parking place authorised by this Order where permitted vehicles may park with a parking ticket issued by a ticket machine and

displayed in the manner specified in Article 16 or whose driver is a registered driver who has paid the relevant fee via the telephone parking system.

“public service vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 8 seated passengers in addition to the driver, and used in standing or plying for hire, or used to carry passengers for hire;

“registered driver” means the driver of a vehicle who has, prior to leaving their vehicle in a pay and display parking place, had registered so many of their personal details with a service provider as that service provider may require to enable the telephone parking system to be activated in favour of said driver;

“service provider” means a person or company providing services to or on behalf of the Council

“telephone parking system” means a system to facilitate and monitor any parking charge paid using any telephone or internet enabled device via communication with the service provider in accordance with instructions indicated on signs located at each pay and display parking place where the system is operational; and

“ticket machine” means an apparatus designed to issue a ticket indicating payment of a charge and the day and time at which it was issued and the number of hours for which it is valid or the date and time at which the ticket expires.

“disabled persons vehicle” means a vehicle lawfully displaying a blue badge;

“blue badge” means a badge of a form prescribed under section 14(1) of the [1978 c. 53.] Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978;

PART 2

USE OF PARKING PLACES

Specified parking places

3. Each area of land specified by name in column 1 of Schedule 1 may be used subject to the provisions of this Order as a parking place for such classes of vehicles during such hours on such days as are specified in relation to that area in Schedule 1.

Vehicles of a specified class

4. Where in Schedule 1 a parking place is described as available for vehicles of a specified class, the driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in that parking place unless it is of the specified class.

Position in which a vehicle may wait

5. The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place other than in a position wholly within a parking bay where such has been marked out.

Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles.

6. The driver of a vehicle, other than a disabled person's vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for a disabled person's vehicle.

Parking bays for electric vehicles

7. – (1) The driver of a vehicle, other than an electric vehicle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking of the bay as being reserved for an electric vehicle.
- (2) An electric vehicle waiting in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for an electric vehicle shall do so only if it is connected to an electric vehicle charging post.

Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait

8. The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place for longer than the maximum period permitted for waiting specified in column 5 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

Use of parking place other than for parking

9. (1) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for advertising is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council
- (2) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for displaying information to the public is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council.
- (3) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for the collection of recyclable materials is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council.

Issue of licences

10.
 - (1) -A registered charity may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for the collection of recyclable materials.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

- (2) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for advertising.
- (3) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for displaying information to the public.
- (4) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for any reasonable use or purpose or in such circumstances as the Council considers reasonable.
- (5) The Council may require an applicant in any particular case to submit such additional information or documents as the Council determines are necessary to determine the application.
- (6) On receipt of an application made under paragraph (1), (2) or (3) the Council, upon being satisfied that the use of part of the parking place referred to in that application for the purpose referred to in that application will not materially affect or materially interfere with the provision of parking spaces in that parking place, may issue a licence in accordance with Article 13(15) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 authorising the use by the applicant of part of that parking place for that purpose.

In this Article –

“registered charity” means a charity registered in the register of charities required to be kept by the Charity Commission by virtue of section 16(1) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (e)

Surrender and revocation of licences

11.

- (1) A person to whom a licence is issued (“a licensee”) may surrender a licence to the Council at any time.
- (2) The Council may serve on the licensee a notice revoking a licence, stating the reasons for the revocation if it appears to the Council that one of the events set out in paragraph (4) has occurred, and the revocation shall take effect on the expiration of the period of one month from the service of that notice.
- (3) A notice under paragraph (2) shall be served by delivering it to the person to whom it is addressed at their proper address, or by sending it to such address by telefacsimile or other electronic means, or by post.
- (4) The events referred to in paragraph (2) are—
 - (a) if the licensee fails to comply with any condition of the licence;

- (b) if the Council considers the withdrawal of the licence is necessary for the purpose of the exercise of its statutory functions.

PART 3

TARIFFS AND TICKETS IN PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARKS

Requirement to pay appropriate tariff

12. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place during charging hours shall pay the appropriate tariff set out in Schedule 2 in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

Payment of charges

13.—(1) Save as provided for in Article 18 the driver of a vehicle leaving it in a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 during the days and hours specified in columns 3 and 4 in relation thereto shall pay the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 in relation thereto and set out in Schedule 2.

(2) Charges may be paid by—

- (a) inserting into a ticket machine a coin or combination of coins of appropriate denominations;
- (b) inserting into a ticket machine a credit or debit card of a type indicated, and following the instructions displayed, on the machine;
- (c) the purchase of a pre-paid charge card for use in a ticket machine; or
- (d) the use of pre-paid tickets; or
- (e) a registered driver using the telephone parking system.
- (f) Use of Direct Debit where available

(3) Telephone and credit/debit card charges incurred in the course of making any parking payment transaction shall be the responsibility of the registered driver.

Pre-paid tickets

14. In the case of pre-paid tickets the instructions given on the tickets in respect of making distinct perforations in the tickets or taking other appropriate action to clearly indicate the date and time of arrival shall be carried out by the driver as soon as he takes up position in the parking place.

Use of telephone parking system

15. If at any time a vehicle is left in a parking place during the specified hours and a check is carried out by, or on behalf of,

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

the Council and no indication that a parking charge has been paid using the telephone parking system in respect of that vehicle for that controlled parking zone appears on a traffic attendant's hand-held device it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved that either—

- (a) a parking charge had not been paid in respect of that vehicle; or
- (b) the parking period for which payment was made had already expired.

Display of printed tickets

16. – (1) The driver shall attach the ticket issued by a ticket machine or a pre-paid ticket duly perforated on the inside surface of the windscreen or a side window facing the kerb or place the ticket on the dashboard area immediately below the windscreen so that the particulars recorded on the front of the ticket are clearly visible to a person standing at the front or side of the vehicle.

(2) In the case of a motor cycle the ticket shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in a ticket holder or in front of the driver's seat

Particulars of tickets

17.—(1) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine and the particulars on the ticket indicate that the period in respect of which payment was made has expired, for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that said particulars are evidence of the expiry of such period.

(2) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine, and a ticket is not displayed in accordance with the provisions of Articles 16 or 18 (6) for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the absence of a ticket is evidence of the fact that a ticket has not been purchased.

Season tickets

18.—

- (1) The Council or their service provider may on application from the driver or owner of a vehicle sell to that person a season ticket on payment of the appropriate tariff referred to in Article 12.
- (2) A season ticket shall be valid only in respect of such parking places as are specified thereon for the period for

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

which it is issued and for the vehicle in respect of which it is issued.

- (3) The Council or their service provider may by notice in writing served on the season ticket holder by recorded delivery post to the address stated on the season ticket holder's application, require the surrender of a season ticket where:
- (a) the season ticket holder has not complied with the relevant Off-Street Parking Order; or
 - (b) a season ticket has been issued upon receipt of a cheque and the cheque is subsequently dishonoured; or
 - (c) the season ticket holder has ceased to have an interest in the vehicle in respect of which the season ticket was issued;

and the season ticket holder shall surrender the season ticket to the Council or their service provider within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the said notice.

- (4) The issue of a season ticket shall not guarantee that any parking place will be available for the use of the season ticket holder.
- (5) A season ticket shall include the following particulars:
- (i) the registration mark of the vehicle in respect of which the season ticket has been issued;
 - (ii) the period during which the season ticket shall remain valid; and
 - (iii) the names of the parking places for which the season ticket is valid.

(6) Where a vehicle in respect of which a season ticket has been issued is left parked in a parking place the driver shall display the ticket in a conspicuous position behind the windscreen of that vehicle so as to be clearly visible to the parking attendant.

19. Blue Badge Parking

A vehicle displaying a valid Blue Badge shall be entitled to one extra hour of free parking in addition to the time allowed following payment of the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charge specified in Schedule 2

PART 4

RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING PLACES

Requirement to stop the engine of a vehicle

20. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall stop the engine as soon as the vehicle is in position in the parking place

and shall not start the engine except when about to change the position of the vehicle in or to depart from the parking place.

Trading in a parking place

21. — (1) Subject to paragraph (2) and save as provided in Article 24 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, a person shall not use a parking place in connection with the sale of anything to persons in or near the parking place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of their skill or services unless the person holds a valid trading licence for the location issued by the Council under the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in respect of any fee payable for the use of an electric vehicle charging post.

Sounding of horn

22. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall not sound any horn or other similar instrument except when about to change the position of the vehicle in or to depart from the parking place.

Driving in a parking place

23. A person shall not, except with the permission of any person duly authorised by the Council, drive any vehicle in a parking place other than for the purpose of leaving that vehicle in the parking place in accordance with the provisions of this Order or for the purpose of departing from the parking place.

Ball games

24. A person shall not play any ball game in a parking place

25. A person shall not use any part of a parking place or any vehicle left in a parking place

- (a) for sleeping or camping purposes
- (b) for eating or cooking purposes
- (c) for the purposes of servicing or washing any vehicle or part thereof other than is reasonably necessary to enable that vehicle to depart from the parking place-

Means of passage

26. A person shall not use a parking place as a means of passage from one road to another road or to any premises unless a right of way has been granted in writing by the Council

Consumption of intoxicating liquor

27. A person shall not use any of the parking places specified in Schedule 1, or any vehicle in any of those parking places, for the purpose of consuming intoxicating liquor.

Use of entrances and exits, and direction of travel

28. Where in a parking place signs are erected or surface markings are laid for the purpose of—

- (a) indicating the entrance to or exit from the parking place; or
- (b) indicating that a vehicle using the parking place shall proceed in a specified direction within the parking place,

a person shall not drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle—

- (i) so that it enters the parking place otherwise than by an entrance, or leaves the parking place otherwise than by an exit, so indicated; or
- (ii) in a direction other than that specified, as the case may be.

Erection of structures and lighting of fires

29. In a parking place a person shall not—

- (a) erect or cause or permit to be erected any tent, booth, stand, building or other structure without the written consent of the Council;
- (b) light or cause to be lit any fire.

Supermarket trolleys

30. (1) A person shall not cause or permit a supermarket trolley to enter a parking place in or under a building, and any supermarket trolley left there may be removed by a person authorised by the Council.

(2) A person shall not cause or permit a supermarket trolley to be left in any other parking place, other than in an area set aside for that purpose, and any supermarket trolley so left may be removed by a person authorised by the Council.

Reserving a parking bay

31. A person shall not reserve a parking bay in a parking place.

Suspension of parking places

32. (1) The Council may suspend the use of a parking place or any part of it in the following circumstances:

- (a) Upon request from a statutory agency, utility operator, contractor or similar body;
- (b) For the making of a film in or adjacent to a car parking place;
- (c) For any sporting event, social event, entertainment event or other activity deemed to be to the benefit of the public;
- (d) Upon request from any person for any other use or purpose or in such circumstances as the council considers reasonable.

33. Use of car park or sections of for the purposes of temporary meeting place

No persons shall use a parking place as a meeting place or point unless authorised by the Council in writing in advance.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

SCHEDULE 1 – PARKING PLACES

	Name of Parking Place	Classes of Vehicle	Days of operation of Parking Place	Hours of operation of Parking Place	Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait	Scale of Charges
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andersonstown Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
2	Ashdale Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
3	Charlotte Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
4	Corporation Square, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
5	Corporation Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
6	Cromac Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
7	Dunbar Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

8	Dundela Crescent, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
9	Exchange Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
10	Glenburn Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

11	Grampian Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
12	Hope Street North, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				9.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	11 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
13	Kent Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
14	Little Donegall Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
15	Little Victoria Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				9.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	11 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
16	Marlborough Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
17	Northumberland Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
18	Parkgate Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
19	Ravenscroft Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
20	Sandown Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
21	Shaw's Bridge, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
22	Smithfield Market, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
			Thursday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
23	Station Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
24	Stranmillis, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
25	Wandsworth Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
26	Westminster Avenue East, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No Charge – Blue Badge holders only

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
27	Westminster Avenue West, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
28	Westminster Avenue North, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September, 2019**

29	Whitla Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
30	York Street I / Lancaster Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

SCHEDULE 2 - TARIFFS

The Council may at any time apply reduced tariffs and/or reduced charging hours.

Vehicles displaying a valid Blue Badge shall be entitled to one extra hour of free parking in addition to the time allowed following payment of the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charge specified in Schedule 2

Motor cars, Invalid Carriages, Light Good Vehicles										
Tariff	0-1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8+	Within 1 hour of closing
Tariff 4	£1.20	£2.40	£3.60	£4.80	£6.60	£8.40	£10.20	£12.00	£13.80	£1.20
Tariff 3	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00	£1.00
Tariff 2	£0.60	£1.20	£1.80	£2.40	£3.00	£3.60	£4.20	£4.80	£5.40	£0.60
Tariff 1	£0.30	£0.60	£0.90	£1.20						£0.30

A limited number of Season Tickets are available at the following sites

	Tariff for 4 week season ticket	Tariff for 12 week season ticket
Corporation Square	£81.90	£198.90
Corporation Street		
Lancaster Street		
Little Donegall Street		
Station Street		

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order revokes and reproduces the provisions of the Off-Street Parking Order (Northern Ireland) 2000 as amended.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

After discussion, the Committee approved the foregoing consultation document and the commissioning of suitably qualified persons to report on the findings to the Council, as recommended, and agreed:

- i. that provision be made within the consultation document for residents to express their views on on-street parking/residents' parking schemes;
- ii. to engage with the Department for Infrastructure around the impact of parking on those neighbourhoods which bound the City and on wider transportation and public transport issues; and
- iii. to include the relevant Trades Unions within the consultation process, as well as users of specific sites which had been identified by Members.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Supporting Inclusive Economic Growth

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Belfast City Council's support to develop the social enterprise and cooperative sectors in the city and to outline plans to further enhance provision.

1.2 The report also provides an updated analysis of the impact of support provided through the Way to Scale initiative in 2018/19. The update is in line with requests for further information following the Growing the Economy update report presented at the 7 August 2019 City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting. This included a request for details on:

- **how the number of co-operatives in the city might be increased, taking into account the motion on Support for Small and Medium Enterprises which in 2016 had been passed by the Council and the success of the Preston Co-operative Initiative;**
- **the mechanisms in place to ensure the integrity of the Crowdfunding process, together with the cost to the Council of using that platform; and**
- **details of the initial analysis which had been undertaken around last year's Way to Scale programme.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. note the Council's work to date to provide support to the social enterprise and cooperative sectors;**
- ii. consider and approve the allocation of £50,000 from the existing 2019/2020 Economic Development budget to support the delivery of the social enterprise action plan. This funding was approved as part of the 'Growing the Economy' delivery plan that was agreed by this Committee on 6th March 2019. This budget will be used to support a Crowdfunder initiative where 10 participants on the new Social Enterprise and Cooperatives programme can gain financial backing through Crowdfunder campaigns; and**
- iii. agree to receive a presentation from Social Enterprise Northern Ireland and Cooperative Alternatives at a future Committee meeting; and**
- iv. note the initial analysis and impact of the support provided through the Way to Scale Initiative in 2018/19.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 At the Committee meeting on 7th August, members requested further information in relation to the Council's support to encourage the development of the social enterprise and cooperative sectors in the city.

3.2 Members will be aware that, as a result of the Local Government Reform programme, with effect from 1st April 2015, new powers were transferred from central government to local government in Northern Ireland. This included the transfer of local economic development functions from Invest Northern Ireland. As part of this transfer, activities such as enterprise awareness, start a business activity and social entrepreneurship became the responsibility of the council. Since this transfer, council officers have been working to put in place a pipeline of support to encourage the growth and development of new businesses and social enterprises and cooperatives in Belfast.

3.3 The Department for the Economy defines social enterprises as 'business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners'.

- 3.4 Cooperatives UK defines a cooperative as ‘a successful business that often looks like any other business. What makes them unique is that they are run not by institutional investors or distant shareholders but by their members’.**
- 3.5 In summary, both social enterprises and cooperatives are run like any other business in that they seek to make a profit. This difference is how they treat their profit: social enterprises reinvest in back in the business while cooperatives provide the return to their members.**
- 3.6 The social enterprise and cooperative sector makes a significant contribution to the local economy. Its employment base across the region has grown from 12,200 in 2013 to 24,860 in 2018 and the equivalent growth in the turnover has increased from £592.7m in 2013 to £980m in 2018 (Re-Balancing the NI Economy Report, 2019). It is worth noting that 53% of organisations employ half their workforce from their immediate locality. This places the sector as an important vehicle in delivering the councils Inclusive Growth ambitions, through reducing economic inactivity and delivering greater innovation.**
- 3.7 Over a three-year period, the Council’s activity to encourage the development of the social enterprise and cooperative sector has supported 93 participants (82 from social enterprises and 11 from cooperatives) creating 44 new social enterprises and cooperatives (42 social enterprises and 2 cooperatives), generating 82 new jobs and securing over £820,000 in external funding. This activity has represented an investment of £150,000 from the council. The programme also helped to increase awareness of the sector through new initiatives such as Social Souk and Social in the City events which brought the sector together to learn from each other, share ideas and experiences and also promote their services to the public.**
- 3.8 The programme has been delivered in partnership with Cooperative Alternatives, Trademark, Work West Enterprise Agency and Social Enterprise Northern Ireland to ensure that the specific needs of both social enterprises and cooperatives are met.**
- 3.9 In Spring 2019, officers undertook additional research into the social enterprise and cooperative sector in order to understand what specific support is required from businesses in these sectors in order to inform future council provision. This research was used in the development of a new Social Enterprise Action Plan which was considered as part of the overall ‘Growing the Economy’ action plan for this year and through to the next five years (subject to annual review). This**

will focus council resources on raising awareness of the social enterprise and cooperative sectors in the city, ensuring that specialist one to one mentoring support is in place to help new starts and growing businesses, and to help businesses to explore and develop solutions to social issues through sustainable business concepts. The aim of the programme is to create more social enterprises and cooperatives within the city in order to boost the Belfast economy and improve the lives of the residents by creating more and better jobs. The programme will engage a minimum of 80 potential social entrepreneurs in order to recruit a minimum of 45 participants on our dedicated support programmes. Given that, in the previous programmes, there were significantly more social enterprises than cooperatives, there will be a particular focus in this programme on increasing the number of cooperatives. We will achieve this by undertaking specific outreach and awareness-raising activities and working closely with representative and support bodies.

- 3.10 As part of our ongoing engagement with the social enterprise and cooperative sector, we have identified ongoing challenges around access to finance to overcome barriers to starting and growing the business. Officers have been considering a range of options to address this issue. One option that has been identified is the concept of crowdfunding. Working with Crowdfunder.co.uk, we have developed a pilot Belfast-specific crowdfunding proposition for the social enterprise and cooperative sector. This pilot will provide support for developing and running a crowdfunding campaign for up to 10 social enterprises or cooperatives in the city.
- 3.11 It is proposed that the Council supports this initiative by offering match funding of up to £5,000 for each of the organisations that deliver a successful campaign i.e. they achieve a crowdfund of a minimum of £2,500 pledges which will then be matched by £5,000 from Belfast City Council to bring the total to £7,500, and they must then attract the remaining £2,500 before all funds are released.
- 3.12 To access this funding, social enterprises and cooperatives will be in the early stages of developing the enterprise and will be required to go through a competitive process to access the council funding. The total cost of the pilot will be up to £50,000, all of which will directly support the growth and development of the sector. The breakdown of the cost to council can be seen below. If the pilot is successful, the council will have the option to continue delivering the campaign for a further two years, with a payment due to Crowdfunder for the administration of the initiative on their side. Any decisions on the future of the programme will be

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

brought back to this committee for further consideration and approval.

Activity	Pilot year (19/20)	Follow-on year 1	Follow-on year 2
Payment to Crowdfunder	£0	£9000	£9000
Match funding cost	£50k (10x£5k)	£50k (10x£5k)	£50k (10x£5k)
Total	£50k	£59k	£59k

- 3.13** If the pilot period is successful, there is the flexibility to increase or decrease the number of social enterprises accessing match funding. There is also the potential to increase or decrease the amount of match funding that Belfast City Council provides, depending on budget availability. In order to manage this pilot, it is proposed that the Council funding will not exceed £5,000 in each case. Throughout the delivery of the pilot we will be monitoring the wider social and economic impacts to measure success this includes, job creation and survival rates as a result of support, increased volunteering opportunities and increased community participation.
- 3.14** This pilot campaign will be managed by Crowdfunder, in partnership with the council's Economic Development Unit. All applicants and backers will go through various automated and manual checks to ensure that they meet the required eligibility criteria, to check the authenticity of the projects and backers and ensure that only genuine and legal projects go live on the platform. A breakdown of all due diligence activity is attached.
- 3.15** It is important to note that this is only one option for finance available to the social enterprise and cooperative sector. Companies can all avail of loans from organisations including the Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) who offer loans between £1,000 and £500,000 to the social enterprise and cooperative sector, as well as Community and Cooperative Finance – a UK-wide lender – that provides access to loans ranging from from £10,000 to £150,000. In addition to this, Unltd offers grant funding to support new social enterprises. This includes grants of £500, £5,000 or £15,000, subject to a competitive application process with specific eligibility criteria for each amount. In all instances, the council and its partners work with these funders to ensure that the social enterprise or cooperative is accessing the type of funding that best meets their needs.

- 3.16 To provide Elected Members with further information on the wider support available to the social enterprise and cooperative sector, it is proposed that Social Enterprise Northern Ireland and Cooperative Alternatives are invited to make a presentation at a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
- 3.17 In addition to the mentoring and financial support available through the Council programme, officers have put in place a range of other support to enhance opportunities for social enterprises and cooperatives. Examples of this include working with our Markets Unit to secure space for local social enterprises and cooperatives at St George's Market to test trade, as well as offering opportunities at our twilight and continental markets. There is also engagement with the commercial waste team to allow social enterprises to reuse our waste products. We are also actively exploring how social enterprises and cooperatives can secure additional access to council and other public sector tendering opportunities, by looking at models such as a 'Social Value Procurement Framework' which will allocate points for social value in relevant procurement exercises.

Support to Scale and Grow

- 3.18 One of the key challenges identified through the enterprise framework is the need to encourage more businesses to scale and grow to turnover of more than £3million. Following the success of the initial Way to Scale Initiative in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI, officers have been working with both organisations to develop the offering for businesses with growth ambitions and potential. Through last year's Way to Scale programme, 10 businesses accessed support which included a series of workshops, access to the entrepreneurship development programme at MIT in Boston, and a one week residential in Boston to develop market strategies and build network support to realise the growth ambitions of their businesses.
- 3.19 The objective of the Way to Scale programme is to support fundamental change in the Innovation Driven Enterprise (IDE) landscape in Northern Ireland by catalysing a significant increase in the number of knowledge economy companies scaling to £100million+ in enterprise value. The short term objectives of the 2018 programme are as follows:
- 50% participant CEOs exceed £2M revenue within 24 months
 - 20% participant CEOs exceed £500K of export sales within 18 months

3.20 As a result of programme activity, the 10 participants have reported that they are on track to achieve the following results by 2020.

Participant revenue pre-programme	£4,211,000
Participant revenue post-programme	£23,650,000
Participant exports pre-programme	c£1,900,000
Participant exports post-programme	c£15,000,000
Participant jobs pre-programme	67
Participant jobs post-programme	148
Participant jobs supported pre-programme	100
Participant jobs supported post-programme	222

3.21 A six month post programme progress update will take place in October, this will verify that participants are on track to achieve the anticipated outcomes.

3.22 In addition to the qualitative results and projections set out above, participants also indicated that it had given them a new level of confidence in their ability and in their decision-making skills within the business, as well as a better understanding of their customer needs. Finally, participants valued the new networks and business contacts in the US market that they had developed as a result of their engagement in the programme. As part of the evaluation, some examples of the comments from participating businesses were:

- ‘I have initiated a much more aggressive growth plan’
- ‘Creating a different culture in work, hiring for more senior roles to move the business forward’
- ‘We have raised our goals and expectations of the size of business we can get to’
- ‘Introduced the global mind set, ambition and capability for growth ...made me set expectations and targets higher’
- ‘I held a funding day and generated debt and equity funding offers of £2M’
- ‘From the changes made, our revenue forecast for this quarter now equals all of last year’s’

- 'I am already beginning to see a strong pipeline developing that is 500% - 600% of what we are doing now'
- 'It has brought a practicality and rigour to how we understand and develop our customer offering'
- 'The programme paved the way to business contacts in US market which will have a massive impact on our future growth'.

3.23 Building on the learning from last year, the new programme, as approved by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2019, has been enhanced to enable up to 60 businesses in the city to access support to encourage CEO transformation, enhance business modelling and develop sales strategy. The programme will encompass four core elements, including a Belfast bootcamp for 60 businesses in October, a one week Boston Residential at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Entrepreneurship Development Programme for 10 selected businesses (January 2020), a peer-to-peer workshop series with Catalyst Inc (to support a minimum of 10 businesses) and a Go to Market programme (for 10 businesses) which will take place in Boston for one week in early March 2020 and which will focus on market development strategies and tactics.

3.24 Financial and Resource Implications

All new activity included in the report will be resourced from the 2019/20 Economic Development budget agreed by this Committee on 6 March 2019.

3.25 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure consideration is given to equality and good relation impacts throughout the delivery of each project."

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the Council's work to date to provide support to the social enterprise and co-operative sectors;
- ii. approved the allocation of £50,000 from the existing 2019/2020 Economic Development budget to support the delivery of the social enterprise action plan and agreed that the evaluation process should reflect the experiences of

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

both successful and unsuccessful applicants and any fraudulent activity;

- iii. agreed to receive at a future meeting presentations from Co-operative Alternatives, Social Enterprise Northern Ireland and Trademark;
- iv. noted the initial analysis and impact of the support provided through the Way to Scale Initiative in 2018/19; and
- v. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting:
 - a. providing an update on the motion on Small and Medium Enterprises which had been referred to the Committee by the Council on 4th July, 2016;
 - b. examining the feasibility of establishing in the next financial year a co-operative development fund for Belfast;
 - c. providing details of the work of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) around regeneration and community development, of officers' work with CLES to date and how the Council's membership of CLES could add value to the Council's work in this area; and
 - d. providing information on the Council's engagement with Preston City Council and with the city of Cleveland, Ohio, which had each developed successful cooperative initiatives, and learning from these initiatives.

City Centre Revitalisation Programme

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the City Revitalisation programme that has been developed to support city centre animation and vitality and to seek approval to proceed with an engagement and consultation exercise focusing on Sundays in the City.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and agree the proposed approach to moving forward with the research,

engagement and consultation work on 'Sundays in the City', as set out in sections 3.6-3.10 below.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that, following the fire at the Bank Buildings in August 2018, the Council as well as a range of public and private partner organisations invested in a programme of activities to support city centre development. Following on from an initial response focusing on 'City Centre Recovery', the programme has now moved to focus on 'City Centre Revitalisation'. This reflects the need for a longer-term approach to investment, taking account of all the possible functions of the city centre. It reflects a wider approach to city centre regeneration, including issues such as retail offer and mix, accessibility, cultural development, family spaces, residential investment and tourism development.

3.2 Members will also be aware that the issue of Sunday trading hours and, in particular, the proposed designation of Belfast as a 'holiday resort' has been discussed by the Council on a number of occasions in the past. The effect of this designation would provide large shops (above 280sqm in size) with an option to extend their Sunday trading hours on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year. At present, all units below this size can operate without any trading restrictions (apart from relevant licensing restrictions etc.).

3.3 At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 5 June 2019, as part of a discussion on the Revitalisation Programme, it was agreed that:

'a report be submitted to a future meeting setting out the Terms of Reference to progress proposals for designating the city centre as a 'Holiday Resort', taking into account issues beyond opening hours and outlining the extent of the associated consultation process'.

3.4 As noted above, the conversation with partner organisations now covers a range of issues associated with developing a mixed-use economy to support city centre viability and to encourage sustainability. The City Revitalisation Programme is set within the context of a wider regeneration strategy and action plan for the city centre, based on the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The City Centre Regeneration Task Force (involving the Head of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretaries from relevant government departments, working alongside senior Council officers) aims to support a collaborative public sector response to drive and resource the city centre revitalisation efforts in the long-term.

The priority areas of focus emerging from the City Centre Joint Regeneration Taskforce mirror the themes identified by businesses and the representative organisations within the city and include:

- **City Resilience** – a medium to long term city centre recovery plan involving various stakeholders and the continued need to drive forward and support the retail, office, tourist and city centre living product
- **Re-imagining and Diversification** – recognising the need to diversify the city centre, including provision of family centric activities, enhanced tourist and cultural offering, city centre living, enhancing the evening economy etc.
- **Infrastructure and Connectivity** – enhance public realm and open space ensure permeability and connections through the city, transport and car parking issues etc.

3.5 At the 22nd February 2019 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, members agreed that the broad objectives of the Revitalisation Programme should be:

- **Creating an enhanced city centre offering to drive footfall across all sectors**
- **Improve attractiveness and vibrancy**
- **Enhance connectivity and permeability**
- **Maximise tourism and cultural opportunities and attract visitors**
- **Encourage more families and young people to use the city centre**
- **Support existing businesses and augment and promote ongoing programmes of activity.**

3.6 Updates on the City Revitalisation programme have been brought to this Committee on a regular basis. There is a significant programme of work already under way with ongoing commitments from public and private partners. However one of the issues that has been raised by a number of these organisations – and reflected in the Committee decision of June 2019 – is the need to consider specific interventions that will animate and activate the city centre on a Sunday. This will need to consider issues such as opening hours, public sector transport provision, city marketing, investment in animation and licensing issues.

3.7 The rationale for treating Sunday as distinct from other days is that the current usage levels and patterns on a Sunday are very different from other days of the week. This is not only because of opening hours but also because of issues such as a significant volume of cruise visitors coming to the city on a Sunday (up 46% on figures from last year, with 144 ships now

expected into Belfast with an estimated 276,000 passengers and crew – 20 ships and 45,000 passengers and crew on Sunday visits) and an increased appetite from the hospitality sector to programme activity on a Sunday to meet user demands (e.g. the growing popularity of the ‘Sunday brunch’ among hospitality providers). Hotel occupancy figures also suggest that Saturday continues to be the busiest evening for hoteliers, with average occupancy levels across the city in excess of 84% throughout the year – and higher in the summer season (source: STR). At present, St George’s Market is one of the only city centre attractions that is open on a Sunday morning and footfall figures indicate that this is the busiest opening day of the market, and that the 10am-2pm period is the busiest time of the day.

3.8 In order to inform any future approach to specific proposals for investment in the city centre on a Sunday, it is proposed that a focused research, engagement and consultation exercise is undertaken. The terms of reference for this piece of work will include the following:

- To develop an informed understanding of the current usage levels and types (user profile (resident/visitor); time spent; activities undertaken; economic impact) in the city centre on a Sunday
- To explore opportunities to drive additional footfall and spend by attracting new visitors to the city on a Sunday
- To identify barriers to accessing the city centre on a Sunday (for those that wish to do so) and to engage with partners to develop collaborative solutions to address these barriers
- To build an understanding of approaches in other cities and to develop learning that may be relevant for the Belfast context
- To understand the socio-economic impact of any additional city centre animation activities on a Sunday
- To understand the impact that any change to opening hours may have on the city centre
- To understand the investment required to encourage the additional visitor numbers to the city on a Sunday and to build a business case to lever resources from partner organisations, in the context of the City Revitalisation proposals.

3.9 It is proposed that the methodology for this work will include a mixture of primary research, a structured engagement process involving key individuals and specific organisations and a wider public consultation piece to maximise the reach and explore a breadth of views. Consideration will also be given to creative mechanisms for engagement and information gathering, building on the learning from the recent

engagement exercise on the new Cultural Strategy.
The primary research is likely to focus on:

- Building an understanding of what the future city centre demographic looks like, to include population projections for city centre living, hotel occupancy trends, number of cruise ships arriving and tourists visiting the city centre
- Building an understanding of the evidence base from a tourism perspective, to include the profile of tourists to the city and a better understanding of what the tourist expects from a destination like Belfast
- Benchmarking Belfast against other cities to include Sunday animation and licensing issues
- Review of approaches in other successful city centres, accessing research from credible independent experts such as the Institute for Place Management (www.placemanagement.org/)
- Building an understanding of the physical makeup of the city centre and the potential impact that extending opening hours may or may not have, including the number of businesses and employees that may be affected if opening hours were extended
- Consideration of the impact on workers of additional activity in the city centre.

3.10 In addition to the research activity, it is proposed that an extensive engagement process is undertaken to include:

- One to one engagement with stakeholders including BCTC, BIDs, Visit Belfast, The Hotel Federation, Hospitality Ulster, Tourism NI, Retail NI, Parenting NI, Trades Unions to understand current position, including accessing any available research and exploring opportunities for developing collaborative approaches (if appropriate)
- One to one engagement with city centre small businesses (those that can currently open and do so; those that can open and choose not to do so)
- One to one engagement with larger retailers that cannot currently open to understand current trading patterns on a Sunday – particularly looking at how Belfast fares alongside comparator cities
- One to one engagement with cultural organisations to understand current Sunday activities and explore opportunities for programming, in line with visitor/user trends and demands and
- One to one engagement with workers potentially affected by any change to opening hours of cultural or retail facilities.

- 3.11 It may also be appropriate to undertake a public consultation on this matter. This will seek to understand if and how people use the city centre on a Sunday; what might encourage them to do so if they don't already and what they would like to do in the city. In order to ensure compliance with legislation, an Equality Screening will also be required. This can be done in parallel with the consultation exercise.

Timeframe and Work Programme

- 3.12 Subject to Committee endorsement of this approach, it is proposed that the timetable for this work will be:

Action	Milestone
Consultation period (8-12 weeks)	October-December 2019
Undertaking research and engagement activity	September-December 2019
Analysis of consultation and findings	December 2019-January 2020
Committee decision re: budget implications and any policy change e.g. Holiday Status designation	February 2020
Operational programme of activity	April 2020 onwards

3.13 **Financial and Resource Implications**

If approved by Committee, a designated officer team will lead on the development of the evidence gathering and engagement activity.

- 3.14 The resource implications associated with any additional activity as part of the City Revitalisation Programme will be brought back to the Committee for information and approval.

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

An equality screening will be carried out as part of this process. A rural needs assessment will also be undertaken at that time."

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and, in agreeing that there was a need to consider the City centre Sunday offer in a wider context than

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

“Holiday Resort” designation, amended the Terms of Reference set out within paragraph 3.8 of the report, to read as follows:

- i. to develop an informed understanding of the current usage levels and types (user profile, mode of transport, time spent, activities undertaken, economic and social impact) in the City centre on a Sunday;
- ii. to explore opportunities to drive additional footfall and spend by attracting new visitors to the City on a Sunday;
- iii. to identify barriers to accessing the City centre on a Sunday (for those who wish to do so) and to engage with partners to develop collaborative solutions to address those barriers;
- iv. to build an understanding of approaches in other cities and to develop learning which may be relevant for the Belfast context, taking into account those who operate on a Sunday and those who do not;
- v. to understand the socio-economic impact of any additional City centre animation activities on a Sunday;
- vi. to understand the impact which any change or variance to Sunday opening hours might have on the City centre, in terms of small and independent retailers, workers’ rights and footfall;
- vii. to understand the investment required to encourage the additional visitor numbers to the City on a Sunday and to build a business case to lever resources from partner organisations, in the context of the City Revitalisation proposals; and
- viii. to examine the potential contribution of the arts, culture and leisure sectors to enhancing visitor experience on a Sunday.

The Committee agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on the cruise ship travel market in Belfast and the work being done to further develop the offering for cruise ship passengers visiting the City.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Site Visit - Ulster University Belfast Campus

The Committee accepted an invitation from the Ulster University to visit its Belfast Campus on Tuesday, 5th November between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and agreed that all Members of the Council be invited.

**Update on Department for Communities Regeneration
Guidance for Greater Clarendon and Sailortown**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th August, it had deferred consideration of the following report to enable a briefing to be held:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report provides an update on a suite of regeneration policy and guidance documents prepared by DfC for the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown area.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

1. note the content of a suite of regeneration policy and guidance documents prepared by DfC for the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown area, including:

- (i) the Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Masterplan (2016)**
- (ii) the Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Delivery Framework (2018)**
- (iii) Greater Clarendon and Sailortown Accessibility and Public Realm Design Guide (2019);**

2. endorse the proposed approach to regeneration proposals in this part of the city centre aligned to Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS); and

3. support further collaborative working and engagement with stakeholders and local communities to deliver the priority projects identified in the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown Accessibility and Public Realm Design Guide.

3.0 Main Report

Background

3.1 Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Masterplan (2016)

The draft Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Masterplan seeks to provide an overarching framework for the development of the area and was published by DfC in December 2016. The key projects identified in the Masterplan are broadly in line with the aspirations of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) including:

- encouraging more people to live in the city centre;
- improving the Dunbar Link;
- the potential impact of a rail halt in this area in terms of encouraging use of public transport (a site is reserved for this purpose at Gamble Street);
- encouraging activity and animation under the motorway flyovers; and
- creating attractive squares and spaces.

3.2 Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Delivery Framework (2018)

The Masterplan committed DfC to bring forward the Greater Clarendon Masterplan Delivery Framework and its publication followed in 2018. The Framework has a strong focus on comprehensive development and prepares for the prospects offered upon completion of the York Street Interchange. It identified a number of projects under the overarching Masterplan that can come forward in a flexible way to make the most of market opportunities as they arise. As delivery will require a collective effort by a wide range of stakeholders, it was important to set out the key principles which would guide the preparation of the Delivery Framework and future implementation.

- 3.3** The Delivery Framework included a detailed site development tracker which was prepared as a tool to track progress and new information as it arises during the implementation stage. This may include changes in land ownership, new planning approvals or commencement of key development sites for example. It also highlighted areas where public sector intervention would have the greatest impact. This is set out in Sections 6/7 of the Delivery Framework and culminates in the Action Plan in Section 8. In order to maximise the contribution that all developments can make to the wider regeneration of the area, the Framework proposed consideration of the use of Section 76 agreements to secure finance towards wider public realm enhancements and other infrastructure. The key public and private sector interventions which the Framework identified as providing the catalyst for regeneration in Greater Clarendon and Sailortown have been circulated.

3.4 Greater Clarendon and Sailortown Accessibility and Public Realm Design Guide (2019)

Following extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, and as identified as a priority action in the Delivery Framework, DfC published the Accessibility and Public Realm Design Guide in May 2019. The document recognises that Greater Clarendon, and Sailortown in particular, was dramatically affected by the construction of the M2 and M3 motorways which removed the housing core of Sailortown resulting in the

fragmentation of the community and severing east to west and north to south movements. These communities, comprising of some 2,500 residents in the New Lodge/Lancaster Street and Sailortown areas, have suffered from poor connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods and the city centre, magnifying the sense of isolation and lack of opportunities to connect to education and employment. The Design Guide seeks to resolve these issues by reconnecting these areas and ensuring that current development opportunities are brought forward to support and enhance the living experience for the existing and proposed population. In the longer term, the provision of direct links across the river will improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists to Titanic Quarter and East Belfast. The Design Guide identifies key priority projects (see paragraph 3.8) including a new North South Spine from the City Centre to Sailortown; improved connections across the Dunbar Link and other major infrastructure; and more green open space for families and communities. In the longer term, the Guide includes a proposal to improve connectivity links across to Titanic Quarter and East Belfast, enhancing connections to third level education and an area that supports over 18,000 visitors, residents and workers.

- 3.5** In recognition of the Importance of capturing the views of local communities, Arup, the consultants who prepared the Guide, facilitated three stakeholder events which were attended by the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown Stakeholder Forum. Additional community and business representatives and those with a considered interest in the area were also invited to attend. A site walkover was organised and all participants in the events were invited to comment on a draft version of the Guide before it was published.
- 3.6** The Guide seeks to help the public sector guide and encourage quality place-making which would provide consistency and conformity as the Greater Clarendon and Sailortown area transforms over the coming years. Informed by stakeholder consultation, the document seeks to provide:
- A spatial framework for the public realm that re-balances the street network and identifies opportunities for enhancement;
 - A series of key moves that will deliver a strong movement framework; sequence of spaces and vibrant public realm activated by meanwhile and permanent uses;
 - A coordinated palette of street furniture and surface materials;

- A strategic projects framework identifying priority projects; approaches to delivery; collaborative working and next steps.
- 3.7 Its suggested use is as a tool for co-ordinating, prioritising and delivering investment in the public realm and reigniting Sailortown's sense of place and identity. The Design Guide also provides useful advice on how and where developer contributions, secured through the Council's Developer Contributions Framework, specifically for Public Realm Environmental Improvements, could potentially be spent.
- 3.8 Section 4.3 of the document (pages 24-43) proposes a number of key moves, street specific and site-wide interventions priorities which offer the opportunity for stakeholders including DfC, Belfast Harbour Commissioners and private developers to work in partnership. These include:
- i. Improving strategic east/west links (page 27) and north/south links (page 28). There is an opportunity to explore upgrading the public realm and pedestrian crossings in the areas of new, purpose built managed student accommodation bounded by Great Patrick Street, Great Georges Street, York Street and Nelson Street and bisected by Little York Street and Little Patrick Street;
 - ii. Creating a new neighbourhood spine that enhances the quality of public realm along Tomb Street and Waring Street under the cross-harbour road and rail bridges to Corporation Square in front of the Harbour Commissioners Offices. BHC are currently examining opportunities to create a new green space (City Quays Gardens) that will act as the catalyst for future regeneration at City Quays and there are opportunities for collaboration to link to the proposed neighbourhood spine and proposed upgrade to Corporation Square (in front of the Harbour Commissioners' office);
 - iii. Improving civic spaces by upgrading Barrow Square and the Clarendon Dock/dry dock area close to Sailortown. This is an opportunity for partnership working with BHC, DfC and local community representatives e.g. Sailortown Regeneration Group (SRG) to enhance the settings of these areas for civic and historic buildings and public events;
 - iv. Design a range of creative green community spaces that provide opportunities for heritage, arts, play and cultivations, for example Pilot Street Pocket Park;
 - v. Create a new Sailortown Hidden Histories Destination Plan that records and creatively explores the area's rich maritime and dockers' history, in

**partnership with local communities and with the
SRG.**

- 3.9 The Council's City Regeneration and Development Division is examining the potential for developing a programme of small scale, catalyst public realm projects in partnership with DfC and other stakeholders such as DfI, where appropriate, based on those developer contributions specifying improved public realm already received or agreed via signed planning agreements. The Greater Clarendon area will be considered as part of the scoping exercise for this project and a future report brought back to Committee in the near future on this.**
- 3.10 The Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Belfast Harbour Commissioners as agreed at the Council's SP&R Committee on 21st June 2019. This outlines how BHC and BCC will work together through a strategic partnership arrangement to realise their shared ambitions for the strong growth, regeneration and prosperity of the City. The Council will continue to work closely with DfC, DfI, Ulster University, the Campus Community Regeneration Forum, the Sailortown Regeneration Group and other stakeholders on the coordination of regeneration proposals in Greater Clarendon and Sailortown.**
- 3.11 Emerging proposals of note supported by the suite of regeneration policy documents could include:**
- the proposed relocation the BCC Dunbar Link Cleansing depot at Dunbar Street;**
 - regeneration proposals for sites at Dunbar Street and Exchange Streets, which could be advanced through the Council's Strategic Site Assessment process (update provided to City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 5th June);**
 - City Quays development opportunities including City Quays Gardens, a new public space;**
 - The creation of the Maritime Mile, a linear waterfront trail that will encourage people to explore Belfast's maritime & industrial history, and connect all the key attractions, public realm, sculptures & viewing points on both sides of the river. It begins on the city side of the river, linking Sailortown and St Joseph's Church, to the rich maritime heritage of Clarendon buildings. The proposals are being progressed with Titanic Foundation and BHC who are engaging with DfC and the Council regarding delivery;**
 - Regeneration proposals for St Joseph's Church, Sailortown to support Sailortown Regeneration Group with the development of neighbourhood tourism initiatives;**

- A public realm catalyst project, part funded by existing developer contributions to improve amenity and connectivity around the new student housing developments underway at the York Street/Great Patrick Street and Frederick Street junction. The proposal will seek to improve connectivity east-west across the Dunbar Link and north-south for the benefit of established communities in the vicinity of Lancaster Street and Thomas Street;
- Improvements to streetscape to facilitate better connectivity between City Quays and Cathedral Quarter through the creation of a north/south neighbourhood spine along Tomb Street connecting Corporation Square to Custom House Square;
- To include consideration of the public realm and potential to create a civic square and other innovative uses underneath and around the flyovers;
- A public realm/landscaped scheme to re-imagine Buoys Park as part of the Council's aspirations to improve connectivity and enhanced open spaces across the city centre;
- The development of a potential 'Innovation Lab' as one of the Belfast Region City Deal projects, pending completion of the Outline Business Case.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional resource implications associated with this report.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications at this stage. Equality and Good Relations implications will be assessed at design stage to meet the specific requirements of proposed projects as they emerge."

The Senior Development Manager reported that the briefing had taken place on 15th August and had been attended by representatives of the Department for Infrastructure. He provided an overview of the discussions which had taken place and confirmed that those Members present had agreed that the foregoing report contained sufficient detail to allow it to be submitted to the next monthly of the Committee for consideration.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

Strategic and Operational Issues

Schedule of Presentations to Committee

The Committee approved the following schedule of presentations for the remainder of 2019 and agreed that the recent decision by Queen's University's School of Architecture to declare a climate emergency should feature in the discussions at the meeting on 4th December, to be attended by representatives of Queen's University and the Ulster University:

Date of Meeting	Presentation
9th October (Monthly Meeting)	Tourism NI - to consider collaborative opportunities
23rd October (Special Meeting)	Belfast Harbour Strategy (To which the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is invited)
6th November (Monthly Meeting)	Retail NI - to present its policy agenda 'Regeneration NI, Creating 21st Century Town and City Centres'
27th November (Special Meeting)	NOW Group - to review the work of the social enterprise Social Enterprise NI - to present as part of the Growing the Economy update report on the agenda
4th December (Monthly Meeting)	Queen's University/Ulster University – to outline the role and issues impacting Higher Education in the City and Region

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 11th September**

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting 2019-20

The Committee considered a report which set out the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for the first quarter of 2019/20. The report confirmed that there had, during that period, been an underspend of £65,000 (1.2%), with a year-end overspend of £251,000 (1.5%) being forecast. The underspend could be attributed primarily to vacant posts across a number of services, which had been offset by lower than budgeted income and additional health and safety expenditure.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Translink Policy - Dogs on Buses

At the request of Councillor McAllister, who raised the issue in the absence of the Deputy Lord Mayor, (Councillor McReynolds), the Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to Translink, recommending that it review and amend its policy governing the carriage of dogs on buses and trains, to allow for more dog owners to avail of public transport.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 18th September, 2019

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor S. Baker (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
The High Sherriff, Alderman Sandford; and
Councillors Bunting, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson,
Groves, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly,
T. Kelly, Magee, McAteer, Smyth and Whyte.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. K. Bloomfield; Houses of Multiple Occupancy
Manager;
Ms. M. Gallagher, Senior Building Control Surveyor; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillor Magennis.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Delegated Matters

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

Applications Approved under Delegated Authority

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

Consideration of objections to an application for the Grant of an Entertainments Licence for the Lansdowne Hotel

The Building Control Manager provided an overview of the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To consider an application for the Grant of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Lansdowne Hotel based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

1.2

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Lansdowne Hotel, 657-659 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EF	WK/201900809	Mr Edmund Simpson JPE Hotels Antrim Road, Belfast

1.3 A copy of the application form is available on the Council’s website.

1.4 A location map of the premises is attached (copy available on the Council’s website).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Considering the information presented and representations received in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:

- 1. Approve the application for the Grant of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence, or**
- 2. Approve the application for the Grant of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence with special conditions, or**
- 3. Refuse the application for the Grant of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.**

2.2 If the application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council’s decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.

2.3 If the application is refused and an appeal is lodged entertainment may not be provided during the appeal period.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Three objections have been received from residents living near the Hotel. The nature of their objections relates to the following:

- Conversations and noise from patrons using the beer garden are at unacceptable levels of noise.
- The high level of noise breakout from the venue.
- The dispersal of patrons and taxis late at night create an unacceptable level of noise.
- The granting of a licence will escalate the noise problems from the beer garden.

3.2 Copies of these objections are available on the Council's website.

Liaison meetings

3.3 Following receipt of the objections the Service facilitated liaison meetings between all parties involved to discuss residents' issues and attempt to resolve them.

3.4 Two of the objectors, a hotel director and an Officer from the Service Officer met at the Hotel to discuss resident's concerns on 3 July 2019 and a second meeting was held on 18 July to allow a further resident who had been on holiday to discuss their issues.

3.5 Following discussions, the hotel management implemented arrangements in relation to patron dispersal and noise as requested by residents. However, despite these meetings the residents still wish to pursue their objections.

3.6 As required by the Committee Protocol the applicant and each of the objectors were requested to provide their representation in advance of the meeting for consideration.

Objectors Representation

3.7 The objectors Representation Forms are attached as Appendix 4 and they have been provided to the applicant, as required by the protocol.

3.8 In general, the representations relate to concerns as follows:

- The provision of entertainment without a licence,

- Noise caused by patrons leaving the premises late at night,
- The relocation of the main entrance to the Antrim Road and lack of management to encourage patron dispersal,
- Music is still audible despite remedial measures by the applicant,
- Noise caused by patrons in the beer garden area.

3.9 The residents have been invited to attend your meeting to discuss any matters relating to their objections should they arise.

Applicants Representation

3.10 The applicant has provided their Representation Form, as required by the Protocol, and a copy of his response is attached as Appendix 5. The applicant has highlighted the measures which have been undertaken to try and address residents' concerns.

3.11 The applicants Representation Form has also been provided to the objectors, as required by the protocol.

3.12 A summary of the applicant's representation is as follows:

- The hotel directors have been in regular communication with the three residents objecting and endeavoured to satisfy their requests.
- The hotel directors have invested £2.5 million to refurbish the hotel.
- The hotel employs 72 staff from the local area and the failure to obtain an Entertainments Licence may well affect their future employment.
- The hotel carried out an external lobby construction at a cost of £18,000 to ensure that noise from the hotel could be reduced.
- Door staff were employed to ensure entrance doors were open for the minimum time possible.
- Signage was erected to encourage patrons to disperse quietly.
- The applicant has employed an acoustic consultant to advise on potential noise breakout from the venue.

Counter representations

3.13 In response to the Representation Form submitted by the applicant one of the objectors has disagreed with their assertion that music levels are no longer an issue for residents. The resident has also added that they are not

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

seeking an outright ban on live music but that a compromise situation can be found to suit all.

- 3.14 A copy of this email is included (copy available on the Council's website).
- 3.15 Further to providing the applicant with a copy of the objectors' Representation Forms the applicant has strenuously refuted any knowledge of social media comments causing the objectors concern and has provided information suggesting Members should disregard this information.
- 3.16 A copy of this email is included (copy available on the Council's website).
- 3.17 The applicant has also objected to a photograph submitted in supporting evidence by one of the objectors. Further to discussion with Legal Services this photograph has been omitted from the information provided with the Representation Forms.
- 3.18 The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.

Details of the Premises

- 3.19 The areas the applicant wishes to be licensed to provide entertainment are the:
- 3.20 Ground Floor Bar which will have a maximum capacity of 200 persons
- 3.21 Ground Floor Function room which will have a maximum capacity of 350 persons.
- 3.22 The days and hours during which the applicant wishes to provide entertainment are:
- Monday to Saturday: 11.30 am to 1.00 am the following morning and,
 - Sunday: 12.30 pm to midnight.

PSNI

- 3.23 The PSNI have been consulted in relation to the application and confirmed that they have no objection to it. Police have also advised that they are in contact with the Licensee and his solicitor regarding the recent alterations to the premises.

NIFRS

- 3.24 The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has also been consulted in relation to the application and have advised they have no objection to it.

Health, safety and enforcement inspections

- 3.25 The premises have been inspected and all works to ensure patron safety in the premises have been completed to the satisfaction of the Service.
- 3.26 The Service became aware of residents' concerns with the premises in July 2019 when complaints were made through the Council's Noise Hotline Service alleging that entertainment was being held on the premises and residents were being disturbed by noise from music and patrons in and around the premises.
- 3.27 Monitoring inspections were carried out at the premises by Officers from the Service on 06 July, 20 July and 16 August and the inspection on 20 July was arranged jointly with PSNI.
- 3.28 To date we have not witnessed entertainment being provided at the premises and no enforcement action is contemplated at present.

Noise issues

- 3.29 Two noise complaints have been received by the Night Time Noise Team (NTNT) since the application was made in July 2019. When responding to the complaints and attending the area Officers of the Noise Team did not witness any excessive noise levels that warranted action.
- 3.30 On 14th July a planned night time call out was arranged after a liaison meeting with a complainant. Outside the complainant's dwelling audible bass music was heard for a few minutes and voices were heard from the beer garden. Within the complainant's bedroom traffic noise was the main source of noise recorded.
- 3.31 On 3rd September a complainant contacted the NTNT who visited the premises but witnessed no noise from the Hotel and no patrons in the beer garden. Inside the complainant's property NTNT witnessed no noise from the hotel and road traffic noise was predominant.
- 3.32 The applicant has provided an acoustic report to determine if any works need to be carried out to the premises to prevent

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

noise breakout. The report is currently being assessed by the Environmental Protection Unit and it is suggested that, if Members are of a mind to grant a licence, you do so on the basis that all acoustic measures are implemented to the satisfaction of the Council before entertainment may take place.

3.33 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives council's additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

3.34 Financial and Resource Implications

Officers carry out monitoring inspections on premises receiving complaints, but this is catered for within existing budgets.

3.35 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no issues associated with this report."

The Committee received a representation from Mr. M. Scott, Mr. M. McCann, and Dr. A. Clarke in objection to the application.

Mr. Scott summarised his objections to the application and suggested that there had not been an issue with noise levels from the hotel until it reopened in June, 2019. He highlighted that he had been in contact with the owner of the hotel in relation to the noise coming from the beer garden who said it would be closed at a reasonable hour, however, that had not happened and it was affecting his sleep and quality of life. He confirmed that the last contact he had had from the hotel was on the 5th July. He highlighted that the hotel was situated on the edge of a conservation area, and questioned the future plans for the outside speakers in the beer garden.

Dr. Clarke outlined a range of objections to the application, which included the noise from patrons leaving the hotel and the noise levels that were affecting his family life and sleep, especially on the weekend. He stated that the hotel had been playing music, from when it had reopened, without an entertainments licence, and played music until the Council had told them not to. He suggested that there was a lack of door staff and pointed out that he had tried to negotiate with the hotel in relation to the noise, but found them unhelpful and nothing had been done to alleviate the issues raised. He suggested that the main licensing issues were the dispersion of patrons outside and questioned if there was a liquor licence for the beer garden and if planning permission was required for the changes to doors being at the front of the property. He pointed out that the Hotel management had not consulted with the neighbours.

Mr. McCann advised that he did not want to stop the entertainment at the hotel, however, he wanted to highlight that the level of noise from the beer garden and music was unacceptable. He suggested that the Hotel was now selling itself as a live music venue which had led to the recent noise complaints. He requested that residents and

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

families should be protected in these new circumstances, especially during weekdays and suggested that it was unacceptable that his family could hear noise in their bedrooms from music and patrons in the beer garden until 1am. He concluded that, to grant a licence for music every night of the week, would be unfair to residents and the noise levels should be controlled. He stated that the Council's guidelines should be followed in consideration of the application.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. J. McLaughlin, Mr. R. Gaston, and Mr. K. Casey, in support of the application.

Mr. McLaughlin, owner of the Lansdowne Hotel, advised that the hotel had recently been refurbished as a wedding and events venue. He stated that an entertainments licence was required to make the business viable. He reported that he had invested heavily in the Hotel with the addition of £30,000 of remedial works on issues which had been raised by residents about the noise levels, which included:

- an external porch to ensure that noise from the hotel could be reduced;
- the installation of noise reduction glazing;
- introduction of a noise policy and a patron dispersal policy;
- employment of a sound engineer and an independent acoustic consultant to advise on potential noise breakout from the venue; and
- natural hedge foliage in the garden, to also help act as a noise buffer.

He implied that the noise reducing measures had worked and suggested that they had fully engaged with the Council and residents. He emphasised that noise would be kept at an appropriate level as the hotel also had residents to look after.

Mr. Casey pointed out that the Hotel had a liquor licence for the entire property, which included the beer garden and curtilage, therefore there had been no breach of the liquor licence and no objections had been made by the PSNI.

During Members' questions, the representatives explained further the acoustic report, the patron dispersal plan and explained that the front door could not be closed as it was a fire exit. They suggested that there was no music being played in the beer garden, door staff had been employed to ensure entrance doors were open for the minimum time possible and signage had also been erected to encourage patrons to disperse quietly. They stated that the Beer garden closed 20 minutes before the closing time.

The Members watched a short video which showed footage from outside of the hotel to illustrate the level of noise.

The Divisional Solicitor reminded the Committee that issues in relation to liquor licensing were dealt with by the PSNI and planning permission matters were dealt with by the Planning Service. She confirmed that the Committee could take into account noise issues related to the provision of entertainment at the premises.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

After discussion, the Committee approved the application for the Grant of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence, subject to the assessment of the acoustic report by the Environmental Protection Unit and that, should any issues arise in relation to licensing matters, the Council would convene a meeting between relevant parties to address these matters.

Application for the Variation of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for Fountain Lane

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the variation of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Fountain Lane, based upon the Council's standard condition to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that entertainment was provided currently on Monday to Saturday from 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 a.m. and on Sunday from 12.30 p.m. to midnight. The licensee had now applied to provide entertainment till 2.00 a.m. the following morning on Monday to Sunday.

He pointed out that the applicant had stated that the main reason they wished to extend the hours of entertainment was to compete with other premises in the City centre providing late night entertainment.

The Building Control Manager confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for the Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, given that the application related to the extension of the hours of entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m., it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

He advised that no noise complaints had been received in relation to the premises in the last 12 months.

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Fountain Lane, 16-20 Fountain Street, thereby permitting entertainment to take place till 2.00 a.m. the following morning on Monday to Sunday.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licenses – Enforcement Policy and the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices

The Committee was reminded that the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 became operational on 1st April, 2019 when the Council took over operational responsibility for HMO licensing and enforcement.

The NIHMO Manager advised that the purpose of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 was to enable better regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO), by introducing a system of licensing and new provisions about standards of housing. He reported that the NIHMO Unit based in the Council acted on behalf of each of the 11 Northern Ireland Council's to ensure an efficient and effective

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

approach to all regulatory and enforcement activities would be carried out under the Act and the associated sub-ordinate legislation.

He highlighted that the proposed HMO Enforcement Guidelines were attached in Appendix 1 (copy available [here](#)) which set out the principles which would enable the NIHMO Unit to provide an effective and fair service, and to ensure consistent and open enforcement.

In relation to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), the NIHMO Manager stated that the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 provided a wide variety of enforcement options, including the ability to serve FPNs and highlighted that the issuing of a notice would be an alternative to prosecuting the offender. He advised that, to date, 5 fixed penalty notices had been issued and four of the penalty fines had been paid.

He confirmed that more than 100 properties in Belfast, previously licensed as HMOs, had not applied to renew their licenses and the properties would be inspected and assessed for any offences under the HMO Act.

He informed the Committee that, for offences (other than section 31(1) exceeding licensed occupancy for which there is no reasonable excuse provision), the NIHMO Unit would write to the owner or the managing agent and request an explanation. However, if no reasonable excuse was forthcoming, an authorised officer would serve a fixed penalty notice and, in accordance with section 8.5 of the aforementioned HMO enforcement policy, failure to pay the fixed penalty notice would result in the Council commencing legal proceeding of the alleged offence.

The Committee agreed to endorse the HMO enforcement Policy Guidelines and noted the information which had been provided, in particular the service of fixed penalty notices.

**Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licenses
Issued Under Delegated Authority**

The Committee was reminded that, under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department was responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue and variation, but not the refusal of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to the issue of HMO Licences where adverse representations had been made.

The NIHMO Manager reported that, under the terms of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and The Houses in Multiple Occupation (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, the HMO Licences, which had been issued since the last Committee, were outlined in the report (copy available [here](#)).

The Committee noted the HMO applications which had been issued under the Scheme of Delegation.

Restricted Item

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

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

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licenses – Planning Issues

The Divisional Solicitor provided the Committee with an update on the requirement of planning permission as part of the renewal application process.

She reported that, pursuant to the 2016 Act, the Council may only grant a licence if it was satisfied of the following:

- the occupation of the living accommodation as an HMO would not constitute a breach of planning control;
- the owner of the living accommodation, and any managing agent of it, were fit and proper persons;
- the proposed management arrangements for the living accommodation are satisfactory);
- the granting of the licence will not result in overprovision of HMOs in the locality in which the living accommodation was situated and
- the living accommodation was fit for human habitation and—
- was suitable for occupation as an HMO by the number of persons to be specified in the licence, or
- could be made so suitable by including conditions in the licence.

She advised that Section 20 of the 2016 Act covered renewals and it stated that, where the holder of an HMO licence made an application in accordance with this section for it to be renewed, the Council may renew the licence. In doing so, the above provisions applied except for the provisions in relation to the breach of planning control and overprovision.

Following advice from Senior Counsel in relation to this issue, the Divisional Solicitor reiterated that issues relating to whether premises had the benefit of planning permission could not be considered in HMO renewal applications.

Noted.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th September, 2019**

Non-Delegated Matters

Licence Fees for Sex Establishments

It was reported that, under Article 4 and Schedule 2 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 (the Order), the Council had powers relating to the Licensing of Sex Establishments. Paragraph 19, Schedule 2 provided that an applicant for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence shall pay a reasonable fee determined by the council.

Unlike the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 and the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014, there was no procedure prescribed in the Order that the Council must follow in determining the Licence fee.

The Building Control Manager advised that current Sex Establishment Licence fees were initially set by the Committee in June, 2016 and the Committee had agreed that a review of the fees be conducted each year.

The Committee agreed that the following current fees, set in September 2018, remain unchanged:

Application Fee	£3,200
Renewal Fee	£1,430
Transfer Fee	£1,125
Licence Fee	£500

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 17th September, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Brooks, Canavan, Collins,
Garrett, Groogan, Hussey,
McKeown, Murphy and Nicholl.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development
Management); and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors McMullan and O'Hara.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 2nd July and 13th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nicholl declared an interest in item 8f, namely, LA04/2019/1019/F and LA04/2019/0979/DCA - Demolition of the Students Union and erection of a new Student Centre, in that she was an employee of Queen's University Belfast and worked in the building. She left the room for the duration of the item.

Councillor Groogan declared an interest in item 8h, namely, LA04/2019/0127/O – Redevelopment of existing surface car park and erection of new purpose built built to rent residential units, in that in her previous employment, she had attended consultation events and objected to the application. She left the room for the duration of the discussion.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in item 8p, namely, LA04/2018/2546/F – Demolition of existing dwelling at 30 Church Road and erection of replacement dwelling,

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

in that he had liaised with the neighbouring objectors and, while he had expressed no opinion on the application, withdrew from the room for the duration of the discussion.

Councillor Canavan declared an interest in item 8j, namely LA04/2019/0218/F – Environmental and ecological improvement works comprising upgrades at Springfield Dam and Park, in that she wished to speak in support of the application, and she did not take part in the vote.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 1, 2019/2020

The Director of Planning and Building Control summarised the contents of a report which presented a Quarter 1 financial position for the Planning Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He explained that the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed a net under-spend of £57,000 (14.67%), with the forecast year-end position being an over-spend of £48,000 (3.2%).

The Committee was advised that the reasons for the Quarter 1 underspend were due to planning fees received having exceeded the anticipated level for the quarter by £40,000, offset by an underachievement of £107,000 associated with Inspection Fee income. He added that interim vacancies within the Building Control section had driven a £47,000 underspend in the employee budget with other underspends across the Division's expenditure budgets equating to £77,000.

The Committee noted the contents of the Quarter 1 financial update.

Committee Site Visit

It was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 4th September in respect of planning application LA04/2019/0553/F and LA04/2019/0420/DCA – Lands at Lyndon Court, 32-38 Queen Street.

Abandonments, Extinguishments and Flood Alleviation

The Committee was apprised of correspondence which had been received relating to the proposed abandonment of:

- Land/footpath at Ballymacarrett Walkway/Tamar Street

The Committee also noted that late correspondence had been received from the Department for Infrastructure, relating to a proposed flood alleviation scheme on the Glenbrook River in east Belfast, which would be undertaken by DFI Rivers.

Planning Appeals Notified

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

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 6th August and 9th September, 2019.

**Response to re-consultation from Dfl on the
redevelopment of Casement Park**

The Committee considered a report on the re-consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) on the planning application for the redevelopment of Casement Park, LA04/2017/0474/F. The Members were advised that DfI was the determining authority, given the applications regional significance, and had formally called-in the application under Section 29 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The Committee was advised that, in June 2018, DfI undertook a round of consultation based on the receipt of further environmental information, an updated planning statement and revised plans.

The Members were advised that, in July 2019, the DfI had proceeded with another round of consultation, following the receipt of further environmental information. The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the new information which included a Noise Impact Assessment, an updated Planning Statement, sources of the attendance figures from the Transport Assessment and information on how pedestrian egress was to be addressed.

The Committee was advised that the additional information which had been submitted primarily related to technical matters and that the Environmental Health team would provide advice to the Department on the Noise Assessment and other matters relevant to operations, with DfI Roads best placed to provide advice on the transport elements.

A Member suggested that the Council should ask the Department for Infrastructure to meet with the Moreland and Owenvarragh Residents Association (MORA) in relation to the planning application.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- the draft re-consultation response; and
- to write to the DfI, requesting that they would meet with the Moreland and Owenvarragh Residents Association (MORA)

Restricted Items

Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) - Update

(Mr. K. Sutherland, Planning Manager (Policy), attended in connection with this item)

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that the Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy (dPS) had been formally submitted to the Department for Infrastructure

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

(DfI) on 30th August. He explained that it was a major milestone in the process, in advance of the upcoming independent examination of soundness by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC).

A number of Members thanked the officers involved in the LDP for their continued hard work in relation to the Local Development Plan.

The Planning Manager reminded the Committee that it had agreed to invite representatives from the DfI to attend the meeting, in order to discuss Members' concerns in relation to the "draft Development Plan Practice Note 10" consultation. He explained that the Department had advised that no-one was available to attend the meeting due to busy work schedules. A number of Members stated that they felt it was important that the Department be invited to attend a future meeting in order to confer their concerns.

After further discussion, the Committee:

1. noted that the LDP draft Plan Strategy (dPS) had been submitted to the DfI on 30th August 2019;
2. agreed to delegate responsibility to officers for further revision of the LDP timetable; and
3. agreed that officers would again invite the DfI to attend a future meeting to discuss the guidance on the "draft Development Plan Practice Note 10 Consultation".

Response to Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy

(Mr. D. O'Kane, Principal Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Principal Planning Officer advised the Committee that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) had published its Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy (dPS) for public consultation.

He provided the Committee with a summary of the document and an overview of the Council's draft response to ANBC's draft Plan Strategy, where the comments focused primarily on spatial growth, settlement hierarchy, retail hierarchy, affordable/social housing, transport and future working.

The Committee:

1. noted the public consultation of ANBC's draft Plan Strategy; and
2. agreed that the draft response to the dPS be submitted to ANBC.

Planning Applications

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

Application Withdrawn

The Committee noted that the following item (8b) had been withdrawn from the agenda:

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

- LA04/2019/0517/F - Residential development comprising 154 units and ground floor retail unit at El Divino Nightclub and car park and adjacent open space, Mays Meadow

Upon receiving advice from the Director of Planning and Building Control, the Committee agreed to undertake a pre-emptive site visit to the site.

**(Reconsidered) LA04/2019/0553/F and LA04/2019/0420/DCA –
Demolition of existing building and erection of 175 bed aparthotel
with associated bar, restaurant and conferencing facilities and
associated works on Land at Lyndon Court , 32-38 Queen Street**

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 13th August, to undertake a site visit to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand. She explained that the site visit had taken place on 4th September.

The Members were advised of the principal aspects of the application for a nine-storey aparthotel. The case officer highlighted that officers were recommending an additional condition to ensure that the apart-hotel could not be used as long-term residential accommodation, as the proposal had not been assessed against the relevant policies for residential accommodation and might be inappropriate for such use.

The Committee was advised that the site was located within the City Centre Conservation Area, an Area of Parking Restraint, the Primary Retail Core, an Old City Character Area and that it was proximate to listed buildings. She explained that the proposal met the policy tests outlined in the SPPS and Planning Policy Statement 6.

She advised the Committee that a number of consultations had been returned since the last meeting. She explained that DfI Roads Service had no objections and that the Natural Environment Division had confirmed that the Bat Survey was acceptable and that they also had no objections. The Members were also advised that the Urban Design and Conservation officers had confirmed that the change in materials, to light grey mottled brick with copper/bronze aluminium walling on the top two floors, had resolved their remaining concerns.

The Historic Environment Division had also assessed the amended plans with regards to materials and had no objections.

The Committee noted that no third party representations had been received.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. B. Starkey and Mr. R. O'Toole, representing the agents, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting. They explained that the current building did not reflect the architectural or historical interest of the wider area and that the contemporary design of the proposal, and the materials used, would contribute positively to the conservation area.

In response to a Member's question regarding the proposed height of the building, the case officer explained that it was considered an appropriate height and that building heights would often peak at a prominent corner site.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

In response to a further question regarding the choice of building materials for the scheme, she advised the Committee that new red brick would stand out in between two longstanding red brick buildings, and that the choice of mottled grey brick, with copper/bronze to reflect the nearby red brick, was more appropriate.

After discussion, the Chairperson put the case officer's recommendations to the Committee for its consideration, namely:

"That planning permission be granted, subject to conditions, and that delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions as set out in draft in the case officer's report."

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

LA04/2018/2283/O - Demolition of existing building and construction of 12 apartments at 236 Upper Newtownards Road

The Planning Manager (Development Management) advised the Committee he was aware that information had been circulated to members of the Committee directly by the applicant. He reminded members that this was contrary to the Committee's Operating Protocol and, as such, its contents should be disregarded. He also explained that if Members did receive correspondence about a particular application that it should be forwarded to Democratic Services.

The Planning Manager provided the Members with the key aspects of the outline application for the principle of demolition of the current building and the construction of 12 apartments. He outlined the key issues which had been considered in the assessment of the proposed development.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack, where the agent had submitted a number of points highlighting the sensitive history of the site and had sought to counteract a number of the reasons for refusal within the case officer's report.

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that the site was located within the Belmont Area of Townscape Character (ATC) in draft BMAP and was in close proximity to the Cyprus Avenue Conservation Area.

He explained that nine objections had been received in relation to the application, citing issues with the design, scale and density, impact of the proposed development on traffic, traffic safety concerns relating to the nearby primary school, insufficient parking provision and the overlooking of neighbouring properties.

The Committee was advised that DfI Roads had objected to the application citing unacceptable access, issues with parking provision and that a Transport Assessment Form (TAF) was required.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

The Planning Manager advised the Members that it was considered that the existing building made a positive contribution to the character of the draft ATC and that its demolition was considered unacceptable. However, he advised the Committee that the site's sensitive history, as the former Kincora Boys' Home, was also a material consideration. He explained that it was within the Committee's gift to determine whether the sensitive history of the site carried such weight that it could agree that demolition was, in fact, acceptable.

The Committee was advised that the applicant had failed to demonstrate that the site could accommodate development of the scale proposed without harm to the character and appearance of the area, the amenity of neighbouring residents and that it failed to make adequate provision for parking. The Planning Manager explained that the proposal was accompanied by insufficient information to assess the impacts of the proposal in respect of parking, air quality, noise and drainage.

The Members were advised that a refusal of the application was recommended for the reasons as detailed within the report.

The Chairperson explained that Mr. L. Black, applicant, Mr. A. Warren, architect, and Ms. T. Cassidy, Planner, had requested to address the Committee and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Black stated that he believed demolition consent should be granted due to the reported history of the former Boys' home. Mr. Warren explained that, after discussion with planning officers, they had been advised to reduce the number of car parking spaces on the site. He stated that 36% of houses in the city did not have access to a car and that the location of the site had excellent public transport links. He also advised the Committee that the Drainage Assessment was a technical issue which could easily be resolved. Ms. Cassidy advised the Committee that the site was on white land and that she believed exceptional circumstances existed, as contained in PPS6, in terms of the sensitive history of the building.

A Member queried why there was an issue associated with the parking provision in the proposed development. In response, the Planning Manager explained that each site had to be determined on its own merits, within the correct context and in terms of the use. He clarified that residential use and commercial use of a site had different standards.

A number of Members stated that they felt there were grounds for the demolition of the existing property, given the sensitive history associated with it. A number of Members however, also expressed concerns with the proposed development for the site.

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that, if it was minded, it could refuse the application for the reasons within the Case officer's report but with the removal of reason 1, namely, that "the demolition of the current structure would harm the character and appearance of the area".

The Divisional Solicitor added that the Committee could not agree to the demolition of the existing building in isolation. She confirmed that, as it was one

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

application, the Committee was required to determine whether to accept or refuse the application in its totality, or to defer consideration in order to undertake a site visit.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand; and
2. that Dfl Roads be invited to attend the next meeting in order to discuss the issues which had been raised during discussion.

LA04/2018/2097/F - Change of use & refurbishment of Wilton House to provide 8 apartments including alterations to rear & side elevation of Wilton House and demolition of existing rear return & erection of new build 5 storey residential development to provide 23 dwellings (15 new build) at Wilton House 5-6 College Square North

Before presentation of the application commenced, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand.

The Committee noted that, as the application had not been presented, all Members' present at the next meeting, would be able to take part in the debate and vote on this item.

LA04/2019/1445/O - Residential development of 53 apartments and car parking spaces at Former Monarch Laundry Site, 451-455 Donegall Road

Before presentation of the application commenced, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand.

The Committee noted that, as the application had not been presented, all Members' present at the next meeting, would be able to take part in the debate and vote on this item.

LA04/2019/1019/F - Demolition of the existing Queen's University Students' Union building and erection of a new Student Centre

(Councillor Nicholl declared an interest in the item and
left the room for the duration of the discussion)

The Committee was provided with the key aspects of the major application for the demolition of the former Students' Union and the construction of a replacement Students' centre comprising shopping, food and bar outlets, offices, multi-purpose spaces, roof-mounted solar panels and the reconfiguration of on-street car parking and public realm enhancements.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

The Members were advised of the main issues which had been considered in relation to the application, including the principle of demolition in the conservation area and the application's impact on built heritage, traffic and parking, adjacent land users.

The case officer outlined that the site was located within the Metropolitan Development Limit, the Queen's Conservation Area, an Area of Parking Restraint and the Queen's Office Precinct.

She highlighted to the Members that the current building was a piecemeal combination of an original building from the 1960s together with an extension and modern redevelopment with recladding from 2007.

She explained that three main viewpoints had been considered when assessing the proposed scheme, namely, from the front of the main Lanyon building, from the front gates of Botanic Gardens and when travelling country-bound on University Road. The Committee was advised that the plant would be housed on the roof and that adjustments had been made to ensure that it was not prominent from any of the viewpoints.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack, where additional representation had been received from the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincy. The issues raised related to concerns in the Noise Addendum Report, citing that residents living in Nos. 10, 28-28 and 42 Elmwood Avenue had not been taken into consideration, that the traffic noise was not the dominant noise concern, concerns regarding the new layby and queried whether attendees could exit the Students' Union building onto University Road. The case officer explained the planning response to each of the points which had been raised.

She highlighted that correspondence had been received from the agent representing the University earlier that day, confirming that the University was willing to amend its plan and use the University Road doors after 11p.m., when the multi-purpose hall was in use and an event was at maximum capacity. She confirmed to the Members that Environmental Health had subsequently confirmed it was content with this approach.

The Chairperson explained that Ms. A. McFerran, Mr. A. Munro and Ms. C. Cooper, representing the agents, were in attendance to address the Committee and he welcomed them to the meeting. They highlighted that the proposed building was in keeping with the Conservation area, while providing a significant upgrade to the current Student facilities.

During discussion, a Member queried why the University Road exit would only be used for events at maximum capacity. The Case officer explained that, following six months of occupation, a Noise Verification Report was required to be submitted which would bring any issues to the fore. She also added that officers would try to tighten up the wording of conditions in relation to the issue.

In response to a Member's query regarding the cycle parking provision, the case officer explained that while there would only be 21 spaces provided as part of the

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

application, that the wider University area had significant cycle parking in addition to a nearby Belfast Bikes station.

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

LA04/2018/2602/F - Demolition of existing building at lands bound by Little Victoria Street, Bruce Street & Holmes Street for new 15 storey purpose built student accommodation building

(Councillor Nicholl returned to the meeting at this point)

The Members were provided with the principal aspects of an application for the demolition of an existing building and the proposed construction of purpose built student accommodation, comprising 274 units, within the city centre.

The case officer explained the key issues which were considered in the assessment of the proposal which included the principle of redevelopment, scale, massing and design, open space provision, impact on the Linen Conservation Area, contamination and developer contributions.

He explained that the area was designated as unzoned whiteland in the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) and that it fell within the Commercial District Character Area in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan of 2004 and 2015. He advised the Committee that the area was defined by a mix of smaller scaled traditional buildings, surface level car parks and more modern high rise buildings to the north and west of the site off Bedford Street and Great Victoria Street in particular.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack. The Case officer reported that Environmental Health had welcomed the revised Acoustic Design Statement for the application, which recommended a higher specification for the sound reduction of glazing and means of ventilation. It was noted that Environmental Health had recommended that a condition be attached requesting verification that the suggested mitigation measures had been carried out prior to occupation.

The Members were advised that two letters of objection had been received, raising the potential adverse impact on the amenity of a residential zoned site in Holmes Street. The Case officer explained that there was a considerable step down in the building from Little Victoria Street, from 45.2 metres to 36 metres, which represented a built form approximately 7 metres lower onto Holmes Street than the extant approval on the site.

The Case officer highlighted that a representation had been received in relation to land ownership, which was a legal matter, and which had been addressed within the report.

The Committee noted that the building had already been demolished and that investigative works had already been carried out on site. The case officer explained that DAERA were content with the proposals subject to conditions.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

The Committee approved the application and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any planning agreements which might be realised at the site. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/0127/O - Redevelopment of existing surface car park and erection of new purpose built, build to rent residential units, with shared amenity spaces on site bounded by Glenalpin Street, Wellwood Street and Norwood Street

(Councillor Groogan declared an interest in the item and left the room for the duration of the discussion)

The Case officer provided the Committee with the key details of the outline application for the redevelopment of an existing car park and the erection of purpose built “build to rent” residential units with shared amenity spaces and associated car parking.

He advised the Members of the principle issues in the assessment of the proposed development, which included the principle of development, impact on Built Heritage, scale, massing and design, Open Space provision, traffic and parking, impact on amenity, contaminated land, drainage and flooding and waste management.

He advised the Committee that the site was unzoned whiteland within the city centre and that it had residential development on three sides.

The Case officer drew the Committee’s attention to the Late Items Pack, where the Historic Environment Division’s (HED) Historic Buildings had submitted their consultation response. It had advised that the proposals might have an adverse impact on the Shaftesbury Square hospital and had requested additional information. The Case officer explained that delegated authority was sought to resolve the matters and to assist HED in its assessment.

The Committee was advised that 78 objections had been received citing issues with social housing, affordability, scale and massing, loss of light, impact on privacy, lack of car parking, impact on traffic and no green space. The case officer advised the Members of the officer’s consideration of the issues raised.

He explained that DfI Roads and DAERA had no objections subject to conditions and that NI Water had no objections to the proposed scheme.

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. R. O’Toole and Mr. C. Deazley, representing the agents, were in attendance and he invited them to address the meeting. They advised the Committee that the scheme had been reduced in scale after discussions with Planning officers.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

A number of Members raised concerns regarding the response from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), whereby it had advised that there was no site specific need for social housing in that area. A number of Members stated that there was a distinct lack of 1 bedroom social housing units in the area and suggested that NIHE should be requested to submit additional information in relation to the need in that area, or be requested to attend the next meeting.

In response to a further Member's query, the Director of Planning and Building Control confirmed that information relating to requirements for affordable housing would be considered as part of the Planning Workshops on the Thursday sessions in due course.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand. The Committee also asked that Planning officers re-engage with the NIHE, either by requesting that the NIHE attend for this item at the next meeting or that additional information be provided by the NIHE in advance of the next meeting in relation to the social housing need in the area.

LA04/2018/2546/F - Demolition of existing dwelling at 30 Church Road and erection of replacement dwelling with associated access car parking and private amenity space at 30 Church Road, Newtownbreda

(Councillor Groogan returned to the meeting at this point)

(Councillor McKeown declared an interest and left the room for the duration of the discussion)

The Case officer outlined the principal aspects of the application to the Committee.

She explained that the proposals respected the surrounding context and were appropriate to the character and topography of the site in terms of layout, scale, proportions, massing and appearance.

The Chairperson explained that a late request to speak had been received from Mr and Mrs. Mainwaring, who had objected to the application. The Committee agreed to receive the deputation and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mrs. Mainwaring explained that they lived beside the site, at no. 32, and that they had concerns relating to the impact of the proposed development on their amenity due to dominance, loss of light and privacy within their property. She explained that they had met with the applicants to discuss the proposals 10 months previously. She advised the Committee that the applicants had acknowledged their concerns and had stated that they would amend the plans to have the garage at the opposite side of the site but that the applicant had never submitted alternative plans to that effect.

A Member requested information as to how the officers had concluded that the proposed development would not overshadow no. 32. The Case officer confirmed to the

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

Members that the overshadowing or dominance posed by the proposals would not be to a significant level in order to qualify a refusal.

A further Member stated that the proposed development was a sizable increase on the current dwelling. The Case officer explained to the Committee that the proposal was in keeping with the other dwellings in the surrounding area.

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

(The Committee adjourned for a 10 minute break at this point)

LA04/2019/1398/F - Variation of conditions of Approval LA04/2017/0235/F for 53 residential units relating to Condition 16 about remediation of contamination and condition 26 relating to phasing of development to allow construction in accordance with an updated construction programme on Lands at Rosepark House, Upper Newtownards Road

(Councillor McKeown returned to the meeting at this point)

The Principal Planning Officer explained that the application was for the variation of conditions 16 and 26 of a previous approval, LA04/2017/0235/F.

He explained that the variation of Condition 16 related to the remediation of contamination to include reference to the remedial measures outlined in the Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment report, dated January 2017, and an updated Ground Gas Risk Assessment and Remedial Strategy, dated May 2019.

The Members were advised that the variation of Condition 26 related to the phasing of the development in accordance with an updated construction programme, to read "any subsequent phase shall not be occupied before the works comprised in all previous phases were completed in accordance with the approved plans".

The Committee granted approval to the variation of the conditions and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/0218/F - Environmental and ecological improvements works comprising upgrades to existing entrances, provision of a new entrance, rearrangement of existing car parking, enhancements to existing paths including a proposed circular pathway and landscaping, Installation of a causeway bridge, modular classroom, fishing stands, floating habitat islands, fencing, lighting and additional street furniture at Springfield Dam and Park, Springfield Road

(Councillor Canavan declared an interest and moved to the public gallery in order to address the Committee on the item, and subsequently left the room for the duration of the discussion)

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

The Committee was apprised of the key aspects of the major application and was advised that the Council was the applicant.

The Principal Planning Officer provided the Members with the key issues for consideration in respect of the proposals, which included the impact on natural heritage, access, parking, impact on built heritage, flood risk and other environmental matters.

The Members were advised that the site was within a local landscape policy area (LLPA), and was a site of local nature conservation importance (SLNCI) as designated within the draft BMAP 2015. He outlined that the proposal had been assessed against and was compliant with SPPS, BUAP 2001, draft BMAP 2015, PPS2, PPS3, PPS6, PPS8 and PPS15. He concluded that the proposals represented an enhancement of the amenity value of the existing park and Dam.

The Committee was advised that Environmental health, NI Water, HED, DAERA's Environment, Marine and Fisheries, Water Management Unit Regulation Unit and Natural Environment Division had raised no issues of concern.

The officer explained that DfI Roads had been consulted and had some technical queries. He explained that the Council's Property and Projects section would consider the issues raised and that delegated authority was sought in order that they would be addressed.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Councillor Cavanan to address the Committee.

Councillor Canavan welcomed the application. She advised the Committee that the Springfield Dam area had been a hotspot for anti-social behaviour and that the enhancements included in the proposed scheme included new lighting and fencing, and that the proposals would restore the Dam to its former glory and would become an environmental asset to the area.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control to resolve any outstanding Roads and Rivers matters and for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/0992/F - Change of use from residential dwelling to HMO at 28 Oceanic Avenue

(Councillor Canavan returned to the meeting at this point)

(Councillor McKeown left the meeting at this point)

The Case officer provided the Committee with the key aspects of an application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). She clarified that there was a misprint in Section 10 of the report, and that the application was, in fact, retrospective.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area.

She explained that the Land and Property Pointer database illustrated that there were 20 domestic properties on Oceanic Avenue, which would allow 2 HMOs before the 10% threshold was exceeded. She explained that records showed that no HMOs were currently registered.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack, where 51 standard letters of objection had been received, citing that there was insufficient parking the area to facilitate the HMO, there were too many HMOs in the area, the proposal did not meet the demand for family housing in the area and that there would be an increase in anti-social behaviour as a result of the proposal. In response, the case officer highlighted to the Members that, while parking was not a requirement for an HMO, there was considered to be sufficient parking in the area, the proposal had been assessed against relevant HMO policy and was compliant, and that anti-social behaviour fell outside of the remit of Planning.

The case officer pointed out that a petition of objection had been received from nearby residents, with seventeen signatures. They had raised issues relating to anti-social behaviour, criminality, parking and noise. The issues which fell within the remit of Planning were addressed within the main report.

She explained that DfI Roads, Environmental Health, Rivers Agency and the Council's Development Plan Team had all been consulted and offered no objection to the proposal.

A number of Members expressed general concern that the number HMOs operating in any one area did not correspond accurately to the number which were registered.

In response to a number of comments from Members as to how the Council checked the number of currently registered HMOs in an area, the Planning Manager (Policy) confirmed that the Local Development Team cross-checked their information with the information held by the HMO Licensing team.

The Director of Planning and Building Control advised the Committee that officers and the Committee was required to apply current planning policy to determine each application on its own merits.

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application, subject to the conditions as outlined within the report, was put to the Committee.

On a vote by show of hands, one Member voted for the proposal and none against, with nine no votes, and it was accordingly declared carried.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

LA04/2019/1159/F - Change of use from residential dwelling to HMO at 72B Earlswood Road

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

The Committee noted that the site fell within the draft Belmont Area of Townscape Character.

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area.

She explained that, according to the Land and Property Services (LPS) Pointer Address database, there were 79 domestic properties in that section of Earlswood Road, which would allow for 7 HMOs before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. The Committee was advised that there was only 1 HMO recorded in that section of road.

The case officer advised the Committee that three objections had been received, raising issues in relation to traffic and parking impact, out of character development, noise and general lack of management of HMOs. She outlined the response to the issues raised and advised that DfI Roads, Environmental Health and the Local Development Plan team had been consulted in relation to the proposal and that all had offered no objection.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2019/1376/F Change of use from residential dwelling to HMO property at 88 Stratheden Street

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that, given the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area, policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case.

She explained that, according to their records, there were 71 domestic properties in Stratheden Street, with no existing HMOs. The Committee was advised that the principle of an HMO at the proposed location was in line with policy and was acceptable in terms of Policy HMO 5.

The Committee noted that no third party representations had been received.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2019/1724/F - Change of use from dwelling house
to HMO at 68 Beech Heights**

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that, given the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area, policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case.

She explained that, according to the LPS Pointer Address database, there were 81 domestic properties on Beech Heights, which would allow for 8 HMO properties before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. The Committee was advised that records illustrated that there were currently 2 HOs on Beech Heights and that the application was acceptable in terms of Policy HMO 5.

The Committee was advised that no third party representations had been received.

The case officer explained that both DfI Roads and Environmental Health had been consulted and had no objections to the proposal.

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application, subject to the conditions as outlined within the report, was put to the Committee.

On a vote by show of hands, seven Members voted for the proposal and none against, with three no votes, and it was accordingly declared carried.

**LA04/2019/1663/F - Change of use from dwelling house
to HMO at 440 Falls Road**

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area.

The Committee was advised that there were 83 domestic properties on that section of the Falls Road. As such, she explained that the policy allowed for the registration of 8 HMO properties in that section of road before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. She explained that there were only 3 HMOs recorded in the section currently, and that the application was therefore acceptable.

The case officer explained that no third party objections had been received in relation to the application.

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application, subject to the conditions as outlined within the report, was put to the Committee.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

On a vote by show of hands, seven Members voted for the proposal and none against, with three no votes, and it was accordingly declared carried.

LA04/2019/0957/F - Temporary covered structure for events at Victoria Park, Park Avenue

(Councillor Groogan left the meeting at this point)

The case officer provided the Committee with the key aspects of a retrospective application for the erection of a temporary covered fabric structure in Victoria Park, measuring 21metres by 11metres.

She advised the Members that the structure would be used for a number of standalone occasions as well as at regular weekly “parkrun” meetings.

The Committee was advised that the development was not considered to have an impact on the character of open space within the Park and that the structure would bring significant benefits to many Park users. She outlined that the development was therefore considered to meet Policy OS1 of PPS8 as it would not result in a permanent loss of open space and would provide a community resource.

The case officer explained to the Committee that, while the applicant had requested planning permission for four years, it was felt that three years was more appropriate given that the type of structure did not have a long lifespan and could diminish the amenity of the Park if retained on site for too long.

The Committee noted that the Council was the applicant.

The Members were advised that the application had been advertised in the local press and that no letters of representation had been received.

The Committee granted approval to the application for three years, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer’s report.

LA04/2019/1161/F - Installation of 2.4m high rigid mesh panel security fencing Alexandra Park Antrim Road

The Committee was apprised of the key aspects of the application for the installation of 90metres of green mesh panel fencing at the above site. She explained that the fence was located within an enclosed portion of Alexandra Park which was not accessible to members of the public.

The case officer advised the Committee that the Council was the applicant.

She provided the Committee with the key aspects which were considered in relation to the application, particularly in relation to the nearby residential development.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

She explained that the application had been advertised in the local press and that no representations had been received. The Members were also advised that the Department for Infrastructure had no objection to the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2019/1792/F - New monument feature to existing memorial garden, new railings with gated access, paving, general repairs and refurbishment and drainage on Memorial at the Junction of Crumlin Road and Glenbank Drive

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application, which comprised an additional monument feature to an existing memorial garden and the addition of a new plinth to the existing cross feature.

The Committee noted that the Council was the applicant.

She advised the Committee that the site was within the development limits for Belfast and was not located within a conservation area or within close proximity to a listed building.

The case officer advised the Committee that the application had been neighbour notified and advertised in the local press and that no comments had been received.

The Members were advised that no consultations were required.

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

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Brexit Committee

Thursday, 12th September, 2019

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor de Faoite (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors D. Baker, Brooks, Canavan,
Flynn, Hanvey, Hutchinson, Long, Magennis,
McAteer, McLaughlin, McKeown and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development
Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Michael Collins, Graham, McAllister and Newton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Schedule of Meetings 2019 - Update

The Committee approved the amended schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2019:

- Thursday, 3rd October at 12.00 – 14:00 (Resilience Template Workshop);
- Monday, 14th October at 17.15 (originally Thursday, 10th October - Change due to Brussels visit on 7-10th October);
- Thursday, 24th October at 17.15 (additional);
- Thursday, 7th November at 17.15 (additional);
- Thursday, 21st November at 17.15;
- Thursday, 5th December at 17.15; and
- Tuesday, 17th December at 17.15 (additional).

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 12th September, 2019**

The Committee also agreed that the following be invited to attend a future meeting in order to outline their views on the impact of Brexit:

- Victoria Hewson, Head of Regulatory Affairs and Research Associate, Institute of Economic Affairs;
- Dr. Graham Gudgin, Chief Economic Adviser, Policy Exchange, Westminster;
- Representative from Alternative Arrangements/Prosperity UK; and
- Secretary General, Niall Burgess, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dublin.

Presentations

Department for the Economy - Northern Ireland Trade and Investment Data Under 'No Deal' Paper

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. S. Murphy, Head of Analytical Services, and Ms. W. Lecky, Economist, representing the Department for the Economy.

Mr. Murphy presented an overview of the Northern Ireland Trade and Investment Data Under 'No Deal' Paper (copy available [here](#)) which had been published on 10th July, 2019. He reminded the Committee that the paper did not represent the NICS's view on matters of policy around EU Exit, it simply set out the evidence for stakeholders to use.

He advised that Northern Ireland (NI) faced a broad range of direct and indirect impacts in the event of a 'no deal' exit. He advised that the impacts were interconnected, for example, businesses and jobs depended on the totality of NI's internal and external trade. He pointed out that it was difficult to set a limit to the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland and suggested that, due to the wide range of interconnections, the NICS's assessment remained that a 'no deal' would have a profound and long-lasting impact on NI's economy and society.

He reported that the Department had published various reports on Brexit analysis and highlighted that, following the publication of the aforementioned 'No Deal' paper, it had compiled a range of relevant economic related statistics and had published a summary of the available economic information throughout the 11 council areas (available [here](#)).

He outlined the risks and impacts of a 'no deal' Brexit, which included:

- An increase in unemployment;
- Consequences for both NI's competitiveness in the all-island economy and NI's place in the UK internal market;
- The impact of EU tariffs and non-tariff barriers potential impact might result in many businesses no longer being able to export to the Irish market, leading to a major reduction in NI's exports to Ireland; and
- Analysis of import volumes and commodity prices showed that NI businesses would have increased vulnerability to low cost non-EU

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 12th September, 2019**

imports in the GB or NI market, in particular, for the agri-food sector.

He stated that 'no deal' therefore placed pressures on NI's access to the EU and UK markets, leaving businesses with very limited options and the NI economy would face an absolute reduction in exports and external sales, with tradable services being similarly exposed.

He highlighted that pressure on businesses to change behaviour to remain viable or the exploitation of differentials by organised crime groups could also see an increase in smuggling and had the potential to change behaviours and attitudes in communities, which, over time, would significantly impact on the culture of lawfulness in NI.

He advised that there would also be an impact on households, such as risk of food price rises, job losses and a risk of downward pressure on wages and investment. He stated that NI's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) attractiveness would be negatively impacted and pointed out that, across all of these risks, it was clear that the majority of businesses did not consider themselves to have a mitigation plans in place, and the NI economy had already showed worrying signs which meant it would be poorly positioned to absorb any shocks from a 'no deal' Brexit.

He emphasised that the Department had been engaging with Businesses in relation to Brexit Readiness but they had found it increasingly difficult to get feedback for its Policy research, therefore, it would appreciate if the Committee could endorse engagement between local businesses and the Department for the Economy.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to job losses and wages, the reliability of the data in the report, the effect of tariffs on SMEs, currency exchange rates, food availability and affordability, the agri-food sector, financial and cyber services, FDI, banking, data access, the potential of a recession, illegal exporting and importing of goods, business preparedness and tourism.

During further discussion, the representatives answered a number of questions from the Members in relation to the economic impact and mitigation measures of a 'no deal' Brexit, the consequences of negotiation strategies, hard border exports, baseline growth and research into economic modelling for NI and south unification.

Mr. Murphy explained further the impacts of tariffs on the economy and the effect on businesses and the long term economic modelling scenarios (e.g trade frictions at different cost to the economy). He highlighted that the Civil Service had set up a group in relation to mitigation measures and its findings would be published. He stated that it was difficult to put a timescale on the long term effects of a 'no deal' Brexit across all of the aforementioned impacts. He advised that data access was a concern and his colleagues were researching this.

He expanded on the issues in relation to job growth, and confirmed that InterTradeIreland was due to publish its research on the potential impact of illegal importing and exporting.

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 12th September, 2019**

He highlighted that there were schemes available to help businesses prepare for Brexit and InterTradeIreland funding Vouchers were available to help prepare for Brexit and suggested that Members should encourage local business to avail of these.

Ms. Lecky advised that the Executive Office had set up a multi-agency group to deal with vulnerable groups and the Council had a representative on this.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that representatives from the Department for the Economy be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the impact of Brexit on the transfer of data, financial data access, and cyber services.

Queen's University and Committee on the Administration of Justice – Human Rights

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd August, it had agreed to invite representatives from the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and Queens' University to discuss the impact of Brexit on Human Rights. It was reported that Prof. C. Harvey, representing Queen's University Belfast, and Mr. D. Holder, representing the CAJ, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Holder provided a presentation on the Rights by citizenship status in the post-Brexit context. He suggested that Irish citizens in Northern Ireland would retain some core EU citizens' rights automatically, most notably rights to basic freedom of movement in the EU, in the same way any EU citizen in an existing third country (i.e. non-EU country) did. However, many subsidiary EU rights, opportunities and benefits would not be automatically retained after Brexit and would require a specific arrangements, such as the European Health Insurance Card and student fees.

He summarised the impact of Brexit on the Good Friday Agreement and highlighted the illustrative table which showed the current two categories of citizenship status in NI, which would become more complex after Brexit.

He stated that the EU Settlement Scheme depended on which deal was agreed upon and explained further the legalities and contradicting elements of the situation of Irish Citizens and the impact of the Settlement Scheme.

He outlined the effect of the EU-UK Joint Report (Phase 1 Agreement) published in December 2017 in relation to the human rights of NI-born Irish citizens and suggested that the Phase II negotiations, that were to examine the 'arrangements required' to ensure that Irish citizens residing in NI were able to continue to be able to 'exercise' and have 'access to' their EU rights, opportunities and benefits, had not been taken forward.

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 12th September, 2019**

He summarised the impending changes to the Associated Reciprocal “Rights” of the Common Travel Area and highlighted the implications of current and future border checks that had the potential to discriminate against citizens.

He concluded with an illustration of a table which showed 13 categories of citizenship status’ in NI, post Brexit, and outlined the impact on access to work, public services, benefits, freedom of movement in the EU and EU rights.

Prof. Harvey advised that Brexit Law NI was a collaborative Economic and Social Research Council funded research project between the Law Schools of Queen’s University Belfast and the Ulster University and the Committee on the Administration of Justice to examine the constitutional, conflict transformation, human rights and equality consequences of Brexit. He stated that further information on the research could be found at www.brexitlawni.org. He suggested that the Council could endorse the annual Human Rights Day which was taking place on 10th December.

He advised that, in relation to a ‘no deal’ Brexit, the evidence suggested that changes to Human Rights Law, post Brexit, would have serious consequences for everyone. He suggested that there were a number of international, regional and domestic human rights standards which were not going to disappear, post Brexit, however there were concerns with the incorporation of those standards in to domestic law. He explained his concerns in relation to the Governments agenda for Human Rights and the intention to replace the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights.

He advised that EU law was fundamentally important to the protection of human rights standards in relation to the following issues:

- Non-discrimination;
- Workers’ rights;
- Environmental protection;
- Free movement rights;
- Socio-economic rights
- Rights of children;
- Data protection;
- Gender identity;
- Gender equal;
- Sexual orientation;
- Disability rights
- Victims’ rights; and
- Consumer protection

He stated that the EU Law also had more robust mechanisms in place for enforcing rights in these areas.

He suggested that, if Brexit must proceed, it would be more advantageous to leave the EU with a deal and a protocol to assist with the implementation and protection of the human rights issues identified.

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 12th September, 2019**

During questions from Members, the representatives expanded on the ramifications of the EU settlement scheme, freedom of movement, the implementation of the Bill of Rights, legal complications of a 'no deal' Brexit, discrimination, and the potential for the dissemination of human rights.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Irish Congress of Trade Unions - Workers' Rights

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. O. Reidy, Assistant General Secretary, representing the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).

Mr Reidy advised that, in relation to Workers' Rights, the last offer between the UK Government and the EU had been the best of the unsatisfactory options for Brexit. He suggested that a UK wide backstop would be the preferable option for the workers across the island of Ireland. He stated that he did not believe the last deal, which had been discussed by the UK Government, would have created a border in the Irish Sea.

He advised that he was a member of the Alternative Arrangements Advisory Committee, set up by Department for Exiting the European Union, and he was concerned that the Backstop was unavoidable and a 'no deal' Brexit would exacerbate the problem.

He tabled a paper on 'Preparing for a 'No Deal' Brexit' which detailed ICTU's proposals to support jobs and workers in Northern Ireland. It included a forecast of the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland in relation to jobs, customs and exports, Foreign Direct Investment, Gross Value Added and inflation.

He reported that ICTU believed that the UK governments' preparations for Northern Ireland in the event of a 'no-deal' had been inadequate. The proposals regarding checks on the border with the Republic of Ireland contained some of the most troubling aspects and ICTU's main concerns were the deregulation effect on NI and the legal obligation of customs checks. He suggested that to reduce the number of job losses, short term work schemes needed to be agreed by government, such as temporary reduction in hours.

He explained the requirement for a Brexit adjustment fund for businesses, post Brexit, together with the necessity for redundancy grants, so that workers could retrain. He suggested there also needed to be a forum for Social Dialogue for Trade Unions, employers, agricultural sector, community and voluntary sector and other social partners to debate and discuss key social and economic issues that would affect the society and such a Forum should continue, post Brexit.

During discussion, Mr Reidy explained further the collective bargaining power of Trade Unions in relation to Brexit, and ICTU's proposals for border controls.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Reidy for attending and he retired from the meeting and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Day 1 Preparedness (Verbal Update)

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the Civil Contingency Arrangements which included the following:

- The Council would continue to participate in Regional training/exercises;
- The Department for Communities (DfC) funding had been confirmed for Brexit Out of Hours reporting/co-ordination;
- National/NI co-ordination would commence on 14th October;
- The Council's internal business continuity monitoring/reporting would mirror this;
- Confirmation of funding for any Brexit/concurrent civil contingencies emergencies was still to be confirmed; and
- Multi-agency plans were in place to co-ordinate the response to any local impacts.

He highlighted that work was ongoing to scope potential city impacts and identify any further mitigation possible (especially businesses and vulnerable people) and invitations to deputations were being pursued. He advised that an internal list of voluntary/community groups supported by DfC grants was also being compiled.

He reminded the Committee that an EU Settlement scheme information day would also take place in October.

In relation to the Council's Critical Services, the Director reported that an internal officer workshop would take place on the 16th September to identify the business resilience impacts and mitigation and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

He advised that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) had made a successful bid to the Department of Finance for £1M to be allocated through FSA to the 11 district councils and up to £145,538.73 had been allocated to the Council for food safety delivery functions, to cover costs in 2019/20.

The Committee noted the update on Brexit Day 1 preparedness.

Update on Visit to Brussels (Verbal Update)

The Business, Research and Development Manager provided an update on the visit to Brussels from 7th - 10th October, and advised that a delegation from NILGA would also be attending the European Week of Regions and Cities.

Noted.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 22nd August, the Committee asked that an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund be brought to its**

next meeting. This paper provides an overview of the Fund and its current status.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 **Main report**

Key issues

3.1 The 2017 Conservative Manifesto promised a ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’ to replace EU funds after Brexit. The European Structural Investment funds (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, EAFRD and Interreg Va & Peace IV) allocate about £3.5B (£890M for non-agriculture) across NI (2014-20) but this will end with Brexit. In July 2018, the Treasury made [assurances](#) that any funding that organisations secure through EU programmes, from then until the end of 2020, will be guaranteed by the UK Government even in a no deal scenario.

Links to the Treasury statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-from-eu-programmes-guaranteed-until-the-end-of-2020>

3.2 Current EU funding supports a range of areas including research and innovation, digital technologies, the low-carbon economy, sustainable management of natural resources, and small businesses. The replacement Shared Prosperity Fund will aim to reduce inequalities between communities through sustainable, inclusive growth based on the UK Industrial Strategy. A UK Government [statement](#) on the fund says it will:

- Tackle inequalities between communities by raising productivity, especially in those parts of our country whose economies are furthest behind.
- Use a simplified process so that investments are targeted based on strong evidence about what works at the local level.
- Engage the devolved administrations to ensure the fund works for places across the UK.

3.3 To deliver on the UK Industrial Strategy, local areas in England are developing Local Industrial Strategies that will be agreed in 2020. These are described as prioritising long-term opportunities and challenges to increase productivity and will help local areas to maximise the impact of their bids to the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Links to the statement:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-07-24/HCWS927>

3.4 The latest position

There have been no major updates on the final approach to the Shared Prosperity Fund. A consultation had been proposed for late 2018 but this has not yet happened. However, comments and suggestions about the funds have been sent to the Treasury (see section 3.5) and the fund has been raised during Westminster debates. For example,

- In [June](#) there were questions asked about any discussions the Cabinet had on the Fund. The reply stated that there had been ‘meetings between officials and over 500 stakeholders at 25 official events across the country.’
- (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-06-11/debates/445E3EA7-A557-4CE4-AE55-FF893EF489E2/SharedProsperityFund>)
- In [July](#), the Chancellor responded to further questions about the progress of the Fund, stating that more details would be announced during the spending review (recent announcements suggest the spending review will happen in early September). (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-02/debates/BCCA28BF-7188-4323-8980-AF973BDFAE64/SharedProsperityFund>)
- From an initial review of the recent Spending Round 2019 (3rd September) it would appear that no further information has been released in relation to this fund. Officers will continue to monitor developments and will update Members as required.

3.5 Feedback to date

Although there has not yet been any formal consultation, a [report](#) released in May 2019 outlined some of the comments already received. Key messages include:

- The general agreement that the fund should be of a similar size to existing EU funding, it should largely be allocated based on need and administered locally.
- That the EU method of calculating need (GDP per worker divided by residents) may not suit the UK (with high numbers of commuters). The EU approach makes London 9 times more productive than the UK’s worst

region; other proposed methods to calculate need close this gap, from 9 times to only 2 times.

- The use of the Barnett formula is discussed. For 2014, the EU had recommended removing Barnett from the calculation of how EU funding was allocated across the UK. It was estimated that this would have resulted in a 20-40% drop in EU funds for the devolved regions and a 9% increase for England. Westminster opposed the change and defeated a legal challenge from some English councils.

(Report available at

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8527/CBP-8527.pdf>)

3.6 Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

At the previous Committee meeting, Members referred to the [report](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/designing-shared-prosperity-fund) on the Shared Prosperity Fund produced by JRF (<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/designing-shared-prosperity-fund>). This report was released in October 2018 and JRF have recommended that:

- Funding should be based on need, (estimated using employment rate and earnings) to drive up pay and employment in less prosperous areas. This is considered a more effective means of overcoming poverty, compared to the UK Government's focus on productivity.
- The new fund should be outside of the Barnett formula.
- The fund should be a 'single pot', mixing capital and revenue streams - investment in physical and economic developments can be complemented by programmes to provide people with skills and employment support.
- The devolved governments and English regions should be able to control their own schemes.

3.7 The report states that using the Barnett formula would significantly disadvantage Wales and Northern Ireland as it is primarily based on population, and not on an assessment of economic need. However, it should be noted that, under the Barnett formula, NI receives approximately 24% more per head on public spending than England. In terms of need, JRF ranks Belfast in the bottom 40 local authorities across the UK; Belfast is mid-table in this group and rated by JRF as requiring less support than cities such as Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Middlesbrough, Dundee and others. The UK Government may

determine the measurement of need differently to JRF and include factors such as the cost of living or the level of qualifications (for reference, Belfast is not in the top twenty local authorities for concentration of people with no qualifications or level 1 as their highest qualification, see page 13 of the JRF report). The factors that are included in the measurement of need will have an influence on Belfast's position in any rankings relative to other cities.

3.8 Currently the JRF report does not provide the level of information that would be needed to fully estimate the implications on funding for Belfast if JRF's recommendations are adopted. However, the earlier EU suggestion to remove Barnett from the calculation of EU funding in 2014 (see 3.5) was estimated to potentially cost NI between 20-40%.

3.9 Beyond the recommendations previously listed, the report refers to some broad policy interventions such as: business support, start-up support, improving basic skill levels, connectivity of infrastructure, etc. and many of these are already in place in Belfast.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications directly relating to this report. However, the previous Council has noted that the scale of EU funding in Belfast is significant. More detail on the Shared Prosperity fund is needed in order to consider the implications for Belfast.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

More detail is required on the Shared Prosperity Fund in order to consider if there are any equality, good relations or rural needs implications."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the potential for a Local Industrial Strategy and to explore the relevance of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation recommendations in designing a Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Committee also noted that issues relating to the Shared Prosperity Fund could be raised with representatives of the Executive Office at a future meeting.

Status of Retained EU law

The City Solicitor provided a summary of the following report in relation to the House of Commons Library briefing on the Status of “retained EU law” (copy available [here](#)) which had been updated and republished on 30th July, 2019:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of the House of Commons Library briefing on the Status of ‘retained EU law’ which was updated and republished on 30 July 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members note the attached summary and appended briefing paper prepared by Graeme Cowie for the House of Commons Library and published on 30 July 2019.

The briefing is relatively complex and it is recommended that any specific queries in relation to individual EU law might be best raised at Committee and followed up by officers accordingly.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Repeal of the European Communities Act

The *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (EUWA)* repeals the *European Communities Act 1972 (ECA)* effective on ‘exit day’ (originally 29 March 2019, now 31 October 2019). In so doing, it removes the domestic constitutional basis for EU law having effect in the United Kingdom.

The basis in international law for EU law having effect on the UK will simultaneously have been extinguished by the operation of Article 50 of the *Treaty on European Union*.

In the event of a Withdrawal Agreement being agreed to by the House of Commons, the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill may postpone this effect until the end of the transition period (see section on Transition below).

3.2 Retention of some EU law

However, this does not mean that EU law is of no consequence to the UK after that point. The *EUWA* also provides for the retention of most of that law, as it stands on exit day, by ‘converting’ or ‘transposing’ it into a freestanding body of domestic law.

The main objective of retaining EU law is to ensure that the UK statute book operates as closely as possible immediately following exit day as it did before then. Although domestic law cannot replicate identically the effect of EU law when the UK is no longer a Member State, this legislative scheme seeks to minimise those initial differences and, in doing so, to provide legal certainty.

3.3 How is EU law retained?

This new body of law is called ‘retained EU law’ and will replicate several different sources of EU law as domestic equivalents. It retains this law under three distinct provisions:

- Section 2 preserves EU-derived domestic legislation.

This (typically) concerns the regulations made (usually but not always under s2(2) *ECA*) or any primary legislation passed in order to implement one or more EU directives (though sometimes other sources of EU law)).

- Section 3 preserves direct EU legislation.

This is defined as all EU regulations, decisions or tertiary legislation and certain parts of the EEA agreement.

- Section 4 preserves any directly effective residual rights, powers, liabilities, obligations, restrictions, remedies and procedures in EU law, subject to several specified exceptions.

The key issue going forward will be less what EU law is retained, but how it can subsequently be modified. The fundamental difference between EU law and retained EU law is that the latter will, in its entirety, be modifiable or revocable by Parliament. In many cases, the UK Government (and in other cases, devolved authorities) will also be able to change retained EU law through secondary legislation.

3.4 What EU law is retained?

In practice, this means (broadly) that the UK is retaining:

- EU regulations, decisions and tertiary legislation and elements of the EEA agreement (as they existed on exit day);
- domestic legislation passed to implement EU directives (and other EU law);
- most general principles of EU law (as they existed on exit day);
- most rights and obligations that currently exist in domestic law because of s.2(1) of the *ECA* (as they existed on exit day); and
- relevant case law of the *CJEU* issued before exit day (though the UK Supreme Court and High Court of Justiciary need no longer follow it).

But the UK is specifically not retaining:

- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- the legislative instruments known as EU directives themselves (as opposed to the legislation implementing them or rights and obligations under them, which will be retained);
- the principle of supremacy of EU law (for prospective legislation); and
- the Francovich principle of state liability (in relation to post exit facts).

(Francovich v Italy (1991) C-6/90 was a decision of the European Court of Justice which established that European Union member states could be liable to pay compensation to individuals who suffered a loss by reason of the member state's failure to transpose an EU directive into national law.)

3.5 Status of retained EU law

EU derived domestic legislation

EUWA also provides a scheme that determines the constitutional status of these elements of EU law. Whereas previously the principle of supremacy of EU law would have given all EU law priority over any domestic law or legislation, this is not the status afforded to retained EU law.

EU law retained under Section 2 of *EUWA* already has a domestic status, as it is either secondary legislation (mainly but not exclusively made under s. 2(2) *ECA*) or in some cases Acts of Parliament.

By way of example, EU-derived domestic legislation will include, among other instruments:

- Acts of Parliament like the Equality Act 2010 or Data Protection Act 2018;
- delegated legislation made by UK ministers under s. 2(2) of the European Communities Act like the Public Contract Regulations 2015 or Working Time Regulations 1998;
- delegated legislation made under Acts that implement EU law, including regulations made by UK ministers under the Value Added Tax Act 1994 or Competition Act 1998;
- both primary and secondary legislation made by devolved institutions, including the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 or the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

As retained EU law is a domestically transposed 'equivalent', rather than EU law itself, Parliament will assume the ultimate constitutional control over its content and its status in relation to domestic law more generally.

Retained direct EU legislation

EU law retained under Sections 3 and 4 of *EUWA*, however, is neither primary nor secondary legislation. It is instead a unique, new category of domestic law with new bespoke rules determining how it may be modified. The *EUWA* sets out these rules in Section 7 and Schedule 8.

The status of retained EU law not falling into existing domestic categories is defined under section 7 of *EUWA*. It subdivides retained direct EU legislation into two categories:

- retained direct 'principal' EU legislation; and
- retained direct 'minor' EU legislation.

These two categories do not directly correspond to 'primary' and 'secondary' legislation, which are the normal distinctions drawn in domestic law. Instead, the *EUWA* sets out the rules that govern how those two categories of law can be modified or repealed and by what type of conventional domestic legal instrument.

Although the principle of supremacy applies to interpretation of retained direct EU legislation in relation to domestic legislation passed before exit day, the real challenge concerns interpretation of legislation passed after exit day, which may modify or repeal it (whether expressly or impliedly).

The key difference between ‘minor’ and ‘principal’ retained direct EU legislation is that, whereas the former can be modified routinely by secondary legislation, the latter must be modified by primary legislation unless and to the extent that the provisions under which secondary legislation is made provides otherwise.

The Act also treats retained direct ‘principal’ EU legislation as though it were ‘primary’ legislation for the purposes of the *Human Rights Act 1998*. This immunises it against being declared invalid for incompatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Direct EU legislation will include (for instance):

- EU regulations in respect of which no or incomplete EU-derived domestic legislation has been passed, like the recent Regulation 2018/644/EU on cross border parcel delivery services;
- EU decisions directed at the UK or Member States generally, such as Commission Decision 2011/753/EU (establishing the rules and methods for calculating targets for re-use and recycling set out in the Waste Framework Directive); and

EU tertiary legislation that augments rules set out in regulations, decisions and directives, such as that made under Article 4 of Regulation 1143/2014/EU on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (which updates a list of plant species designated as invasive).

3.6 What this briefing paper does not cover

Statutory instruments already making changes to retained EU law

The *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018* includes several time limited delegated powers specifically concerned with making changes to retained EU law in anticipation of exit day.

More than 550 statutory instruments have been laid in connection with EU withdrawal (mostly under section 8 of *EUWA*, the so-called ‘correcting power’). These statutory instruments deal with a broad range of issues and hundreds of instruments of retained EU law. Some make relatively minor drafting changes, such as clarifying the meaning of references to ‘Member States’. However, these instruments are also responsible for more significant changes, such as the transfer of functions previously exercised by EU institutions to domestic bodies, or even the repeal or revocation of certain parts of retained EU law before it ever comes into force.

Primary legislation directly connected to Brexit

The Government has also sought to pass several Brexit-related Acts of Parliament. Those already on the statute book include:

- The Taxation (Cross-border) Trade Act 2018
- The Nuclear Safeguards Act 2018
- The Sanctions and Anti-money Laundering Act 2018
- The Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018
- Healthcare (European Economic Area and Switzerland Arrangements) Act 2019

There are also several Bills which have yet to complete their passage through Parliament:

- The Trade Bill
- The Agriculture Bill
- The Fisheries Bill
- The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill
- The Financial Service (Implementation of Legislation) Bill

All of these statutes either modify retained EU law, confer delegated powers to do so, or do both. These allow for explicit policy divergence in these areas, which are currently impacted to a significant degree by EU competencies and EU legislation.

3.7 Transition period

If there is to be a ratified Withdrawal Agreement, it is highly likely that it will be based upon the negotiated treaty text the most recent version of which was published on 11 March 2019. Part IV of that treaty text includes provisions on a ‘transition’ or ‘implementation’ period.

The effect of this transition period would be that, although the UK would leave the EU on the coming into force of the Withdrawal Agreement, it would continue to abide by EU law (including any changes that may happen during the transition period) in almost all respects until 31 December 2020.

The *EUWA* could not, in and of itself, give effect to such a transition period in domestic law. Its provisions, for instance, are manifestly inconsistent with allowing continued references to the CJEU during that transition period. The *European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill*, therefore, will need to provide, among other things, a legislative mechanism to recreate most of the effects of the *European Communities Act* for that period.

What if there is 'No deal'?

The transition period is an integral part of, and completely depends upon, the existence of a ratified withdrawal agreement. In the event of 'no deal' there will be no withdrawal agreement and therefore no agreed transition period.

In such a scenario, it would be expected that the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act* would operate as enacted: i.e. that the 'domestication' of EU law would take place on the expiry of Article 50 (currently expected on 31 October 2019).

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Not applicable.”

That Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson