

# 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 Monday, 4th November, 2019 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 22)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 23 - 58)
  - a) Motion - Economic Future Planning (Pages 59 - 60)

In light of the legal opinion received, to adopt the minute of the meeting of 20th September, under the heading "Motion – Economic Future Planning, which was called in

7. People and Communities Committee (Pages 61 - 96)
8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 97 - 152)
9. Planning Committee (Pages 153 - 176)
10. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 177 - 180)
11. Brexit Committee (Pages 181 - 194)
12. Notices of Motion

a) Alcohol Misuse

Proposed by Councillor Kyle,  
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

“Alcohol misuse has been described by Belfast Coroner Joe McCrisken as the biggest health problem in Northern Ireland. Over the past decade the number of alcohol-related deaths has increased by almost 50% and 12,000 people are admitted to hospital each year with alcohol-related problems.

Evidence indicates that Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol is the most effective way to reduce alcohol-related harm.

This Council calls for legislation to introduce Minimum Unit Pricing and, to that end, will seek a meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

b) Arrest and Imprisonment of Catalanian Political Leaders

Proposed by Councillor Matt Collins,  
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson,

"This Council notes with great concern the recent arrest and imprisonment of Catalanian political leaders and wishes to extend its solidarity to Catalan citizens living in Belfast.

The Council opposes these arrests and demands that the Spanish authorities end violence and criminalisation directed at the peaceful Catalan struggle for justice and immediately rescind jail sentences imposed by the Spanish Supreme Court on Catalan representatives.

The Council calls also on the European Union to end its complicity with the Spanish government's violent repression, denial of democratic rights and imprisonment of Catalan leaders.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the Spanish government and to the European Union to relay this position."

**(To be debated by the Council)**

c) Ban on Hunting with Dogs and use of Snares

Proposed by Councillor Flynn,  
Seconded by Councillor McKeown,

“This Council notes with concern that hunting with dogs remains legal in Northern Ireland and is still used in the barbaric practice of pursuing and killing live animals. It further notes that snares are still being used to capture and kill wildlife.

The Council believes that the selling and use of snares for capturing or killing animals should be banned outright and agrees that legislation should be brought forward to ban hunting with dogs in Northern Ireland. It therefore resolves to write to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, outlining these concerns and requesting that preparatory work be undertaken to enable the relevant laws to be changed to reflect this.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

d) Reshaping Breast Assessment Services

Proposed by Councillor Ferguson,  
Seconded by Councillor Michael Collins,

“This Council notes with grave concern the public consultation ‘Reshaping Breast Assessment Services’, the first draft report of which is due in the coming weeks.

It notes also that the plans contained within the consultation could lead to the closure of two breast clinic services, including the centre at the Belfast City Hospital, and that the closure of a local, highly effective centre would have a devastating impact on women in surrounding communities who rely on this lifesaving service. In particular, detrimental and discriminatory impact would be felt by those who cannot travel further for treatment because of age, economic, physical or mental health reasons.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the Department for Health and to the Secretary of State adding its input to the consultation responses, stating that it recognises the incredibly high level of care and the ground breaking work in the Belfast Breast Screening Centre.

Also, the Council agrees, within the correspondence, to object in the strongest terms to the suggestion that this vital service could be lost from the Belfast City Hospital and to the suggestion that any reduction in Breast Screening Services could be made across the region, and requests an urgent cross-Party meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, to discuss the issue.”

**(To be debated by the Council)**

e) "Parenting in the Picture" Campaign

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland,  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth,

"Following on from the 20th year of Parenting Week, this Council recognises the vital importance of parents to society.

Furthermore, it notes with concern that 82% of parents indicated in the most recent "Big Parenting Survey", that they felt that parents do not receive enough support.

In order to bring attention to and in an attempt to redress this, the Council formally supports Parenting NI's "Parenting in the Picture" campaign and pledges to work towards implementing the promises and commitments contained in this campaign.

To do this, the Council commits to conducting an audit of the existing initiatives which it delivers to support parents, with a view to working with the voluntary and community sector, as well as other partners, to explore if such initiatives may be improved, as well as seeking to bring forward new programmes to support our parents."

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

f) Unregulated Car Washes

Proposed by Councillor Newton,  
Seconded by Councillor Graham,

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

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

g) Nutrition Support for Children in Out-of-Hours School Clubs

Proposed by Councillor Black,  
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



h) Action on Avoidable Winter Deaths

Proposed by Councillor McAteer,  
Seconded by Councillor Black,

“In December last year, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) published Excess Winter Mortality figures for the period 2017/18, which revealed the second highest recorded number of excess winter deaths in the north of Ireland since data began in 1974/75. Furthermore, these shocking statistics recorded that the number of excess winter deaths in the north had more than doubled since 2015.

The 2017/18 statistics record that 1,500 people died, who were classed as Excess Winter Deaths, and, of these, 22% or 320 people were from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. These deaths are avoidable winter deaths and even one is too many. Unfortunately, it is our citizens aged over 65 who are most affected, particularly those vulnerable elderly people aged 85+.

The increase in winter deaths is widely understood to be down to the flu and spells of very cold weather, yet these deaths are avoidable. A combination of high energy prices, fuel poverty, ill health, low income and poor housing can make winter a dangerous time for many older people.

As we await the NISRA figures for 2018/19 and approach the upcoming winter, this Council will do all in its power to effectively act on avoidable winter deaths. The Council welcomes the joined up multi-sectoral approach that will focus on preventing avoidable winter deaths through Belfast's Community Planning Process and agrees to convene and facilitate a meeting of Belfast's community, voluntary and social enterprise agencies which focus on protecting and supporting older vulnerable people, to identify, develop and support innovative programmes that can be deployed and co-ordinated to prevent avoidable deaths in our city over the upcoming winter.”

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

i) Management of Communal Areas and Open Space in Developments

Proposed by Councillor Murphy,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

“This Council is concerned by the impact on new and long term homeowners of property management fees for the upkeep of open spaces and communal areas in housing estates.

We recognise that the Council has a role to play in this through the planning process and call upon it to develop a framework around the management of open space and communal areas and explore the possibility of how we can regulate the property management sector.

We further call upon the Council to engage with relevant parties such as the Law Society in the carrying out of this work.”

**(To be referred without discussion to the Planning Committee)**

j) New Year Event

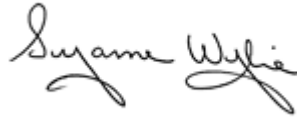
Proposed by Councillor Pankhurst,  
Seconded by Councillor Verner,

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

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

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

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 decorative flourish at the end.

Chief Executive

## **Council**

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 1st October, 2019  
at 6.00 o'clock 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, Black, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Groves, Hanvey, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Newton, Nicholl, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth and Walsh.

### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Carson, Cobain, Mulholland, Verner and Whyte.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in the item 'Commercial and Procurement Services Update' of the Strategic Policy and Resources minutes insofar as she was an employee of the West Belfast Partnership who had been awarded a tender under this item.

Councillor Hussey declared an interest in relation to the Notice of Motion – NIPSA Strike, as he was a representative of the employers in relation to the pay negotiations.

### **Minutes of the Council**

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane),  
Seconded by Councillor T. Kelly, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the special and monthly meetings of the Council of 2nd September be taken as read and signed as correct.

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**Official Announcements**

At the request of Councillor McAllister, the Council congratulated Councillor Mulholland and her husband Kieran, on the recent birth of their son, Cathal.

At the request of Councillor Newton, the Council welcomed the recent announcement by Harland and Wolff, that InfraStrata had bought the business and would be retaining the 79 jobs which had been at risk. At the request of Councillor Heading, the Lord Mayor agreed to invite the employees who had spent 9 weeks on the picket line to the City Hall.

At the request of Councillor Flynn, the Council extended its best wishes to the Sail to the COP participants to the UN Climate Conference COP25 in Chile to raise awareness on Climate Control.

At the request of Councillor Groogan, the Council referred to the deaths of Niall Laverty and Eimear Quinn, and extended its deepest condolences to their families.

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council extended its congratulations to Jonathan Rea on winning his fifth straight World Superbike championship at the Magny-Cours Circuit on 29th September.

At the request of Councillor Smyth, the Council extended its thanks to the youth climate strikers for their protest in relation to the Global Climate Strike on 20th September.

**Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that Ms. B. Ruddy, Chair of College Park Residents Association, had sought approval to address the Council in advance of the motion on Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in the Holylands Councillor Groogan was due to propose later in the meeting.

The Council agreed to receive the representatives and welcomed Ms. B. Ruddy, Ms. A. Kirby and Ms. A. McMurray to the meeting.

Ms. Ruddy outlined the anti-social behaviour that residents had been experiencing in the Holylands for several years. She suggested that the main causes were the over development of Houses of Multiple Occupation. She stated that the Lower Ormeau Road and Tates Avenue had also been effected due to bad planning policies, rogue landlords, and drug dealing.

She suggested that the Council needed a written ASB policy as residents experienced drunk and disorderly behaviour such as cars being keyed, broken car wing mirrors on a regular basis. She stated that this had an impact on their neighbourhoods, family life and the safety of children in the area.

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She highlighted that the Holylands had the highest ASBO rate in Belfast and current policies and graduated warnings were not working. She suggested that the noise line and the community safety working times, currently in operation, were not appropriate.

She suggested that spreading the wardens evenly and CCTV would make a difference, together with a neighbourhood policy that would help to maintain the neighbourhoods. She thanked the Chief Executive for supporting an interagency meeting to discuss the issues which had been raised.

The deputation concluded the presentation by playing an audio example of the noise that residents had experienced during the week, in the early hours of the morning.

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

The Council noted the information.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Alderman Kingston,  
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th September, subject to the omission of the minute under the heading "Motion: Economic Future Planning" which has been called-in and omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

**Motion: Removal of Paramilitary Flags and Banners**

Moved by Councillor Dorrian,  
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th September, under the heading "Motion: Removal of Paramilitary Flags and Banners", be rejected and accordingly that a consultation not be undertaken.

On a vote by show of hands, 17 Members voted for the amendment and 37 against and it was declared lost.

**Amendment**

**Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update**

At the request of Councillor Ferguson, it was agreed that the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th September, under the heading "Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update", be amended to provide that the

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feasibility study, noted in the recommendations under 2.1, would also incorporate the potential of investment into the Leisure Estate outlined, to keep the facilities open.

**Amendment**

**Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update**

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th September, under the heading "Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update", be amended to provide that the issue of dual language signage be referred, in the first instance, to the Party Leaders' Consultative Forum.

On a recorded vote, 30 Members voted for the amendment and 25 against and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For 30</u></b>	<b><u>Against 25</u></b>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Dorrian, Flynn, Graham, Groogan, Harvey, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McAllister, McDonough-Brown, McMullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Hara, Pankhurst and Smyth.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, McKeown, McLaughlin, Murphy and Walsh.

**Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission**

At the request of Councillor Kyle, the Council noted that a representative from the community relations, shared city and conflict transformation sector would be considered as an advisor to the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing addition and amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th September were thereupon approved and adopted.



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**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor Michael Collins,  
Seconded by Councillor Newton,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 10th and 16th September be approved and adopted.

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

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council agreed that it would engage with the Football Teams impacted by the restructuring, and that the Chair of the Amateur Football League be invited to attend the future Special Meeting of the People and Communities Committee and that all Members be invited to attend.

**Amendment**

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

At the request of Councillor D. Baker, the Council agreed to the following variation to the minute, to note that it was:

Moved by Councillor D. Baker  
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

Resolved – “That the Committee agrees to grant authority to Aiken Promotions’ 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, and that a report would be submitted for the Committee’s consideration in relation to any promoter who was seeking to use the Council’s Parks for similar events in future years.”

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing addition and amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 10th and 16th September were thereupon approved and adopted.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hargey,  
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 28th August and 11th September be approved and adopted.

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**Amendment**

**Belfast Off Street Parking Order**

Moved by Councillor M. Kelly,  
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th September, under the heading "Belfast Off Street Parking Order", be amended to provide that the consultation include all of the Council owned Car Parks (15 in total) and the additional income would be considered as part of the rate setting process, with the option that it was put against sustainable transport, including bikes.

On a vote by a show of hands, 18 Members voted for the amendment and 31 against and it was declared lost.

**City Centre Revitalisation Programme**

At the request of Councillor Hargey, the Council agreed that point vi., under the Terms of Reference, be amended to include 'women and childcare' to read:

"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 the effect on women and childcare, and footfall."

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 28th August and 11th September were thereupon approved and adopted.

**Licensing Committee**

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 18th September, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Brooks,  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 17th September, omitting matters in respect of which the

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Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, 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 12th September be approved and adopted.

**Notices of Motion**

**Attacks on Places of Worship**

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

“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”.

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rodgers.

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

**Integrated Education**

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Graham.

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After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed and the Council agreed that it would promote the nomination on its Social Media and the Lord Mayor would congratulate the agencies, on behalf of the Council.

**Animal Cruelty**

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Flynn.

After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed and the Council agreed that the register should cover the UK and Ireland and encompass convicted breeders and animal sellers.

**Electricity Price Hikes**

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

“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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

**Amendment**

Moved by Alderman Kingston,  
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the last two sentences be deleted and the additional paragraph be added to the end of the motion, namely:

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“This Council should invite the Utility Regulator, Jenny Pyper, to the relevant Committee and also the NI Consumer Council to present on what was being done to prevent and mitigate against these price rises.”

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

**Further Amendment**

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

“This Council agrees that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Brexit Committee on the impact of Brexit, including a ‘No Deal’ Brexit, on the electricity and wider energy market.”

After discussion, the following motion, as amended, was put to the meeting:

“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.

This Council agrees that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Brexit Committee on the impact of Brexit, including a ‘No Deal’ Brexit, on the electricity and wider energy market.”

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-one Members voted for the motion and none against and it was declared carried.

**Standing Order 23**

During debate on the previous motion, the Council’s attention was drawn to the fact that, in accordance with Standing Order 23, any meeting of the Council which has lasted continuously for five hours shall stand adjourned unless the Council shall by resolution decide to continue sitting.

The Council resolved to continue to sit to deal with the remaining business.

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**NIPSA Strike**

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

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

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

To this end, 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Matt Collins.

After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting.

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-two Members voted for the motion and none against and it was declared carried.

**Imposition of Non-Devolved Legislation on Abortion**

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

“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

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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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Bunting.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Black,

That the words after “This Council” be deleted and the additional paragraph be added to the motion, namely:

“Calls for the Assembly to be re-established immediately, on the basis of rights and equality, and provide modern health care for women, including terminations where a woman’s life, health or mental health is at risk and in cases of fatal foetal abnormality and sexual crime.”

On a recorded vote, seventeen Members voted for the amendment, thirty-three against, with two no votes, and it was declared lost.

<b><u>For 17</u></b>	<b><u>Against 33</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 2</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Corr, Donnelly, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McLaughlin, Murphy and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Haire, Kingston and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, De Faoite, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Graham, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McKeown, McMullan, Newton, Nicholl, O’Hara Pankhurst and Smyth.	Aldermen Copeland and Rodgers.

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**Further Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Groogan,  
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson,

That the words after “This Council” be deleted and the additional paragraph be added to the motion, namely:

“warmly welcomes the recent amendment of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill at Westminster which includes major changes to the abortion law and equal marriage in Northern Ireland. Council notes that a number of consultations have taken place with the people of Northern Ireland related to Abortion and Equal marriage, including the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey and the Amnesty International Survey, both of which showed significant levels of support for these changes. The absence of a functioning Assembly has led to the situation where Westminster has taken the brave decision to legislate to ensure our laws are human rights compliant and that people in Northern Ireland have the same rights as those elsewhere in the UK. This Council recognises that a restored Northern Ireland Assembly would consider these pieces of legislation were it to be restored and can do so when that happens. Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt. Hon Julian Smith MP, to express our strong support for both abortion and equal marriage legislation.”

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

<b><u>For 21</u></b>	<b><u>Against 30</u></b>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); Alderman Copeland; and Councillors Matt Collins, Michael Collins, De Faoite, Ferguson, Flynn, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McKeown, McMullan, Nicholl, O’Hara and Smyth.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, Rodgers and Spence; Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Corr, Donnelly, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey, T. Kelly, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McLaughlin, Murphy, Newton, Pankhurst and Walsh.

After discussion, the original motion, in the name of Alderman Kingston, was put to the meeting and on a recorded vote, thirteen Members voted for the amendment, thirty-eight against and it was declared lost.



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<b><u>For 13</u></b>	<b><u>Against 38</u></b>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, T. Kelly, Newton and Pankhurst.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); Alderman Copeland; Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Groves, Hanvey, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Nicholl, O'Hara and Smyth and Walsh.

**Srebrenica Genocide**

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McMullan.

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

**Alley-gating Programme**

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

“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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor M. Kelly.

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

**Meeting of Council,  
Tuesday, 1st October, 2019**

**Anti-social Behaviour - Holylands**

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKeown.

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

**Notice of Motion Update**

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds.

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

**Meeting of Council,  
Tuesday, 1st October, 2019**

**Environmental Implications of Decision Making**

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

“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”.

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKeown.

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

**Climate Change**

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

“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);

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- 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 motion was seconded by Councillor Matt. Collins.

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

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

# **Council**

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 1st October, 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, Black, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Groves, Harvey, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Newton, Nicholl, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth and Walsh.

### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Carson, Cobain, Howard, Mulholland, Verner and Whyte.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Notice of Motion**

#### **Caterpillar Plant**

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

“This Council notes with deep concern the emerging news that 100 workers or more at the Caterpillar plant in West Belfast are facing losing their job.

These highly skilled jobs are vital for sustainable vibrant and inclusive economy. Given the ongoing uncertainty over Brexit, this will only add to the pressure on the economy and local communities.

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As a result, this Council, through the Lord Mayor's Office, will convene the relevant government departments and trade unions to seek the retention of these jobs. Furthermore, Belfast City Council's economic development department will seek to develop a skills and education programme for these workers if the worst fears are realised."

Prior to addressing the Council, the proposer sought its approval to alter his motion to provide for the deletion of the last paragraph and the insertion of the following:

"Belfast City Council will engage proactively with Caterpillar Management, relevant Government Departments, agencies and stakeholders, to gain further clarity of the situation.

Belfast City Council will assist the affected workers, in the event that their worst fears are realised."

After discussion, the Council passed the following motion, as proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, as amended:

"This Council notes with deep concern the emerging news that 100 workers or more at the Caterpillar plant in West Belfast are facing losing their job.

These highly skilled jobs are vital for a sustainable vibrant and inclusive economy. Given the ongoing uncertainty over Brexit, this will only add to the pressure on the economy and local communities.

Belfast City Council will engage proactively with Caterpillar Management, relevant Government Departments, agencies and stakeholders, to gain further clarity of the situation.

Belfast City Council will assist the affected workers, in the event that their worst fears are realised."

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

# Council

## SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Friday, 11th October, 2019  
at the hour of 4.00 o'clock 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 Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Brooks, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Harvey, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Newton, Pankhurst, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillors Groves, Howard, Kyle, McAllister, McDonough-Brown, Mulholland, Nicholl and O'Hara.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. Conchúr Ó Muadaigh, Advocacy Manager, Conradh na Gaeilge, to address the Council in advance of the motion on Dual-Language Signage to be considered later in the meeting.

The Council approved the request and Mr. Ó Muadaigh was welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Mr. Ó Muadaigh explained that Conradh na Gaeilge worked on behalf of the Irish-speaking community to promote the Irish language both nationally and internationally. He outlined the background to the ongoing campaign for a stand-alone Irish Language Act and stressed that, if introduced, it would enrich the lives of Irish speakers and visitors to the City.

He drew the Council's attention to the obligations placed upon public bodies, through the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, to recognise and preserve the Irish language, and commended the Council for the positive work which it

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had undertaken since Local Government Reform, including the adoption of a Language Strategy, the appointment of an Irish Language Officer and the passing of a motion in support of an Irish Language Act. However, Conradh na Gaelige was calling upon the Council to build upon that work by erecting bilingual signage in the new Andersonstown and Brook Leisure Centres, which were located in areas where the use of the Irish language was prevalent, and by developing a City-wide bilingualism policy. This, he pointed out, would fulfil its various obligations and bring it into line with Mid Ulster and Newry, Mourne and Down District Councils, which were regarded as being models of best practice, in terms of the visibility and promotion of the Irish language.

The Lord Mayor thanked Mr. Ó Muadaigh, following which the Council noted the information which had been provided.

**Notice of Motion**

**Dual-Language Signage**

Prior to the motion on the agenda being presented, Councillor Beattie sought and was granted approval by the Council to replace it with the following motion, which he duly proposed:

“The Council’s policy on Linguistic Diversity was subject to a public consultation in 2017. This policy has at its core the need to embrace diversity in our ambition for Belfast to be a welcoming and inclusive city for all. The opening of the Council’s new leisure centres provides a unique opportunity to live the principles of diversity contained in the Language Strategy.

Based on the principles of equality and linguistic diversity, this Council agrees the following:

1. to engage in a citywide consultation in respect of bilingual and multilingual naming and the type of signage to be used in the centres designed to have a citywide catchment, together with local consultation. The process referred to will commence after agreement of a framework for the consultation, which will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 25th October, with that Committee having delegated authority to approve the framework referred to. Agreement on the framework to be reached at that meeting;
2. to apply the Council policy on bilingual naming of local facilities in respect of Brook Leisure Centre and to agree to the principle of the installation of bilingual signage, subject to review at the close of the consultation period;
3. notwithstanding that the citywide consultation process will not have closed, to grant delegated authority to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee permitting it to authorise the bilingual and such other signage to be procured and installed for the opening of Andersonstown Leisure Centre (the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to meet no later than week



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commencing 26th January, 2020). In taking this decision, the Committee will consider the consultation response received up to the date of that meeting.

4. that the consultation response will be used to review and inform decisions in respect of bilingual and multilingual naming and signage in each citywide centre and that regard will be had to the language needs of all citizens, as reflected in the consultation response; and
5. to the installation of multilingual welcome signs in all its leisure centres with immediate effect.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

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

The Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47 (2) (c), that the decision would not be subject to call-in, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

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## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 25th October, 2019

### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Carson, Dorrian and Nicholl.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Walsh declared an interest in respect of item 8b – Requests for Revision of Hospitality for Supported Conferences, in that he was on the board of Visit Belfast.

#### **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.

**Combined Assets Report**

The Committee:

**I. Gloucester Street Offices – Update on proposed disposal**

Noted the update on the disposal and marketing process in respect of a site comprising former Council offices at Gloucester Street, with further updates to be brought back to the Committee as appropriate in relation to the future development or disposal of the site.

**II. Marrowbone Millennium Park – Proposed acquisition of adjoining lands at Jamaica Road**

Approved the acquisition of land at Jamaica Road from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the delivery of the Urban Villages scheme providing new changing facilities and upgrade works to the existing pitches. It also agreed to the Council entering into a Deed of Dedication for use of the land for the project for 25 years and to enter into a licence with the NIHE to allow Council's contractors on the sites to complete the development works.

**III. Bloomfield Walkway – Licence Renewal**

Approved a new licence agreement with the Department for Infrastructure relating to the Council's use of Bloomfield Walkway for works and maintenance programmes.

**IV. Benview and Ballysillan Community Centre – Licence Renewal**

Approved a new licence agreement from Benview and Ballysillan Avenue Tenants Association for the use of Benview Community Centre as a play centre.

**V. Hanwood Centre – Insurance Premium**

Authorised that the insurance premium invoices raised in respect of the financial years 2015/16 through to 2018/19 be written off, in accordance with Section M12 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

**VI. Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan**

Approved the recommendation of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to bring forward the commercial use elements identified on Plots A and D of the Gasworks Masterplan as social enterprise or community infrastructure schemes to be developed within a 5 year period following receipt of outline planning permission and subject to terms to be agreed by the Estates Unit and the Council's Legal Services.

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**PEACE IV Programme – Children and Young People**

The Committee considered a report relating to issues affecting the Children and Young People's (CYP) project - Tech Connects (CYP1) and seeking approval to amend the contract for delivery of the project.

The Committee:

- (i) approved, in principle, Option 4 for the ongoing delivery of the CYP1 project;
- (ii) agreed to delegate authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to amend the contract with Ashton Community Trust in line with Option 4 and subject to the funders' amendments / approval; and
- (iii) agreed to increase the value of the contract by 10% of the original contract value

**Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

**Motion – Srebrenica Genocide**

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

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

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

**Motion – Notice of Motion Update**

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st October, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and 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

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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.”

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

The Committee noted the motion and noted also that a report on the future management of Notices of Motion was currently being prepared and was under discussion with Party Group Leaders. This would be brought to the Committee for consideration in the coming months.

**Motion – Environmental Implications  
of Decision Making**

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st October, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor de Faote and seconded by Councillor McKeown, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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”.

The Committee noted the motion and agreed to a report being brought back on how this would be facilitated.

**Motion - Climate Change**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 To consider a motion on the Climate Change, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- **consider whether it wishes to agree to permit the proposer to amend the motion into the form of words appearing at 3.2 of the report.**

- consider whether it wishes to adopt that motion.

### 3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 1st October, the following motion was proposed by Councillor O'Hara and 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.'

- 3.2 Following discussions with officers and having regard to the need to consider the consequences of the motion in terms of resource and budgetary implications the proposer wishes to amend the motion into the following form:

*'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, who have carbon neutrality goals more ambitious than the 2050 target. Glasgow, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds have committed to 2030 and Manchester to 2038.*

*Council therefore agrees;*

- Requests that Council immediately progresses with the establishment of the Resilience and Sustainability Board, previously approved by SP&R and more recently by the Community Planning Partnership Board;



- That the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis and Resilience Commissioner produce an Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan by 2021 for approval by Council committing the Council to becoming a carbon neutral organisation with timelines to be established having regard to the corporate planning and rate setting process.
- That the targets in the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan reflect the urgency of the issue and that the Council works toward achieving a target of zero emissions by 2035 or so soon thereafter as can reasonably be attained. This goal will lead the work of the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Pan.
- 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 set a target for city-wide target to arrive at a position of net zero carbon emissions.
- To write to 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.’

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

### **3.3 Financial and Resource Implications**

The programme(s) associated with the adoption of this motion are likely to have significant financial and resource implications which will need to be considered in the context of corporate planning and rate setting processes.

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

None.”

The Committee agreed to permit the proposer to amend the motion into the form of words appearing at paragraph 3.2 of the report and agreed also to adopt that motion.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 25th October, 2019**

**Motion - CCTV in Care Homes - Response from  
Department of Health**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 21st May, had passed the following motion on CCTV in care homes, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor Whyte:

“This Council notes the campaign by the Dunmurry Manor Relatives Organisation to highlight the need for CCTV cameras in communal areas of residential homes. The Council calls on the Department for Health to include the provision of CCTV in any contract made with a private home where the care of the elderly is carried out.”

The Committee was reminded also that, at its meeting on 23rd August, it had considered a response from the Permanent Secretary, in which he had stated that the compulsory introduction of CCTV into residential and nursing homes would, initially, be likely to require Ministerial agreement, along with the probable introduction of new legislation.

The Permanent Secretary had highlighted the fact that the Commissioner for Older People had, within his “Home Truths” report into Dunmurry Manor Care Home, included a recommendation for the Department for Health/Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority to produce a comprehensive guidance on the potential use of covert and overt CCTV in care homes, compliant with human rights and data protection law.

He had concluded by pointing out that, as a Health and Social Care Service, advice was currently being developed for any incoming Minister and that the views of stakeholders would be considered as part of that process.

At that meeting, the Committee noted the response from the Permanent Secretary and agreed that a further letter be forwarded to him seeking clarification on whether the advice to which he had referred had now been drafted and, if so, calling for it to be published.

The Permanent Secretary, within his latest response, had pointed out that the work on developing the advice for incoming Ministers was continuing and that it would be inappropriate to publish it in advance of any new Minister having the opportunity to consider it.

The Committee noted the response.

**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**Draft Corporate Plan**

The Committee was advised that the Corporate Plan was a key governance document, cited in the council’s constitution as the means by which the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee set out the strategic direction of the Council. It set out what the Council wanted to achieve for the city and the key priority actions to make that happen. Those priorities were then used as the basis for the rate setting process.

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A draft Corporate Plan had been presented to the Committee on 21st June and the Committee had agreed to a member engagement process over the summer period. This engagement had subsequently taken place, as follows:

- Workshop attended by Party Group Leaders, Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the Standing Committees (8th August);
- Party Group Briefings (August);
- People and Communities and City Growth and Regeneration Committee Workshops (September); and
- Party Leaders' Consultative Forum (October).

The draft Corporate Plan reflected the discussions undertaken during those engagement sessions. It was now recommended that a formal 12 week public consultation exercise be undertaken before a final plan was brought back to the Committee for approval.

In order to provide assurance to the Committee that the Corporate Plan was being delivered, a 2019-20 delivery plan had been circulated. A new delivery plan would be provided every year in line with the rate setting process and update reports would be provided on a six monthly basis that would inform Members if the priorities were on track for delivery.

The Committee:

- Approved the draft 2019-20 Corporate Plan and authorised the commencement of a 12 week Public Consultation Process;
- Noted the 2019-20 Delivery Plan and agreed to receive 6 monthly updates at the relevant Standing Committee.

**Customer Focus Programme's Update on  
Equality Impact and Rural Assessment**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 To present members with:**

- **An update on the Programme's approach to date on Equality Impact and Rural Assessment**
- **An overview of the approach to engage with our customers and the associated timeline**
- **A draft version of the 'Customer Vision' document that will be used throughout the draft consultation and engagement phase**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Review and comment on the Customer Vision document due to be used as part of the draft consultation and engagement phase (Nov 2019 – Jan 2020)**

- Consider and agree the proposed timeline of activity to engage with customers on the programme and the Customer Vision document.
- Review and note the findings from the initial Rural Needs Assessment

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Initial Equality Impact Screening**

The Customer Focus Programme has been screened and the recommendation is that we defer the final decision in relation to the outcome of this comprehensive screening to allow for consultation feedback, including Section 75 groups. Once this consultation is complete, the feedback will to used, if applicable, to update the screening and a view taken as to the best screening outcome decision.

#### **3.2 Customer Vision Document**

The Customer Vision document is an easily understood and coherent vision that clearly explains the direction of travel for the customer focus programme and the Council. In partnership with our customers and stakeholders, it identifies evolving customer preferences and expectations in response to technological advances. Equally, it highlights and helps direct future planning and implementation in the areas of:

- Channel management
- Customer insight and segmentation
- Voice of customer /Voice of the employee
- Performance management
- Stakeholder management
- Marketing and communications

#### **3.3 Proposed Approach & Timeline for Engagement**

It is proposed that the Equality Impact and Rural Assessment is managed using a 3 phased approach:

1. Draft Screening Phase (current state)
2. Draft Consultation and Engagement Phase (12 weeks)
3. Testing Phase (ongoing future until completion of programme)

- 3.4 We are currently in a draft screening phase and we are deferring the final decision in relation to the outcome of this comprehensive screening to allow for consultation feedback. Once this consultation is complete, the feedback will to used, if applicable,

to update the screening and a view taken as to the best screening outcome decision.

- 3.5 The draft consultation and engagement phase will take place over 12 weeks and will involve engaging with all the groups identified as part of the equality and disability list provided by the Equality and Diversity Unit as well as engaging with the Cedar Foundation, the Consultative Forum and BME groups. We anticipate this phase to be initiated in November 2019. The engagement will be primarily around the Customer Vision Document and the proposed future plans of the programme.
- 3.6 The programme needs to establish during this phase, the customers who would be willing to continue to provide feedback throughout the lifecycle of the programme and be contacted during the testing phase on a regular basis.
- 3.7 The final phase of testing will involve sampling new ideas, services, systems etc with those customers willing to be contacted and inform the process. This phase will start at the end of the draft consultation and engagement phase in February 2020. We anticipate that we will engage with customers every 6 months throughout the lifecycle of the programme. This approach of working with the customer to develop solutions should ensure that the outputs and benefits of the programme realised are fit for purpose for both customer and BCC's service provision.
- 3.8 The findings and recommendations from the draft consultation & engagement phase which will inform the final screening document, along with an update on the process, which will be reported to SP&R in February 2020.
- 3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- Resource and budget will be managed within the confines of the Customer Focus Programme.
- 3.10 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**
- We are deferring the final decision in relation to the outcome of this comprehensive screening to allow for consultation feedback, including Section 75 groups. Once this consultation is complete, the feedback will be used, if applicable, to update the screening and a view taken as to the best screening outcome decision.
- 3.11 **Rural Needs Assessment**
- An initial rural needs assessment, supported by both EDU staff and members of the Customer Focus Delivery Board, has

commenced. Through desk based research, it has been identified that two of the three rural areas, Hannahstown and Loughview, receive 'superfast' broadband speed. Edenderry is slightly under the 'superfast' levels but within an acceptable level to receive and avail of Council services. Engagement with the residents of these areas will take place throughout the draft customer & engagement phase to understand this further."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

#### **Physical Programme Update**

The Committee considered the following 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 outlines

- an overview of physical projects which have been recently completed
- project recommended to be move through the approval stages
- update on the IT Programme - Customer Focus Programme

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

###### **Recently completed projects**

- note the update on the Physical Programme as at 3.1. below and that the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed/ and or are underway.

###### **Proposed movement**

- agree that the Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot project is moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme (see 3.2) to allow the project to be worked up in further detail. Members are asked to note that

this movement does not constitute an investment decision nor a decision to close the depot at the current time.

### Project Update

- note that satisfactory tender returns have now been achieved for two IT projects which form an integral part of the Customer Focus Programme (Customer Focus Programme -the Web CMS project and the New Telephony System) and that it is recommended that a maximum budget of up to £135,000 is now allocated per project. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council

### 3.0 Main report

#### Key Issues

### 3.1 Update - recently completed projects

The council's Physical Programme is a significant regeneration programme of investment across the city. An update on projects which have recently been completed is outlined below:

- City Cemetery – Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 – to create a permanent memorial for people (mainly babies) buried in Plot Z in the City Cemetery. A unveiling event was held on 12th September 2019 which was extremely well attended and received very positive feedback.
- BCC/ DfC Joint Schemes – a new 3G pitch and floodlights at White Rise and the new Old Golf Course Road Park
- Urban Villages Initiatives – a number of projects have been recently completed on behalf of UV including - Sandy Row playground, Short Strand Community Forum – play area; The Diamond project; Glenbryn playground (match funded by DfC).

Photos of the recently completed projects are attached at Appendix 1. Members are asked to note that the Physical Programme Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ party groups to any physical project.

### 3.2 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

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**over another capital project. Members are asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	To examine the options in relation to the proposed relocation on Dunbar Link cleansing depot	Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted – OBC to be worked up

**Any project which is being moved from Stage 1- Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted under the Capital Programme is required as part of the Council three stage approval process to complete an Strategic Outline Case (SOC). Members are asked to note that the SOC for this project has been completed and reviewed internally.**

**3.3 Relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot**

Moved to Stage 1- Emerging on the Capital Programme	18 August 2017
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

**In August 2017 the Committee agreed to add the proposed relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot to Stage 1- Emerging project on the Capital Programme following the decision to acquire Commission House in January 2017. At this time Members were advised that the cleansing depot at Dunbar Link and a council public car park were located in close proximity to the Commission House meaning that these sites could provide a key city centre regeneration opportunity.**

**3.4 Since this stage discussions have been ongoing with the owner of the 2 adjoining sites with a view to potential redevelopment of the combined lands comprising the Council’s depot and car park sites and the privately owned sites. The car park at Dunbar Link has also been identified as one of the priority sites under the ongoing work on the Strategic Site Assessment (SSA) in the city centre. Redeveloping this site will be subject to the satisfactory relocation of the cleansing depot.**

**3.5 It is recommended that the Relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot project be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme. This will allow an Outline Business Case (OBC) to be worked up with further detail will be brought back to Members in due course. Members are asked to note that this movement of project does not constitute an investment decision nor a decision to close the depot at the current time. It is recognised that Dunbar Link is still a working location and the car-**



park is in operation as a parking facility. Therefore the Physical Programmes Department will continue to work closely with the City & Neighbourhoods Department as the asset holders of the depot and car park and the City Regeneration Team who are leading on the SSA work in progressing options for the site.

### **3.6 Project update**

Members will recall that in March 2019 the Committee have agreed to move the IT Programme - Customer Focus Programme to Stage 3- Committed project under the Capital Programme. This is in line with the council's ambitious Customer Focus Strategy, which has been designed to significantly improve the quality of its services. The Customer Focus Programme has been broken down into a number of key workstreams and a number of distinct but interrelated IT projects. Members are asked to note that satisfactory tender returns have now been achieved for two IT projects which form an integral part of the Programme (the Web CMS project and the New Telephony System) and that it is recommended that a maximum budget of up to £135,000 is now allocated per project. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council

### **3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* – Relocation of Dunbar Link – no financial implications at this stage

Customer Focus Programme –IT projects (Web CMS and the Corporate Telephony upgrade) – that a maximum of up to £135,000 is allocated per project. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that these allocations are within the affordability limits of the Council.

*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.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Peace IV**

The Director of Physical Programmes 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 current status of the two projects which the Council has previously agreed

to act as the lead partner for under the Peace IV Objective 3.1– Shared Spaces and Services capital theme- Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS) and Shankill Women’s Centre (SWC). Letters of Offer have now been received for both projects.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note –**

- the update on Black Mountain Shared Space Project
- that a letter of offer has now been received for the Shankill Women’s Centre project and agree if they wish to sign the LOO
- that if the Council agrees to sign the LOO for Shankill Women’s Centre then officers will move both projects to the next stage and start the procurement process in order to ensure that all Peace IV monies can be drawn down and spent within the strict SEUPB timelines
- that the LOOs for both projects were lower than applied for and that officers will continue to work closely with both Groups to secure any additional capital funding required from other partners and also to secure sustainable revenue streams going forward

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 On 20 April 2018, the Committee agreed to act as the lead partner for two projects under the Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services capital theme – the Black Mountain Shared Space and Shankill Women’s Centre. In agreeing to this, it was flagged to Members that acting a ‘lead partner’ for these projects as opposed to the delivery partner had a number of potential implications for the Council including**

- underwriting any construction cost overruns
- ensuring that ongoing revenue costs are secured and that in the case that there is a revenue shortfall that the Council will step in and cover this
- being responsible for any clawback associated with non-delivery and/or non-compliance with the terms and conditions set out within the letter of offer.

**3.2 In addition the tight timescales for the delivery of Peace IV projects was highlighted to Members with all monies to be committed and spent by March 2023. Members are asked to note that there is no flexibility within this timeframe and any expenditure past this date will have financial implications for the Council.**

- 3.3 While agreeing to act as the lead partner the Committee expressed strong support for both projects noting that this would constitute a potentially significant investment of up to €12.5m in the area which will build on the £3.1m already secured under the Peace IV Local Action Plan for the Springfield Road regeneration area and that it would also mark a significant further step towards the realisation of the 'Peace Corridor' stretching from Black Mountain to the city centre.

#### Project Updates

##### Black Mountain Shared Space

- 3.4 Members will be aware that a Letter of Offer (LOO) was received from the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) in January 2019 for the Black Mountain Shared Space project. The LOO covers the creation of a 2,370sqm shared space facility at the foot of Black Mountain which will provide a range of services and facilities including indoor leisure, outdoor recreation, community space, capacity support, health and wellbeing, educational links and multipurpose spaces and which will see approx. 1.5 hectares of the site developed.

The LOO was however for €6,302,716 (25% lower than the amount sought through the application) and a number of core elements were stripped out of the LOO including the social enterprise units (now Shared Space units); all equipment costs; support costs and all management fees. The SP&R Committee agreed in February 2019 to sign the LOO

- 3.5 Following Council ratification the LOO for Black Mountain was signed in March 2019. Since this time, multiple funders have been approached regarding addressing the capital shortfall and the possibility of partnering with the Council and SEUPB to deliver the full capital project including the Department of Justice (DoJ), Department for Communities (DfC), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and Big Lottery Fund. These discussions are ongoing and there are positive indications that additional capital funding will be secured to cover the deficit in funding which will allow the Shared Spaces units to be built. A number of charity organisations have already approached both the BMSS Group and the Council with regard to renting the units post completion. The units will provide a revenue stream for the building and improve the chances of the building operating in a sustainable manner.
- 3.6 If the Shared Space Offices are built and achieve the predicted tenancy rates a shortfall in revenue costs is predicted for the first

few years of operation, which Black Mountain Shared Space hope to mitigate via increasing user rates and revenue bids to some of the key stakeholders outlined above. As above however it must be noted that the Council is the ultimate guarantor for the project from both a capital and revenue perspective.

- 3.7 Given the tight timescale and to ensure that the monies can all be drawn down from SEUPB it is recommended that this project now proceeds to tender. Members are asked to note officers will continue to work closely with the BMSS Group in relation to the capital funding shortfall and also to secure sustainable revenue streams going forward.

#### Shankill Women's Centre

- 3.8 Members are asked to note that a LOO for €6,455,198.57 was received from SEUPB on 18th October 2019 for the Shankill Women's Centre project. The project will create a new purpose built 1,454m2 centre for women and their families at Lanark Way. It is a partnership project between the Council, SWC and Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership incorporating Clonard Women's Group. Programming will include community education, health & well-being and youth development programmes.
- 3.9 Similar to Black Mountain the LOO is approx. 25% lower than the amount sought through the application with a number of core elements either being removed or reduced including equipment costs; staff costs and management fees. The LOO is currently being analysed in detail and any further updates will be raised at Committee.
- 3.10 Given the tight timescale and to ensure that the monies can all be drawn down from SEUPB Members are asked to consider if they wish to approve this and sign the LOO received. Like Black Mountain Shared Space Members are asked to note officers will continue to work closely with the SWC Group in relation to securing any additional capital funding if required and also to secure sustainable revenue streams going forward.

#### Next Steps

- 3.11 In relation to be both projects it should be noted that officers advice is that if the projects do not receive approval to proceed at Committee then there is a significant risk that the tight timescale for expenditure of all Peace IV monies will not be met and that the Council and the city will risk losing two substantial capital projects. Receiving LOOs for both projects is a significant achievement for the city and is a testament to the hard work of both Groups. As highlighted securing these new builds represents a

significant further step towards the realisation of the 'Peace Corridor' stretching from Black Mountain to the city centre.

3.12 If Members agree that both projects will progress then Officers will commence the next steps in terms of procurement for both projects.

3.13 **Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* – Over €12.7million in Peace IV funding has now been secured for two transformation Peace projects at Black Mountain and Shankill Women's Centre.

In signing the LOOs Committee is asked to note that this ties the Council into adhering the conditions in the LOOS specifically '*the Lead Partner must provide assurances in writing that BCC is committed to meeting i) all capital costs and cost overruns above the level of EU capital funding and ii) any future running cost deficits.*'. As outlined the Council will continue to work closely with both Groups in order to secure any additional capital funding required and to ensure ongoing sustainability

*Resources* – Officer time to deliver as required

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

None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on potential funders for the projects.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Business Rates Review - Consultation Response**

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

**"1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report provides a draft high level response to the Land & Property Services (LPS) consultation on the Review of Business Rates.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the draft high level response for submission to LPS and

- Note the ongoing engagement with LPS in relation to detailed development to changes to rating policy. SP&R Committee will be kept fully informed of the ongoing engagement.

### **3.0 Key Issues**

#### **3.1 Background Information**

Business rates is the primary source of income for the Council. Belfast City Council currently gets revenue income from Fees & Charges, Grants and Rates (both domestic and non-domestic). The District Rate makes up 44% of the Rates bill, with the rest, 56%, being the regional rate. Approximately 78% of our income comes from the District Rate, of which 64% comes from Non-domestic (Business) Rates, and 36% from Domestic Rates.

#### **3.2 2019 Review of Business Rates**

The Department of Finance have announced plans to undertake a full and comprehensive review of business rates in Northern Ireland. This review was launched on 16 September with responses due by 11 November (8 weeks). A similar review was undertaken by Kenneth Barclay in Scotland over a period of one year (2016-17) which produced 30 recommendations.

#### **3.3 The consultation questions contained in the consultation are:**

- How can revenues from district and regional rates be raised in a way that is fair and equitable and without placing an unacceptable burden on business ratepayers?
- What ways can be found to widen the tax base that could facilitate a lower level of business rates?
- How can a fair distribution between district rates and regional rates be sustained?
- How can a fair distribution between non-domestic and domestic rates be sustained?
- What reliefs and supports are necessary and might be introduced, changed or ended, targeted in line with Executive priorities and recognising ability to pay?
- What alternative tax options should be considered to complement or partially replace property based non-domestic rates to allow for lower levels of revenue from business rates?

#### **3.4 These are very wide and significant questions and will require careful consideration before providing a detailed response. As the consultation period ends on 11 November, there will not be time to give the considered response necessary.**

**3.5 Draft Belfast City Council Response**

Given the short turnaround time of the consultation and the complexity of rating policy, the draft response is therefore high level with a commitment to continue working with LPS in providing a more detailed response.

**3.6 The following is a summary of our high level response:**

1. Consideration of local authorities being given the power to introduce reliefs to reflect the specific circumstances of their locality and local economy.
2. How the rating system can be aligned to support growing the economy.
3. How the rating system can be used to support city centre living such as relief for build-to-rent properties and purpose built student accommodation.
4. Eliminating any form of tax avoidance or evasion.
5. Improving the collection and administration of rates.
6. The use of technology to maximise the collectable rate.
7. How the rating system can integrate the ability to pay and individual business circumstances as part of rates assessments.
8. Possibility of introducing new revenue raising powers such as:
  - vacant site levy
  - derelict land levy
  - internet transaction levy
  - green policy related levies
  - tourism tax
9. Conducting a fundamental review of reliefs, exemptions, and exclusions.
10. Introducing a business growth accelerator.
11. Reviewing the effectiveness of the rates hardship scheme.
12. How the rating system aligned to support specific sectors such as innovation, retail, and hospitality.

**3.7 It is recommended that SP&R Committee agree to the submission of this high level response that will allow officers to continue developing more detailed response to the review of business rates. Officers are aware of the significant policy implications to the potential changes to business rates and will keep SP&R Committee fully involved in the development of a more detailed response.**

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**3.8 Resources Implications**

**There are no resource implications contained within this report.**

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

**There are no equality implications contained within this report.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to the inclusion in the response of a comment regarding the relationship between domestic and non-domestic and other housing sectors.

**Contracts Update**

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1);
- Approve the contract extensions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2);
- Noted that the Committee had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts:

**Table 1 – Tenders to be Advertised**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Proposed Contract Duration</b>
Term Contract for asbestos removal	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Term Contract for asbestos surveys	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Term Contract for Thermostatic mixing valve planned maintenance	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Term Contract for Drain clearance	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
West Belfast DPCP's Community Safety Initiative	Nigel Grimshaw	3 years
Expert technical advice to support the execution of the ICT Programme of work	Ronan Cregan	1 year
(T1975) Truck Mounted Hydrostatic Road Sweeper 15ton.	Nigel Grimshaw	18 months
Delivery of Research to Inform Provision of Enterprise Support	Alistair Reid	18 months



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Supply and delivery of protective footwear	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Traffic Management	Alistair Reid	Up to 5 years
Bitumen Macadam including Small Civil Engineering Works Contract	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Maritime Festival Development Plan	Alistair Reid	8 months

**Table 2 Contract Extensions**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Proposed Extension</b>
(T1714) Tender for the provision of de-icing and snow clearance services	Nigel Grimshaw	Until march 2020

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Consultation Process Report on Council decisions to erect bilingual/multilingual external naming and internal directional signage in city-wide leisure centres**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is outline the approach for a public consultation as agreed at Special Council on 11 October 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 It is recommended that Members approve the approach for the public consultation as set out below.**

**2.2 In view of the time within which decisions will be required, the Committee is asked to agree to the suspension of call-in.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 The Council agreed a Language Strategy 2018-2023 which aspires to create a place where linguistic diversity is celebrated and respected. The Strategy includes five distinct language workstrands:**

- Irish Language
- Ulster-Scot Language
- Sign Languages
- New Communities' Languages
- Languages and communications for disabled people

It also includes a commitment to adopt the use of Irish and Ulster Scots in signs, and in particular where, 'it will be seen primarily by users of Irish / Ulster-Scots'.

#### Key Issues

- 3.2 At a Special Council meeting on Friday 11 October 2019, Council agreed to engage in a citywide consultation in respect of bilingual and/or multilingual naming and the type of signage to be used in the centres designed to have a citywide catchment, together with local consultation.
- 3.3 It was agreed that Strategic Policy & Resources Committee would be given delegated authority to approve the consultation framework. This will enable the timeframe of the consultation to meet the deadline for ordering the signage for Andersonstown Leisure Centre, which is due to open to the public in April 2020.
- 3.4 A public consultation document has been prepared on the Council decision on 11 October 2019 on whether to erect bilingual / multilingual external naming and internal directional signage in the four citywide leisure centres which are being delivered as part of the first three phases of Council's £105m Leisure Transformation Programme: Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore (see Appendix 1). Each of these centres has been designed to provide state-of-the-art, specialised facilities for the benefit of users across the city and beyond. Each centre will focus on a particular leisure / sport domain.
- 3.5 The consultation asks respondents to indicate their preference for the use of English, Irish and/or Ulster-Scots by considering each leisure centre in turn for external naming signage and also internal directional signage. Examples of internal directional signage are for changing rooms, toilets, reception. It is also proposed that internal directional signage should include pictorial signage to enhance accessibility, for example, to our new communities and disabled people.

#### Public Consultation Format

- 3.6 Consultation will include both staff and members of the public. A variety of quantitative and qualitative methods will be employed

to ensure widespread and meaningful engagement, including the following:

- Engagement events will be arranged in the local area of the four leisure centres: (Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore).
- Belfast City Council staff and GLL staff will receive an online survey and have the opportunity for face-to-face engagement.
- An online questionnaire survey will be made available for the public, along with hard copies for those who are unable to access the material electronically.
- Engagement with disabled communities including the Council's Disability Advisory Panel.
- Focus Groups engaging with Irish Language and Ulster Scots communities.
- Engagement with the Council's Equality Consultative Forum.
- Engagement with the Council's Migrant Forum.
- Engagement with external consultant by arrangement.
- Published on Belfast City Council website and Council social media channels.

The consultation will aim to open on 1 November 2019 and close on 10 January 2020 to enable the results to be analysed and for recommendations to be made to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in January 2020.

### **3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**

The cost of the activities related to the public consultation are covered within existing budgets.

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

The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The screening document will be included as part of the public consultation and comments incorporated into an updated screening."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership**

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 7th October, 2019, including:

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- To approve the Review Panel's recommendations in respect of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2019 and commend the progress that had been made by participating groups in meeting the aims of the programme and supporting positive cultural expression;
- To note the reports in relation to the PEACE IV Secretariat, and updates in relation to the CYP, SSS and BPR themes;
- To note the allocations to Tranche 2 of the Good Relations Small grants programme and Saint Patrick's Day Celebration programmes:
- £110,069 to support 26 organisations to deliver Good Relations projects from October 2019 – March 2020 through Good Relations small grants funding;
- £30,805 to support 49 organisations to deliver Saint Patrick's Day Celebration events;
- To note the update provided on the Good Relations Outcome Monitoring Report 18/19; and
- To approve that Belfast agrees, in principle, to participate in the Oxford University 'Inclusive Cities' programme subject to further Officer and Committee consideration of the requirements and resource implications.

**Equality and Diversity: Annual Report to the  
Equality Commission of Northern Ireland including  
Section 75 and Disability Duties**

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Council was required to report annually to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on the progress of the implementation of its Equality Scheme. Accordingly, the City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which outlined progress on actions identified to promote equality of opportunity and good relations for the period April 2018-March 2019. In addition, various updates in relation to the progress achieved in respect of the Council's Equality and Diversity Framework and Disability Action Plan would also accompany the Annual Report to the Equality Commission and these had to be circulated also.

The Committee approved the Council's Annual Report for submission to the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland for 2018-2019.

**Disability Action Plan 2019-2022**

The Committee was reminded that the Council had prepared a Disability Action Plan 2019-2022. That draft document had been presented to the Committee for approval in March 2019 and then had been issued for a 12 week period of public consultation from 25th March-17 June 2019. Accordingly, the final document was now being resubmitted to the Committee for approval, following which the three year Disability Action Plan would be submitted to the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland in due course.

The Committee:

- (i) Approve the revised Disability Action Plan 2019-2022;
- (ii) Agreed the responses to consultation comments as outlined in the Consultation Report; and

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- (iii) Approved the revised Equality Screening Report.

**Operational Issues**

**Lord Mayor's attendance at Smart Cities  
World Congress 2019**

The Committee was reminded that the Smart Belfast programme encouraged collaborative innovation between our universities, digital Small to Medium Enterprises and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges described in the Belfast Agenda; to support service transformation; and to foster greater private sector innovation. The programme was being led by the Council's City Innovation team and delivery was driven by a "pipeline" of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to meet the aims as outlined.

The success of Smart Belfast had attracted significant interest from other cities and from industry wishing to learn more about the Council's approach. Recently the Lord Mayor had received a VIP invitation to promote the work at the Smart Cities World Congress in Barcelona from 19th til 22nd November, 2019. The city had also been invited to contribute to the event's main programme to discuss the impact of AI on the future of the city and its economy.

The Committee approved the following:

- (i) The Lord Mayor to accept the complimentary VIP invitation to participate in the Smart Cities World Congress 2019; and
- (ii) City Innovation officers to avail of complimentary passes (provided by the congress organisers) in order to travel with the Lord Mayor to manage and contribute to the itinerary (including presenting to the main programme).

**Requests for Revision of Hospitality for  
Supported Conferences**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 This report seeks approval for the modification to the current criteria and function package provided to Visit Belfast and Tourism NI supported conferences.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- approve the recommendation to continue to offer complimentary function rooms and waive correlating room charges relating to Visit Belfast and Tourism NI supported conferences

- honour existing civic hospitality receptions approved by committee, however discontinue the offer of civic wine receptions going forward for future conference related functions.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background Information**

Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations and the introduction of hire charges for some categories of function.

- 3.2** The Committee agreed to further modifications, at its meeting on 23rd June 2017, 'where a large event with significant international attendees is booked (which may often involve a bid to bring a specific event or function to Belfast) and is supported by the Belfast Welcome Centre the Committee may at its discretion waive or reduce any room hire charges and/or agree the provision of a civic drinks reception up to a maximum value of £500'.

**Key Issues**

- 3.3** The current offering is complimentary room hire, waiving of room charges and provision of a civic drinks reception to the value of £500. In one month alone this year 6 Visit Belfast supported conferences were approved. The loss of room hire revenue was £2850 and provision of wine supplied was £3000 plus the additional charges for staff resources and ancillary costs to host the functions.
- 3.4** In 2019 the cost for wine stock for Visit Belfast receptions to date is £11,500 plus staffing and ancillary costs.
- 3.5** The Council's Economic Development Unit and Functions Management Unit have met with key representatives at Visit Belfast and Tourism NI Managers to discuss the Councils support for conference business into the City and the welcome packages and hospitality offered.
- 3.6** Both Visit Belfast and Tourism NI have confirmed that one of the key attractions for conferences to Belfast is the provision of complimentary use of Belfast City Hall prestigious functions rooms for welcome receptions and dinners. The provision, or otherwise, of a wine reception is unlikely to impact the appeal of using City Hall as a venue.
- 3.7** It is worth noting the majority of conferences have large guest numbers attending circa 450+ meaning the £500 civic wine reception provided needs to be supplemented by the client and their caterer. The removal of the civic wine reception streamlines

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the catering provision and improves the operational management of the function for City Hall, Visit Belfast and the client by allowing a single provider to provide the service.

**3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

The implementation of removal of civic wine receptions at Visit Belfast/ Tourism NI supported conferences dinners/ receptions enables cost savings in terms of wine stock purchased and overtime staffing costs to deliver the receptions which could potentially save up to £25,000 per year.

Continuing to offer complimentary room rental has no direct costs, and remains an important factor in attracting conferences and significant events to the city.

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received to 9th October, 2019, as set out in the undernoted appendix, subject to, in light of the previous decision, not approving the provision of hospitality to those events linked to Visit Belfast.:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
The Prince's Trust	14 November 2019	<b>The Prince's Trust 'Get into Retail' Celebration</b> – celebration event for the completion of a training programme for young people seeking employment in the retail sector.  Numbers attending – 100	B & C	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
NI Connected Health Innovation Centre	15 November 2019	<b>Digital Healthcare Innovation and Research: CHIC and City Deal –</b> showcase and collaboration event for organisations linked to the City Deal Digital Health Technology Hub.  Numbers attending – 130	B	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge No hospitality
Wheelworks	18 December 2019	<b>Transforming Belfast – Young Peoples Vision of a Shared Future</b> – launch of an app developed by young people in East and West Belfast to encourage community cohesion along the Glider route.  Numbers attending – 75	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Soft Drink Reception	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Soft Drinks Reception
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
Association of Canadian Studies in Ireland	15 May 2020	<b>Conference Welcome Reception and Prize Giving –</b> welcome reception linked to four-day conference taking place at	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



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<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		Queen's University Belfast.  Numbers attending – 60				
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry	19 June 2020	<b>Annual President's Lunch</b> – annual lunch for the chamber of Commerce and Industry to mark economic benefits to the City.  Numbers attending – 400	B	Charge £300	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Belfast Hospital School	25 June 2020	<b>Night of Celebration</b> – celebration of the achievements of young people attending the hospital school.  Numbers attending – 100	B & C	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
City of Belfast Youth Orchestra	17 October 2020	<b>65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Event</b> – event to celebrate anniversary of the Youth Orchestra and members achievements.  Numbers attending – 350	C	Charge £825	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve Charge £825 Wine Reception

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<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
Political Studies Association	29 March 2021	<b>PSA Annual Conference Drinks Reception –</b> Welcome reception as part of 3-day conference taking place at Queen's University.  Numbers attending – 150-200	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
Universal Esperanto Association	22 July 2021	<b>Urba Akcepto Welcome Reception –</b> welcome reception as part of 8-day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 400	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
<b>2022 EVENTS</b>						
Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine	23 March 2022	<b>Conference Welcome Reception and Dinner–</b> Welcome reception and dinner as part of 3-day conference taking place in Assembly Buildings.  Numbers attending – 200	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

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<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
University of Ulster	6 September 2022	<b>Opening Reception for the European Sport Management Conference -</b> Welcome reception as part of 7-day conference taking place at the Europa Hotel.  Numbers attending – 400	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

**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 17th October, 2019.

**NILGA: Request for Use of Committee Room**

The Committee was advised that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), of which the Council currently had 10 members, was a member of the National Association of Regional Employers (NARE). It was reported that NARE would like to host its January meeting in Belfast and NILGA had approached the Council on behalf of the organisation seeking the use of a Committee Room for that purpose.

The meeting was scheduled to be held on 14th January, 2020 and the room would be required from approximately 9.30 am to 5.00 pm.

The request could not be approved by officers under the protocol for the use of Committee Rooms as it did not meet the criteria and, therefore, needed the approval of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 7th October, 2019.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group on  
the Climate Crises**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis of 21st October.

**Request for permanent Plaque to Commemorate WW1 Nurses  
and 200th Anniversary of Florence Nightingale**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider a request for the installation of a permanent plaque in City Hall main marble or Rotunda area to commemorate the role of Nurses in WW1.
- 1.2 To consider the request to hold a temporary small scale exhibition in the main marble area to mark the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth and role in WW1.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is recommended to;

- approve the application from The Royal College of Nursing History of Nursing Network to receive and install the plaque and host the temporary exhibition.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

- 3.1 The Royal College of Nursing History of Nursing Network (HON) is made up of retired nurses who enjoy discovering and documenting local history in relation to the nursing profession.
- 3.2 Current projects include gathering information on the Cardiac Ambulance that was pioneered in Northern Ireland and, with next year marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, HON are presently embarking on a project to identify local nurses who served at home and abroad during that period. Their aim is to produce a small booklet to promote their findings.
- 3.3 In 2010 the Network embarked on a project to capture the narratives of nurses who had worked through civil unrest in the province, 'The Troubles'. Nurses were able to tell their stories, many of which were harrowing accounts and these were published

in 2013 in a book called 'Nurses Voices From The Northern Ireland Troubles'. The book subsequently inspired an hour long BBC documentary 'Nurses On The Frontline'.

- 3.4 In 2016 all the nurses who had contributed to the book and along with other guests were invited to a celebratory evening in Belfast City Hall. This occasion also celebrated the Freedom of the City being awarded to the nurses of Belfast.

**Key Issues**

- 3.5 Following on from this key project and events, and in conjunction with the WW1 centenary events, HON members gathered information on local nurses who had served in WW1. This project has produced a booklet 'Nurses Voices From WW1 - The Northern Ireland Connection' and exhibition material. The HON, supported by fundraising and donations, raised funds to produce a replica WW1 Queen Alexandra Nurses uniform and a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) uniform.
- 3.6 The HON have approached Council to seek permission to present Belfast City Hall with a commemorate plaque to remember the nurses of the Great War, thus provide a fitting closing event for their WWI project. The HON have raised funds to purchase a small A3 sized plaque and seek permission for this plaque to be presented and displayed in City Hall reception area. Location for the plaque will be confirmed in consultation with officers from Function Management Unit and Democratic Services.
- 3.7 In addition the HON seek permission to showcase their small scale temporary exhibition in the main marble reception area of Belfast City Hall on International Nurses Day 2020, 12th May 2020. The exhibition would be in situ for one week.
- 3.8 This exhibition would coincide with other events taking place nationally and worldwide celebrating 200 years from the birth of Florence Nightingale know as Nightingale 2020.

If the Committee is minded to approve the hosting of the temporary exhibition, then there would be no charge applied for the use of the space due to the Not for Profit nature of the HON.

- 3.9 If the Committee is minded to approve the installation of the permanent plaque, HON have raised the funds to cover the cost of the plaque, however given the Nurses of Belfast have been awarded Freedom of the City of Belfast, committee may wish to approve the hosting of a reception for guests attending the plaque unveiling. Costs can be presented to committee at a later date for approval.

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

There will be no cost to the Council in approving this request. However if committee deems it appropriate to host a reception for the plaque unveiling there would be a hospitality cost, detailed costs can be provided to committee post approval.

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

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

The Committee approved the application from The Royal College of Nursing History of Nursing Network to host the temporary exhibition but that the installation of the plaque be referred to the Party Group Leaders.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**International Day of Solidarity with  
the Palestinian People- Councillor Murphy**

The Committee agreed to defer, until its meeting on January, 2020, consideration of this item.

Chairperson

Extract from minutes of:

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

20th September, 2019

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### **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’.

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.

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## People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 8th October, 2019

### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

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 the meeting were reported from Councillors de Faoite, Mulholland and McLaughlin.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 10th and 16th September were taken as read and signed as correct, subject to the variation to the minute of 10th September under the heading "Request for the hire of Botanic Gardens for a series of music events" to note that it was:

"Moved by Councillor D. Baker  
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees to grant authority to Aiken Promotions' 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, and that a report would be submitted for the Committee's consideration in relation to any promoter who was seeking to use the Council's Parks for similar events in future years."

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

**Matters referred back from Council / Motions**

**Alley-Gating Programme**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st October, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Brooks and seconded by Councillor M. Kelly, had been referred to the Committee for its consideration:

“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.”

A number of Members stated that the issues of alley-gates was a frequently raised issue amongst residents across the City.

In response to a Member’s question, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Area Working Groups were due to start meeting in January 2020. He confirmed that the current waiting list of streets which were to be considered for alley-gates would be submitted to the relevant Area Working Group for its re-consideration and input at a future date.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the Alley-Gating Programme; and
2. noted that the Area Working Groups would be meeting in January 2020, and that the locations which were on the waiting list for alley-gates would be provided to each AWG for its re-consideration and further input.

**Anti-Social Behaviour - Holylands Area**

(Councillors Groogan and McKeown attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st October, a motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor McKeown, had been referred to the Committee for its consideration.

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 **To bring to the Committee’s attention a Notice of Motion regarding addressing Anti-Social Behaviour in the Holylands and the surrounding areas, which was discussed at the Council meeting on 1st October.**

- 1.2 The following motion regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Holylands and surrounding area, which was proposed by Councillor Groogan, and 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.’

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

2.1 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the Motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Freshers’ 2019 Update

- 3.1 Our night time noise service was operational as usual, 7 days a week from 2000 – 0400. All complaints from the Holylands were prioritised during the fresher’s period.
- 3.2 Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Alcohol Enforcement Officers were committed to the Holyland / Wider University Area Sunday – Thursday between 15th and 26th September. Hours of operation were 1600 – 2200 on Sunday and 1400 – 2200 Monday – Thursday. They were proactively patrolling the area to reduce / prevent anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe.

- 3.3 South Belfast Anti-social behaviour officer carried out joint visits with the universities and followed up on problem premises and public complaints.
- 3.4 Our cleansing and cleansing enforcement teams operated as normal with any issues / areas for attention being passed on by community safety. Our night time cleansing service also assisted with reducing excessive litter within the area.
- 3.5 Our entertainments licensing team proactively engaged with bars and clubs regarding their plans for the period and reminding them of their responsibilities. Premises of concern were flagged up with the team and joint visits did take place with the PSNI.
- 3.6 Figures for the Freshers' Period are being finalised and a meeting has been called by the PSNI to sign off on these for this year.

**Background to existing role and actions from the Learning City Interagency Group**

- 3.7 The Holylands Interagency Group (now Learning City Interagency Group) was formed in 2005. Since 2009 the Council has chaired this group and it consists of a range of statutory partners committed to working in partnership to tackle the problems associated with large number of students living in the City. The Chair of PACT (Partners and Communities Together) represents local residents on this group. The group also included a representative from the Landlord Association for Northern Ireland (LANI) and the National Union of Students.
- 3.8 In 2012 the Council and other statutory partners adopted the Holyland & Wider University Area Strategic Study. The plan recognised that the problems in the area were not just down to one agency and that in order to realise the improvements identified in the report it needed ownership and commitment from all the stakeholders in the area. Since then partners have worked together and integrated services on the ground in order to make a difference in the area. The short to medium term recommendations in the report have been achieved. The long-term recommendations will be progressed through our local development plan and our Community Plan 'The Belfast Agenda'. A summary of these achievements is outlined below.
- Council developed a Framework for Student Housing in the city in 2014, which has been incorporated into Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Supplementary Planning Guidance sets the strategic context and

agenda for student housing in the city, articulating the need for more purpose built student accommodation and will monitor and maintain an up to date assessment of current supply and future demand for student accommodation.

- Council continues to work with partners to assess the viability of purpose built student accommodation, requirements, and options for public sector to support delivery.
  - The Local Development Plan sets the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city. A report on Preferred Options Paper consultation was published on 26 July 2017 and the consultation on the draft plan strategy has just closed.
  - The then 'DSD' (The Department for Social Development) now 'DfC' (The Department for Communities) was approached to consider the potential for implementing recommendations in relation to introducing a 'new homes from old places' initiative in the area, namely to identify a housing association that would acquire properties and make these available to single households. DSD advised that this was not a feasible option due to lack of demand from potential tenants, and the high costs of acquiring/converting properties. Through the Local Development Plan's strategic theme of 'shaping a liveable place' development to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and place will be promoted. Furthermore, the Belfast Agenda's strategic priority 'living here' focuses on making life better for all our residents.
  - Council worked with the former Holyland Interagency Group to review the PACT structure and implement a new neighbourhood management approach for the area. A revised PACT structure was agreed and has been in operation since 2014. The Learning City Interagency Group continues to work closely with PACT.
- 3.9** Every year partners deliver a range of projects in the area in addition to the work of all the relevant enforcement agencies. In 2017/18 partners delivered the following in the area:
- Through continued, effective partnership working with the higher education institutions across the city, procedures to manage student behaviours have been

introduced which include induction and disciplinary procedures.

- Reviewed the effectiveness of legislation and byelaws, relevant to addressing antisocial behaviour. On 17 April 2018, Department of Justice launched an eight week public consultation to review the current criminal legislation framework to tackle anti-social behaviour, including on-street drinking. A corporate Council response was prepared in relation to this consultation which was presented to Committee on 5 June 2018.
- Several physical and environmental improvement projects have been delivered or are in the process of being delivered which include:
  - (i) graffiti removal and re-imaging using the Probation Board NI graffiti bus in addition to Council's graffiti team;
  - (ii) tree planting through the Local Investment Fund;
  - (iii) scoping the regeneration of the area known as 'Horsey Hill' to develop a corridor to link local green spaces;
  - (iv) capacity support to assist the delivery of community led projects;
  - (v) community clean-ups; and
  - (vi) A South Belfast circular economy project is being considered to encourage recycling rates.

#### Challenges and Next Steps

- 3.10 Partner agencies provide services and numerous initiatives and projects in the area to assist in addressing the impacts on the levels of antisocial behaviour whilst acknowledging that there is always more to be done. The Learning City Interagency Group looks at good practice for new ways to tackle the issues encountered and are committed to continue to work together to integrate services on the ground in a way that is responsive to what makes a difference to local people in an area. This motion highlights a number of options to address problems in the area.
- 3.11 As described above, both the Council and our partner agencies recognise that key challenges remain which may require future legislative and policy change, including the identification of resources to support these. Some of the key areas highlighted during the Council discussion were the need for increased partnership agency response on the street, a need to review the powers of seizure around on-street drinking, how effective our powers are in addressing noise nuisance, and considering how

**opportunities presented by the new Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing scheme can be utilised in order to address antisocial behaviour whilst recognising that any changes in the latter will require some time to implement in real terms.**

- 3.12 The Chief Executive will shortly be convening a meeting with senior representatives of the PSNI and Vice Chancellors of both Ulster University and Queens University Belfast to consider what further can be done. Community stakeholders will also be invited to attend this meeting.**
- 3.13 It is also anticipated that a special meeting of the People and Communities is convened to allow the relevant community stakeholders to raise their concerns – requests have already been received by a number of partners.**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

**None related to this report.**

**Equality, Rural Needs or Good Relations Implications**

**None.”**

During discussion, a number of Members expressed sympathy with those residents living in the Holylands and the Lower Ormeau Road area, given the ongoing anti-social behaviour in the area.

A number of Members stated that anti-social behaviour issues were not confined to the Holylands and Lower Ormeau area but that they were citywide, including the New Lodge, the Falls Park and the Marrowbone Park areas. A further Member stated that she had previously been involved in the Divis interventions a few years ago and that it had taken a significant amount of resources to tackle the issues there.

In response to a Member’s question regarding whether the Council could fund additional Safer Neighbourhood Officers, the Strategic Director advised the Committee that his Department had a finite budget and, if the Committee wanted additional resources on the street, it was within the Committee’s remit and it would have to consider moving resources from elsewhere. He also advised the Members that there was no specific ASB policy and that, in fact, a lot of the behaviour which had been discussed was criminal and therefore fell within the remit of the Police.

A further Member welcomed the motion and stated that they felt that the Holylands area was a special case, given the large concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), the high number of students, the transient population and the nightly on-street drinking.

Two Members who were not on the Committee were granted permission to address the Committee. They stated that the same conversations about the anti-social behaviour in the area had been taking place for years but that a strategic, multi-agency approach was

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required to come up with a solution. The Committee was advised that riot police had recently been called to the area and that the trouble consisted of both criminal acts and some sectarian behaviour. The Members stated that the Council needed to take a leading role to show that there was a political will to change the area.

Together, they requested that the Committee hold a Special meeting focusing on ASB in the Wider University and Lower Ormeau Area, and urged that it would take place as soon as possible.

Another Member stated that they had sincere sympathy with residents in the Holylands and that the PSNI needed to take greater measures to tackle the criminal behaviour. He added that around 7,000 students would be moving to North Belfast in the next year or two, and that it was important that the area surrounding the Ulster University campus did not become another hotspot for anti-social and criminal behaviour. He added that the Universities should also take stronger action against perpetrators who were their students.

A further Member stated that the long-term recommendations within the Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study, which had been adopted by the Council and other statutory agencies in 2012, would be progressed through the Council's Local Development Plan and the Belfast Agenda. He emphasised the importance of Members attending meetings of the Community Planning Partnership,

The Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report;
2. noted that the Chief Executive would also be convening a multi-agency meeting, including senior PSNI representatives, the Vice Chancellors of both Queen's and Ulster Universities and community stakeholders to consider what further action can be taken; and
3. agreed that a Special Meeting of the Committee be held on the issue of the ongoing Anti-Social Behavior in the in the Wider University and Lower Ormeau Area, with key stakeholders invited to attend.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Waste Collection Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 To provide an update on Waste Collection issues, including:**

- **progress on actions included in the high level Waste Collection Improvement Plan, including the domestic and commercial efficiency reviews;**
- **issues around missed bins city wide and proposed actions to address problem areas;**



- information in relation to the 'wheelie box' pilot launch;
- organic waste collections and the impact on operations.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the progress in relation to the performance improvements within the Waste Collection Improvement Plan to date, and recognise the ongoing work along with associated timescales.
- Endorse the procurement of a review of our Fleet needs, to help inform a fit for purpose sustainable Fleet Strategy which is aligned to the corporate ambitions of the Council. Relevant out workings of this review will be shared with the Working Group on Climate Crisis.
- Note the planned actions around addressing the issues of missed collections across the city, the upcoming kerbside wheelie box pilot scheme and the impact of increased tonnages of organic waste in 2019.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Key Issues

### 3.1 Waste Collection Improvement Plan

As outlined in the report of 4th December 2018 the Logistics Manager and his team have continued to focus on the waste improvement action plan. In terms of domestic collections, all domestic operational crews have gone through a challenge process, whereby individual productivity on a daily basis has been discussed and improvement plans agreed where necessary. This will now become a normal function of efficiency management whereby performance will be challenged on a regular basis.

### 3.2 In terms of commercial collections the data collection exercise has been carried out and plans are currently being formed as to how this can be best taken forward.

In recent years, however, there has been a fall in revenue for the Council from commercial waste collections, arising from more competition, loss of business to regional contracts and an increase in the provision of free or reduced rate services to churches, charities and educational establishments. There are concerns that this could at some stage undermine the economic feasibility of this service and work is underway to see whether there is value in developing an alternative model.

3.3 To underpin these initiatives and to drive through continuous improvement, there is still a requirement to keep under review the levels of resources for the Waste Collection service and this will be considered under the City Service Fleet and Resource Transition Programme and estimating processes etc.

3.4 **Missed Bin Collections**

Turning to the issue of missed bins, this item has received increased scrutiny over the past two years as the new Resources & Fleet City Service, has been established and throughout the summer of 2019 in particular. One of the priorities in Waste Collection is to ensure that the number of missed bins are kept to a minimum. It is worth reminding members that on average we collect approximately 154,000 bins a week, so the percentage of missed bins is less than 0.5% although we appreciate the impact even this has on people.

3.5 Recently, the number of missed collections has increased as a result of several factors, the main one being restricted access to streets due to parked cars. Although difficult to quantify, Waste Collection believes this to be a mix of residents parking in their own streets and commuters parking just off main arterial routes and then using public transport to continue their journeys to and from work.

3.6 The number of missed bins reported to the Council's Call Centre spiked over and following the July holiday period, and although Waste Collection has strived to reduce this as quickly as possible, this has not been resolved quickly enough, mainly due to resources being diverted to cope with the increased demands for compostable waste collections outlined below. (See 3.11 to 3.17). Latest figures suggest that levels are now reducing towards the previous year's figures.

3.7 There is a continual emphasis on ensuring that the service is capable of maximising first time collection rates. To counteract the increasing levels of missed bins, a 'Task Force' made up of the Waste Collection Manager and two Assistant Managers has been set up to consider alternatives to address the levels of missed bins being experienced. Several approaches have been identified, and being implemented or will be explored as part of the Improvement Plan, namely:

- Raising awareness with squads about missed bins using the data - core staff have been instructed to make every effort to get bins emptied 'first time, every time' but,

should this not be possible, to promptly communicate difficulties.

- ‘If the lorry can’t get to the bin, can the bin get to the lorry?’ Council Health & Safety officers are working with Waste Collection to consider the frequency and distances involved to bring bins from agreed collection points to the vehicle, whether there is a recommended ‘maximum distance’ an operator can be asked to pull a bin. This remains a work in progress as there is no definitive HSE, Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH ) or other guidance on this and individual risk assessments would be required taking into account road conditions, length of travel, weight of bins, etc. This would be a major undertaking to achieve, and the effects on route efficiency also need to be understood.
- What would be the cost of additional staff to offset the above and reduce operator fatigue to provide longer pulls?
- Selective targeting (e.g. missed Assisted Lifts) as a priority – discussions are underway with the individual crews on how best to introduce a new system of recording missed assisted lifts.
- Better use of ICT with the first draft of ‘heat maps’ being used to identify difficult areas but this is dependent upon access to critical staff members or additional technical support.
- Feasibility of introducing a second Restricted Access (RA) Squad to target known inaccessible streets although this would require additional resourcing.
- Longer-term, amending the fleet to have a better fit-for-purpose (i.e. procuring narrow body and/or 18T refuse collection vehicles; an initial step has been taken to order 8 x 26T narrow body RCVs which are due to delivered in April/May 2020. These should be capable of accessing narrow streets more easily and positively impact upon missed bins).
- Close dialogue is maintained with Road Service regarding the installation of double-yellow lines and enforcement, and higher level discussions have been held about adopting alternative approaches – such as red or blue lines, clearway zones etc, but these have been deferred pending reestablishment of the Assembly. This is an action raised previously at committee and we will write to the Department for Infrastructure formally to update them on these challenges, the impacts, and seek to get support and action from them on how to address.

3.8 All of the above work and our work around the Departmental transition and improvement project for Resources and Fleet

Services, is underpinned by the Corporate Customer Improvement Programme. This work is ongoing and further reports will be presented at future meetings.

**3.9 Development of a Fleet Strategy**

Due to the ongoing technological advances and interest to have a cleaner and greener fleet, balanced with a need to look at the types of vehicles we require in the future, that meet operational delivery plans based on the Waste Framework, it is recommended that we comprehensively review our Fleet needs to help inform a fit for purpose, sustainable Fleet Strategy, which is aligned to the corporate ambitions of the Council and will be of wider benefit to the City.

**3.10** Although we have internal expertise around fleet management and the future needs under the waste framework, there is recognition that there is a need for some specialist knowledge. It is proposed that the Council will need to procure additional external support to assist us in developing a future proofed Fleet Strategy which reflects current market trends, evolving technological advancements and meeting legislative requirements, assessing the economic impacts and options for introducing the strategy from the existing to a future need for Belfast City Council. We will be procuring this service as soon as possible from within existing budgets.

**3.11 Organic Waste Collections**

Over the previous two years, the tonnage of food/compostable waste generated over the summer for the last two years increases by 50% and 62% respectively, compared to the following winter months, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Domestic Organic Weights – Summer V Winter**

	<b>2017 Spring &amp; Summer 04/17 to 09/17</b>	<b>2018 Spring &amp; Summer 04/18 to 09/18</b>	<b>2019 Spring &amp; Summer 04/19 to 09/19</b>
Total Shipped at Glenside	12020 Tonnes	12199 Tonnes	12866 Tonnes
	<b>Autumn &amp; Winter 10/17 to 03/18</b>	<b>Autumn &amp; Winter 10/18 to 03/19</b>	
Total Shipped at Glenside	7403 Tonnes	8114 Tonnes	

- 3.12 The current wet and warm summer of 2019, combined with food waste, has resulted in the highest month on month recorded figures to date, with an expectation of tonnages for the six summer months March to September 2019 to be in the region of 12866 Tonnes. See Appendix 1 – ‘Organic waste tonnages 2017-2019’.
- 3.13 Typically, due to the additional weight in individual bins during the summer, bins take longer to load, and lorries fill at a faster rate, requiring a second ship. This has meant utilising the existing finite resources to work additional hours to support service delivery. This in itself has a further knock on effect on services and logistics planning and therefore there have been impacts on the service’s ability to react to pressures in retrieving missed bins in good time on the other waste streams. As a result of the increased tonnages, during this year’s summer months much of the organic waste collection routes have not always been completed within normal working hours, and this has placed a heavy demand on additional working arrangements. For example, in the months April – September 2019, a total of 12,866 Tonnes of domestic organic waste (brown bins) has been collected. Nominal capacity for this waste stream is approximately 9,555 tonnes for the comparable period. This will require reviewing our working arrangements and our existing waste policies.
- 3.14 Recognising the pressures that the increased tonnages are placing on the service and the likelihood that the tonnage presented is likely to continue to increase year on year, the Waste Collection team are currently exploring options on how to maximise resource availability going forward into next year, and as part of the Resources and Fleet Transition Programme, proposals may be brought forward in relation to this as part of the estimating process for 2020/2021.
- 3.15 Kerbside Wheelie Box Pilot
- Members will recall the update provided at last months’ meeting of this committee regarding the Pilot. The Kerbside Wheelie Box Pilot is due to commence on 30th September, 2019. Capital funding of £622k has been received from DAERA to acquire two vehicles and all associated bins and materials for the project.
- 3.16 The scheme will increase the capacity of collections for recyclable materials by providing a weekly collection service whilst encouraging residents to recycle more with the provision of a smaller black bin. New bins have been delivered to residents throughout September 2019 and an intensive

communications campaign has been undertaken. This has included door knocking, leafleting and will continue post project launch with roadshows and staff on the ground answering queries.

It should be noted that there will be an increased requirement for an additional squad to deliver the kerbside box pilot, due to the increased segregation of waste at source (kerbside), and the fact that this trial will deliver a weekly rather than a fortnightly service to residents. These costs, however, are partially mitigated as the proposed area is on the pilot purple box glass collection scheme, with partial resources transferred from this activity to the wheelie-box scheme. In addition, we expect that income from the improved quality of the materials and increased landfill diversion will help offset the additional operating costs. It is expected therefore that the pilot will be nett cost neutral, assessment of this will be kept under review.

- 3.17 As part of the wheelie box pilot, data will be gathered to evaluate whether the envisaged outcomes are being realised. It is proposed that reviews of initial data will take place after 6 weeks and then after three months. Resources and Fleet would propose to present these initial findings to the P&C Committee at a date soon thereafter.

3.18 Financial / Resource Implications

Consultancy support for the Fleet Strategy will be provided from within existing budgets. Any future route optimisation rebalancing exercises and asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework may however result in financial and resource implications at a future date.

3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

**At this time there are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications associated with this report.”**

During discussion, a Member stated that he had been contacted by a number of elderly and disabled constituents in the east of the City who had recently been advised that they were required to bring their bins to the end of an alleyway in order for them to be emptied. The Director of City Services advised the Member that she would investigate the issue and report back to him.

A further Member raised a query regarding numerous missed bin collections which had occurred in North Belfast over the summer months, and specifically the long call waiting times which residents had endured upon phoning the call centre. The Director of City Services explained that the issue with the call centre waiting times had been rectified shortly

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after officers had been alerted to the issue. She added that they were working, as part of the Customer Focus Programme, to expedite call processing between the refuse teams out on site, the affected residents and the call centre.

A Member queried whether the Council could seek to increase the capacity or the frequency of brown bin collections over the summer months in order to manage the significantly increased amount of compostable waste. In response, the Director of City Services confirmed that the continued increase in the use of brown bins by residents was to be welcomed but that they were aware of capacity issues over the summer period. She explained that, however, despite continued operational planning it unfortunately came down to the available capacity of the existing fleet.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

**Local Air Quality Management Update for Belfast**

(Councillor O'Hara attended in connection with this item).

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 At the People and Communities Committee meeting of 6th August 2019, a Member advanced a Notice of Motion concerning ambient air quality for the city. Actions arising from the Notice of Motion included that the council would agree to engage formally with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) on areas of concern and to produce reports on:**

- **Enhancing monitoring and reporting of air pollution, including recommended limits in line with the more stringent World Health Organisation Standards; and**
- **Introducing a Clean Air Zone in Belfast, in line with UK Government Guidance.**

**1.2 This report serves to provide an interim response to the Committee in respect of enhancing the council's current monitoring and reporting of air pollution and regarding the introduction of a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for Belfast. This interim report has been provided as an update on monitoring and CAZs and in advance of any direct engagement with DAERA or DfI.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Consider the contents of the report and to agree that recommendations regarding the adoption of WHO air quality standards and Clean Air Zone / Low Emission**

Zone legislation should be formally provided to DAERA and DfI as part of the council's consultation response to the forthcoming DAERA Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland.

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1** Current national statutory obligations in respect of ambient air quality management are broadly established through the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe as well as the 4th Daughter Directive. The 2008 Directive includes detailed requirements for ambient air quality monitoring, monitoring locations and reference monitoring methodologies for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, benzene, particulate matter (both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> fractions), lead and ozone. Limit values for these pollutants have been established with regard to World Health Organisation standards, guidelines and programmes.
- 3.2** The numerous European ambient air quality management requirements have been transcribed into Northern Ireland legislation via Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, the Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and supporting statutory policy and guidance. Part III of the Environment (NI) Order 2002 places a duty upon councils to periodically review and assess ambient air quality within their districts in order to determine the likelihood of achieving national air quality objectives by relevant compliance dates. These national objectives are broadly analogous to the various EC limit values detailed within the 2008 Directive. The council conducted its first review and assessment of ambient air quality for the city in 2003 and as a consequence, declared four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in 2004 for exceedences of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter objectives. These AQMAs were all declared around arterial road transport routes into and out of the city and source apportionment subsequently revealed that the exceedences were principally connected with road transport emissions. Since this first review and assessment, the council has developed a series of Air Quality Action Plans with partner organisations including DfI, Translink, the Freight Transport Association, the Road Haulage Association and Sustrans. Members will be aware that DfI has responsibility for public transport, roads, road improvement schemes and active travel, etc. The council has also completed a series of further review and assessments, updating and screening assessments and progress reports in order to monitor progress towards achieving the air quality objectives. Particulate matter



concentrations have declined over recent years to the extent that only pollutant of present concern is nitrogen dioxide.

- 3.3 In order to accurately measure compliance with the objectives for nitrogen dioxide, the council has installed a series of real time analysers across the city within our AQMAs and within the city centre at Lombard Street. These real time monitoring sites have been located so as to comply with the requirements of European legislation and the government's local air quality management technical guidance (LAQM.TG(16)). The Lombard Street monitoring site is classified as an urban background site and is therefore not influenced significantly by any single source or road, but rather by the integrated contribution from all sources upwind of the site. This site therefore provides an indication of the underlying levels of air pollution to which residents and workers within the city centre are likely to be exposed. The other monitoring sites for nitrogen dioxide are located within our AQMAs at the Ormeau Road, Upper Newtownards Road, Stockmans Lane and Roden Street. These sites are classified as roadside and are therefore representative of 'worst case' nitrogen dioxide concentrations. It should be noted however, that nitrogen dioxide concentrations are known to drop of rapidly with distance from the kerbside.
- 3.4 These automatic monitors are augmented by a series of around 60 nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes located at relevant receptor locations across the city. Diffusion tubes are passive samplers consisting of small plastic tubes containing a chemical reagent to absorb the nitrogen dioxide directly from the air. Due to their size, diffusion tubes can be located on the façades of homes and can therefore provide an assessment of nitrogen dioxide concentrations where people live. Automatic analysers have to be located within a special air conditioned enclosure and can therefore only be installed in limited locations. Moreover, diffusion tubes typically cost around £10 per tube whereas a nitrogen dioxide automatic analyser and enclosure may cost upwards of £20,000 to install. Current locations of our diffusion tubes and automatic analysers are summarised in the council's 2019 Progress Report that has recently been technically appraised and accepted by DAERA. As advised previously, all of our diffusion tubes and automatic analysers have been located so as to take account of the government's Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG(16)).
- 3.5 LAQM.TG(16) highlights that most local authorities have progressively adapted their monitoring strategy in accordance with air quality issues specific to their administrative area. Defra has also advised that over the years, many local authorities have relocated kerbside monitoring sites to roadside or other

sites relevant to public exposure. Monitoring networks have also been progressively extended to identify all potential hot spots, whilst a number of sites have been moved elsewhere or closed in areas where data showed continued compliance. Defra has therefore concluded that the existing monitoring network for most local authorities has been appropriately adapted to respond to all LAQM requirements.

- 3.6 Members are advised that this adaption approach has been applied to the council's ambient air quality monitoring. It is considered therefore that the current locations of the automatic analysers are appropriate to assess nitrogen dioxide concentrations within the AQMAs. Additional nitrogen dioxide monitoring data is provided through the use of diffusion tubes both within and outside of the AQMAs. The locations of existing diffusion tubes and the need for additional monitoring are periodically reviewed in light of monitoring data, emerging monitoring trends and any significant changes in road transport conditions across the city.
- 3.7 Members are also advised that the cost of the council's air quality monitoring is presently partly funded via the DAERA local air quality management grant. Monitoring not complying with the government's technical requirements would be unlikely to be funded by DAERA and the purchase, installation, ongoing operation and maintenance costs of additional monitoring equipment would likely have to be fully borne by the council.
- 3.8 The Notice of Motion also makes mention of the application of more stringent WHO limits. It should be noted that the WHO published air quality guidelines for particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide via a 2005 global update. The WHO has stated that the 2005 update represents the most current assessment of air pollution health effects, based on an expert evaluation of the scientific evidence. For nitrogen dioxide, the WHO has proposed a  $200 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  1-hour mean and a  $40 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  annual mean; equivalent in concentration to European and national air quality standards. WHO has also recommended a 24-hour mean of  $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and a 10-minute mean of  $500 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for sulphur dioxide whereas the UK and EC have applied a 15 minute mean of  $266 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , a 1-hour mean of  $350 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and a 24-hour mean of  $125 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  for sulphur dioxide. There have been no exceedances of any sulphur dioxide standards in Belfast since before 2000.
- 3.9 The WHO has also advanced an annual mean of  $20 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and a 24-hour mean of  $50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , assessed as the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for  $\text{PM}_{10}$  whereas the EC and UK have adopted a  $40 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  annual mean and a 24-hour mean of  $50 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  assessed as the 90.4<sup>th</sup>

percentile. Annual mean PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations measured at the Belfast Centre and Stockmans Lane sites during 2018 were 16  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  and 15  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  respectively. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the WHO has recommended an annual mean of 10  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  and a 24-hour mean of 25  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ , assessed as the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the UK has adopted an annual target of 25  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  to be achieved by 2020, although this target has not been included by DEARA within council air quality management obligations. However, it is understood that the forthcoming UK Environment Bill 2019 will enshrine World Health Organisation (WHO) limits for particulate matter in UK law. It should however, be noted that Belfast City Council monitors PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at the Belfast Centre Lombard Street site. In 2018, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual mean was 10  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  and the maximum daily mean was 39  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ . PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at Stockmans Lane are likely to be similar.

- 3.10 In the UK, it has been agreed that responsibility for meeting air quality limit values has been devolved to the national administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Accordingly, it is understood that DAERA will shortly consult upon a Northern Ireland specific Air Quality Strategy. As part of that consultation process, the council will have the opportunity to provide a detailed consultation response, including recommendations for enhanced air quality standards and monitoring, in fulfilment of the requirements of the Notice of Motion.
- 3.11 In May 2017, government published the Clean Air Zone Framework for England. Whilst this framework applies only in England, similar Low Emission Zone legislation has been introduced in Scotland. Clean Air Zones (CAZs) are designed to deliver immediate action to improve air quality and health with support for cities to grow whilst delivering sustained reductions in pollution and a transition towards a low emission economy. Where the most persistent pollution problems exist, CAZs enable control to be introduced to encourage only the cleanest vehicles to operate within the CAZ. There are two types of CAZ; (i) non-charging – a defined geographic area used as a focus for improving air quality where actions include the use of non-charged based access restrictions such as setting minimum emission standards, better land use planning, better traffic management, better fleet procurement, working with businesses to recognise and incentivise action and accelerating the transition towards a low carbon economy and accelerating the uptake of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles; and (ii) charging – zones where, in addition to the above measures, vehicle owners are required to pay a charge to enter, or move

within, a zone if they are driving a vehicle that does not meet the particular standard for their vehicle type within that zone.

- 3.12 Within Belfast, the current principal area of concern for nitrogen dioxide remains the M1 Motorway and A12 Westlink corridor to include areas around the Stockmans Lane roundabout and York Street. Members will be aware that this route forms part of the Regional Strategic Transport Network, connecting the M1 Motorway to the M2 and M3 motorways and that DfI has published plans to significantly re-engineer the York Street Interchange to ease congestion.
- 3.13 Where CAZs or LEZs have been introduced in other cities, they have typically either excluded or charged vehicles to enter, based upon the cleanliness of their tailpipe emissions. It is considered that before a CAZ or LEZ could be justified for the M1 Motorway and A12 Westlink corridor, a detailed analysis of the composition of vehicles using the strategic network corridor would have to be undertaken in order to determine whether elevated nitrogen dioxide pollution levels are due to a particular type or Euro class of vehicle or simply due to overall vehicle numbers using this part of the Regional Strategic Transport Network. Moreover, the impact of any vehicle controls to be applied to the M1 Motorway / A12 Westlink corridor would have to be carefully considered in terms of the continuing functionality of the strategic network and in order to ensure that such controls did not simply encourage vehicles to divert through adjacent residential neighbourhoods or through other areas of the city. As highlighted earlier within this report, it is understood that DAERA will shortly consult upon a Northern Ireland specific Air Quality Strategy. It is considered that this consultation exercise will provide an opportunity for the Council to make recommendations to DAERA concerning the need for Clean Air Zone / Low Emission Zone provisions for Belfast and Northern Ireland.
- 3.14 Financial & Resource Implications
- There would be procurement, operational and maintenance costs, as well as staff cost, if the council were to increase its ambient air quality monitoring across the city. As no such financial provisions exist within current budgets, monies to cover these additional costs would likely have to be generated from ongoing efficiencies within existing budgets.
- 3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments
- None.”

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A Member, who was not on the Committee, was granted permission to address the item. He explained that he felt that the Council should be more ambitious on the issue of Air Quality Management and that it should go further than submitting a consultation response to the forthcoming DAERA Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland. He highlighted that the Green Party, in conjunction with Friends of the Earth, had taken measurements of air quality at 128 sites across the City. He stated that there had been three breaches of NO<sub>2</sub> in the City this year, compared to one breach in 2017, which illustrated that the problem was becoming worse. He also pointed out that a detailed assessment had not been completed within Belfast since 2010.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Smyth,  
Seconded by Councillor McCusker and

Resolved - that the Council agrees to look at undertaking a detailed assessment and, additionally, to measure Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

The Director of City Services advised the Committee that the updated progress report 2019 was available on the Members' Portal. She explained that Air Quality Management Areas had been in place since 2005 along arterial routes in the city.

In relation to the proposal for a detailed assessment, she explained that the Council had updated screening assessments every three years, whereby the last one had taken place in 2018 and the results of which had informed the report. She highlighted to the Committee that it showed an improving picture but that officers absolutely understood the Members' ambition for change. The Members were advised that the Council had not carried out a detailed screening assessment since 2015 as it hadn't officially needed to do one.

In response to the proposed monitoring of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), she advised the Committee that the measure was not enshrined in UK legislation and so, if the Council was to begin measuring it, other partner agencies might not necessarily take notice of it. However, she explained that, potentially through the Community Planning Partnership, the Council could bring some challenge to the process of developing the new Air Quality Action Plan.

The Committee:

1. considered the contents of the report and agreed that recommendations regarding the adoption of WHO air quality standards and Clean Air Zone / Low Emission Zone legislation should be formally provided to DAERA and DfI as part of the council's consultation response to the forthcoming DAERA Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland; and
2. agreed to bring back a further report on how to meet the undertaking for a detailed assessment, and to include the measuring of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

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**Committee Planning Workshop – Feedback**

The Committee considered a detailed report on the feedback which had been received at the Committee Planning Workshop on 10th September.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that a draft Committee Plan would be submitted to a future meeting for its consideration.

**Operational Issues**

**Street Naming**

The Committee agreed to grant applications for the naming of two new streets within the City, namely, Northview Lane, off Northview, BT15, and of Finaghy Park Gardens, off Finaghy Park Central, BT10.

**Update on Grass Cutting at sites not owned by Belfast City Council**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The committee will recall an update paper presented at the meeting on 4th June 2019.**

**1.2 After discussion, the Committee:**

- Noted the continued actions which were being undertaken as part of the ongoing review of grass cutting arrangements at sites not owned by the Council;**
- Agreed that a further report in relation to the review of grass cutting arrangements would be submitted to a future meeting, and**
- Agreed to the inclusion of a site at McKinsty Road within the grass cutting arrangements that the Council currently operated with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI.**

**1.3 This report provides an update for Members and outlines recent work undertaken by officers regarding the potential for sponsorship of roundabouts and verges, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- note the update information regarding grass cutting at sites not owned by Belfast City Council, and**

- if Members are content with the initial proposals regarding sponsorship, to endorse officers taking this work forward, with view to a report being brought to the Committee with full details.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

Members will recall from the June 2019 report that since 2016/2017, the Council has supplemented grass cutting arrangements for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI, by providing five cuts per annum at the following sites:

- Michael Ferguson roundabout;
- Kingsway Embankment, Dunmurry;
- Knock dual Carriageway, and
- Cregagh Road with Knock dual carriageway.

**3.2** Members will further be aware that the maintenance of these sites requires financial resources via the departmental budgets.

**3.3** In order to identify opportunities for the Council to help defray these costs, officers have undertaken preliminary research into opportunities to generate income via a sponsorship scheme.

**3.4** As well as an opportunity to generate additional external funds to supplement existing maintenance budgets, sponsorship schemes can improve the appearance of roundabouts, improve the image of Belfast as a vibrant location for businesses and community groups, and promote the range of businesses already located locally.

**3.5** Such schemes are widely used by other Councils, and a number of models for identifying suitable sites, including roundabouts and verges, and initiating such sponsorship schemes, including procurement options, are available. Officers have also met colleagues in the DfI Roads Service, whose Eastern Division work in partnership with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to implement a sponsorship scheme in their council area.

**3.6** It is intended that with further benchmarking, and discussion with DfI Roads Service, a suitable scheme will be identified that could be applied in Belfast. Such a sponsorship scheme will need to be considered in the context of the wider, ongoing corporate initiative to develop a commercial framework and

**strategy, and officers will ensure that as the potential scheme develops, it will be reviewed by the Council's Commercial Working Group and Commercial Panel. Furthermore, officers will continue to engage with DfI in order to maximise the allocation of its resources with the Belfast City Council area.**

**3.7 Financial and Resource Implications**

**The development of a sponsorship scheme for roundabouts and verges provides an opportunity to generate additional external funds to supplement existing maintenance budgets.**

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

**There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report."**

In response to a Member's request regarding the need for the grass to be cut on the McKinstry Road Roundabout, and the potential of using a private contractor, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services agreed to consider ways in which the issue could be addressed and to submit a report to a future meeting, highlighting to the Members that there were liability issues to be considered given that the land was not Council-owned.

The Committee:

1. noted the updated information regarding grass cutting at sites not owned by Belfast City Council;
2. agreed that officers would investigate ways as to how the McKinstry Road Roundabout could be addressed, including the potential of hiring a private contractor to cut the grass on a single occasion, and any associated issues and provide an update to the Committee at a future date; and
3. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting with full details relating to the initial proposals regarding potential sponsorship schemes.

**Feasibility of Funding for Cloth Nappy Scheme**

The Committee was reminded that the Council had been funding two-week trials of a cloth nappy scheme for over four years, allowing parents the opportunity to trial the use of cloth nappies and to access a refund scheme should they wish to continue once the trial had finished.

The Members were advised that the scheme had proven very popular, which had resulted in Belfast families having to wait between eight to ten weeks to access the trial. The Director of City Services explained that, following a free trial, each kit was returned and reissued to another family and, therefore, having an additional kit in circulation would



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therefore alleviate the waiting times. She reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 6th August, it had agreed that officers would investigate the feasibility of the Council purchasing an additional cloth nappy kit for use by Belfast ratepayers in order to reduce the waiting time.

The Committee was advised that, further to discussion with Legal Services, it was recommended that a supplementary agreement be put in place with the service provider stating that if the Council provided direct support in the form of an additional Nappy Trial Kit, with an estimated value of £400 per kit, that it would be exclusively for the benefit of Belfast families.

The Committee approved the establishment of a supplementary agreement with the existing service provider, which would allow the Council to supply an additional cloth nappy kit to the company solely for the benefit of Belfast residents.

**Request for the Use of Lower Botanic Gardens –  
City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th June, it had granted approval for the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter to hold a parade through the Botanic Gardens on 28th August, 2021. The Strategic Director advised the Committee that the parade was to mark the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland and that it would pass a number of buildings with significance to the Centenary.

The Members were advised that, since that decision, officers had received a request from the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter to hold a family fun day event in lower Botanic Gardens, adjacent to Stranmillis Embankment on the 28th August 2021, between 12noon and 7.00pm, following the parade from the City Hall to the Botanic Gardens.

The Committee was advised that the event would include market stalls, food vendors, religious service, stewarding, fun rides, live music and that there would be no sale of alcohol during the event. The Strategic Director explained that it would be a requirement of the License Agreement that the organisers would liaise with Queens University P.E. Centre and local communities to minimise any impact that the event might incur in the surrounding area.

It was reported that there may be a requirement to have additional staff on site to facilitate the event and, if that was the case, the costs would be charged to the event organiser.

The Committee agreed approval for the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter to hold an event in Lower Botanic Gardens on 28th August 2021, subject to, and on condition that, the requestor:

- having resolved all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement was to be completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and

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- that the promoter would meet all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.

**Combined Report - Request for the Use of Parks**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to host events in our parks, namely:**

- **Request for Both Lives Matter to hold a ‘Both Lives Matter Demonstration’ at**
- **Falls Park on Sunday 13 October 2019.**
- **Request for MACS NI to hold a Sleep Out event at Victoria Park on Thursday 14 November 2019.**
- **Request for Street Soccer NI to hold a Sleep Out event at CS Lewis Square on Friday 24 January 2019.**

**Both Sleep Out events will take place outside normal park opening hours and will require the closure of part of the facility.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- **Grant authority for these events to take place at these locations by these organisations;**
- **Grant authority for any subsequent, annual charity Sleep Out events at these locations by these organisations; and**
- **Authorise the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve the ‘Both Lives Matter Demonstration’ under the Council scheme of delegation, due to the late application with the event taking place before the Committee decision can be ratified at the November meeting of Council;**
- **For each event. grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that the Event Organiser:**
  - **completes the appropriate Event Management Plans;**

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

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

- **Request for Both Lives Matter to hold a 'Both Lives Matter Demonstration' at Falls Park.**
  - A request has been received week commencing 23rd September 2019 from Both Lives Matter to hold a 'Both Lives Matter Demonstration' at Falls Park on Sunday 13 October 2019 from 3 - 6pm
  - Both Lives Matter has four primary aims: to reframe the abortion debate in Northern Ireland and beyond; to advocate for better care in pregnancy crisis; to create a life-affirming culture that values each woman and her unborn child; and to safeguard the current law which protects both women and unborn children.
  - The purpose of the event is to have a cross-community, inter-generational, peaceful protest march against the proposed imposition of liberalised abortion laws on Northern Ireland. There will be no charge to participants.
  
- **Request for MACS NI to hold a Sleep Out event at Victoria Park in the Connswater Community Greenway Marquee.**
  - A request has been received from MACS NI, an organisation that provides a range of support services for children and young people in Northern Ireland who haven't had a fair deal in relation to housing, homelessness, mental health and participation, to hold a Sleep Out event at Victoria Park on Thursday 14 November 2019 in the Connswater Community Greenway marquee. Set up of the event will take place at 2pm and it will be dismantled by 10am on Friday 15 November 2019.
  - MACS NI is part of a national campaign with other charities across the UK to end homelessness. This Sleep Out event will raise awareness and funds for vulnerable young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

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- The event will not have an admission charge, registration will be done on site and online. The charity will be collecting donations during the event.
- The event will include food vendors, live music and street entertainment. The event organiser will provide marquees/gazebos, stewards, toilets and will arrange pitch hire and electricity for their event.
- **Request for Street Soccer NI to hold a Sleep Out event at CS Lewis Square.**
  - A request has been received from Street Soccer NI to hold a Sleep Out event at CS Lewis Square on Friday 24 January 2020. Set up of the event will take place at 5pm and it will be dismantled by 12 noon on Saturday 25 January 2020.
  - Street Soccer NI tackles homelessness through providing employment and housing support, built around football activities and working with some of our societies' most excluded and vulnerable people. This event will raise awareness of homelessness by getting participants to experience sleeping out, whilst raising sponsorship for the charity.
  - The event will have an admission charge of £20 and registration will be completed online. The charity will be collecting donations during the event.
  - The event will include football matches and the event organiser will provide marquees/ gazebos and toilets. Caterers will provide breakfast in the morning, for participants.

**3.2 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications.

**3.3 Asset and Other Implications**

Council Officers will liaise with the organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events.

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

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment will be considered by Officers for each of the events in line with the Council processes.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Request to Plant Trees as part of Queen's  
Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th June, it had agreed the proposed policy for future tree planting requests within Parks and Open Spaces which marked significant occasions and events. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of a request submitted by Emma Little Pengelly MP, to plant five small trees to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project, to allow discussion on the proposal to take place at the Party Leaders' Consultative Forum.

The Members were advised that the Party Leaders' Consultative Forum, at its meeting on 26th September, had agreed that the request should be resubmitted to the People and Communities Committee for consideration.

The Committee acceded to the request submitted by Emma Little Pengelly MP, to plant five small trees to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project.

**DAERA Consultation on Invasive  
Alien Species (IAS) 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 make Members aware of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation in relation to the Management measures for widely spread Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Northern Ireland and to seek Members' approval of the Council's draft response. The consultation response closes on 23rd October 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to;**

- consider the draft response as set out in Appendix 1 and approve its submission to DAERA, subject to any comments or amendment provided, with the proviso that the response is subject to full Council approval at its meeting on 4th November 2019.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 On the 11th September 2019, DAERA launched a six week consultation in relation to the *Management measures for widely***

*spread Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Northern Ireland*. The purpose of this consultation is to obtain views on the management measures being considered by DAERA for species of Union concern which are widely spread in Northern Ireland. The consultation document is available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations>.

- 3.2 Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species came into force on 1 January 2015. It imposes strict restrictions on a list of species known as ‘species of Union concern’. These are species whose potential adverse impacts across the European Union are such that concerted action across Europe is required. The restrictions mean that (subject to certain defences, or exemptions through permits or licences) species of Union concern cannot be imported into the EU, kept, bred, transported, placed on the market, used or exchanged, allowed to reproduce, grown or cultivated, or released into the environment. There are currently 66 species on the Union list: 30 animals and 36 plants.
- 3.3 Ten species of Union concern that have been identified as being widely spread in Northern Ireland. For these widely spread species, the Regulation requires effective management measures to be put in place, so that their impact on biodiversity, the related ecosystem services and, where applicable, human health or the economy are minimised. Management measures consist of lethal or non-lethal physical, chemical or biological actions aimed at the eradication, population control or containment of a population of widely spread species.
- 3.4 The 10 species identified are

Plants

Nuttall’s waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*),  
Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*),  
Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*),  
Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*),  
Curly waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*),  
American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*),  
Parrot’s feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

Animals

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*),  
all subspecies of (*Trachemys scripta*) otherwise known as  
‘slider terrapins’ &  
New Zealand Flatworm (*Arturdendvus triangulates*)

- 3.5** Belfast City Council in principle, supports the management measures focussed on reducing the impact that the 10 widely spread species of Union concern have on native biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as their wider socio-economic impacts.
- 3.6** The Council welcomes a strategic approach but considers that it is not possible to provide specific comments as the document outlines a range of options/approaches such as control to eradication for the 10 species listed. Naturally management measures will depend on the local circumstances however BCC considers clarification is needed at the local level to identify impacts and costs for each of the listed species.
- 3.7** A copy of the draft response is included as Appendix 1 but in summary the council suggests the following should be completed to assist with the implementation of this legislation and to maximise efforts to control IAS across NI.
- Special criteria should be developed to determine the approach taken ie control or eradication at a local level. It is not possible to comment on specific species given that criteria has not been provided to assess the level or type of action/approach likely to be taken for each species. In addition is DAERA the Competent Authority which determines the approach?
  - The criteria should be unambiguous and evidence based to ensure consistent approaches across NI.
  - Monitoring of actions should also be undertaken to ascertain effectiveness and plan for future action.
  - The resource implication for Council and other land owners would need to be determined and subsequently resourced. Funding should be provided to key stakeholders to enable additional action on the control of IAS.
  - The provision of advice and guidance is essential. Currently there is a lack of guidance from the Department on control options. Costed Case studies and best practice should be developed to enable effective action. This is particularly relevant for the widespread aquatic species listed.
- 3.8** BCC would welcome further engagement with DAERA to clarify and assess specific implications of this legislation for Belfast.

**3.9 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are none with this report. However, dependent on the approach/level of action deemed necessary by DAERA there may be limited or significant resource implications for the council.

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

There are none with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Association of Port Health Authorities  
(APHA) Membership**

The Committee noted the nomination of Councillor Heading to the Association of Board Health Authorities Executive Board for a further two year term of office, and authorised the expenditure associated with his attendance at Board meetings.

**Solace/Waste Forum Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 To provide an update to Members on the progress made by SoLACE in conjunction with a Waste Forum made up of TAG (NI) officers, supported by NILGA, in assessing councils needs in terms of collaborating on waste and related Services. This a work in progress, but it is important that Members are aware of this emergent collective approach being undertaken by the 11 councils.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note;**

- the update and agree to the resource recommendations.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 Prior to the RPA (Review of Public Administration) in 2015, the councils were organised into three voluntary Waste Management Groups;**



1. arc21 (11 x councils)
  2. NWRWMG (North West Region Waste Management Group) (7 x councils)
  3. SWaMP2008 (Southern Waste Management Partnership) (8 x councils)
- 3.2 Each group operated through a Joint Committee, albeit on a slightly different basis whereby arc21 and SWaMP2008 were incorporated corporate bodies, whilst the NWRWMG was unincorporated. SWaMP2008 was dissolved in 2015. Arc21 can award contracts as a separate entity and hold assets, while SWaMP2008 did not enter into direct contract award. Similarly, the NWRWMG facilitated joint procurement across its councils (with Derry City Council as lead council), third-party contract awards were made through the individual councils.
- 3.3 The principle objective of the three Groups was to work collectively for their partner councils and others to develop three Waste Management Plans and deliver the various recycling and landfill diversion targets set out in European and domestic legislation.
- 3.4 Since RPA the picture has fragmented. Currently, there are two Waste Management Groups:
- arc21 representing Belfast City, Ards & North Down, Mid & East Antrim, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Newry Mourne & Down and Lisburn & Castlereagh City
  - NWRWMG representing Derry City & Strabane and Causeway & Glens
- 3.5 The three remaining councils (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Fermanagh & Omagh and Mid Ulster), sometimes referred to '*NI Other*', are not part of any Waste Management Group although they have worked together and produced a Joint Waste Management Plan.
- 3.6 These arrangements, however, are not seen as sustainable in the longer term. As a consequence, SoLACE NI (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) requested that through the Technical Advisors Group (NI) (Local Government Technical Advisors Group), the councils review the current set-up with a view to making proposals for future arrangements. TAG subsequently established a Waste Forum. The timing is apt as reviews of DAERA's '*Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy*' and councils' Waste Management Plans are scheduled for the near future. Organisational changes within the Waste Management Groups

also reinforce the need for a strategic review of current arrangements.

3.7 Given the increasing demands on councils to improve recycling quantity and quality to deliver government targets, develop the Circular Economy, while reducing dependency on landfill, achieving these goals would be enhanced through greater collaboration between councils.

3.8 Members should be aware that NI councils spend in the region of 25-35% of their revenue budget on waste and related environmental services.

3.9 **Main Report**

Following on from a workshop involving both Chief Executives and senior officers from the eleven Councils in October 2018, TAG (NI) were requested to take forward a Strategic Review of the current arrangements for collaboration between councils for waste and related services.

3.10 Following the establishment of the Waste Forum drawing upon senior officer representation from the eleven councils, a specification was developed and agreed for an independent organisation to undertake a review the current arrangements and develop options for potential future structures and governance arrangements (see Appendix 1).

3.11 At its September 2019 meeting, the Specification was signed off by SoLACE NI. Given the need to engage an experienced organisation to carry out this review, it was agreed that the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) should be appointed to undertake this work as they have the necessary skills and experience having worked with many councils and the Waste Management Groups, and are public sector providers.

3.12 SIB's engagement is carried out in accordance with and for the purposes described in The Strategic Investment & Regeneration of Sites (NI) Order 2003 – namely the exercise of strategic investment functions in relation to the Executive and bodies carrying out major investment projects.

3.13 Members should be aware that the review officially commenced with a workshop on 13 September. It is anticipated that the final report will be available in early 2020 and, following approval by SoLACE NI, the outcome will be reported to councils for their consideration.

**3.14 Financial & Resource Implications**

The fee to support the delivery of the SIB report will be approximately £2,200 per council. This is being supported as part of our waste framework development and within existing budgets. There will also be officer time required to support the process and through the Waste Forum.

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

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Update**

The Committee agreed the minutes and the recommendations arising from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group meetings held on 21st August and 2nd October.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Use and Condition of Council Pavilions – Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds, to raise**

In response to the Member’s request, the Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the use and condition of the pavilions within the Council’s parks across the City, to include reference to their current status, such as whether they were currently being used by any groups and whether any repairs were needed.

**Portacabin at Wedderburn Park – Councillor Graham to raise**

(Councillor Graham attended in connection with this item)

The Member outlined to the Committee that Finaghy Football Club wanted to place a Portacabin on Council-owned land at the entrance to Wedderburn Park. He explained that the Club had advised that they would cover all costs associated with the Portacabin, including the connection to, and any ongoing costs associated with, electricity and water. The Members were advised that the Portacabin would only be open and operational for a certain number of hours on match days and that they were open to the idea of local community groups also using it.

A number of Members stated that there had been previous difficulties with the misuse of similar cabins on Council land and that there were a number of issues which had to be taken into consideration in relation to such a request.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting to include any issues which would need to be considered by the Council in the consideration of such a request, including planning, leasing and licensing considerations, health and safety issues, and any potential impact that a Portacabin could have on other users of the facility.

**Update on the Pilot Extending Opening Hours  
in Council Parks - Councillor M. Kelly to raise**

In response to the Member's request, the Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the opening hours of Council Parks, to include any relevant motions which had previously been passed.

Chairperson

## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 9th October, 2019

### MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;  
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**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Flynn, Garrett, Harvey, McAllister and McLaughlin.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Presentations**

##### **Update on Committee Workshop/Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th June, it had agreed a number of headline priorities for the 2019/20 programme of work, which would, amongst other things, assist in delivering the Belfast Agenda and key corporate priorities such as the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy the Belfast Region City Deal and the Inclusive Growth Framework. The Committee had agreed also that a workshop be held to allow for more detailed discussion to take place around the headline priorities.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reported that the workshop had taken place on 25th September and that discussions had focused primarily upon the following areas:

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- maximising the Council's role as convenor and influencing strategic city issues and investments, such as housing, transport, regeneration, connectivity, and open and green shared spaces, to encourage the establish of sustainable city centre living;
- continuing to lobby for the transfer of regeneration powers to local councils;
- building upon strategic partnership working to promote the city's assets and to realise the opportunities presented by the Belfast Region City Deal;
- the Council's role as a responsible employer and leading by example;
- delivering a twin track approach to support people into employment and engaging with employers to support upskilling and progression opportunities;
- the need to build strategic relationships with key employers in order to understand how we can help them and they can help us address some of the key city challenges;
- providing tailored and targeted support to enable those who face multiple barriers to employment to benefit from a range of employability and skills support;
- the need to be ambitious in encouraging new businesses to start up and grow in Belfast and to think more radically about the types of support that might help them;
- the increasing importance of tourism to the city's development and the need to continue to invest, in order to ensure that the city feels the benefit of the tourism growth;
- the need for meaningful and ongoing community engagement for city developments and infrastructure; particularly in terms of established communities and neighbourhoods;
- the benefit of master planning to bring forward coherent urban design;
- the benefit of working with public and private sector partners to provide critical mass in terms of attracting and bringing forward development opportunities which can deliver mixed tenure residential, along with a viable mix of commercial, social enterprise and cultural opportunities;

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- exploring the feasibility of alternative options to help address key issues, for example, co-development of housing, a business start-up offer for the Belfast economy, increasing vitality in the city centre and the future role of retail, generating a city centre environment to build communities in which people choose to live; and
- learning from the experience of the Bank Buildings Primark response to inform and manage our approach to intervene and support residents and businesses, for example, in the event of recent redundancies.

He pointed out that the workshop had proven to be beneficial in that it had enabled Members to gain a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges across the City and had allowed for more focused engagement around the proposed approaches for progressing programmes of work.

The Senior Development Officer then provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, with reference being made to the eight core principles, the key projects/places to focus efforts, the special action areas, key achievements and current challenges.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the update on the strategic workshop and the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy; and
- ii. agreed that a workshop be held to discuss in greater detail the issue of residential provision, in the context of the City core and those areas surrounding it.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports 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 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.

**Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Masterplan for the Gasworks Northern Fringe.

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After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the information contained within the report;
- ii. noted that an outline planning application for the Gasworks Northern Fringe lands for a comprehensive mixed-use development would be submitted in due course; and
- iii. noted that a report would on 25th October be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking its endorsement of a recommendation that the development of the commercial use elements identified on Plots A and D of the Gasworks Northern Fringe be brought forward, aligned with the Council's emerging inclusive growth framework, as social enterprise, co-operative or community infrastructure schemes and within an agreed timeframe.

**City Centre Public Realm Catalyst Projects**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 11th September, it had agreed emerging proposals to bring forward small scale, public realm catalyst projects for three cluster areas, namely Chichester Street/Callender Street, Greater Clarendon/Sailortown and Blackstaff Square and its environs, which could utilise pre-existing developer contributions which had already been received or been agreed through completed planning agreements.

The Senior Development Officer submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided additional information on the design principles upon which the public realm proposals would be based and the process for taking them forward, including engagement with Members and wider stakeholders. The report provided also details of the scope of the proposed project for Chichester Street/Callender Street and sought approval to proceed with the proposal.

The Committee:

- i. approved the scope of the Chichester Street/Callender Street public realm project and agreed to proceed with design development and delivery, in partnership with the Department for Communities, subject to the project costs being approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- ii. noted the proposals for further engagement in respect of the development of public realm proposals at Blackstaff Square and Greater Clarendon/Sailortown;
- iii. approved the scope of the emerging Greater Clarendon/Sailortown project and noted that further details would be provided at a future meeting, following initial engineering assessments; and



- iv. approved the allocation from existing Departmental budgets of £100k towards the design and development of public realm and environmental improvement works.

### **Growing Businesses and the Economy**

#### **Update on Growing the Economy**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress against a series of commitments set out under the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda. The update is in line with the activity that was approved by the Committee on 6th March, 2019.**

#### **2.1 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to note the Council’s performance and contribution to delivering against Belfast Agenda ambitions to grow the Belfast economy, focusing on the current support for Business Start-up, Growth and Investment.**

#### **3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 At its meeting on 6th March, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved the delivery of the Growing the Economy work plan for the 2019/20 financial year. Since April 2019, officers have been working on a range of activities to address the challenges around low levels of start-up, innovation, business competitiveness and productivity and ensure that all of our residents are connected to economic opportunities.**

**3.2 This programme of work reflects the commitments of the Inclusive Growth Framework in relation to social enterprise and cooperative development, and in supporting the development of businesses in high growth sectors to create opportunities to connect our residents to the jobs of the future.**

**3.3 With the Enterprise Framework now in place, we have been working in partnership with stakeholders across the city to put in place an Action Plan to 2021. The framework sets a vision for the city as a great place to start and grow a business. It outlines recommended steps to be taken for Belfast to be ‘recognised for its diverse community of entrepreneurs, who**

benefit from a comprehensive, planned and coherent system of enterprise support, which fulfils their needs at all stages of the business growth life-cycle'. Aligned to the thematic priorities of the framework, officers have been working to develop research and intelligence and deliver and further develop the range of support offered by the council. We have also been working to put in place the foundations required to support us to deliver the service more effectively through the development of a new customer relationship management system, and processes to ensure the support is flexible to meet the needs of the market.

3.4 Whilst work is ongoing to deliver the 2019/20 work plan, the key achievements to date are outlined below.

3.5 City for Enterprise

We deliver a range of initiatives which enable individuals including those from traditionally underrepresented groups to explore opportunities to start their own business or consider self-employment as a career path. To date 193 females have been engaged in activities with 72 accessing support through workshops, boot camps, peer support and pitching competitions. Our outreach and enterprise awareness support will culminate in a week-long series of events and workshops on Global Entrepreneurship Week in November. During that week, we plan to engage 400 individuals and support them to take positive steps towards starting a business. We are also exploring opportunities to engage with local community groups and individuals who are economically inactive to support them into self-employment as well as supporting access to St George's Market and other test trading opportunities for new businesses.

3.6 Following on from research undertaken as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Model (GEM) report for Belfast, the potential for additional economic impact to be generated from targeted graduate entrepreneurship activity was identified. The Council has been working with both universities and the FE college for some time to deliver targeted enterprise support for college and university students, alongside their studies. 37 students participated on this support last year with 11 reporting that they are actively trading to date. A further 6 of the students have gone on to access salary support through Invest NI, enabling them to build their business and undertake the necessary development work required in advance of them being able to draw down a full salary. This year's programme is launching in September with

the new academic year and will support 40 university and college students to start their own business.

**3.7 City for Business Start-Ups**

New businesses, social enterprises and cooperatives can access a range of advice and guidance to support them to go out on their own. Since April this year, 182 individuals have been engaged in the 'Go for It' programme which has supported the development of 112 new jobs to date. In June we launched a new initiative to extend the range of support available to new starts by providing additional mentoring and access to financial and other incentives. Since its launch, 37 new businesses have been supported and we have allocated £6,000 worth of incentives, helping towards business overheads.

**3.8** One of the most significant challenges in Belfast is not only the number of business starts but also the lack of new businesses that have the potential for high growth. While there has been significant inwards into the development of more knowledge-based and high growth companies, our micro-business base is still predominantly locally-focused and the key individuals often require targeted support in terms of leadership skills to drive future growth.

**3.9** In recognition of the need to provide a more focused support service to those businesses that have the potential to be high growth companies, the Council has put in place a support programme in collaboration with Invest NI and with support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). 33 businesses are currently accessing this support and, since April 2019, this has helped create 44 full time or equivalent jobs and helped the companies secure nearly £1m in export sales.

**3.10** Members have confirmed their commitment to provide targeted support for the social enterprise and cooperative sectors and this is reflected in our new social enterprise programme which was launched in June 2019. This year to date our support for the Social Enterprise and Cooperative sector support has enabled us to work with 11 individuals or organisations. Later in the year, the Crowdfunder Belfast pilot project will go live. This will provide opportunities for 10 social enterprises or cooperatives to generate up to £10k of public pledges in order to grow their organisation. Subject to attracting funding from other sources, Belfast City Council will provide up to £5,000 of financial support towards each of these businesses.

**3.11 City for Business Growth**

Members will be aware that, since 2015, the Council has had statutory responsibility for business start-up, social enterprise and targeted business support e.g. for female entrepreneurship. The Council also works with early stage and small businesses that are not yet Invest NI clients (in that they have not yet reached the export threshold or are not in key growth sectors). The support provided helps the companies address a specific growth challenge and covers issues such as marketing, cashflow management, digital skills and leadership development. Since April this year, we have supported 120 businesses by providing targeted 1-2-1 mentoring on their specific areas of challenge. We have also supported a further 16 companies to export to new markets. Collectively, these companies expect to generate very initial increases in sales of around £1.6million.

**3.12** In August 2019, this Committee endorsed the ‘Way to Scale’ programme and this was subsequently launched – along with our partners from Catalyst Inc. and Invest NI – in early September. The programme aims to increase the number of businesses with the potential to scale and achieve turnover in excess of £1m in Belfast. 70 businesses have now registered to take part in the business bootcamp which will form part of the programme’s selection process. Following the bootcamp, 10 businesses will be selected to participate in a one week residential as part of Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Entrepreneurship Development Programme. They will also engage in 1-2-1 mentoring and peer workshops with other participating businesses and the programme will close with a one week Boston-based residential programme, which will focus on go-to-market strategies and tactics. We will work with our Boston-based contacts and networks to maximise the return for participating businesses.

**3.13** In addition to our programme delivery, we continue to deliver services through the Innovation Factory including access to workspace, workshops and coaching for the growing entrepreneurial community. To date, the service has supported the creation of 125 jobs and houses 44 small businesses. The Innovation Factory is currently at 60% occupancy and the target for 31 Dec 2019 is 68%. The calibre of the businesses at the Innovation Factory is very impressive and they continue to create positive profile for themselves and for the centre. One example of this is a local start-up tenant, New Era Global Sports, which recently attracted a significant amount of positive publicity due to its association with Rio

Ferdinand. He recently visited the centre to launch the business.

**3.14 City for Investment**

In 2018, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed to the establishment of a 'City Investment Service' on a pilot basis, for a period of 18 months. The aim of the service is to make the process of attracting and managing investment to the city as straightforward as possible. Since its launch, the team has worked with over 76 businesses. An evaluation into this service is currently underway, and this will be used to inform potential future options and approaches for delivery. Further details will be presented to the Committee at a future date.

**3.15 Financial and Resource Implications**

The activities outlined within this report will be resourced from the 2019/20 Economic Development budget agreed by this Committee on 6 March 2019.

**3.16 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 adopted the recommendation.

**Update on Working and Learning**

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

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the programme of work being delivered in the 2019/20 financial year under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda. The work programme supports the inclusive growth ambitions of the Council by addressing barriers to progression, focusing upon educational underachievement

and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1 The committee is requested to:**

- i. note the content of the report and the progress achieved to date on the 2019/20 work plan to support the delivery of the Working and Learning strands of the Belfast Agenda; and**
- ii. note the ongoing work to inform the future strategic direction of the employability and skills work programme, supporting the ambitions of inclusive growth and Belfast Agenda commitments.**

## **3.0 Main Report**

### **3.1 The Committee will recall that, at the meeting on 6th March 2019, approval was granted for a series of activities that would support the commitments made under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda. Through this work programme, the Council is directly contributing towards the Belfast Agenda to better connect people to economic opportunities by:**

- addressing educational inequalities and increasing skill levels;**
- connecting local residents to employment opportunities across a range of sectors;**
- addressing barriers to employment; and**
- supporting young people to progress through coherent pathways into employment, education and/or training.**

### **3.2 This work programme mirrors the commitments of the Council within the Inclusive Growth Framework in relation to employability and skills. It sets out how the Council is proactively working to address the barriers preventing city residents from accessing economic opportunity and to address the challenges of poverty and deprivation, focusing on the role of skills development and sustainable job creation as a way out of poverty.**

- 3.3 However, Members should be aware that the extent to which Council alone is able to make an impact in this area is limited by its statutory powers and by available resources (both financial and staff resources). In order to achieve a step change, partnership working with government departments and employers is crucial. Strategic opportunities presented through the Belfast Region City Deal and Community Planning provide mechanisms through which the Council can better influence regional polices to ensure that provision is aligned to local needs. Moving forward, the Council's role in this area will require a combination of direct delivery interventions, where opportunities exist for investment, as well as a wider influencing role to champion the needs of the city within a regional context.
- 3.4 Recognising the importance of buy-in from other organisations, officers are working closely with partners to refresh the Employability and Skills Framework which was developed in 2015 and which served as a pre-cursor to the commitments within the Working and Learning theme of the Belfast Agenda. The refreshed framework will allow a greater degree of focus, ensuring that supply meets demand in terms of new employment opportunities. This will include exploring how the Council can work strategically with key employers to develop and deliver interventions that will create sustainable job opportunities for Belfast residents. A critical element of this work will include a commitment to supporting inclusive growth through our employment and skills interventions.
- 3.5 In parallel with these planned activities, there is a significant degree of work already under way on the delivery of the 2019/20 Working and Learning work plan. Progress to date (since April 2019) indicates that nearly 1750 Belfast residents have been supported, of which almost 650 have positively progressed into employment, education and/or training – 590 of these into employment alone. An update on the key elements of the Working and Learning work plan is outlined below:
- 3.6 **Supporting Access to Employment**
- The largest area of intervention through the employability and skills work programme is focused upon supporting Belfast residents into employment or into better employment. The spectrum of support provided through Council activities and/or funded projects provides a pathway of intervention geared towards supporting residents to positively progress, at their own pace, into a positive destination.

- 3.7 Tailored support for those furthest from the labour market is provided through five European Social Fund (ESF) projects, whose client groups include unemployed, economically inactive, young people (NEETs) and those with disabilities. Across these projects, over 1200 Belfast residents have accessed support to date, of which over 445 have entered employment, a further 35 participants have progressed into further education. The council is a match-funder of these projects: the majority of the funding is provided by Department for Communities (DfC) and ESF.
- 3.8 One of our key tailored interventions is the suite of Employment Academies that we operate. The structure of these varies from programme to programme but they are generally employer-led interventions designed to fill identified employment opportunities. Employers are involved in the design of the training and offer a guaranteed job interview or ring-fence employment opportunities for the specific target groups – principally the economically inactive.
- 3.9 This year we have extended delivery of Employment Academies across a number of sectors including construction, hospitality, transport, health and social care, childcare and leisure. Feedback from employers, including sectoral representative bodies, is very supportive of this model of delivery. Key employers engaged through academies include Translink, GLL, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, as well as a broader spectrum of small employers. Academies continue to be focused upon supporting residents into employment, however further work has been undertaken this year to increase the scale of our upskilling academies supporting residents to develop high level skills to move into better-paid employment. To date our academies have supported 244 Belfast residents, of whom 146 have progressed into employment or better employment (this is in addition to the figure in section 3.7). Average into-employment rates for academies is 65% which compares favourably to European Social Fund provision at 41% and regional employability programmes such as Steps to Success at 31%.
- 3.10 Focus on Young People

High levels of educational underachievement in Belfast coupled with high percentages of youth unemployment mean that there is a need for targeted interventions for affected young people. Over the last year, the Council has been increasing its level of investment and direct intervention



within this area. Key activities and achievements within the last six months include:

- procurement and launch of a citywide GSCE revision programme, aimed at supporting young people at risk of not achieving a C grade in English and/or Maths. This approach builds upon successful delivery models operating in parts of the city, ensuring provision is accessible across Belfast. In the 2019/20 academic year up to 365 young people will be supported;
- over 250 young people have been supported through our youth interventions, providing a range of support including career advice, work experience opportunities and intensive supports for young people at greatest risk of disengaging from the education and/or labour market. Intensive support is currently provided to 65 young people with complex needs and challenges and, to date, over 50% of the young people have positively progressed into employment, education and/or training; and
- work is about to get under way on a new Citywide Youth Support Programme. This programme focuses on providing a flexible programme of support tailored towards the needs of young people, helping them more towards training or employment outcomes. This initiative will operate alongside existing provision, recognising that a combination of interventions are often required to make an impact on a young person's life.

### **3.11 Strategic Engagement/Partnership Working**

Officers are continuing to work in partnership with government departments and wider stakeholders to facilitate better alignment between regional employment and skills programmes and the needs of the Belfast labour market. Key areas of work underway includes:

- engagement on new employability programme – Employability NI: Officers are currently working with Department for Communities in their redesign of future into-work support. This provision will replace the current employability programmes such as Steps to Success. Whilst the proposed delivery model is still emerging, there is a clear focus for the department on local models of delivery with flexibility aligned to employer and participant need. The potential role of

the Council in its future implementation is being explored and will be brought back for members' consideration at a future meeting. To help inform this approach, a number of test and learn pilots are being undertaken. These include looking at how the business start-up support can be better aligned with employability support and exploring better approaches for employer engagement;

- **Belfast Region City Deal:** work is underway to refine the design of the employability and skills programme, aligned to employment opportunities arising from the 22 BRCD projects; and
- **Belfast Agenda Working and Learning Board:** Officers are working with community planning partners to develop collaborative interventions focused on a number of key issues including tackling educational inequality.

**3.12** In addition to the above, joint working is taking place with a range of stakeholders to pool resources for maximum impact. For example new areas of work include the delivery of a Northern Ireland Apprenticeship week, commencing 3rd February 2020. The Council, in partnership with the Department for the Economy, Belfast Metropolitan College and apprentice providers, will undertake a series of activities to promote apprenticeships to employers, young people and parents. This is particularly important given the low take-up of apprenticeships in Belfast and the need to address the skills gaps at levels 3 and 4 (A level and BTEC level), as identified in the Belfast skills barometer.

**3.13** **Supporting Inclusive Growth**

The Inclusive Growth Framework presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 20th September outlines the Council's vision and commitments to supporting inclusive growth. The employability and skills work programme directly contributes towards inclusive growth by better connecting local residents to economic opportunity, removing barriers to participation, increasing skill levels and creating coherent pathways for progression. Whilst much of this activity is outward focused, officers have also been working internally to develop ways of maximising the social and economic impact of the Council's procurement and planning functions.

**3.14** In partnership with Corporate Procurement Services, officers are considering the options for the implementation of a social

value procurement framework. Approaches being developed take into account best practice from elsewhere, central government ambition to evolve their existing 'Buy Social' approach and any potential cost implications of this approach.

- 3.15 Members will be aware of the draft Developer Contributions Framework which has been brought to the Planning Committee. This framework includes an option to seek contributions from developers to address employability and skills challenges in specific areas. Officers have commenced engagement with a number of key developments, including Waterside and Tribeca. Whilst developer contributions are commonly used across the UK, they have not really been used to date in the Northern Ireland market. To ensure that the Council's approach to developer contributions, in the context of employability and skills, is sufficiently ambitious whilst not discouraging development, officers have commissioned technical support to inform our approach, best upon best practice. The outcome of this work will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

3.16 Intelligence and Research

As highlighted previously, one of the biggest challenges within the Belfast labour market is the persistently high levels of economic inactivity. Despite significant levels of investment in this area, the levels of economic inactivity have not dramatically changed in recent years. To better understand the challenges and barriers facing this cohort and inform future interventions, the Council and Urban Villages are undertaking research in this area. Delivered through primarily Urban Village areas in Belfast, the study will get a first-hand account from this client group as to the barriers they face. It will also ask questions about the awareness and experience of interventions and will explore what measures might encourage individuals to engage in support programmes. Research findings are expected later this year and will be reported to members in early 2020.

3.17 Finance and Resource Implications

The activities outlined within this report are resourced from the existing 2019/20 budget for the Employability and Skills section of the Place and Economy Department budget approved on 6th March by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

**3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessments**

Equality screening data is gathered on a regular basis for all of the council's employability interventions. The most recent review has indicated a broad spectrum of participation across our employability programmes. However, officers constantly review participation and take action to encourage participation amongst specific client groups (e.g. additional outreach and engagement support for identified groups). It is important to note that participation on Council interventions is done on a voluntary basis."

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Update on Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update the Committee on the terms of reference, programme of work and governance of the newly-established Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to;**

- i. note the membership of Commission and how this will link with political decision-making and existing governance arrangements, the resource allocation including financial budgets and also the programme of work; and**
- ii. note the update on the work of the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission. Regular updates will be provided to this Committee throughout the Commission's lifetime.**

**This report was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on Friday 20th September.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 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.

- 3.2 The work of the Commission will take place in three distinct phases – analysis, visioning and participative to include a full economic review and baseline for the city and completion of a mini stern (by January 2020), scenario planning and ultimately the production of a full economic growth plan for the city by Autumn 2020.

Belfast City Council CEO will Chair the Commission and lead its work. She will be accountable for ensuring the Commission meets its goals and works within its terms of reference. The Commission will take evidence from all eight political parties represented on the council and will engage with the City Growth and Regeneration Committee throughout the process.

- 3.4 Accountability for day to day operation of the Commission (SRO) will rest with the Commissioner for Resilience, who will be tasked with advising and supporting the Commission, identifying resources (including from 100RC) and producing final outputs, as part of her requirement to produce a Resilience Strategy for the city. She will work alongside John Tully to ensure that the effective support is in place to support the Commission and its workstreams, provide research and ensure linkages with Community Planning and City Deal. Close working arrangements will also be put in place, the Director of Finance and Resources, the Director of Place and Economy and the City Deal lead and regular reports brought to CMT.

- 3.5 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.

### **3.6 Inclusive and Sustainable Growth**

The Commission's membership has been broadened to include a wider range of economic expertise and viewpoints. ICTU has confirmed it will nominate a member and 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. 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

### **3.7 Governance and Member Engagement**

The Commission is a collaboration between four city institutions, namely, 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 has been agreed for Belfast City Council:

1. that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee remains the primary Committee through which the Chief Executive will report on the Commission's work. That Committee will ultimately approve early and final drafts of outputs produced by the Commission, for formal ratification by Council. The 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 that Parties are informed continuously throughout; and
4. A summary note of each Commission meeting will be produced for the Strategic Policy and Resources and City Growth and Regeneration Committees.

### **3.8 Summary 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;

**3.9 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; and
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.

**3.10 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

**3.11 Financial and Resource Implications**

Utilising existing budgets and resources, a maximum budget of £200k has been allocated to include commissioning three key phases of work and the five workstream research pieces (inc a mini stern).

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

None.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations set out within the report and agreed:

- i. that the data on Belfast's existing economic and 'good growth' performance and how it compared with other cities across Europe, which had been presented at the Commission's first meeting, be circulated to Members; and

- ii. to recommend that a representative of the sustainability sector be added to the membership of the Commission.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**Update on Car Parking Strategy**

The Senior Development Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the update on the Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan, and progress with key recommendations; and

- ii. agree the proposed approach to engagement across the work strands of the Car Park Strategy.

**3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1 The Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) identified the need for a parking strategy and action plan to ensure appropriate provision and location of parking to support the vitality of the city centre. A Car Park Strategy (CPS) and Action Plan was published in May 2018. Public consultation took place between August and November 2016, including an event in the City Hall which was open to Members, key stakeholders and the general public.

- 3.2 The CPS included a comprehensive baseline review of parking, focused largely within the city centre and surrounding neighbourhoods, which identified parking issues, challenges and opportunities, and outlined a number of objectives and actions to support the Strategy's vision; *'Belfast is a city offering sufficient, high quality and appropriately located parking which supports economic development and regeneration within the city by balancing the requirements of residents, businesses, commuters and visitors'*.

- 3.3 The baseline review generally concluded that there is sufficient overall public parking supply within the city centre; a significant proportion of all day commuter parking takes place in the city centre; the quality of car parking facilities and payment technology varies greatly; and better management of parking demand and supply is needed to provide an integrated parking information system. The report also noted the impact of commuters who park in mainly residential areas, which prevents local residents from parking, adding to the cluttered feel of individual streets, decreasing perceived safety levels and reducing access for emergency service vehicles.
- 3.4 To address the issues identified, a number of objectives were agreed:
- ensure appropriate provision to support city centre and district centres;
  - encourage sustainable commuter travel;
  - minimise potential impacts on residential communities;
  - improve quality of parking information;
  - identify opportunities to provide secure bicycle and coach parking; and
  - ensure appropriate provision for taxis within the city centre.
- 3.5 In terms of delivery, a number of actions for the relevant statutory organisations were identified. A Belfast City Council officer led Car Park Working Group, overseen by the City Regeneration and Development section was established to oversee and report on implementation, with actions grouped within four work streams, and a lead department / organisation. A summary of the four work streams is outlined below.
- 3.6 **Operational**
- The Operational work stream is managed by the City and Neighbourhood Services Off-Street Parking Unit and includes issues such as Parking Orders, tariffs, ticketing and enforcement.
- 3.7 The Off-Street Parking Unit (OSPU) are progressing the development of the Belfast Off Street Parking Order, which

includes a review of tariffs, and blue badge parking policy. In August 2019, City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that a twelve-week period of consultation would commence on the Order. During this period, consultees will have the opportunity to put forward their views on other issues including on-street parking and residents parking schemes. The findings of the public consultation will be reported back to Members.

- 3.8** The CPS also suggested providing additional Belfast Bike docking stations within or adjacent to parking facilities. A Strategic Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme is currently underway, which included engagement with members, and final recommendations will be presented to City Growth and Regeneration Committee at a future date.

**3.9** **Parking Forum**

The Parking Forum work stream covers the actions relating to the wider car parking offer in the City, including off-street, on-street and private operators. The first meeting of the Parking Forum took place in September 2019 and will bring together statutory bodies and private car park operators. The Forum will facilitate sharing of information among stakeholders, with a view to finding solutions to common issues, such as the use of smart technologies to facilitate ease of parking and payment, improved information signage and direction to spaces and the potential introduction of quality standards across car parks.

**3.10** **Strategic Sites Assessment (SSA)**

This work stream is overseen by the City Regeneration and Development Team, with actions including the monitoring of parking stock across the city centre and identifying opportunities to consolidate surface parking to provide a balanced parking offer while releasing development opportunities. The CPS identified a number of benefits from carefully planned rationalisation of surface car parking, including reduced traffic volumes from fewer circulating vehicles; reduced air pollution, improved road safety, and opportunities for regeneration.

- 3.11** An update on the emerging findings of the draft SSA was presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June 2019, followed by engagement with Members, by way of a workshop in September 2019, to discuss the emerging proposals and next steps. The key findings proposed three priority clusters be taken forward for further consideration;

Inner North West, Clarendon and Ormeau Avenue. A further report detailing the outworking's of the member engagement and emerging next steps will be brought to Committee in the near future.

3.12 The SSA work stream will also continue to monitor car parking across the city centre, taking into account new multi-storey car parks, and other factors impacting supply, including future development proposals and transportation schemes. Further analysis is being undertaken and findings will be reported to a future meeting of Committee.

3.13 **(4) Transport**

The actions within this work stream are generally the responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), in consultation with Council Officers and other statutory partners. DfI provided an update on infrastructure issues including car parking at their Bi-annual Report to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2019.

3.14 The CPS recommends a number of Transport related actions including:

- a review of on-street parking controls (tariffs, controlled zones, ticketing & payment);
- improved enforcement;
- review and implementation of Resident Parking Zones;
- new Park and Ride sites and review of parking costs at Park and Ride sites;
- improvements to cycling infrastructure; and
- minimising traffic in the BMTP core.

3.15 DfI is currently preparing the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Strategy (BMTS) which will inform a number of the actions of the Transport work stream. Council are represented on the Project Board of the BMTS and Members will continue to be consulted throughout the process.

3.16 The Local Development Plan will contain policies relating to transportation and parking, setting Council's position on issues including parking standards for development proposals and accommodation of sustainable modes of travel.

**3.17 Engagement**

Given the far reaching impacts of work being progressed, engagement and communication with city-wide stakeholders will be critical to successful delivery. In this context, it is important to note that the CPS is a 'City' strategy that will require cross-sector working and collaboration, in particular with Dfl, which remains responsible for on-street parking, transport and infrastructure.

**3.18** As agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9th September (and as ratified by the Council), a twelve-week period of consultation is planned in relation to the Parking Order and members will be updated throughout the process.

**3.19** It is proposed that specific engagement is undertaken on the emerging work-streams of the SSA work following agreement of the next steps, and agreement with other land-holders where appropriate.

**3.20** It is proposed that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee provides official correspondence to the Dfl highlighting the issues caused by problem parking and to request their support in resolving. Dfl have completed one Residents Parking Zone in the Rugby Road area, which opened in April 2018. The Department will evaluate the impact of this initiative, and review the Residents' Parking Zone Policy. The Dfl is also currently implementing a new RPZ in the Iveagh area.

**3.21** It is also proposed that the Council undertakes detailed engagement with communities where on-street parking issues are most prevalent in order to seek agreement on potential priority resident parking schemes in these areas. This engagement will seek to identify the potential requirements of the parking scheme appropriate for the particular area, and to gain majority support to enable the Dfl to action.

**3.22 Financial and Resource Implications**

In order to undertake the detailed engagement required to address problem parking issues in residential areas there will be a financial requirement of up to £15k which will be met from within existing budgets.

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

**No specific equality or good relations implications at this time.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to the proposed engagement with the Department for Infrastructure on problem parking alluded to within paragraph 3.20 of the report being amended to provide that the Council would instead develop a comprehensive framework for submission to the Department and make reference to clean air zones, electric vehicle infrastructure and employer workplace levies.

**Positioning Belfast to Compete**

**Cultural Strategy Implementation and Investment**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with further detail on the implementation of the new ten year cultural strategy for Belfast, *A City Imagining* including the financial and resource implications.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- i. note the contents of this report and agree to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the growth proposal outlined therein, as part of the rate setting process; and**
- ii. note the requirement to recruit additional staff resources in order to ensure that the ambition set out in the strategy is achievable specifically to enable the council to secure new levels of partnership funding.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Background**

**Members will be aware that at the meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2019, the new ten year cultural strategy for Belfast, *A City Imagining 2020-30*, was agreed. This strategy is the culmination of extensive public**

engagement and consultation over a 2 year period and is a consolidation of the foundation, commitments and achievements of several preceding strategies and frameworks. A *City Imagining* sets out a long-term commitment to facilitating a new integrated phase of culture-led progress and development for Belfast. The strategy brings together the culture, events and tourism functions within Council as well as identifying areas of cross departmental working to support the Belfast Agenda. This requires a new cross-cutting approach within Council including the design and delivery of:

- a series of new programmes to support 16 priorities set out in the strategy;
- support for a number of flagship strategic projects including bidding for major events; and
- a new investment model including launch of cultural multi-annual grants.

3.2 Culture, arts and festivals make a city a great place to live in, invest in and visit. Culture is also vital to retaining young people. The most successful cities plan for the long term, have the most effective mix of local and international programmes and then in turn attract investment and sponsorship from the private sector. There is significant evidence of economic return from ambitious long term programmes that include international events and attractions. Many cities have also embedded their cultural strategies within their economic growth plans as they seek to ensure skills development, employability programmes and significant outreach work.

3.3 From the outset, it has been recognised that a transformation programme of this nature would require an increase in investment however this should be driven by the need to develop a new sustainable model that would also be supported by securing additional investment from public and private partners. In addition existing departmental budgets would be realigned to ensure maximum efficiency and meet the agreed priorities.

#### 3.4 Implementation and Investment

Given that the strategy makes a long-term commitment over a ten year period, the approach to take it forward is based on a number of strategic implementation phases. Phase one is for



the period 2020-2023 and the draft implementation plans have been circulated.

**3.5 The implementation plans address seven key areas of work in order to present a comprehensive programme over the initial 3-4 years delivery of the strategy. This includes:**

- **Actions required to deliver strategic priorities agreed in the strategy;**
- **Actions required to support a number of significant strategic projects such as:**
  - **New approach to Events and Festivals culminating in a year long, international programme of events in 2023; and**
  - **UNESCO City of Music designation in 2021.**
- **Priority areas and actions for tourism development (including neighbourhood tourism);**
- **Evaluation and research;**
- **Communications and marketing;**
- **Development of a new governance model; and**
- **The proposed investment model**

**3.6 A four year financial forecast has been completed to assess the level of investment required to deliver the high level commitments set out in the strategy that are subsequently detailed out in the implementation plans. This forecast includes:**

- **design and deliver of annual work programmes;**
- **bidding and securing major international and peripatetic events;**
- **establishing home-grown Belfast signature events;**
- **supporting greater sustainability for the cultural sector including new funding schemes; and**
- **delivery of key tourism priorities and targets**

- 3.7 It should be noted that discussions have begun with Derry and Strabane District Council and with Tourism NI on developing a significant regional programme for 2023. Specific reports will be brought back to the Committee as this develops.
- 3.8 The approach to financial planning follows the overall principles of the strategy and the need to understand that a long view and commitment by Council is required for a number of reasons:
- To maximise the return on Council investment by ensuring a level of transformation and sustainable growth that is not achievable through shorter term approaches or interventions; and
  - to establish a new public-private investment model that leverages significant funding from other public and additional private sources similar to successful models adopted in other cities.
- 3.9 The extensive research undertaken in developing the strategy including in depth understanding of models of best practice in cultural policy and development supports the proposed approach. In addition the detailed and robust evaluation framework that will be established over the period ensures new levels of accountability and a strong evidence base for any future investment.
- 3.10 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Expenditure on delivering the Cultural Strategy for the period 2020-21 to 2023-24 will be both recurrent and non-recurrent in nature. Table 1 below shows the financial position in relation to the Cultural Strategy. From the table, it is clear that the existing budget is insufficient to cover planned recurrent expenditure. In 2020-21, the deficit is £126k and this rises to £525k by 2023-24. For non-recurrent expenditure, which primarily relates to the 2023 programme, this will be funded from specified reserves. At the start of the financial year 2020-21, there will be £1,948k in the specified reserve. As previously agreed by Members, this reserve has been built up over a number of years in line with good financial management practice. This have been the approach used in the past to fund major events such as Tall Ships in order to avoid a substantial increase in rates in a single year. However, from the table it can be seen that by 2021-22 there will be a shortfall in the reserve of £715k and this grows to £6,943k by 2023-24.

**Table 1**

**Cultural Strategy Current Financial Position**

	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<b>Recurrent Budget</b>	6,227,282	6,227,282	6,227,282	6,227,282
<b>Expenditure</b>	6,353,864	6,434,764	6,590,319	6,752,868
<b>Balance</b>	<b>- 126,582</b>	<b>- 207,482</b>	<b>- 363,037</b>	<b>- 525,586</b>
<b>Specified reserve</b>	1,948,000	1,386,418	- 715,164	-3,963,746
<b>Non - recurrent spend</b>	435,000	1,894,100	2,885,545	2,453,996
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>- 126,582</b>	<b>- 207,482</b>	<b>- 363,037</b>	<b>- 525,586</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,386,418</b>	<b>- 715,164</b>	<b>- 3,963,746</b>	<b>-6,943,328</b>

**3.11** It is, therefore, clear that Members will need to enhance the rate support to the Cultural Strategy over the required period. It is recommended that an additional £394k through the district rate is added to the recurrent budget each year for the period 2020-21 to 2023-24. This equates to a 0.25% increase on the rate each year. The impact of this increase on the financial position of the Cultural Strategy is outlined in Table 2 below. The recurrent budget is now sufficient to cover recurrent expenditure and also make a contribution each year to non-recurrent expenditure. Whilst there is still a deficit in the specified reserve in the last two years of the programme, the financial plan would be to obtain other public funding from central government and sponsorship income from third parties. The budget includes provision for two additional posts which will be dedicated to securing this external funding.

**Table 2**

**Revised Cultural Strategy Current Financial Position**

	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<b>Recurrent Budget</b>	6,621,773	7,016,264	7,410,755	7,805,246
<b>Expenditure</b>	6,353,864	6,434,764	6,590,319	6,752,868
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>267,909</b>	<b>581,500</b>	<b>820,436</b>	<b>1,052,378</b>

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,  
Wednesday, 9th October, 2019**

Specified reserve	1,948,000	1,780,909	468,309	-1,596,800
Non-recurrent Spend	435,000	1,894,100	2,885,545	2,453,996
Surplus	267,909	581,500	820,436	1,052,378
Balance	1,780,909	468,309	-1,596,800	-2,998,418

Members are also asked to note that funding the strategy, as proposed, will ensure that the Council will be in a position to provide sustainable financial support to the cultural development of the city for years to come. Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The cultural strategy, *A City Imagining* has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). Any further investment or significant programmes will include equality screening as appropriate.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Update on Tourism and Events**

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

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of a number of emerging priority areas of work for the Council to support in relation to the development of tourism and events in Belfast.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that, at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting in August, the ten year cultural strategy for Belfast was agreed. This strategy identified the potential for Belfast to position itself to visitors as an events destination as well as the need for ongoing wider tourism growth and the linking of current and future tourism attractions to relevant community tourism assets.
- 1.3 In order to prepare for the delivery of this strategy from April 2020 onwards, a number of priority areas for the remainder of 2019/20 have been identified and are set out in this report.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:
  - i. note the work ongoing to support tourism development in the City;

- ii. approve the commissioning of the visitor economy research, at a cost not exceeding £25,000;
- iii. approve the commissioning of the Visitor Experience Mapping and Development Plan, at a cost not exceeding £80,000;
- iv. approve the commissioning of a strategic development plan for a reimagined Maritime Festival, at a cost not exceeding £80,000, with £50,000 to come from the Council and £30,000 to come from other partners;
- v. note the priority areas of work from October 2019 till March 2020 and approve the allocation of budget from within existing Departmental resources;
- vi. grant approval for officers to enter into initial discussions with respective event organisers and other partners in relation to the hosting in the City of the All-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil and the Tall Ships Race;
- vii. note the details of emerging events that may be considered for future investment, as part of the Cultural Strategy's positioning of Belfast as an events destination' and grant approval for officers to take forward negotiations with relevant bodies;
- viii. agree to receive subsequent reports with full details of resource implications in advance of any formal bidding process;
- ix. agree to provide a financial allocation of up to £50,000 towards the hosting of the Irish Traditional Music Awards 'Gradam Ceoil', scheduled to take place in Belfast in February 2020; and
- x. grant approval to enter into a temporary sharing arrangement between the Council, Visit Belfast and the Grand Opera House to provide box office services during the renovation works in 2020.

### **3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1 Belfast has evolved into a successful and increasingly popular visitor destination over the last decade or more. This development hasn't gone unnoticed in the global tourism

market. In 2018, the Lonely Planet identified Belfast and Giant's Causeway as the top place to visit. A rich and authentic blend of natural assets coupled with a unique cultural heritage, a vibrant cultural scene and a long-renowned warmth of welcome means that visitors are increasingly being drawn to the city. The new cultural strategy, which has recently been endorsed by the Council, identifies the importance of events and festivals as part of the city's cultural offer. The new investment approach agreed as part of the strategy supports alignment between our investment in events and festivals and the key priorities of the new cultural strategy.

- 3.2 With recent investment in tourism infrastructure and improvements to connectivity, as well as the development of new areas of stand-out such as screen tourism and an award-winning hospitality offer, the key foundations stones are in place to support the development of the tourism sector in the city.
- 3.3 However, there is much more room for growth. Tourism NI has recently announced its ambition for tourism in the region to become a global export business worth £2 billion by 2030. Belfast already makes a significant contribution to the regional tourism industry. Recently-released figures from NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) indicate that tourism expenditure was in the region is £395million last year accounting for 41% of the value of tourism expenditure across NI which was £968million.
- 3.4 This ambition is recognised and shared by the key partners from both the public and private sector. They believe that the growth will only be delivered if there is a focused approach to tourism development in the city that is built on maximising the return on the recognised standout by developing and connecting new and existing products and experiences for a growing number of visitors to share and enjoy.
- 3.5 The inclusion of tourism as a key growth sector in the recently-agreed City Deal validates and supports this view. It acknowledges the fact that the sector is already a significant economic generator but recognises the need for significant additional investment in order to move to the next level.
- 3.6 Our engagement with partners in developing the new Cultural Strategy identified the following four priorities for tourism development over the next four years:
  - enhancing and enriching the visitor experience;

- supporting the development of new tourism experiences and connecting existing/new tourism experiences to community tourism assets;
- focusing the tourism marketing and communications;
- Supporting skills development to enhance tourism growth and development.

**3.7** A number of actions will be taken forward this year in support of the long-term tourism growth and development that will lay strong foundations for the success of the new Cultural Strategy, in turn supporting the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. Recommended priority actions to be completed over the next six months are outlined below.

**3.8** Visitor Economy Research

Despite significant growth in the visitor economy, Belfast still has considerable progress to make in order for the contribution of tourism to the economy to be on a par with comparator UK and ROI cities. A more intelligence-led approach is required to establish the potential size of Belfast's growth market and to understand the threats and opportunities associated with delivering against the regional targets and those set out in the Belfast Agenda. The first step in this process is to undertake an audit of existing research and commission up to date research that will:

- create an evidence base which quantifies Belfast's ongoing position as the regional driver for tourism with detail of the level of growth required within the city region to deliver on established city and regional targets;
- provide insights into the market viability and contribution of further capital or product developments proposed in Belfast between 2020 – 2025 including the Destination Hub/Belfast Story project, as part of the Belfast Region City Deal;
- forecast the number of visitors to Belfast annually until 2025 using existing data sources and trends within a range of agreed scenarios. Using this forecast, establish within those scenarios the expected GVA change for each scenario; and
- assess the potential threats and opportunities to delivering on these targets.

**3.9 Visitor Experience Mapping and Development Plan to include an integrated approach to Local Tourism and the Belfast Region City Deal**

A number of case studies of successful cities have identified the importance of developing a clear tourism narrative that is then supported by a visitor experience plan. The purpose of a more integrated visitor experience approach is to ensure that there is more effective investment in and positioning of the tourism offer including the need to ensure that the economic benefits of tourism can be accessed across the city. This approach to tourism development will support all four of the priorities set out at 3.6.

**3.10 Furthermore, given the development of the Belfast Brand, the emerging Tourism NI experience brand due in market from late 2019 and the Belfast tourism narrative and themes included in the ten-year cultural strategy, it is recommended that Belfast now develops a detailed visitor experience plan that will:**

- Increase understanding, coherence and visibility of the authentic Belfast visitor experience;
- Increase understanding of the market fit in relation to product development and positioning;
- Build on and increase sustainability of investments to date;
- Increase understanding of the visitor journey and identify opportunities for increasing dwell time and spend across the city; and
- Add value by creating and co-ordinating a more integrated approach to the Belfast offer.

**3.11 The plan will include the following elements:**

- mapping of existing tourism assets including an assessment of quality, market fit, sustainability and brand fit;
- completing a gap analysis of experience-based products including consideration for how planned new developments will support additionality rather than displacement or duplication;



- developing and creating thematic and geographic clusters of tourism product across the city;
- producing an investment framework in tourism that will support Council to leverage funding into long-term sustainable tourism development from other public and private sources; and
- clearly and strongly positioning Belfast as the driver for tourism growth in the region and supporting the development of its positioning on the island of Ireland.

**3.12 Developing Belfast as an Events Destination**

Market research indicates that the key market segment for visitors to Belfast and Northern Ireland is the ‘culturally curious’ visitor. These visitors are interested in the cultural heritage of the place and enjoy the authentic experiences that Belfast has to offer. One of the most popular forms of cultural expression is delivered through the programme of events that take place in the city.

- 3.13** The City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its special meeting on 28th August, agreed the new Cultural Strategy for the city ‘A City Imagining’. This includes a new approach to Council support for festivals and events. It proposes a more strategic process of investment, focusing on those events that align most closely with the city narrative and that will deliver on the cultural and economic ambitions, as set out in the Cultural Strategy and Belfast Agenda.
- 3.14** As part of this work, a new multi-annual grant for Festivals and Events is due to open for applications in October 2019 providing up to four year funding for events from April 2020 onwards. This will help to provide the levels of investment to support signature Belfast events of the desired scale and ambition.
- 3.15** In addition to this investment, the Council continues to be responsible for the direct delivery of a number of key events. These events also have the potential to grow to become signature city events. However in order to do so an increasingly strategic and partnership-based delivery model must be adopted.
- 3.16** Members will be aware that the Maritime Festival is one of the most significant events in the annual events calendar. The maritime theme has emerged strongly in the new tourism narrative and our research indicates an opportunity and willingness among partners to re-scope this event. While

there is still some work to do, the proposal is that the event will become biennial (taking place in the year that the Foyle maritime festival does not happen) and that consideration is given to how the unique Belfast angles could be developed further, including the link to Titanic. The ambition is to grow this event to a turnover in excess of £1million working alongside existing and new partners. It is recommended that this is the first of Council's events to be fully reviewed and relaunched with the remaining programme to be refreshed from 2020 onwards.

- 3.17 To support the development of the Maritime Festival, it is proposed that the following work is commissioned:

**Review**

- review of current festival offer and impact to include a competitor analysis of international maritime festivals and other signature city events of comparable scale;
- market analysis including opportunities for Belfast to take forward a signature event that supports visitor economy and responds to market trends; and
- consideration of benefits of establishing a biennial model.

- 3.18 **5 year Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025**

- Develop a creative vision including a strong strategic and creative narrative for the festival;
- Short, medium and long-term goals for:
  - Audience development – local, national and international;
  - Brand positioning;
  - Marketing and communications; and
  - Capacity building including partnership working and skills development.
- Governance and delivery model including wider stakeholder engagement plan;
- Financing approach including business modelling that considers public, private and earned income;

- Programming approach including but not limited to responding to and developing the cultural, heritage and physical assets of the city; and
- Evaluation including proposed Key Performance Indicators and data collection over a five year period.

**3.19 Programme Development**

- Outline programme – to include identification of development opportunities and key projects for 2021, 2023 and 2025 including artists, cultural organisations and commissions;
- Role and development of local cultural sector in long-term programming approach;
- Development of a community engagement programme;
- Potential programming enhancements including opportunities to bid for, secure or developing international linkages; and
- Detail of how the event might support wider cultural and economic ambitions of the city through complementary programming and activities.

**3.20 Major Events**

The cultural strategy commits to a more strategic and sustainable approach to bidding for major events for the city, building on a number of successes in recent years. At the core of this process should be effective partnership working with other statutory agencies and ensuring that major events have a long-term legacy that contributes to local capacity building and transformation.

- 3.21** Over the last decade, the Council has delivered a series of high profile national and international events. Members are reminded that the city has played host to The Tall Ships Race in 2009 and 2015, 2011 MTV's European Music Awards, the 2014 Giro D'Italia along with a series of events across 2017 (International Ice Hockey World Championships; World Endurance 24 Hour Race; UEFA Under 19 Women's Euro Championships and the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup) and in 2018 Belfast was the host location for a series of BBC lead projects inclusive of the Radio 2 Folk Awards, the BBC Biggest Weekend and the BBC Proms in the Park.

- 3.22** It is important to note that the process for securing events of this scale and impact is often subject to significant lead-in times; partnership buy-in; sizeable multi-partner budgetary resources; diary scheduling; highly competitive bidding processes; venue capacities; etc. It is, therefore, recommended that officers scope opportunities for the period 2020-2025 in line with the cultural and tourism priorities that have been agreed. Details on any potential bids would be presented to the Committee approval in advance of any formal bids.
- 3.23** Two initial opportunities have been identified that strongly align to the new Cultural Strategy. These are:
- All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil
- The potential to bid for Fleadh Cheoil strongly contributes to the overall priorities set out in the cultural strategy due to the level of economic return; contribution to long-term capacity building and alignment to the city's aspirations to become a designated UNESCO City of Music. As part of UK City of Culture in 2013, it is estimated that Fleadh Cheoil delivered 430,000 attendees and £40 million return for a £1.5 million investment; and
- Tall Ships
- An opportunity has emerged to bid for Tall Ships Race in 2023. This would support the growth of the Maritime Festival and provide a major flagship as part of the planned 2023 programme. Belfast hosted the 2015 Tall ships attracting 520,000 visitors with a direct economic impact of £17 million and a total social media reach of 72 million.
- 3.24** The request at this stage is approval for officers to pursue discussions with the respective event organisers and other partners. Updates will be provided to Committee at key points before progressing to any formal bidding stage.
- 3.25** From our previous engagement with the event organisers, we understand that one of the key decision-making factors in the process for identifying the location for the Fleadh Cheoil is the commitment of that town or city to invest in musical development and culture. Like most of the major events, this will require significant collaboration with local partners that have a direct delivery role in this field. The organisers will take a view of the vibrancy and commitment of partners in the local

scene as well as key investments to support music and cultural development. Members will be aware that, for the last two years, the council has supported the 'Gradam Ceoil' music event – widely regarded as the Oscars for Irish traditional music. The event has taken place at the Belfast Waterfront and has had a full house on both occasions, bringing more than 1500 audience members and musicians to the venue. The event is broadcast live on TG4 and online and generated viewing audiences of close to half a million people. The television coverage included extensive footage of the city of Belfast, including profiling some of the key landmarks and telling the story of the musical heritage of the city. The live event has also involved some iconic performances from local musicians including Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band as well as input from local actors including Ian McElhinney and Stephen Rea. The inaugural Belfast event was attended by President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. In addition to the main event, a number of fringe events took place in locations across the city including St George's Market, Duncairn Centre and Linenhall Library.

- 3.26 The organisers are currently finalising the application process for the 2020 Awards which are planned to take place in Belfast in February 2020. In order to support the UNESCO designation process as well as the engagement process around the potential future hosting of the Fleadh Cheoil in Belfast, it is proposed that the Council provides financial support to the event organisers. Funding will also be provided by NI Screen and the Department for Foreign Affairs in Dublin. The financial ask from Belfast City Council is £50,000. This is in line with the funding allocated for previous events.

3.27 Visit Belfast and Grand Opera House Engagement

Members will be aware that representatives from the Grand Opera House (GOH) recently attended the Committee to advise of their planned renovation scheme which will mean the temporary closure of the venue from January 2020 for a period of almost a year. In order to maintain their box office service for events from 2021, the GOH management have asked Visit Belfast if they could rent a space within Visit Belfast for a temporary period of around 12 months from January 2020.

- 3.28 The Visit Belfast team has advised that it is able to provide a desk space in the middle section of the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre. The counter space has good synergy with the other box office and ticketing services provided by Visit Belfast, and will help enhance the offering to visitors and drive further

footfall to the centre. Visit Belfast has been working with the council's Estates Management Team regarding this proposed arrangement and they have sought and received landlord approval for the proposal. If approved, this agreement will generate an additional income for Visit Belfast. GOH will be responsible for all works to accommodate the move. It is proposed that the Committee provides approval to enter into a temporary sharing arrangement between the council (as the tenant), Visit Belfast and GOH.

**3.29 Update on UEFA Super Cup**

Members may be aware that, at the end of September, UEFA announced that the 2021 Super Cup final would take place in Windsor Park. The Super Cup involves the winners of the Champions League and the Europa League in the preceding season. A further report on the event will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee, outlining more detailed plans and any associated funding requests from the council.

**3.30 Financial and Resource Implications**

The cost of a comprehensive visitor experience plan for the city is estimated at up to £80,000.

**3.31** A 5-year plan and programme for the Maritime Festival requires an investment of £50,000 from Council at this stage with a further £30,000 leveraged from city partners. Both of these costs are to be met from existing departmental budgets.

**3.32** At this point, there is no financial ask for any of the major events identified in this report. The only financial ask is for £50,000 towards the hosting of Gradam Ceoil in February 2020. This as above, is to be met from existing departmental budgets. Future reports will be brought back to this Committee with recommendations for investment in any of the major events identified. Costs associated with hosting events of this scale have been considered as part of the overall growth plan for the new cultural strategy.

**3.33** There are no financial implications for the Council of the arrangement between Visit Belfast and the Grand Opera House.

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

These actions are directly aligned to the priorities set out in the cultural strategy. This strategy has been subject to an

**Equality Impact Assessment and a Rural Needs Assessment.  
Further investment will include equality screening as appropriate.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also:

- i. to commend those officers who had worked to secure the hosting in the City in 2021 of the UEFA Super Cup event;
- ii. that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Paul Donnelly, local tour guide, congratulating him on winning the Top UK Guide Award in the Wanderlust World Guide Awards 2019; and
- iii. that an update be provided at the forthcoming employability and skills workshop on the implications for Grand Opera House staff of the planned refurbishment works.

### **Belfast at MIPIM**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 This report updates the Committee on the benefits of attending MIPIM as requested at the meeting in April, 2019. It also updates on preparations for MIPIM 2020.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note:**

- i. the benefits of attending MIPIM; and
- ii. the ongoing preparations for MIPIM 2020.

#### **3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 The Council has been working with private and public-sector organisations to bring a delegation to MIPIM for the last four years. In April 2019, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that planning for MIPIM 2020 needed to commence immediately and, accordingly, approved attendance at the event of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), along with senior officers, as appropriate, including travel and accommodation. The Committee also approved funding of £80,000 in line with the amount approved for MIPIM 2019, as part of the overall public private sector sponsorship fund, and the appointment of external consultancy support for programming, event**

management, communications and design for MIPIM 2020, with the cost to be met from the overall private public sector sponsorship fund. Committee also agreed that a report be submitted outlining the benefits for the City resulting from the Council's participation in MIPIM. In August 2019, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee subsequently agreed the contract on behalf of the partnership for the build, hire and fit out of a stand/pavilion at MIPIM 2020. At the meeting, it also asked for a report on the benefits derived from attending MIPIM and for details of the contractual arrangements in place for MIPIM 2020. This report outlines the benefits of attending MIPIM and contractual arrangements in place for MIPIM 2020.

- 3.2 MIPIM (in French - Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier, in English - The International Market for Real Estate Professionals) is arguably the most important real estate event in the world, gathering influential investors from across the international property industry. It facilitates showcasing of cities, networking, introductory meetings, learning and transaction through events, seminars and dedicated exhibition zones for each city over four days in Cannes, France each year. In 2019, 26,800 participants from over 100 countries attended MIPIM, of which approximately 6,000 were from the UK and 14,500 from Europe. The delegation included 6,380 investors, 2,743 developers and 1,610 local and public authorities' representatives.
- 3.3 The purpose of attending MIPIM is to showcase the investment opportunities in Belfast to attract long term institutional investment, developers of scale with a social conscience and corporate occupiers into the city.
- 3.4 In 2019, 43 private and public-sector organisations including Belfast Region City Deal partner Councils, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Queens University Belfast, Tourism NI, Translink, Visit Belfast, Ulster University together with a number of developers, professional and financial consultancy organisations attended MIPIM as 'Team Belfast' to help showcase the city offer and seek funding for their regeneration and development projects when they are at the right stage. The delegation and preparation for MIPIM is led by Taskforce comprising of representatives from public and private sector sponsors. The 2020 Taskforce is chaired by Joe O'Neill, Chief Executive, Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Members include representatives from Titanic Quarter, Invest NI, KPMG, a developer, and Belfast City Council.



- 3.5** The Belfast Agenda sets bold ambitions and economic development priorities for the city. Delivering inclusive growth and ensuring that no one is left behind is central to this vision. It aims to develop a competitive city region economy by supporting 46,000 additional jobs and 66,000 new residents. Short term targets include attracting £1 billion in private sector investment and securing a Belfast Region City Deal.
- 3.6** Achieving these ambitious targets requires significant private and public sector investment. To give members a sense of investment required, the Belfast Agenda indicates a stretch target of £5 billion in investment over ten years from the inception of the plan and a total in the region of £7.5 billion by 2035. This includes the requirement to deliver 31,600 new homes for and develop 550,000 sq m of employment floor space to support the additional jobs. In addition, major infrastructure works for the Belfast Dublin economic corridor programme would require a further estimated £10 billion of investment. The Belfast Region City Deal funding commitments also requires an additional £150 million of private sector investment.
- 3.7** Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) recognises that the city's large scale development projects are catalysts for wider city regeneration, however many of these projects require inward investment to come to fruition. Significant projects being brought forward include Tribeca, a £500 million regeneration scheme; Belfast Waterside, a £465 million multi-phase development; and The Sixth, a £80 million development project. Translink are currently seeking a private sector development partner to deliver Weavers Cross, a 125,000sqm million regeneration project centred around the £250 million Transport Hub.
- 3.8** It is evident that, in order to deliver our aspirations for the city, Belfast must proactively promote itself to the international investment and real estate community. Council must work in partnership with public and private sector partners to build awareness of the Belfast investment proposition and facilitate investor engagement to support delivery of catalyst regeneration projects.
- 3.9** Members will be aware that Council is also involved in a range of work streams to promote the city internationally. These include:

- International Relations framework which focuses principally on Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with the City of London;
- Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020 which aims to double the value of tourism through enhanced marketing, better events, and product development;
- Working in partnership with Invest NI to attract foreign direct investment;
- Work in partnership with Department for International Trade (DIT) to promote investment opportunities through the Northern Ireland Investment Portfolio; and
- Supporting local companies to export and develop an international presence through Invest NI and Catalyst Inc.

**3.10 The key objectives for MIPIM were presented to Members in December 2018 as:**

- attracting the interest of real estate investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of development and investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city;
- Positively influence perceptions of the city showing its investment potential;
- Sharing learning from other UK and European Cities; and
- Delivering an initiative which reflects the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda;

**3.11 Attracting the interest of real estate investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of development and investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city**

Belfast at MIPIM includes a concentrated programme of on and off stand events, meetings and investor presentations to showcase Belfast as a credible investment location. Belfast is seen by other cities to ‘punch well above its weight’.

- 3.12** In 2019, Council officers and the Chairperson of City Growth and Regeneration Committee held over 60 one-on-one meetings over three days with developers and investors interested in Belfast. It would be very challenging to organise this number of meetings in Belfast, or any UK or Irish location. There was a significant increase in footfall on the Belfast Stand in 2019 and requests for impromptu meetings from investors which highlights the growing interest in Belfast within the investment community.
- 3.13** We can demonstrate that relationships established and investment propositions presented at MIPIM have translated into inward visits to the city by institutional investors, funds, developers and occupiers looking at opportunities across the city.
- 3.14** While it is difficult to precisely quantify the total level of inward investment resulting from MIPIM, in 2016, when Belfast first attended the event, the city set a target to attract £1bn of investment. Since then, development completed or in progress is valued at approximately £2bn.
- 3.15** Since 2016, Brookfield, a global institutional investment fund with whom we had a series of meetings with at MIPIM, has invested over £100m in purpose built student accommodation, a new asset class in Belfast. 2018 saw a significant increase in interest in residential development with proposals coming forward on a number of build to rent schemes and follow up visits from funds and companies who are working through planning etc to bring forward a number of schemes. Officers have also held follow up meetings in Belfast with institutional investors, including Legal and General and Aviva, and facilitated connections to project sponsors. Visits have also taken place from interested development companies such as Bruntwood and Generate who have carried out significant mixed use developments and innovation districts in the North of England.
- 3.16** A number of major regeneration projects which would not otherwise come forward without long term investment are currently in discussions with institutional investors and first met via MIPIM. While these types of processes can take a number of years to complete, they are likely to result in over £1 billion investment when fully delivered. Invest NI are also following up with a number of corporate occupiers who expressed interest in Belfast at MIPIM. Thus, the collaborative approach between Council and city partners has assisted in attracting investment to deliver projects in the city.

3.17 In addition, private sector partners have secured business and investment as a result of relationships brokered at MIPIIM. Commercial sensitivities preclude us from providing some of the specific examples which are currently under negotiation, however it is evident from the growing number of sponsors, and level of repeat sponsors, that city partners see value in attending MIPIIM at part of the Belfast delegation.

3.18 Positively influence perceptions of the city showing its investment potential

Attending MIPIIM has necessitated the Belfast delegation to develop a shared investment narrative for the city and communicate this message globally, causing a step change in market awareness of Belfast as a destination for investment. All messaging has been developed in line with the Belfast brand and is incorporated into other marketing activities undertaken by Council to promote investment. In addition, through proactive PR, Belfast has received high quality media coverage in international, national and regional publications.

3.19 Create and continue to foster a strong public-private sector collaborative effort and strengthening relationships with international and city partners

Belfast at MIPIIM is delivered as a public private partnership. The Belfast delegation includes project sponsors for key city regeneration and development projects, and BRCD partners. This collaborative approach across public and private sector leaders provides potential investors with a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and benefits of investing in Belfast, and provides confidence of stability through a strong civic leadership presence.

3.20 Delivering Belfast's international ambitions relies on strong collaboration with Department for International Trade (DIT), the City of London, Northern Ireland Office and Invest NI. Invest NI co-fund Belfast at MIPIIM. DIT have a significant presence at MIPIIM and invite Belfast to participate on panel discussions with other UK regions and promote the Northern Ireland Investment Portfolio. Through relationships fostered at MIPIIM, the Chief Executive was invited to join the DIT Capital Investment Advisory Board in May 2018.

**3.21 Shared learning from other UK and European Cities**

Representatives from national, regional and city governments attend MIPIM, including London, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle, Scotland Development International, Sheffield City Region, Midlands UK and Dublin City Council all participate at MIPIM.

**3.22** Through MIPIM officers have built relationships with city leaders from other UK and European cities. This has facilitated shared learning and better working relationships across officers and elected Members. Examples include:

- Invite from Liverpool City Council to join the European Waterfront Cities Network resulting in best practice exchanges on Waterfront development;
- Engagement with Homes England to share how they are accelerating house building in England;
- Input from Edinburgh City Council to inform the City Centre Connectivity Study; and
- Engagement with Dublin City Council to support the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor.

**3.23** In addition, guest speakers are invited to participate in events to inform industry best practice. In 2019, City of Edinburgh Council and Cardiff Capital Region shared learnings from their respective City Deals; award winning regeneration company Urban Splash participated on a city living panel and Bruntwood, a key development partner for the Manchester Innovation District, joined an innovation district panel discussion.

**3.24 Deliver an initiative which reflects the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda;**

While progress has been made over the past number of years, Belfast faces a number of challenges to growing the city, including unlocking inclusive city centre living to increase the city centre residential population and addressing aging infrastructure. It is essential that the city continues to promote Belfast as an attractive location for investment and development to enable the shared and inclusive growth of the Belfast Agenda.

- 3.25 **Belfast has won a series of awards and accolades which help position us as a business friendly city and raise profile within the investment and real estate community. The annual FDI awards organised by the FDI Magazine are held during MIPIM. In 2019, Belfast received 8 awards including being ranked number one for business friendliness and second globally to Hong Kong for FDI Strategy. Other awards include being ranked within the overall top 10 for mid and small sized cities, economic potential, human capital and lifestyle, cost effectiveness, connectivity and within the top 25 emerging and developing global markets.**
- 3.26 **MIPIM 2020**
- In April 2019, the Committee agreed the need for immediate planning for MIPIM 2020 and authorised officers to commence preparations, including budget spend.
- 3.27 **Plans are well underway for MIPIM 2020. The official launch was held on 6th September and 19 sponsors are so far confirmed. Invites have been issued to institutional investors for a pre-MIPIM Investor Event in London in November. It would be at significant financial cost to Belfast City Council and reputational risk to the city to not attend MIPIM 2020.**
- 3.28 **The City Solicitor has reviewed the vendor contractual commitments for MIPIM 2020. The value of these are £189,506 in respect of stand hire and build, event management, marketing, communication and logistics.**
- 3.29 **It should be noted that as, per Committee agreement in April 2019, accommodation and delegation passes have been booked.**
- 3.30 **Work is ongoing to secure sponsorship. Belfast at MIPIM 2020 was successfully launched on the 6 September at Belfast Harbour Studios with over 100 people representing private, public and third sectors were in attendance. At the time of writing, £249,000 of private sector sponsorship has been raised from 19 sponsoring organisations including Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Invest NI, Queens University Belfast and Translink.**
- 3.31 **Plans are underway to develop the 2020 programme. A number of national and international speakers have been approached to participate on panel discussions. HBO and Sky have been approached to provide a high profile Belfast prop to drive stand footfall.**

**3.32 Pinsent Masons and CBRE are hosting a pre-MIPIM Investor Event in London on 19th November, with invites issued to over 50 institutional investors.**

**3.33 Finance and Resource Implications**

**Belfast at MIPIM is delivered as a public private sector sponsorship fund. The total sponsorship target for MIPIM 2020 is £430,000 with £350,000 from private and public sector partners which equates to approximately 80% of total income, and £80,000 from Council. Council funding was previously agreed by the Committee and is contained within existing departmental budget.**

**3.34 Income by way of sponsorship matches expenditure each year. Therefore the more sponsorship that is raised, the more value can be added to the programme. Members are asked to note that at time of writing £249,000 sponsorship income has been secured from public and private partners. As in previous years this is expected to increase significantly.**

**3.35 A report outlining options on the Council's role and contribution to MIPIM 2021 onwards will be brought to a future meeting enabling members to consider how they may wish to take advantage of the opportunities presented by MIPIM in the future.**

**3.36 Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications**

**None associated with this report."**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting in relation to the Council's participation in MIPIM beyond 2020.

**Re-alignment of IABA Funding**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th September, 2018, it had agreed to support the staging in the 2019/20 financial year of the All-Ireland Elite Boxing Championships and had granted approval for Council officers to assist the Irish Athletic Boxing Association in its preparations for the event.

The Director of Development reported that it had since been established that the event could not proceed within the proposed timeframe, as it would coincide with the dates set aside by the Amateur International Boxing Association and the International Olympic Committee for qualification for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. As a consequence, the Irish Athletic Boxing Association had requested the Council to support instead the staging of the 2020 European Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Championships and to reallocate to that event approximately £70,000 which had been earmarked for the Elite Boxing Championships.

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He explained that the European Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Championships, which would take place in either the first two weeks in July or the last two weeks in August, would attract competitors from thirty countries, as well as coaches, support staff and officials. It was estimated that the event would attract a daily audience of 2,000 spectators and would generate in total around £1.7 million of visitor spend. Importantly, it would elevate Belfast's status in terms of bidding for future European and World boxing competitions and would meet the objectives set out within the Council's Boxing Strategy. He pointed out that the Championship would cost between £200,000 and £250,000 to deliver and that, whilst additional funding had yet to be secured, an approach had been made to Sport NI, Tourism NI and the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee:

- i. agree to support the staging in 2020 of the European Boxing Confederation Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Championships;
- ii. agree to re-allocate approximately £70,000, which had been set aside in 2019/20 for the Elite All-Ireland Boxing Championships, to that event;
- iii. note that this support would be subject to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association securing additional financial support from Sport NI and Tourism NI and through the Belfast Boxing Strategy; and
- iv. note that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson



# City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 23rd October, 2019

## SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);  
Alderman Kingston; and  
Councillors Brooks, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett,  
Graham, Heading, T. Kelly, McLaughlin and  
O'Hara.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Development; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Spence and Councillors S. Baker, Beattie, Lyons, Murphy and Whyte.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Presentation**

#### **Belfast Harbour Strategic Plan**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th August, it had agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation from representatives of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners on its Strategic Plan for 2019 – 23 and vision to 2035.

Accordingly, Dr. D. Dobbin, Chairman, Mr. J. O'Neill, Chief Executive, and Ms. A. Dowling, Communications and Marketing Manager, were welcomed to the meeting.

Dr. Dobbin informed the Committee that Belfast Harbour had a statutory duty to efficiently and effectively maintain, operate and develop Belfast Port for the benefit of users and wider stakeholders. Whilst its Trust Port Status prevented it from receiving public funding, it did allow for all of its net earnings to be reinvested into the development of the Port and the Harbour Estate.

He drew the Members' attention to the following key information:

- more than £250 million had been invested over the past ten years in equipping and developing the Belfast Harbour to deliver wider economic and job creation benefits;

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- around 24 million tonnes of goods passed through Belfast Port each year, making it the tenth largest port in the United Kingdom in terms of cargo shipment;
- 1,500 people lived currently within the Harbour Estate;
- 760 businesses operated currently within the Harbour Estate;
- 27,000 people either worked or studied with the Harbour Estate each day;
- the Harbour Estate was a major tourism and leisure destination and attracted five million visitors annually; and
- there had been a marked growth in the number of cruise ships docking in Belfast Harbour in recent years, with almost 150 expected during 2019.

He explained that Belfast Harbour was now preparing for the next phase in its development and highlighted its innovative and ambitious new strategic plan, which set out its proposals for 2019 – 2023 and ambitions up to 2035, under an enlivened vision of creating a key regional hub for trade, tourism and tradeable services and an iconic waterfront for the City.

Mr. O'Neill reported that the strategic plan would be underpinned by five interdependent themes, namely, a Growing Port, a Green Port, a Smart Port, a Connected Port and an Iconic Waterfront for the City and that the organisation would strive to be adaptable, collaborative, customer-focussed, innovative and receptive in all aspects of its work. He pointed out that it would be working in partnership with key organisations, through a series of Memorandums of Understanding, to deliver many of its initiatives and highlighted its involvement with the Council through, for example, the Belfast Region City Deal and the Belfast Agenda.

He reported further that, between 2019 and 2023, Belfast Harbour was planning to invest £254 million which, for the Belfast Port, would see the rolling out of Smart Port initiatives, the installation of a new ramp to accommodate larger ferries, the construction of a new quay to cater for the increasing number of cruise ships and investment in new feeds storage and important maintenance works. In terms of the Harbour Estate, the investment would lead to a new film studio and media hub, high quality offices and residential accommodation, public realm/marina facilities and improvements in the roads infrastructure. Importantly, research which had been commissioned around the direct impact of those activities had indicated that the economy would benefit by £500 million, 3,500 construction jobs would be supported, 7,000 jobs would be created and £300 million and £4 million would be generated in additional wages and rates respectively.

Mr. O'Neill then outlined the major infrastructure and other projects which would be undertaken between 2024 and 2035, such as the deepening of the Victoria Channel and the creation of a high quality and sustainable iconic waterfront within the Belfast Port

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and Harbour Estate respectively and concluded by stressing that Belfast Harbour would continue to play a pivotal role in the overall development of the City.

Messrs. Dobbin and O'Neill then addressed a number of points which had been raised by the Members in relation to transport and waste water infrastructure, partnership working with Rotterdam Port, inclusive growth measures, sustainability, employment and training opportunities, engagement with schools and universities, residential provision, carbon neutrality/clean air targets and monitoring and Brexit preparedness.

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st June, had approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, which set out how they would work together through a strategic partnership arrangement to realise their shared ambitions for the growth, regeneration and prosperity of the City.

She explained that it had been agreed that a Joint Consultative Forum, consisting of four Elected Members, who would be appointed under the D'Hondt process, and four Belfast Harbour Commissioners, be established to oversee the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, with the Strategic Policy and Resources and the City Growth and Regeneration Committees receiving regular updates on the work of the Forum as appropriate.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives of Belfast Harbour for their presentation, following which the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 15th October, 2019

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors Brooks, Canavan, Collins,  
Garrett, Groogan, Hussey,  
McKeown, McMullan, Murphy  
Nicholl and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development  
Management);  
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

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

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st October, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Groogan declared an interest in the following items:

- item 6a, namely, LA04/2019/1445/O - Residential development of 53 apartments and car parking spaces at Former Monarch Laundry Site, 451-455 Donegall Road, in that she would withdraw from the meeting and would be speaking against the application;
- item 6b, namely, 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, in that she had previously attended a consultation on behalf of her employer and she withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion;
- item 6j, namely, LA04/2019/1887/F - Retrospective change of use from residential property to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 4 Chichester Avenue, in that she had previously been involved in a

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Planning enforcement case relating to the property, on behalf of her employer, and she withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion; and

- further declared an interest in the pre-emptive site visit which had been suggested by officers, to LA04/2019/1614/F: Redevelopment of existing all-weather playing field to provide new 3G flood-lit sports pitch, redevelopment of former tennis courts to provide new flood-lit multi use games area (MUGA pitch), pitch side fencing and ball-stop nets, renovation of existing outbuildings to provide new changing accommodation, car parking, landscaping and associated site works at existing all-weather sports pitch at Stranmillis University College, Stranmillis Road, in that she had been involved in discussions with the applicant during Pre-Application stage, and that she would not be attending that site visit.

**Committee Site Visits**

It was noted that the Committee had undertaken site visits on 2nd and 9th October in respect of the following planning applications:

- LA04/2019/0517/F - Residential development comprising 154 units and ground floor retail at El Divino Nightclub and adjacent open space at Mays Meadow;
- LA04/2018/2283/O - Demolition of existing building and construction of 12 apartments at 236 Upper Newtownards Road;
- LA04/2019/1445/O - Residential development of 53 apartments and car parking at Former Monarch Laundry, 451-455 Donegall Road;
- LA04/2018/2097/F & LA04/2018/2034/LBC Change of use & refurbishment of Wilton House to provide 8 apartments and erection of new build 5 storey residential development to provide 23 dwellings (5-6 College Square North); and
- 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 at Glenalpin Street/Wellwood Street and Norwood Street.

In response to a suggestion from the Planning Manager (Development Management) relating to a number of major planning applications which were due to be considered by the Committee over the next few months, the Committee agreed to undertake pre-emptive site visits to the following four sites:

1. LA04/2019/1598/F: Proposed Apart-Hotel (87no. bedrooms & 26no. serviced apartments), 14no. Business Studios and 10no. live/work studios with associated car parking and landscaping at Adelaide Business Centre, off Boucher Road;

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2. LA04/2019/1615/F: Erection of mixed use development consisting of an 82no. bed hotel and 46no. apartments with associated car parking and landscaping at Stockman's Way;
3. LA04/2019/1636/F: Erection of hotel comprising 276 beds, conference facilities, restaurant /café/bar uses (including roof top bar), landscaped public realm, car parking and associated site and road works at Hamilton Dock located off Queens Road; and
4. LA04/2019/1614/F: Redevelopment of existing all-weather playing field to provide new 3G flood-lit sports pitch, redevelopment of former tennis courts to provide new flood-lit multi use games area (MUGA pitch), pitch side fencing and ball-stop nets, renovation of existing outbuildings to provide new changing accommodation, car parking, landscaping and associated site works at existing all-weather sports pitch at Stranmillis University College, Stranmillis Road.

**Abandonments**

The Committee was apprised of correspondence which had been received relating to the proposed abandonment of:

- an area of road of Whitla Street;
- areas at Tyndale Gardens; and
- footpath to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road.

**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**

A Member raised concerns regarding the discharge of a condition relating to application LA04/2019/2004/DC – Lands to the rear of Finaghy Park Central, given that the condition had been integral to the Committee's approval. Officers provided the Committee with details relating to the discharging of the condition, and agreed to provide the Member with further information relating to that application.

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 10th September and 7th October, 2019.

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Publication of the Regional Planning  
Monitoring Framework 2018/19**

The Committee considered the undernoted report and the associated appendices which were available on mod.gov:

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

**1.1 To make Members aware that the inaugural Planning Monitoring Framework for Northern Ireland was published by the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) on 19 September 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Planning Committee is asked to note the Planning Monitoring Framework 2018/19.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 In October 2016, the Department for Infrastructure commenced work on a new Planning Monitoring Framework for Northern Ireland in consultation with local government. The impetus for the Framework was to drive performance and continuous improvement of Planning Authorities across the region.**

**3.2 There has been a collaborative approach to the development of the Framework between the Department and 11 councils with Belfast City Council a keen advocate of it as a means to promote the planning performance agenda across Northern Ireland.**

**3.3 Development of the Framework was last formally reported to the Planning Committee in June 2017. At the time, the Council provided a number of detailed comments on the then draft version but it has since changed considerably, having been significantly reigned back in scope. Nevertheless, the final version provides a useful series of additional Key Performance Indicators to sit alongside the three statutory performance targets for average processing time for Major applications (30 weeks); Local applications (15 weeks) and bringing to conclusion at least 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks.**



**3.4 Planning Monitoring Framework 2018/19**

The Framework was formally published on 19 September 2019. The main component is a 'dashboard' that shows the KPIs in graphic form. Dashboards are provided for each of the 11 councils and Department. A regional picture of performance is also provided.

**3.5 Members will note the KPIs for Belfast City Council are:**

- 1) Major applications – 41.4 weeks average processing time (30 week target)
- 2) Major applications – 36.4 weeks average processing time (including withdrawn)
- 3) Local applications – 15.2 weeks average processing time (15 week target)
- 4) Local applications – 15.0 weeks average processing time (including withdrawn)
- 5) Enforcement cases – 86.8% concluded within 39 weeks (70% target)
- 6) % applications determined under delegated powers – 93.4%
- 7) Applications determined by Planning Committee – 118 applications
- 8) % of committee decisions against officer recommendation – 2.5%

**3.6 The Council was able to provide the following narrative to provide context to these KPIs (character limited):**

*'During this reporting period, Belfast City Council launched their ten Operating Principles aimed at 'front-loading' the application process, and a new Application Checklist, which should benefit in ensuring applications have the right information on submission. The Planning Statistics publication shows BCC's performance against legislative indicators continues to improve.*

*Indicators for local applications (excluding withdrawn applications) and enforcement have been met. New processes speeding up turnaround times are improving major application processing performance. 21 major permissions were granted, with two applications withdrawn. High delegation levels supports faster decision-making.'*

**3.7 Members are advised that the dashboard format can be improved by providing the volumes of work alongside the KPIs to provide important context to the relative workloads of**

each Planning Authority. Officers will request that the Framework for 2019/20 includes this.

- 3.8 A copy of the Framework ('dashboard') is provided at Appendix 1. The Framework can be viewed in full at the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-monitoring-framework-201819>

3.9 **Performance and Improvement**

Following the planning service's implementation of its 10 Operating Principles (copy at Appendix 2), launch of its Application Checklist and restructuring of its development management teams, there has been continuing improvement to performance, particularly in relation to Local applications with the year to August performance at 13.4 weeks, within the 15 week target.

- 3.10 At the Planning Committee Workshop in September, officers reported on the updated Planning Improvement Plan which will help drive improved performance and customer service, Improvement Plan for Major applications, and Performance Report for Q1 2019/20. Officers will continue to report performance and improvement to Members quarterly.

3.11 **Financial & Resource Implications**

None identified.

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

No adverse impacts identified at this time."

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Restricted Item**

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of the following item 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.

**Restricted Item - Update on Replacing  
the Planning Portal**

The Committee was provided with an update on the regional project to replace the Northern Ireland Planning Portal, including details of the Outline Business Case, the proposed timetable and the estimated cost.

The Committee noted the update which was provided.

**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)**

**(Reconsidered item) LA04/2019/1445/O - Residential  
development of 53 apartments and car parking spaces  
at Former Monarch Laundry Site, 451-455 Donegall Road**

(Councillor Groogan 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 and did not participate in the vote.)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 17th September, to undertake a site visit to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand. He explained that the site visit had taken place on 2nd October.

He explained that a consultation response had since been received from Environmental Health, who had no objections in principle to the proposals and had requested a number of conditions to be included if approval was granted.

The Committee was provided with the key aspects of the application. The case officer explained that there was a scheduled monument on the site, the former laundry chimney, which would be retained as a feature within the significant area of public open space. He advised the Members that a number of matters had been requested to be reserved by the applicant, including the exact size and layout of the apartments, the mix of sizes of apartments and the detailed design of the development.

He advised the Members that the site was unzoned white land within the settlement development limit and, given the site context with adjacent residential development, residential development was considered acceptable in principle subject to other planning considerations.

The Committee was advised that DFI Roads had no objection to the proposals subject to conditions. The case officer pointed out that the proposals included 53 car parking spaces, cycle parking and that the site was on a bus route.

He outlined that HED had also been consulted and had no objections having assessed the proposals against PPS6 and considered that there would be no adverse impact against the setting of the scheduled chimney or adjacent listed buildings.

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The Members were advised that eleven representations had been received, one specific and ten standard letters. He outlined the detail of the objections, most notably that the proposal did not include social and affordable housing.

The Committee was advised that the initial response from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) had stated that there was no requirement for social housing in the area. However, he drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items Pack, where an additional response had been received from NIHE, whereby it stated that, upon reviewing its initial response, it would support the inclusion of 20% social and affordable housing within the scheme, namely 5 social housing units and 5 affordable units. The case officer explained, however, that the agent had been informed of the further response from NIHE but that there was no policy basis for requiring a developer to include affordable housing.

In relation to a question which had been raised at the site visit relating to the density of housing in the area, the case officer outlined that the proposed density for the site was 98 units/hectare. He pointed out that, while the density in the streets immediately adjacent to site, namely the Monarch Parade, Rockland and Lower Rockview Street area, was 44 units/hectare, a density of 97 units/hectare was seen in the surrounding streets of the Benburb, Tavanagh, Rockview and Kilburn Street area.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Groogan to address the Committee.

Councillor Groogan outlined to the Committee that she wished to represent the views of her constituents in the Village area of Botanic, in objection to the application. She stated that Anti-Social Behaviour was high in the area and that redevelopment and regeneration of the site was much needed. However, she explained that she felt that the plans were not in keeping with the surrounding area. She outlined a number of reasons why she felt that the application was unsuitable, including that:

- she welcomed the NIHE's second response which stated support for social and affordable housing at that location;
- the previous planning permission for social housing on the site was more in keeping with the type of development in the area;
- two storey terraced properties were typical in the area, not high apartment buildings, and the proposal which would significantly increase the density of housing in the area;
- it did not respect the local character and amenity of the established residential area under PPS7, nor did it meet Policy LC1 of the addendum to PPS7;
- the case officer's report stated that there were sufficient neighbourhood facilities in the area and that the area was well connected – she stated that unfortunately that was not the reality, there was no local school, there was limited access to shops and, although it was on a main arterial route, the area had been left behind in terms of public transport provision; and
- the application did not meet QD1 of PPS7.

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The Chairperson welcomed the agent, Mr. T. Stokes, and Mr. J. McElroy, on behalf of the applicant, to the meeting. Mr. Stokes provided the Committee with reasons why he felt it should support the application, including that:

- the applicant had undertaken an extensive pre-application discussion (PAD) and consultation in the local area, including the circulation of 400 flyers and an information event in a local church;
- the scheme was the most appropriate design for a brownfield site;
- they had noted the email from NIHE which had stated support for social and affordable housing in the area but he pointed out that this was contrary to their previous response at PAD stage, and was also contrary to another response from NIHE to the application on 2nd July, which had reaffirmed the Executive's position that there was "no need for social housing at this location". The agent advised that the designs had been submitted on that basis;
- the high quality scheme would comprise private, affordable housing units, all of which would fall within the bracket to avail of co-ownership;
- the design and scale were appropriate for the context of the area, with significant separation distances to existing properties;
- the designs included two large areas of open space which would be open for public use, not just residents and which were well in excess of standards;
- in conjunction with Planning officers, they had agreed that a negative condition be included in any approval requiring that a scheme of public realm works take place along the Donegal Road and Monarch Street, to be agreed at reserved matters stage.

In response to a Member's question as to whether the scheme would have included social or affordable housing had NIHE's initial response at PAD stage been that they would have welcomed social and affordable housing at that location, Mr. McElroy explained that they had originally put forward plans for social housing twice and they had been advised that there was no demand for it. He explained that he felt it was inequitable, therefore, to be told at such a late stage that social housing should be incorporated into the scheme.

A number of Members expressed concerns relating to the Housing Executive's changed response in the past month and queried whether the 20% figure was a new NIHE policy.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), including Mr. Clark Bailie, the Chief Executive, be urgently invited to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee to discuss their policies and their responses in relation to social and affordable housing across the City.

After further discussion, the Chairperson put the case officer's recommendations to the Committee for its consideration, namely:

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“That planning permission be granted, subject to conditions, and that delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Building Control to resolve any matters in relation to the outstanding consultation response from Rivers Agency and to finalise the wording of the conditions.”

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

**(Reconsidered item) 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 McMullan left the room at this point)

(The Chairperson reminded the Committee that as Councillors Groogan, McMullan and O’Hara had not been present for the discussion on the item at the previous meeting, on 17th September, they were therefore not entitled to vote on the application.)

He reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 17th September, to defer consideration of the application in order to undertake a site visit to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand and also for officers to re-engage with the NI Housing Executive in relation to its response regarding social housing need in the area. He explained that the site visit had taken place on 9th October. The Committee’s attention was drawn to the Late Items pack, whereby the case officer explained that the NIHE had reaffirmed its position, stating that there was adequate provision of social housing in the area, with the redevelopment of an adjacent site on Hope Street together with a number of new sites pepper potted throughout the Sandy Row area in addition to the re-letting of existing social housing stock.

The case officer provided the Members with the details of the outline application for a build-to-rent development in the city centre. He advised the Committee that the outline plans included 11 car parking spaces and that a Draft Travel Plan had been submitted with the application to promote alternative modes of travel and to reduce reliance on the car and that it was subject to a Section 76 Legal Agreement. The Members were advised that this included public transport travel cards and access to a car club for residents.

The Members were provided with visuals which illustrated that the proposed scheme had a similar shoulder height to adjacent apartments and that the built form dropped substantially in the middle and also stepped down where it met Sandy Row, in order to mitigate against any potential impact on the residential amenity of the existing residential units on Great Victoria Street. He confirmed that the final scale and massing, built form and materials and design would be considered at reserve matters stage.

The Committee acceded to a late speaking request from Councillor T. Kelly and the Chairperson welcomed her to the meeting. Councillor Kelly explained that she wished to speak on behalf of the Sandy Row community and that she was objecting to the

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application. She outlined that the residents of Sandy Row were potentially going to be surrounded by seven large apartment or hotel blocks and that the community felt that they were not being consulted with or listened to by developers. She added that traditional housing in the area was being eroded and that the rents being proposed for the new developments were not accessible to the community.

The Chairperson then welcomed the agent, Mr. R. O'Toole, to the meeting. In response to the Councillor's comments, he advised the Committee that a full community consultation had been undertaken, including having met with public representatives and that they held a statutory public community event as part of the application process. He added that the applicant and agents felt that the design was the appropriate design, scale and massing for the surrounding area.

A Member raised concern regarding the fact that only eleven car parking spaces were being included as part of a development of around 200 apartments. He stated that, while he understood the rationale that residents in the city centre would use public transport more than a car, it was not realistic that nobody would have a car and that he felt that the residents of Sandy Row could be further impacted upon with additional cars parking in the residential streets surrounding the development. The Planning Manager advised the Committee that the site was a sustainable location with good access to shops, services, amenities and public transport and that the application would secure green transport measures to off-set the requirement for additional parking.

He also raised concerns relating to the impact that the development would have on surrounding properties access to daylight. In response, the case officer explained that the developer had made quite substantial changes to the initial designs, having made the proposal much smaller, and, while some impact on the surrounding properties amenity was inevitable, it had to be taken into account that the development was in the city centre and that high density living was commonplace. He reminded the Members that the plans were still indicative and that they could be tweaked at reserved matters stage.

The Committee agreed to that DFI Roads be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss car parking and how they assessed the impact of a proposed development on traffic and congestion within an area.

After further discussion, the Chairperson put the case officer's recommendations to the Committee for its consideration, namely:

"That the Committee approves the application and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegates 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 delegates power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions."

On a vote by show of hands, seven Members voted for the recommendation and one against and it was accordingly declared carried.

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(Councillors McMullan and Groogan returned to the meeting at this point)

**(Reconsidered item) LA04/2018/2097/F & LA04/2018/2034/LBC –  
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**

The Planning Manager reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its previous meeting, to undertake a site visit to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand. He explained that the site visit had taken place on 9th October.

The Members' attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack, whereby a Service Management Plan for waste storage and a letter from the agent had been received, with a request for a pre-commencement condition for the requested contaminated land risk assessment. The Planning Manager advised the Committee that, if the recommended refusal was agreed, officers would conclude a review of the information under delegated authority and that refusal reasons could be updated accordingly.

During discussion, the Planning Manager outlined reasons why he felt that the Committee should not move to defer consideration of the application again, given that the issues discussed related only to two of the eight refusal reasons and that the other reasons would still stand.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Brooks and  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees, noting that the proposal involved an important listed building on the at-risk register, to defer consideration of the application to allow planning officers further time to engage with the developer in order to see if the outstanding issues can be resolved.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the recommendation and three against and it was accordingly declared carried.

**LA04/2019/1887/F - Retrospective change of use from  
residential property to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)  
at 4 Chichester Avenue**

(Councillor Groogan declared an interest in the item and left the room for the duration of the discussion and did not participate in the vote.

Councillors Murphy and Hussey also left the room and did not participate in the vote.)



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The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for a retrospective change of use from a residential terraced property to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

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 30 domestic properties on Chichester Avenue, which would allow 3 HMOs before the 10% threshold was exceeded. She explained that, according to records held by the Local Development Plan Team, records showed that no HMOs were currently registered on Chichester Avenue.

She explained that two representations had been received, raising issues with traffic impact and anti-social behaviour. She advised the Committee that both DFI Roads and Environmental Health had been consulted in relation to the proposal and that neither had expressed any objection.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

**LA04/2019/0923/F - Demolition of existing dwelling  
and construction of 10 Houses and 12 Apartments  
at 14 Antrim Road**

(Councillor Groogan re-joined the meeting again at this point.)

(Councillors Hussey and Murphy re-joined the meeting halfway through  
the presentation of the item and so did not participate in the vote.)

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application. She explained the key issues in the assessment of the proposed development.

The Committee was advised that, having regard to the development plan, relevant planning policies and other material considerations, the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the character of the area and, due to the overdevelopment and intensification of the site, it would result in unacceptable visual damage to the appearance of the area.

The case officer explained that officers felt that the proposal would create an undesirable living environment for prospective residents due to unacceptable form, layout, density and inadequate provision of amenity space.

She outlined that the development did not respect the character and topography of the site and, if permitted, would result in the loss of around 21 mature trees which contributed to the amenity of the immediate and wider areas. The Committee noted that, since the report had been published, a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) had been confirmed at the site.

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The Committee was also advised that the proposal was zoned within a local landscape policy area and that it would have an unacceptable adverse impact on bats and priority habitats/natural features worthy of protection.

The case officer highlighted that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient information to address concerns in respect of flooding/drainage and roads, access and parking.

The Members were advised that the proposals did not comply with policy in SPPS, PPS2, PPS3, PPS7, the addendum to PPS7, PPS15 and therefore was recommended for refusal.

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items Pack, where thirteen additional pro forma letters of support had been received, which brought the total number of supportive letters to 64. She advised the Members that 332 letters of objection had been received, generally, from the local community, whereas the letters of support had been received from outside the city.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr P. Lee, the architect, to the meeting. He raised a number of concerns, including that:

- there had been a significant delay in certain papers having been uploaded to the Planning Portal, including tree surveys, tree protection plans, design concept report, travel plans and site location data;
- the documents were uploaded 4.5 months after the application had been lodged and 3.5 months after statutory agencies had been consulted;
- planning officers had repeatedly refused to meet with him to discuss his concerns and to review the progress of the application;
- he had only been advised that the proposal was going before committee, with a recommendation of a refusal, on 1st October;
- the case officer's report had only been available to the applicant over the past few days;
- he firmly believed that most of the issues raised by Planning officers could be addressed through further information and discussion, with possible amendments made if required;
- he advised that a bat report had since been undertaken with no roosting detected;
- the site was on unzoned white land within BUAP and Draft BMAP;
- the density was comparable with the new Northview apartments directly opposite the site, with a density of 52 dwellings/hectare, and the older Mount Royal Apartment scheme to the rear, at 58 dwellings/hectare;
- Policy LC1 of PPS7 did not apply as the site was adjacent to a main transport corridor where policy seeks to increase in densities;

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- that a detailed tree survey, tree protection plan and detailed landscaping plan and that he disagreed with the figures provided by the case officer;
- DfI Roads Service had raised no safety issues with access or layout, contrary to the report;
- the existing building was three storeys at the front, not two as stated in the report;
- the proposal was a highly sustainable development in a sustainable location; and
- he was requesting additional time to address the issues.

In response to a Member's question regarding Mr. Lee's statement regarding the timeframe and the delay, the case officer explained that there had been technical issues with the uploading of some drawings around the time that the application had been lodged, but that these had been corrected and that an apology had been given to the applicant.

In response to a further Member's question, as to why the applicants request for a meeting with Planning officers had been refused, the case officer explained that the application was not subject to Pre-Application Discussion (PAD) and that there was such a significant amount of information missing from the application that a meeting would not have addressed the numerous issues. She added that the proposals were ill-conceived and that not enough consideration had been given at the outset to merit the Planning Service engaging further.

The Committee agreed the officer's recommendation to refuse the application, with delegated authority granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the refusal reasons.

**LA04/2019/0219/F – Single level car park (244 spaces)  
with associated landscaping (temporary) at the junction  
of Stewart Street and East Bridge Street**

The Planning Manager provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for a single level car park at the site for two years. He advised the Members that the applicant had advised that the temporary nature of the application would provide a stop gap in order to provide funds and to allow the future regeneration plans of the site to be considered.

In relation to a Member's question, the Committee noted that the application had been called in by a Member and that the City Solicitor and the Director of Planning and Building Control had agreed that it would be referred to the Committee for its consideration.

The Planning Manager outlined the main issues which had been considered in the assessment of the application, including access, parking, design and impact on character and appearance of the area, impact on amenity and air quality.

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The Committee was advised that the application site was unzoned whiteland within Belfast City Centre in both Draft BMAP 2015 and the BUAP.

The Planning Manager outlined the planning history of the site, highlighting that previous applications for a car park on the site, the most recent being Z/2012/0128/F, had been refused. The Members were also advised of an enforcement appeal, ref 2011/E013, where the enforcement notice had been upheld and planning permission was refused. He outlined that the main refusal reasons in those decisions was a failure to demonstrate that the proposals met an identified need.

The Committee was advised that, while it was noted that previous planning permissions had been granted for the redevelopment of the site, and that there was a pending planning application for an office development, LA04/2016/0559/F, there were no current live permissions for the redevelopment of the site.

The Members were advised that the site was within an area of parking restraint and that the current application contravened the main planning policy objective of seeking to promote a modal shift from the private car to more sustainable modes of transport. He explained that a statement of need and a planning consultant's report had been submitted with the application but that a robust assessment had not been provided to demonstrate an identified need for the car park.

The Planning Manager added that DfI Roads had been consulted and had objected on the basis that the application conflicted with Policies AMP10 and AMP11 of PPS3.

The Committee was also advised that two objections had been received, which stated that the proposal was contrary to planning policy and to the Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan, the proposal was targeting long stay commuters in an area of parking restraint, there was no indication that other nearby car parks were full and that demand should not be confused with need.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. G. Smyth, objector, to the meeting. He provided the Committee with a number of reasons as to why he felt that the Committee should refuse the application, including that:

- the proposal was contrary to planning policy;
- the last time the site was legally used as a car park was in 2003;
- it was not compliant with AMP 10 and AMP 11 of PPS3, and the SPPS; and
- the demonstrated need was not there.

The Chairperson then welcomed Mr. A. Mains, representing the applicant, and Ms. K. McShane, Transport Consultant, to the meeting. Ms. McShane outlined a number of reasons why they felt that the Committee should approve the application for a temporary car park, including that:

- the applicant was a new owner of the site;
- anti-social behaviour was prevalent on the site currently;

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- the temporary approval sought was for two years;
- they felt that they had demonstrated the need in their statement of need document in April 2019, including on-street car parking in the surrounding area and that the proposal could alleviate that issue;
- the site adjoined Lanyon Place Railway Station and that they envisaged controlled use by short-stay users of the Belfast/Dublin train route, not for commuters in and out of Belfast which could be easily managed by pre-booking;
- in relation to AMP 10, they advised that two transport assessments had been carried out, one for the apartment unit which contained 230 parking spaces, and the second for an office development, which the Council had approved (but which was subsequently quashed at Judicial Review) and that both would have generated more traffic than the current application – therefore, they were content that there was no increase in congestion over and above what had previously been approved;
- the positioning of the site meant that commuters would be taken off East Bridge Street and therefore that they would avoid the Cromac Street/Ormeau Road junction and that it would not lead to a decrease in local environmental air quality;
- in relation to AMP11, they stated that the car park could alleviate the impact, temporarily, from the McCausland car park which was closing and with events held at St. George's Market; and
- that LA04/2016/0559/F was the long-term plan for the site.

In response to a Member's question regarding the two year term, where the policy suggested that one year was the most appropriate, the Transport Consultant explained that the long term aspiration for the site was the aforementioned office accommodation, application LA04/2016/0559/F, and that they did not want to have to come back seeking a 6-12 month temporary extension, but that they were ready to commence construction on the office accommodation as soon as possible.

A Member stated that commuter parking was a real problem in the residential streets surrounding the site and that the DFI response was unsatisfactory.

A Member queried whether the Council would be leaving itself open to challenge if it refused the application, given that the agent had said that generated traffic levels were higher in previously approved applications. The Planning Manager confirmed that the application was not being refused due to congestion, and he clarified that there was no demonstrated need for the proposed car park. He confirmed that the proposal would unnecessarily encourage additional traffic into the city centre, was inherently unsustainable and that it was contrary to what the Council was trying to achieve. He added that each application was judged on its own merits and that a car park at this location was unacceptable.

In response to Members' questions regarding air quality, and specifically the fact that Environmental Health had raised no objections, the Planning Manager explained to the Committee that Environmental Health had to scrutinise the Air Quality Management Survey which had been submitted by the applicant. He advised the Members that

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increasing air quality was part of the reason for the creation of the policy which sought to reduce car usage.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed that the application be refused and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the reasons for refusal.

(The Committee adjourned for a 5 minute break at this point)

**LA04/2019/0991/F - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 10 storey mixed use development comprising a restaurant on the ground, mezzanine floors and 71 apartments at 57-59 & 61-63 Dublin Road**

The case officer provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the major application.

He advised the Members of the main issues which had been considered in relation to the proposals, which included the principle of development and proposed uses, the scale, height and massing, and the impact on the character and amenity of the area and the setting of a listed building.

The case officer explained that, in the vicinity of the site, building heights ranged from two to twelve storeys and that the site was not within an Area of Townscape Character or a Conservation Area.

He drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items Pack, where the consultation response from the NIHE had been received, whereby it had stated that it would wish to see 20% of residential development on the site committed to social and affordable housing. As with other applications, the case officer reminded the Committee that there was no policy basis for that.

The Committee was advised that Shaftesbury Square Hospital was a Grade B1 Listed building fronting onto Great Victoria Street. The case officer explained that HED had considered that the proposal failed to satisfy Policy BH11 of PPS6 and that the development would have an adverse impact on the setting of the listed hospital building. He explained, however, that in light of the scale of existing built development closer to the listed hospital, it was considered that there would be no greater harm to the setting of the listed building with the proposed development.

The Members were reminded that if they were minded to approve the application, the Council was required to notify DFI given the significant objection from HED in accordance with Section 89 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The Committee was advised that DfI Roads, Rivers Agency and NI Water had no objections to the proposals subject to conditions. He advised the Members that no third party objections had been received.

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The case officer outlined that the proposals did not include car parking provision and that DFI Roads had required that the applicant could demonstrate the availability of three on-street parking spaces for disabled residents within 50 metres of the development. He also advised the Committee that a Framework Travel Plan proposed the appointment of a Travel Plan Co-ordinator with responsibility for implementing measures set out in the Travel Plan, where the Travel Plan stated that the deliberate absence of parking provision was considered to be balanced with the number of quality transport opportunities afforded to the site by its prime location. The case officer advised the Members that an agreed travel Plan would be secured through a Section 76 planning Agreement and would include Green transport measures.

Additionally, the Members were advised that the applicant had agreed to incorporate environmental improvements along the frontage of the site on Dublin Road and to the rear along Ventry Street, which would also be secured through developer contributions.

In response to a query from a Member in relation to current issues with bins on Ventry Street, the case officer confirmed that Waste Management had advised that they were satisfied with the proposed waste arrangements.

The Committee was provided with a detailed overview of the materials which were proposed for the scheme, which included red sandstone cladding.

In response to Members' queries relating to the gable wall, the Planning Manager confirmed that any discharge of a condition on that particular issue could be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for its consideration if deemed necessary.

After discussion, the Chairperson put the case officer's recommendations to the Committee for its consideration, namely:

"That outline planning permission is granted subject to conditions and a Section 76 Planning Agreement to secure Green Travel measures, with delegated authority given to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and of the Section 76 Agreement."

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

**LA04/2019/1478/F - Reconfiguration of approved block of 12no. apartments to provide 16 apartments on land opposite 47 Dundela Avenue**

The case officer provided the Members with the principal aspects of the application for the reconfiguration of a block of 12 apartments to instead provide 16 apartments.

She provided the Members with the planning history of the site.

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She explained that a previous application had been approved for 12 apartments on the site, namely, LA04/2017/2407/F. The Members were advised that the proposal would be accessed from a private road serving an adjacent apartment development approved under LA04/2018/2285/F and LA04/2019/0356/F.

The case officer explained that the application had been neighbour notified and advertised in the local press and that two letters of objection had been received, citing available parking in the area, road safety, the current condition of the site and how it impacted on the visual amenity of the area. She explained the officers' assessment of each matter.

The Committee was advised that NIEA, Environmental Health and DFI Roads had offered no objection to the proposal and, while responses were outstanding from NI Water and Rivers Agency, the case officer explained that it was expected that any technical issues could be addressed with conditions.

In response to a Member's query regarding greenfield land, the case officer explained that the site was zoned for housing within draft BMAP and that the previous application for 12 apartments had been granted.

A further Member raised concern regarding the objections which had cited issues with parking and road safety in the area. The case officer advised the Committee that DFI Roads had requested that a parking survey be submitted by the applicant and, following its submission, DFI Roads were content with the proposal. She added that it was therefore considered that there was sufficient parking in the area and that there was no threat to road safety as a result of the proposal.

After further discussion, the Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2019/0878/F - Extension of time for temporary change of use of and alterations to former printing hall to event space at ground floor print hall, 122-144 Royal Avenue**

The Committee was apprised of the details of an application, of which the Council had an interest in the land, which sought a three year extension for the temporary change of use and alterations of a former printing hall event space.

The case officer explained that a two year condition was recommended as more suitable, given the changing character of the area and that limiting the time period would allow for the full assessment of any amenity impacts which might arise within the vicinity of the application site within that period.

In response to a Member's question as to why Environmental Health had recommended a one year extension, the case officer explained that they had based this request on a historic refusal on the site. She explained that there was no further planning



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history for residential development in the immediate vicinity and that planners felt that two years was therefore appropriate.

The Committee noted that no third party representations had been received.

The Committee granted approval for a temporary extension of two years, subject to conditions.

**LA04/2019/0914/F - New pavilion for community  
boxing club on site 50m South East of 30 Kingsland Park**

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, particularly with regards to impact on green spaces.

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.

**LA04/2018/1050/A - 7m high totem sign on adjacent to  
lands at Olympia Leisure Centre**

The Committee was apprised of the details of the retrospective application for advertisement consent for a 7metre high sign at the entrance to the Olympia Leisure Centre and for a large name sign on the building fascia.

The Case officer explained that a condition was being recommended, requiring that the totem sign be removed after a period of two years from the date of the decision.

The Committee was advised that DFI Roads had been consulted and had offered no objection to the application.

A Member stated that it was not good practice that this was another retrospective planning application by the Council.

The Committee granted approval to the advertisement consent subject to the conditions as outlined within the case officer's report and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and building Control to agree the final wording of conditions.

**LA04/2019/1173/F - Change of use from residential property  
to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 7 Ulsterdale Street**

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the change of use application from a residential property to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area.

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She explained that the Land and Property Pointer database illustrated that there were 25 domestic properties on Ulsterdale Street and only one existing HMO. She advised the Committee that the policy allowed for one more HMO before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. The case officer outlined that there were no other live applications seeking permission for a change of use to an HMO on the Street and, therefore, the principle of an HMO at the location was in line with policy and was considered acceptable.

The Committee noted that no representations had been received in relation to the application.

In response to a Member's query as to whether the application was, in fact, a retrospective application, the case officer explained that an owner of a property can potentially have a licence to operate an HMO, but choose not to use the premises for this purpose. She confirmed to the Members that a full presentation and discussion on HMOs would take place at the Planning Workshop on Thursday evening.

The Chairperson put the case officer's recommendation for approval to the Committee for its consideration.

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

**LA04/2019/1735/F - Change of use from residential property to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 22 Thorndyke Street**

The Committee was advised of the principal aspects of the change of use application from a residential property to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) with minor changes to the rear elevation.

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 Thorndyke Street and that, applying the 10% policy, two HMOs would be permitted. Records demonstrated that there were currently no HMO properties on Thorndyke Street and that this would be the first.

The Committee noted that no representations had been received in relation to the application.

The Chairperson put the case officer's recommendation for approval to the Committee for its consideration.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the recommendation and one against and it was accordingly declared carried.

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**LA04/2019/1438/F - Change of use from residential property  
to House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) at 73 Castlereagh Road**

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the change of use application from a residential property to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area. Given that there were 67 domestic properties on that section of the Castlereagh Road, 6 HMO properties would be permitted before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. The Members were advised that records showed that there were currently two HMO properties within the section of road and that the change of use was therefore permitted.

The Committee noted that no representations had been received in relation to the application.

The Chairperson put the case officer's recommendation for approval to the Committee for its consideration.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the recommendation and one against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Chairperson

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

Thursday, 3rd October, 2019

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE**

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Deputy Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford);  
Aldermen Copeland and Haire; and  
Councillors Canavan, Cobain, Matt Collins,  
Groves, Magee and McAteer.

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Ms. C. Toolan, Chief Executive, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd.;  
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairperson, Councillor Mulholland, and Councillors M. Kelly and Kyle.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 19th and 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**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### **RESTRICTED ITEMS**

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

#### **Year End Performance Report for 2018/2019**

The Chief Executive of BWUH Ltd. provided the Members with an update on Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.'s (BWUH Ltd.) performance for the year, 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019, which she explained was the third year of operation for the company.

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The Business Support Director advised the Committee that it had been a good year for BWUH Ltd. and provided the Committee with a summary of the company's sales and overheads figures. He advised the Committee that the sales income was ahead of budget and of the previous year. The Committee noted the surplus, budget and the management fee reduction for the year.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that a new PA system had been installed in March 2019 and that it had been well received by promoters.

She explained that the repositioning exercise, as the ICC Belfast, had been successful for the business and that the refreshed website and the company's focus on digital marketing and communications had been key in that regard.

She reported that the company had exceeded its target for nine new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff members, having sustained at least 20. She also explained that a placement student from Belfast Met, who had been with the company for six months at the beginning of the year, had been employed in an interim position within the company.

The Members were also advised that, during the Easter holidays, the company had worked with the Springboard Charity and the Council to deliver an innovative employability academy for 16 year olds in Belfast, providing them with an opportunity to explore the different job roles within the hospitality and events industry.

The Committee was provided with an overview of the ways in which the company was working to address sustainability and environmental issues.

The Members were reminded that the business had won a number of prestigious awards during the year.

The Chief Executive reported that Board meetings had been held throughout the year as scheduled and, further to those meeting, regular monthly meetings had been held with the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) to review progress to date. The Committee was also advised that a Remuneration Committee had been established.

She provided the Members with the accident analysis statistics for the venues.

The Committee was provided with an update on the catering tender. The Chief Executive highlighted to the Members that the retail catering revenue had seen a significant increase which, given the changes in the catering operation during the year, was very encouraging.

In response to a Member's question relating to the potential impact of Brexit on future business for the venue, the Chief Executive advised the Committee that the company was not unduly concerned at this stage and she outlined a number of measures which they were taking to mitigate against the uncertainty.

The Director of Economic Development, in response to a further question, provided clarity on the subvention fund.

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In response to further Members' questions regarding employees of BWUH Ltd., the Chief Executive confirmed to the Committee that no employees were on zero hours contracts and provided detail on the terms of the pension scheme for their employees.

The Committee noted the update which was provided.

**Annual Report and Financial Statements**

The Committee noted the Annual Report and the Financial Statements for the period ending 31st March, 2019.

**Internal Audit Update**

(Ms. C. O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services, attended in connection with this item)

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) reminded the Committee that, in November 2018, AGRS had completed an internal audit review at the Company, which focused on risk management, procurement/contract management, sales and marketing and operations.

She advised the Members that the second of the planned reviews had now been completed, which had focused on key financial controls and performance management. The Committee was advised that the detailed audit report had been issued and agreed with Company management and that the executive summary had been reported to the Company's Audit and Risk Committee on 30th April.

The Committee noted an update on the outcome of the review, where AGRS had been able to provide a positive assurance with the overall outcome of "some improvement needed", and that management had agreed an action plan to address the issues arising from the audit.

Chairperson

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## Brexit Committee

Monday, 14th October, 2019

### MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor de Faoite (Chairperson);  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors D. Baker, Brooks, Canavan,  
Michael Collins, Flynn, Hanvey, Hutchinson,  
Magennis, McAteer, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Ms. K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development  
Manager;  
Ms. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer;  
and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Haire and Councillors Dorrian, Graham, Long, McAllister, McKeown and Newton.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **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 continued to participate in regional training and exercises;
- Department for Communities funding had been confirmed for Brexit Out of Hours reporting/co-ordination;
- National/NI co-ordination would now commence on 21st October and the Council's internal business continuity monitoring/reporting would mirror this;

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Monday, 14th October, 2019**

- Confirmation of funding for any Brexit/concurrent civil contingencies emergencies was being considered; 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 and that confirmed deputations for future meetings included the Belfast Harbour. He advised that the Council had met with the Department for Communities and The Executive Office in relation to support for vulnerable people.

He confirmed that the EU Settlement scheme information day, which took place on 3rd October, had been well attended.

He pointed out that communication leaflets had been issued to all households in Northern Ireland and Frequently Asked Question responses were being developed by the Council for frontline staff to use.

The Director of Economic Development confirmed that reports in relation to the impact of custom regulatory changes on Businesses, and the impact of Brexit on Leisure and Business Tourism, would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

In relation to the Council's Critical Services, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that the business resilience templates continued to be updated and actions from the Committee Workshop, which took place on 3rd October, were being progressed.

He reiterated that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) had allocated £145,000 to Belfast City Council for food safety delivery functions. He advised that discussions were underway with DAERA in relation to the certification arrangements and the Chief Executive had written to the Permanent Secretary to obtain further information on the issue.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the impact the new certification process might have on small and medium businesses and the capacity of veterinary practices to facilitate the additional work.

During further discussion, in relation to funding, the Strategic Director advised that the additional funding confirmed from FSA would be used to fund 2 additional Environmental Health Officer posts, together with some agency staff, to meet with the expected demand of processing fish and egg produce certification.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the 'Our Future Our Choice Northern Ireland' organisation be invited to attend a future meeting in order to outline its views on the impact of Brexit.

**Restricted Item**

**The information contained in the presentation 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 this item 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.

**Presentation**

**Department for Communities**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. B. Wall and Mr. M. Donnelly representing the Department for Communities.

Ms. Hall presented an overview of the preparations that the Department had made in advance of Brexit and the key areas for consideration, such as welfare capacity, support and advice for potential unemployment, housing rights, local government preparedness and vulnerable individuals and households.

She summarised the continued engagement which had been taken place between Government Departments. She provided information in relation to Department's work plan to help mitigate those people who would be adversely impacted by Brexit under the following 3 categories: financial, economical, and workforce.

She highlighted the media campaign 'Brexit and You' and the letters which had been sent to Councils sign posting NI Direct information.

During discussion, the Members raised concerns in relation to the impact of Brexit upon the workforce, job losses, access to additional funding, affordable warmth cuts, universal tax credit application process, increased usage of foodbanks, mental health, homelessness and access to services.

During further discussion, Ms. Wall answered a number of questions from the Members in relation to Day One Readiness and the measures which had been put in place to deal with the potential increase in welfare claimants. She confirmed that the Department would respond in relation to the following:

- The need for programmes for vulnerable groups and the potential to provide further funding under the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme or other existing programmes;
- the distribution of Affordable Warmth Scheme allocations;

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- Trigger points of rising fuel costs and additional Winter Fuel Payments for those eligible (Department for the Economy's remit); and
- Preparedness for the impact of Brexit on homelessness and the linking of services across the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland Housing Executive remit).

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that the Department for Communities would provide an update on the issues which had been raised in due course.

The Committee also agreed that, in relation to the potential job losses in Northern Ireland in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit, to write to the UK Government to urge it to cease the 5 week assessment period for the application of Universal Credit, so that claims could be processed sooner.

**Update on Visit to Brussels**

The Policy and Business Development Officer tabled the following report:

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

**The purpose of this report is to provide a summary update to Members on the recent visit to Brussels.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**Members are asked to note the update provided.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**Members are reminded that, it was agreed that 'That the Committee agrees to an all-party deputation plus appropriate officers from the Council be appointed to visit Brussels in relation to the ongoing Brexit developments and noted that the upcoming European Week of Regions and Cities from 7-10th October has been identified as an appropriate time to attend'.**

**The delegation consisted of Councillors De Faoite, Mc Laughlin, Hanvey, Flynn and Hutchinson and an officer. A delegation from NILGA was also in Brussels over the same period and both delegations jointly attended a number of the meetings.**

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance. To ensure that we gained as much learning as possible, members of the delegation attended as many different events as practical. Among the events that members of the delegation attended were:

- NI Executive Office Event - 'Urban Policy and locally led strategies in a new financial perspective'
- NI Executive/Department of Health Event - 'Achieving Award Winning Healthcare Transformation'
- Galway Capital of Culture Launch
- Fighting Food Waste
- Social media breakfast for young elected politicians
- Building regional skills ecosystems
- Better evidence on cross-border regions and INTERREG impacts
- Regions and Cities catalyse social innovation
- Understanding the economic impact of cultural heritage in European regions
- Hacking Growth - boosting entrepreneurial ecosystems in European regions
- How to engage local stakeholders in policy and decision-making

Over the course of the visit the delegation also met with the following:

- Andrew Elliot, Head of Office, NI Executive Office in Brussels – this meeting was also attended by an officer from the UK's Permanent Representation to the European Union who provided an update in relation to the position around funding
- Nina Obermaier, Adviser to Taskforce 50
- Rory O'Donnell, Director EU Trade Policy at the UK's Permanent Representation to the European Union
- Gunnar Selvik, Director Oslo Region European Office

The delegation also had the opportunity to attend the UK Delegation to Committee of the Regions' pre-plenary meeting and had the opportunity to contribute to their discussion around Brexit. The delegation also attended an informal

networking dinner organised by the Local Government Association's office in Brussels. Members of the English, Welsh and Scottish Associations and NILGA also attended this dinner.

Members of the delegation also took the opportunity to have side meetings and attend events organised by their affiliated party groupings.

Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience was also in Brussels during the European Week of Regions and Cities event and spoke at several events including, the NI Executive Office Event - 'Urban Policy and locally led strategies in a new financial perspective' and the DEEDS workshop (Dialogue on Decarbonisation) which is part of a new strategic approach by the EU to help cities decarbonise.

A key theme within all the discussions was that it was important that views from all the different perspectives in Belfast and the wider region were presented in Brussels and that ongoing engagement would be welcomed. Key points to come out from the various meetings were:

- Importance of partnership working both at the city/regional level with other stakeholders and with other cities/regions
- Working with other cities/regions provides opportunities to learn from their experiences, share best practice and collaborate on developing solutions to common problems
- There are potential opportunities for us to develop city to city relationships but these will require further exploration
- The NI Executive Office in Brussels are keen for the Council to continue to engage with them and to use their experience and insight to build partnerships
- The meeting with the Oslo Region European Office provided a good insight into how a region not in the EU, but in the EEA effectively exercises soft power
- In relation to the ability to access future EU funding programmes this will depend on the type of exit and the agreements that are reached; Peace funding will continue as separate legislation exists

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

A budget of up to £10,000 was approved by the SP&R Committee to enable the visit to take place, which would be

**covered from the existing Place and Economy departmental budget.**

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

**There are no implications relating to this report.”**

During discussion, the delegation gave thanks to the Policy and Business Development Officer for her assistance on the visit and reported that it had been a useful learning experience.

Members raised concerns in relation to the access of regional funding and reported that the next round of Peace Funding was for the period 2021-2027 and that Erasmus student programme would be run via Dublin.

Several Members questioned the potential to work with other cities to maximise opportunities and reported that links with other UK Council's had been made via the Local Government Association in relation to the Council's work on resilience and climate change. The Director of Economic Development reported that work was ongoing in relation to the 4 Cities - 3 Strings Music Programme (Galway, Boston and Nashville) and the Galway European Capital of Culture 2020.

One Member also reported that, during one of the conferences, research into the potential to fight food waste had been presented, such as how to increase the usage of 'doggy bags' in restaurants to change behaviours. The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Service noted that this research could be considered as part of wider discussions on tackling food waste.

The Chairperson advised that there was the potential for one more plenary session of the European Cities of the Regions, that the UK delegation would be able to attend, however, the two Northern Ireland seats had not been filled.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to write to the European Committee of the Regions to enquire why the allocated seats for Northern Ireland Representatives on the Committee had not been filled and to clarify the process for appointing Northern Ireland delegates.

Chairperson

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# Brexit Committee

Thursday, 24th October, 2019

## MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor de Faoite (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Haire and Rodgers; and  
Councillors D. Baker, Brooks, Canavan,  
Michael Collins, Flynn, Hutchinson, Long,  
Magennis, McAteer, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Graham, Harvey, McAllister and McKeown.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Presentations

#### Restricted Item

**The information contained in the presentation 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 this item 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.

### Belfast Harbour

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. M. Bullick and Mr. D. Knott, representing the Belfast Harbour.

Mr. Bullick presented an overview of Belfast Harbour's operating model which included information on its usage and the development of the Harbour. He stated that around 70% of Northern Ireland's seaborne trade was handled at the Harbour each year.

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He summarised the cargo handling data such as container traffic, freight vehicles, and bulk goods services. He explained the Harbour's Business Model, together with the different aspects of the business and advised that the Harbour had its own eco-system with operators within the port.

During discussion, Mr. Bullick and Mr. Knott answered a range of questions in relation to export traffic from East to West and the onward travel of goods, port checks, potential effects of a border in the Irish Sea, data on the final destination of goods, investment plans for the Port and the potential entry of 'at risk' goods to the port.

Mr. Bullick advised that, in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol regulation process changes, it was up to the Government Working Group to set the regulations and processes for future importing and exporting of goods. He stated that there would be a transition period of 14 months so that businesses could align processes. In terms of potential delays at the port, he suggested that there should not be an issue with a backlog of Lorries as each truck was allocated and booked in advance, however, contingency plans were in place to manage this risk.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

### **Department for Communities**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. C. Boyle and Mr. P. Rooney representing the Department for Communities.

Mr. Boyle advised that the the Department's Work and Health Group was responsible for delivering services to working age customers, both in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain, on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions and comprises, Social Security Policy, Legislation and Decision Making Services, Universal Credit Operations, Universal Credit Programme, Working Age Services and Work and Wellbeing. He stated that the Group also had the lead role in delivering social security and employment programmes in Northern Ireland.

He summarised the Service Delivery Network and the Group's key priorities during an economic downturn as follows:

- To protect the core business to ensure that it could continue to pay its customers the right money, at the right time, every time;
- To target support effectively, ensuring that the Jobs and Benefit offices had the capacity to maintain job search and maximize the number who could still take up work in a recession;
- Support for the long-term unemployed and those on inactivity benefits would be prioritised, including those Universal Credit customers with a health condition/disability; and

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- Maintain services to employers – key to this would be the Redundancy Service provided to companies which faced closure or found they needed to reduce their workforce. The Department would continue to meet the needs of employers, providing a vacancy taking and advertising service and ensuring vacancies and opportunities were shared with customers to help them move into work. This included delivery of regional and local Job Fairs and tailored recruitment exercises for employers.

He provided an overview of the work of the Rapid Response Service and explained the work of the redundancy clinics and front office staff. He stated that there was a proven response time for dealing with redundancies of 1-2 days which included the mobilisation of all staff and delivery partners.

Mr. Rooney advised that future challenges for implementing the Rapid Response Service included: Multiple large scale employment failures; High number of SME failures; Sectoral failure; Insufficient staff; Lack of employability programmes; and Funding.

He confirmed that they could mitigate such challenges by the following actions:

- Proven staff complementing model to deal with fluctuating workloads;
- Operational delivery levers, such as extended opening hours, reprioritisation of service delivery, including client interventions and redeployment of staff from non-priority areas;
- Immediate recruitment of circa 100 staff to Universal Credit and Discretionary Support;
- Ability, due to its size and scale, to quickly mobilise with Councils, Colleges and other Partner providers at sub regional level; and
- Procure work ready employment services.

During discussion, the Representatives confirmed that the contingency responses had been planned for the worst case scenario of a 'No Deal' Brexit. He advised that 100 new staff had already been trained for the implementation of the Department's contingency plans. He pointed out that there was uncertainty in relation to the effect Brexit would have on the economy of Northern Ireland, where future job opportunities might emerge and the potential for sectors to grow.

In relation for further funding, such as Cold Weather Payments and the expansion of existing programmes, Mr Rooney advised that the Department was in discussion with the Treasury to develop employment programmes and that a Bid had been submitted by the Department of Finance. He advised that any changes to the regulations of schemes such as the Cold Weather Payments Scheme would be difficult and the Department would have to discuss any further assistance required with the Treasury.

He reported that, in terms of the requirement for the Universal Credit Advance before claimants could access the Universal Credit Contingency Fund, the Westminster Committee had recommended that this requirement should be removed by the 1st January, 2020.

**Brexit Committee,  
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He highlighted that Redundancy Services were open to all Businesses in need, regardless of their size and explained the importance of job fairs and the different approaches to assist the unemployed back into work.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

**Update on Day 1 Preparedness**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the Civil Contingency Arrangements which included the following:

- All regional training and exercises were now complete;
- Department for Communities funding was confirmed for Brexit Out of Hours reporting and co-ordination;
- National/NI co-ordination commenced on 22nd October (small scale);
- The Council's internal business continuity monitoring/reporting mirrored this – no issues raised to date;
- 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.

The Director of Economic Development highlighted that research was ongoing to scope potential city impacts and reported that officers had been engaging with the small number of businesses in Belfast that would be impacted by the new export regulations. In relation to the potential slowdown of the macro economy, the Council was unable to mitigate against, however InvestNI, the Department for Communities and the Department for the Economy had requested funding from the Treasury in this regard.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the manufacturing and distribution businesses in Belfast had received advice in relation to the forthcoming importing and exporting requirements and the Council continued to engage with DAERA on the matter.

In relation to the Council's Critical Services, the Strategic Director reported that Officers continued to monitor the ongoing developments in relation to the various scenarios around exit and update Business Continuity Plans as required.

During discussion, in relation to future presentations, the Strategic Director advised that the Council would continue to liaise with the Executive Office to confirm their attendance.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the following be invited to attend a future meeting in order to discuss their views on Brexit:

**Brexit Committee,  
Thursday, 24th October, 2019**

- The Tánaiste, Simon Coveney, together with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt. Hon Julian Smith MP; and
- Representatives from the Federation of Small Businesses.

Chairperson

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