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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 6th January, 2020 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 - 20)
5. Official Announcements
6. Change of Membership on Committees/Outside Bodies
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 21 - 54)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 55 - 92)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 93 - 100)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 101 - 112)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 113 - 144)
12. Brexit Committee (Pages 145 - 154)
13. Motion - Lucy's Law

Proposed by Councillor Flynn,

Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

“This Council recognises the important work carried out by local animal charities, including the Dogs Trust, which recently suspended its adoption service over the holiday period to highlight the fact that dogs are for life and not just for Christmas.

The Council notes with concern that unethical breeders and profit-driven third party commercial traders of young animals has led to an industry rife with serious neglect and abuse of animals across the United Kingdom and Ireland and has led to the unnecessary suffering of animals bred in dissolute puppy farms.

The Council recognises the successful campaign for the introduction of Lucy's Law in England, which will come into effect from April 2020. This new legislation will ban the sale of puppies and kittens from third parties, ensuring that buyers deal directly with registered breeders.

Accordingly, the Council resolves to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to express its concerns, affirm its support for Lucy's Law and request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy's Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland."

(To be debated by the Council)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd December, 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 and Rodgers; 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, Groves, Hanvey, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, Murphy, Newton, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Spence and Councillors Groogan, Howard, Hutchinson, McMullan, Mulholland, Nicholl and Smyth.

Declarations of Interest

The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford) declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "National Association of Councillors – Attendance at National Executive Meetings", in that he was the Chair of the Association, but was not required to leave the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford) and Councillors de Faoite and Garrett declared an interest in respect of the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "Northern Ireland Local Government Association – Annual Conference, Exhibition and Local Government Awards 2020", on the basis that they were Executive Members of the Association, but were not required to leave the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

Councillor Black declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "Revenue Estimates and District Rate", in that that she managed one of the facilities referred to within the Committee report, but was not required to leave the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

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Councillor Whyte declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "Presentations – Ulster Orchestra and The Mac", in that that he was on the Board of the Ulster Orchestra and his company had undertaken consultancy work on behalf of The Mac, but was not required to leave the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

Councillor Newton declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "Presentations – Ulster Orchestra and The Mac", on the basis that the company for which he worked provided support to the Ulster Orchestra, but was not required to leave the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in respect of the motion on Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening, insofar as it involved issues of policy which were relevant to the work of his employer, and left the Chamber whilst the motion was being debated.

Councillors Long and McCusker declared an interest in relation to the motion on Support for Health and Social Care Workers, in that they were employed by the National Health Service, but remained in the Chamber whilst the motion was being debated.

Councillor Lyons declared an interest in relation to the motion on Support for Health and Social Care Workers, on the basis that he was a member of the Belfast Local Commissioning Group, but remained in the Chamber whilst the motion was being debated.

Minutes of the Council

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

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

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended his deepest condolences to the families of Saskia Jones and Jack Merritt, who had lost their lives as a result of the London Bridge attack on 29th November.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor Nicholl and her husband Fergal, on the recent birth of their son, Cian Luca.

Councillor Bunting congratulated the Belvoir Area Residents' Group, City Connections and the Short Strand Community Forum, on their success in the 2019 Pride of Place community awards.

Councillor McAllister referred to an article which had been published in a local newspaper on the day of the meeting regarding her non-attendance at meetings of the

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Brexit Committee. She pointed out that the article had failed to reflect the fact that women in politics were not entitled to maternity leave and that she intended to submit to the Council in due course a motion which would seek to address the issue.

Requests to Address the Council

Homelessness

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Ms. P. Hardy, a teacher in John Paul II Primary School, to allow a number of Primary 7 pupils to address the Council in advance of the motion on Homelessness being proposed by Councillor Corr.

The Council acceded to the request and Lauren Chambers, Tiernagh Donnelly and Joshua Rooney were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

The pupils informed the Council that 11,000 people in Northern Ireland were regarded as being homeless and highlighted the fact that, in 2016, five homeless people had died within a two-month period in the City centre area. They outlined the work which their school was undertaking around the issue of homelessness, which included the organising of fundraising events and the production of a wristband, and thanked Councillor Corr for providing them with an opportunity to publicise that work through the Council meeting.

They pointed out that Homelessness Awareness Week had commenced on 30th November and concluded by urging the Council to assist in raising awareness by supporting Councillor Corr's motion and by illuminating the City Hall in future years.

The Lord Mayor thanked the pupils for their presentation.

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

Support for Health and Social Care Workers

The Chief Executive reported that Mr. J. P. Clayton, Policy Officer, UNISON NI, had submitted a request for two representatives of UNISON to address the Council in advance of the motion on Support for Health and Social Care Workers being proposed by Councillor McAteer.

The Council approved the request and Ms. P. McKeown, Regional Secretary, and Ms. M. McKenna, North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Branch, were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms. McKeown reported that, since 25th November, Unison members and others across the health service had been engaged in various forms of industrial action. That action had been initiated on the grounds that rates of pay for health workers in Northern Ireland were lower than in the rest of the United Kingdom, which she stated was due to a failure by the devolved administration to maintain pay parity, in line with a previously agreed central pay deal.

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She explained that, as a result of the disparity in pay and the resulting difficulties with staff retention, there were now 7,000 vacancies across the health service. She highlighted the detrimental impact which that was having upon service delivery, including the daily cancellation of appointments and operations, and confirmed that there were now some 300,000 people on waiting lists, some of whom had been waiting for up to five years on an operation.

She reported further that UNISON had advised the Head of the Civil Service and the Permanent Secretaries of the Department of Finance and the Department of Health that Ministerial approval was not needed to release the £50 million required to resolve the current crisis and had requested that, should that not be available within the current block grant, an approach be made to the Secretary of State and the Treasury.

Ms. McKenna informed the Council that she had attended meetings with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to discuss exemptions to the current industrial action. Contrary to media reports, exemptions had been given to critical care areas, which included cancer services, intensive care units, emergency departments and renal units. She pointed out that UNISON remained of the view that a negotiated settlement in the absence of a Health Minister was possible and stressed that it was willing to continue with discussions until the required level of resources were secured. A settlement would allow for pay parity to be restored and the Agenda for Change framework to be refreshed and would enable action to be taken to implement safe staffing levels and address the reliance and significant expenditure on agency workers. She concluded by inviting the Council to support Councillor McAteer's motion.

The Lord Mayor thanked Ms. McKeown and Ms. McKenna for their contribution.

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

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Strategic Sites Assessment

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie and

Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd November, under the heading "Strategic Sites Assessment" be amended to provide that the Council agrees to explore

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mechanisms to establish partnerships for the construction of public homes and to engage with Pension Funds, Credit Unions etc. to examine ways of investing in the development of public housing throughout the City.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, were approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Michael Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 29th October and 5th and 20th November be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 6th November be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 13th November be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Brooks and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 12th and 14th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Flynn,
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 18th November be approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor Flynn,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 7th and 21st November be approved and adopted.

Variation of Minute

Commissioning of a Report

At the request of Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed to the variation of the minute of the meeting of 7th November, under the heading "Commissioning of a Report", to reflect that he had agreed to include Councillor Flynn's proposal around good growth, inclusive growth and an ambition to a just transition to a zero-carbon economy within his proposal and that no amendment had been put to the Committee.

**Request for a Matter to be Taken
back for Further Consideration**

Commissioning of a Report

Councillor Long requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute of the meeting of 7th November, under the heading "Commissioning of a Report", being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

Commissioning of a Report

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

That the decision of the Brexit Committee of 7th November, under the heading "Commissioning of a Report", be taken back to Committee for further consideration.

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

<u>For 22</u>	<u>Against 28</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford) Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston and Rodgers; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Dorrian, Graham, Harvey, Hussey, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McAllister, McDonough-Brown, Newton, Pankhurst and Verner.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Carson, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McCusker, McKeown, McLaughlin, Murphy, O'Hara, Walsh and Whyte.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing variation, the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 7th and 21st November were approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening

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

“This Council notes that early diagnosis of bowel cancer and breast cancer offers patients the best chance of successful treatment.

England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all currently use the more accurate screening test, the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) for bowel cancer and have a lowered age for screening.

NHS England is currently trialling breast cancer screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.

This Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, highlighting the difference in the screening service provision across Britain and Ireland and calling for the extension of the age range for bowel screening and to trial breast cancer screening at a lower age in the North of Ireland.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor S. Baker.

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

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Support for Health and Social Care Workers

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

“This Council supports the overwhelming result of the Royal College of Nurses’ ballot in favour of industrial action, supports the industrial action already being undertaken by UNISON and the decision of the other Health and Social Care (HSC) Trade Union, NIPSA, to ballot members on industrial action.

Health and social care workers are the system’s greatest assets and are entitled to fair pay and conditions, safe staffing levels and parity of pay with NHS colleagues.

Health and social care workers are taking action as they are no longer willing to see patients being denied the care to which they are entitled. There are currently over 7,000 non-medical vacancies, including 3,000 nursing posts, within the HSC system in the north of Ireland. These frontline vacancies are having a detrimental impact upon patient care and staffing, compromise the safety of staff and patients alike, contribute to long waiting lists and add enormous pressure to the existing HSC workforce, who are doing everything they can to care for patients.

This Council calls upon the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, to engage respectfully and meaningfully with Trades Union representatives on a pay deal. It calls also upon the Permanent Secretary, alongside his colleagues in the Department of Finance and the Head of the Civil Service, to secure the funding that is needed to achieve pay parity for health workers.

Furthermore, the Council agrees to convene an all-Party meeting with those Trades Unions representing health and social care staff to hear directly the challenges which they are facing and to take such action thereon to support staff and patient care at this time.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groves.

Councillor Dorrian requested that the proposer agree to the addition of the following wording at the end of her motion:

“Furthermore, the Council calls for the restoration, at the earliest opportunity, of the Northern Ireland Executive to address matters such as this for the benefit of our community.”

The proposer declined the request.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Dorrian,
Seconded by Councillor Brooks,

That the motion standing in the name of Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Groves be amended to provide for the addition of the following wording at the end of the motion:

“Furthermore, the Council calls for the restoration, at the earliest opportunity, of the Northern Ireland Executive to address matters such as this for the benefit of our community.”

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

<u>For 19</u>	<u>Against 31</u>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey and Rodgers; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Dorrian, Flynn, Graham, Hussey, T. Kelly, Kyle, Newton, O’Hara, Pankhurst and Verner.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan Carson, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Garrett, Groves, Hanvey, Hargey, Heading, M. Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin, Murphy, Walsh and Whyte.

The original motion, standing in the name of Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Groves, was thereupon put to the meeting and passed.

Social Media Abuse of Political Representatives

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

“This Council notes the increasing level of personal abuse, intimidation, smear campaigns and false information directed towards political representatives and activists, particularly during election campaigns.

It further notes the number of politicians, especially women, citing social media abuse and intimidation as a reason for leaving politics.

As Councillors, we pledge to use social media responsibly, to promote our policies positively and to engage in debate respectfully.

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We call upon social media companies to also act responsibly and proactively to ensure that their platforms are not abused in this way, to end account anonymity and to co-operate with the PSNI swiftly where such abuse meets the threshold for a criminal investigation.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Hara.

At the request of Councillor Black, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to provide for the addition of the following wording at the end of the second paragraph: “as well as acknowledging that such factors influence an individual’s initial decision to enter public political life.”

After discussion, the motion, as amended and set out hereunder, was put to the meeting and passed:

“This Council notes the increasing level of personal abuse, intimidation, smear campaigns and false information directed towards political representatives and activists, particularly during election campaigns.

It further notes the number of politicians, especially women, citing social media abuse and intimidation as a reason for leaving politics, as well as acknowledging that such factors influence an individual’s initial decision to enter public political life.

As Councillors, we pledge to use social media responsibly, to promote our policies positively and to engage in debate respectfully.

We call upon social media companies to also act responsibly and proactively to ensure that their platforms are not abused in this way, to end account anonymity and to co-operate with the PSNI swiftly where such abuse meets the threshold for a criminal investigation.”

Patient and Client Council – “Make Change Together Programme”

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds) proposed:

“This Council recognises and endorses the hard work of the Patient and Client Council, notes the launch of its new programme ‘Make Change Together’, and agrees to support awareness of the programme through all of our available channels and platforms.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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

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Briefing Session

At the request of Councillor Heading, the Council agreed that the Chief Executive of the Patient and Client Council be invited to brief the relevant Committee on its work.

Intermediate Football

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

“In light of the proposed changes which the IFA will introduce to intermediate football and the concerns for the future of many grassroots clubs, I call upon this Council to engage with the FAI to explore alternative options for clubs to continue to play at the highest possible level.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Black.

On a vote by show of hands twenty-five Members voted for the motion and twenty against and it was declared carried.

Irish Unity Referendum

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

“This Council notes with deep concern the hugely damaging, toxic and chaotic politics currently being administered by the Conservative British Government regarding Brexit.

This City has an ever-growing population of young people who will ultimately have to live with the long term consequences of this British Government’s damaging policy of attempting to drag citizens out of the European Union against the wishes of the majority of citizens in Belfast who voted to remain.

As a Council, we have a duty to protect all our citizens, young and old, against the policies and hardship that this British government and its allies will bring by dragging them out of the European Union. There is no Brexit that is a good Brexit for the citizens of Belfast or elsewhere in Ireland. This Council must, therefore, investigate alternative solutions to Brexit that seek to protect its citizens from the damaging effects which Brexit will ultimately bring.

In seeking alternative solutions to protect Belfast citizens, a referendum on Irish Unity, as enshrined within the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, must be legitimately considered. This is a solution that would protect our citizens from Brexit and is supported by categorical statements from the European Council where, in the event of Irish Unity, the citizens in the north would be returned back into the European Union.

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We call upon this Council to write directly to the Taoiseach and to the British Secretary of State requesting that they clearly specify what would satisfy the requirement, as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, to facilitate an Irish Unity referendum.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Hanvey,

That the motion standing in the name of Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin be replaced with the following:

“Brexit is not an orange or green issue and attempts to make it so are profoundly unhelpful. This Council will continue to investigate issues relating to Brexit through the Brexit Committee, as they pertain to the city of Belfast.”

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

<u>For 24</u>	<u>Against 27</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford) Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey and Rodgers; and Councillors Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Dorrian, Flynn, Graham, Hanvey, Hussey, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McDonough-Brown, Newton, O’Hara, Pankhurst and Verner.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Finucane); and Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Carson, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, De Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, McKeown, McLaughlin, Murphy, Walsh and Whyte.

At the request of Councillor Ferguson, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the addition of the following wording before the last paragraph:

“The Council believes that winning people to the idea of a unified state will require a vision of a different kind of Ireland, which sees an end to the low tax haven and soaring rents in the South, the complete separation of church and state, an all-island NHS and an end to sectarianism and racism and the communal carve up of resources in the North, where those who live here are welcome here, no matter where they are born, and where the rights of women and the LBGQTQ+ communities are respected.”

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The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor de Faoite, to amend her motion further to provide for the addition of the following wording before the second last paragraph:

“The Council calls for the establishment of a New Ireland Forum for the 21st Century, alongside a series of comprehensive Citizens’ Assemblies, to examine the practical, social and economic aspects of a New Ireland.”

The motion, as amended and set out hereunder, was thereupon put to the meeting and passed, with twenty-seven Members voting for and twenty-two against:

“This Council notes with deep concern the hugely damaging, toxic and chaotic politics currently being administered by the Conservative British Government regarding Brexit.

This City has an ever-growing population of young people who will ultimately have to live with the long term consequences of this British Government’s damaging policy of attempting to drag citizens out of the European Union against the wishes of the majority of citizens in Belfast who voted to remain.

As a Council, we have a duty to protect all our citizens, young and old, against the policies and hardship that this British government and its allies will bring by dragging them out of the European Union. There is no Brexit that is a good Brexit for the citizens of Belfast or elsewhere in Ireland.

This Council must, therefore, investigate alternative solutions to Brexit that seek to protect its citizens from the damaging effects which Brexit will ultimately bring.

In seeking alternative solutions to protect Belfast citizens, a referendum on Irish Unity, as enshrined within the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, must be legitimately considered. This is a solution that would protect our citizens from Brexit and is supported by categorical statements from the European Council where, in the event of Irish Unity, the citizens in the north would be returned back into the European Union.

The Council calls for the establishment of a New Ireland Forum for the 21st Century, alongside a series of comprehensive Citizens’ Assemblies, to examine the practical, social and economic aspects of a New Ireland.

The Council believes that winning people to the idea of a unified state will require a vision of a different kind of Ireland, which sees an end to the low tax haven and soaring rents in the South, the complete separation of church and state, an all-island NHS and an end to sectarianism and racism and the communal carve up of resources in the North, where those who live here are welcome here, no matter where they are born, and where the rights of women and the LBGTQ+ communities are respected.

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The Council agrees to write directly to the Taoiseach and to the British Secretary of State requesting that they clearly specify what would satisfy the requirement, as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, to facilitate an Irish Unity referendum.”

Irish Football Association – Criteria for Intermediate Status

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

“This Council expresses its disappointment in the proposed new Irish Football Association (IFA) criteria for intermediate status. In our view, these criteria are arbitrary and highly questionable, and we are entirely dissatisfied with the explanations which have been offered in meetings with the IFA thus far. The Council, as a long term partner of the IFA in many areas, recognises and celebrates the contribution of local intermediate football clubs to our local communities and records our distaste at the contempt which we believe our concerns, reflecting those of local communities, have been shown to date.

Furthermore, as an organisation which has invested heavily in both past and future IFA events and programmes in our City, we are concerned that the IFA has put forward these criteria as a diktat, without even basic consultation with this Council, clubs, intermediate leagues or other partner organisations. This disregard for best practice is particularly concerning, in light of previous concerns raised in the public sphere around the fitness of the IFA structures and hierarchy.

The Council calls upon the IFA to reflect upon its strategy for engaging productively with partner organisations and, crucially, to further delay the implementation of these criteria in order to revisit parts of the restructuring plan and carry out meaningful consultation with partner organisations, leagues, clubs and the communities most impacted.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Newton.

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to the effect that the Council would seek an urgent meeting with the President and the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association to reiterate Members’ concerns around the Association’s proposals for Intermediate football.

The proposer agreed also, at the request of Councillor McLaughlin, to include after the word “consultation” within the last paragraph of his motion the words “including an equality screening process, and to engage”.

The motion, as amended and set out hereunder, was thereupon put to the meeting and passed:

“This Council expresses its disappointment in the proposed new Irish Football Association (IFA) criteria for intermediate status. In our view, these criteria are arbitrary and highly questionable, and we are entirely

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dissatisfied with the explanations which have been offered in meetings with the IFA thus far. The Council, as a long term partner of the IFA in many areas, recognises and celebrates the contribution of local intermediate football clubs to our local communities and records our distaste at the contempt which we believe our concerns, reflecting those of local communities, have been shown to date.

Furthermore, as an organisation which has invested heavily in both past and future IFA events and programmes in our City, we are concerned that the IFA has put forward these criteria as a diktat, without even basic consultation with this Council, clubs, intermediate leagues or other partner organisations. This disregard for best practice is particularly concerning, in light of previous concerns raised in the public sphere around the fitness of the IFA structures and hierarchy.

The Council calls upon the IFA to reflect upon its strategy for engaging productively with partner organisations and, crucially, to further delay the implementation of these criteria in order to revisit parts of the restructuring plan and carry out meaningful consultation, including an equality screening process, and to engage with partner organisations, leagues, clubs and the communities most impacted.

The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting with the President and the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association to reiterate Members' concerns around the Association's proposals for Intermediate football."

Free-at-the-Point-of-Use Universal Healthcare

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

"This Council:

- i. supports the principle of publicly-owned, free-at-the-point-of-use universal healthcare;
- ii. expresses concern at a decade of cuts and encroaching privatisation of the NHS and the intent of Donald Trump to use UK-US trade negotiations as an opening for further privatisation;
- iii. opposes any further privatisation of the NHS; and
- iv. calls upon the British Government to oppose any trade deal which would force any aspect of the NHS to be privatised or exposed to exorbitant price rises for medicine or medical equipment."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

At the request of Councillor Matt Collins, the proposer agreed to the addition of the following wording at the end of his motion: "calls upon all Parties to ensure that

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defence of the NHS against outsourcing through PFI schemes is a central component of any new talks process towards the restoration of Stormont.”

After discussion, the motion, as amended and set out hereunder, was put to the meeting and passed:

“This Council:

- i. supports the principle of publicly-owned, free-at-the-point-of-use universal healthcare;
- ii. expresses concern at a decade of cuts and encroaching privatisation of the NHS and the intent of Donald Trump to use UK-US trade negotiations as an opening for further privatisation;
- iii. opposes any further privatisation of the NHS;
- iv. calls upon the British Government to oppose any trade deal which would force any aspect of the NHS to be privatised or exposed to exorbitant price rises for medicine or medical equipment; and
- v. calls upon all Parties to ensure that defence of the NHS against outsourcing through PFI schemes is a central component of any new talks process towards the restoration of Stormont.”

Women Against State Pension Inequality Campaign

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

“This Council reaffirms its support for the Women against State Pension Inequality campaign and supports a fair transitional arrangement for women affected by State Pension age changes and calls upon the Government to work with WASPI to deliver a solution for everyone.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor M. Kelly.

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

City Tree Initiative

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

“This Council has ambitious plans to plant over one million trees over 15 years.

However, it acknowledges that there are several sites across Belfast that breach current legal guidelines in terms of air pollutants.

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Air pollution is often hidden in plain sight, but it can have potentially life-threatening consequences. Exposure to high levels of air pollution can lead to chronic respiratory problems and increased risk of developing cancer. Having access to clean air is a human right.

To reduce levels of air pollution, we need to reduce our reliance on carbon as well as finding innovative solutions to air pollution.

One such innovative solution is to introduce the City Tree initiative, which is in many European cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels and London. The City Tree does the work of 275 trees in 1% of the space. Each tree holds 1,682 pots of moss, which extract particulate matter, soot, dirt and other pollutants from the air.

This Council agrees that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which will identify sites in each quarter of the city that are heavily polluted, explore the costs associated with the purchase of the trees and the potential public-private partnership in regards to the advertising space which comes with the tree, which could be used to offset the cost of the purchase.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Hara.

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

Pridestrian Animation

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

“This Council recognises and values the huge contribution which our LGBTQ+ citizens make to the city of Belfast and beyond.

We commend the progressive approach taken by Belfast City Council in its support of Belfast Pride, the bid to secure Euro Pride, the illumination of and the flying of both the Rainbow and the Transgender Flags at the City Hall.

Building on this progressive approach and, as a demonstration of our continued solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, including our commitments to create a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all, we call on this Council to follow best practices elsewhere throughout the world in the creation of permanent Rainbow Pride themed animation.

We call on this Council to directly engage with the Department for Infrastructure and other Government departments, where, in partnership with the Council, we create permanent animation at appropriate points along the Pride Parade route ahead of the 2020 Pride festival. This should

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include, but not be limited to, pedestrian crossing points and public realm points along the route.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Flynn.

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

Homelessness

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

“This Council notes that today, 2nd December, marks the start of Homelessness Week and acknowledges the fact that the right to a home is a basic human right. It commends the ambition set out within the Belfast Agenda to build 1,800 social homes by 2021 and calls upon the Council to scope all publicly-owned sites and land within the city boundary, to ascertain their potential for building homes on them. We support that public housing continues to be a priority within the Belfast Agenda.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Garrett.

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 Wednesday, 18th December, 2019
at the hour of 1.30 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds)
(Chairperson);
the High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford);
Aldermen Kingston, Rodgers and Spence; and
Councillors D. Baker, S. Baker, Beattie, Black, Bunting,
Canavan, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Dorrian, Ferguson,
Flynn, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey,
Hutchinson, M. Kelly, T. Kelly, Lyons, Magee, McKeown,
McLaughlin, Murphy, Smyth, Walsh and Whyte.

Also attended: Mr. J. Finucane M.P.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Aldermen Copeland and Haire and Councillors Carson, Groogan, Kyle, Mulholland, Newton, O'Hara, Pankhurst and Verner.

Requests to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of media companies to film the proceedings of the meeting.

The Council approved the requests.

Nomination for the Position of Lord Mayor

The Chief Executive informed the Council that, following the recent election of Mr. J. Finucane as a Member of Parliament, the position of Lord Mayor had become vacant.

Mr. Finucane expressed his appreciation for the support which he had received from the Deputy Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff, the Sinn Féin Party and the other Members of the Council during his term as Lord Mayor. He thanked also those Council staff who had assisted him and wished the incoming Lord Mayor well in his new role.

Representatives of a number of the Political Parties on the Council paid tribute to the former Lord Mayor for the manner in which he had fulfilled his duties during his time in office.

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The Chief Executive explained that, in accordance with Schedule 1 paragraph 4(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, where a position of responsibility had become vacant before the end of the term for which it had been held, the nominating officer of the Political Party on whose behalf the previous incumbent had been nominated, could nominate, to hold the position of responsibility for the remainder of the term, a member of the Council who had stood in the name of the Party when elected.

Councillor Beattie, as the nominating officer of the Sinn Féin Party, confirmed that Councillor Daniel Baker had been nominated to serve as Lord Mayor for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2020.

Accordingly, Councillor Baker was installed as Lord Mayor and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor D. Baker, in the Chair.)

Councillor Baker paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor, thanked his Political Party for nominating him to serve as Lord Mayor and confirmed that priority areas for his term in office would include young people, mental health awareness and community empowerment.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 17th December, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

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;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd November, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of item 3a – Revenue Estimates and District Rate in that she was Manager of Grosvenor Road Community Centre and left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

Consultation on Council decision to erect bilingual/multilingual external naming and internal directional signage in Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore Leisure Centres – Special Meeting

The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting, if required, on Friday, 31st January, 2020 at 9.30 am to consider the results of the public consultation. The Committee

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agreed also, in view of the time within which decisions would be required, to the suspension of the call-in process.

Presentations

**Land and Property Services Presentation –
Outcome of the Non-domestic re-evaluation**

In accordance with its decision of 22nd November, the Committee was advised that Mr. Stephen Fay, District Valuer for Belfast, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the outcome of the Non-domestic re-evaluation and he was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson.

Mr. Fay provided the background to the review. He stated that there were 74,000 non domestic properties in Northern Ireland, with a total net annual value of £1,1560 million, generating £640 million per annum in rates revenue. He advised that previous revaluation had taken place in 2015, with work on the 2020 revaluation having commenced in mid-2017.

He explained that a property tax system required frequent re-evaluations to be fair and to minimise excessive adjustments. They were about redistributing the rate burden and did not increase nor decrease the total Northern Ireland rates revenue. He then reviewed the outcome of the review and highlighted the Net Annual Value (NAV) growth and the changes, the growth by sector, that is, retail, offices, industrial and warehouses.

Mr. Fay then referred to the rate liability and stated that between January and March, 2020 the changes to individual NAVS compared to Northern Ireland and council averages would be used by Land and Property Services to give ratepayer an indication of their new liability. He pointed out that the entitlement to existing reliefs and exemptions remained unchanged. He concluded by outlining the key dates for the introduction of the new values.

Mr. Fay then answered a number of questions from the Members and then retired from the meeting.

Restricted Items

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

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

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Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2020/21

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on the 22nd November, it had noted the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate, with an indicative rates increase for 2020/21 in the region of 1.99%, with a further update report to be submitted to the December meeting. Accordingly the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report in this regard.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. Agree that the following decisions should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2020.
2. Agreed the following departmental and priority growth proposals, which were presented to the Committee at its meeting on 22nd November 2019 and amended following discussions at that meeting and party group briefings.

Departmental Proposals

3. Legal Staff: £102,864 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
4. Zoo Staff: £64,147 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
5. Waste Collection: £389,068 (People and Communities Committee)
6. Regeneration Officers: £117,700 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)

Priority Areas

7. Inclusive Growth: £611,500 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
8. Climate Mitigation / Resilience: £611,500 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
9. Cultural Strategy: £394,491 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
10. Community Grants and Managed Facilities: £329,636 (People and Communities Committee). Agreed that the arrangements in place for independently managed centres would be reviewed in time for the 2020/21 revenue estimates and that in future years the arrangement would include an annual Consumer Price Index uplift.
11. Agreed the use of the unallocated funding of £220,000 and that it be allocated to part fund the shortfall in the Community Development Grants Programme and that the remaining shortfall of £150,595 be funded from the 2020/21 Belfast Investment Fund allocation.
12. Agree to recommend the following cash limits for 2020/21 subject to the impact of the decisions made on items 3 to 11 above.
 - a. A cash limit of £44,136,840 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2020/21, including £3,270,000 for Belfast Investment Fund and £2,000,000 for City Deal.

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- b. A cash limit of £82,852,276 for the People and Communities Committee for 2020/21.
 - c. A cash limit of £17,267,724 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2020/21.
 - d. A cash limit of £1,289,467 for the Planning Committee for 2020/21.
 - e. A Capital Financing Budget of £21,774,022 for 2020/21
13. Noted the next steps to setting the district rate outlined in paragraph 3.42 of the report.
14. Agreed to setting up a Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund of £8m and to consider a further report on the operating framework following party group consultations and on advice from the NIAO regarding any such framework.

Proposed adoption of the Developer Contribution Framework

The Committee was advised that the Council's draft Developer Contribution Framework had been subject to 12-week public consultation from August till November 2018. The Framework had been revised to take account of the feedback and was now being recommended for adoption by the Committee.

In this regard, the Director of Planning and Building Control submitted a report which included statistical information on the results of the public consultation; a summary of the key issues raised and recommended response; and a copy of the Developer Contribution Framework which was being proposed to be adopted. This report had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 10th December.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Developer Contribution Framework for adoption.

Revised governance arrangements for spending financial Developer Contributions secured through Section 76 planning agreements

The Director of Planning and Building Control submitted a report outlining proposals for revised governance arrangements for spending both pre-existing and future financial developer contributions secured through Section 76 Planning Agreements. That followed consideration of the original proposals by the Committee in August, 2019. At that meeting, the Committee had deferred the report pending a briefing session for the Members, which was subsequently held on 11th October 2019. The original proposals had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting in August, 2019.

The Director outlined the contents of the report, which included an update on the financial contributions secured to date through the planning application process. It also proposed that an Annual Monitoring Report on financial contributions was published each year.

After discussion, the Committee:

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- (i) noted the current position with regard to financial contributions;
- (ii) agreed the revised governance arrangements for spending pre-existing and future financial contributions secured through Section 76 planning agreements; and
- (iii) agreed to the publication of an Annual Monitoring Report on financial developer contributions each year moving.

Review of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning

The Committee was reminded that every three years the Council must prepare a Scheme of Delegation for planning which set out which decisions on local and minor applications which are delegated to officers. The current Scheme of Delegation had been implemented in June, 2017 and was due to be reviewed.

Accordingly, the Director submitted a report which had been prepared following a Planning Committee Workshop in October, 2019. The report included a review of the current Scheme of Delegation and proposed that the Council adopted some minor changes. The report had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 10th December, 2019.

The Committee agreed to the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Planning.

**Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council –
Consultation on LDP Draft Plan Strategy**

The Committee was advised that Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) had published its draft Plan Strategy for public consultation in October, 2019, with a closing date for submissions of 10th January, 2020. The LCCC draft plan had been circulated internally within the Council for comment. The comments received related primarily to the following aspect of the plan:

- Land Supply and Housing Growth;
- Strategic Employment Allocations, including West Lisburn / Blaris mixed use site;
- Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre; and
- Transport.

The Committee agreed to:

- the submission of detailed representations to address the main issues outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.11 of the report; and
- delegated authority for the Director Planning and Building Control to complete the development and submission of detailed representations in respect of the key issues raised in this report to support participation at the Independent Examination of the LCCC draft Plan Strategy

Draft Resilience Strategy

The Committee was reminded that the Belfast Agenda committed the City to the development of a Resilience Strategy “to take a targeted approach to addressing those issues which had posed the greatest risk to the City and its economy.” This was the first time that partners across the City had followed an established methodology, which had been developed by 100 Resilient Cities and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, to identify a range of acute and chronic risks for Belfast. In publishing the strategy, Belfast would follow 80 other global cities, such as Barcelona, Boston and Cape Town, to publish a document aimed at future proofing the city. The draft Resilience Strategy had been circulated for discussion and approval, and to enable a public consultation to commence in the New Year.

After discussion, the Committee approved the draft strategy- including the proposed areas of focus and recommendations, the proposed approach to ensure equality of opportunity, good relations and rural needs are assessed and the proposed approach to public consultation.

It was agreed also that the primary goal be amended to include a reference to inclusive growth; and that the document reference not only the lack of housing in the city core but that it refers to the housing problems across the city.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion - City Tree Initiative

The Committee was advised that, at the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor O’Hara:

“This Council has ambitious plans to plant over one million trees over 15 years.

However, it acknowledges that there are several sites across Belfast that breach current legal guidelines in terms of air pollutants.

Air pollution is often hidden in plain sight, but it can have potentially life-threatening consequences. Exposure to high levels of air pollution can lead to chronic respiratory problems and increased risk of developing cancer. Having access to clean air is a human right.

To reduce levels of air pollution, we need to reduce our reliance on carbon as well as finding innovative solutions to air pollution.

One such innovative solution is to introduce the City Tree initiative, which is in many European cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels and London. The City Tree does the work of 275 trees in 1% of the space. Each tree holds 1,682 pots of moss, which extract particulate matter, soot, dirt and other pollutants from the air.

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This Council agrees that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which will identify sites in each quarter of the city that are heavily polluted, explore the costs associated with the purchase of the trees and the potential public-private partnership in regards to the advertising space which comes with the tree, which could be used to offset the cost of the purchase.”

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

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

Motion - Pridestrian Animation

The Committee was reminded that at the meeting on 2nd December, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Flynn, and, in accordance with Standing order 13(f), it had been referred without debate to the Committee:

“This Council recognises and values the huge contribution which our LGBTQ+ citizens make to the city of Belfast and beyond.

We commend the progressive approach taken by Belfast City Council in its support of Belfast Pride, the bid to secure Euro Pride, the illumination of and the flying of both the Rainbow and the Transgender Flags at the City Hall.

Building on this progressive approach and, as a demonstration of our continued solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, including our commitments to create a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all, we call on this Council to follow best practices elsewhere throughout the world in the creation of permanent Rainbow Pride themed animation.

We call on this Council to directly engage with the Department for Infrastructure and other Government departments, where, in partnership with the Council, we create permanent animation at appropriate points along the Pride Parade route ahead of the 2020 Pride festival. This should include, but not be limited to, pedestrian crossing points and public realm points along the route.”

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

Motion – Homelessness

The Committee was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd December, had referred the following motion, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for consideration. The motion had been proposed by Councillor Corr and seconded by Councillor Garrett:

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“This Council notes that today, 2nd December, marks the start of Homelessness Week and acknowledges the fact that the right to a home is a basic human right. It commends the ambition set out within the Belfast Agenda to build 1,800 social homes by 2021 and calls upon the Council to scope all publicly-owned sites and land within the city boundary, to ascertain their potential for building homes on them. We support that public housing continues to be a priority within the Belfast Agenda.”

The Committee noted the motion and agreed that it be considered in the context of Phase 2 of the Strategic Sites Assessment which had been agreed previously by the Committee.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Delivering a Smart Belfast

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Smart Belfast programme aims to foster greater collaboration between our universities, industry and the public sector. In doing so it seeks to develop innovative solutions to complex urban challenges while at the same time supporting local businesses to develop their capabilities in cutting-edge digital technologies.

Smart Belfast also seeks to influence initiatives of our partners to ensure that their investments (whether public or private) can maximise the opportunities of digital technologies. The Smart Belfast approach has greatly informed the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and was an important element in securing this investment from Treasury.

1.2 Belfast City Council is now working directly with key partners to ensure that these digital investments will not only build the city’s resilience to technological change, but also position us as a globally significant location for private sector innovation.

1.3 This report provides a short update on a number of current Smart Belfast projects and seeks Members’ approval on a number of emerging opportunities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1. To retrospectively approve the second-stage submission for the €7.5 million Hub-In Horizon 2020 project.**

2. To retrospectively approve support to the scoping stage of the £6 million Active & Empowered Community Innovation project (Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund).
3. To note that the second stage of the £213,000 'Amazing Spaces, Smart Places' project is now under way.
4. To approve a one-third contribution to a budget of approximately £150,000 for the development of the BRCD Digital Outline Business Case(s).
5. To note the role a proposed Digital Commissioner for Belfast and, subject to an assessment, approve a potential one-quarter contribution of approximately of £50,000 per annum for an initial two years.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages greater collaborative innovation between our universities, industry and the public sector. Delivery is through a project 'pipeline' which, during its first two years, has proven to be a powerful mechanism for attracting co-investment (eg) funding for the establishment of the Commissioner for Resilience, £100,000 for the city's first Internet of Thing network, and over £150,000 for the development of a Business Rates tool which has subsequently led to the creation of commercially successful products by a local technology company. Members will find more detail on these and other projects at the Smart Belfast website: <http://smartbelfast.city>

Members are now asked to consider a number of current significant projects:

3.2 Entrepreneurship For the Transformation of Historic Urban Areas (Hub-In)

Working with six other European cities and the Connected Places Catapult, Belfast City Council was successful in a first-stage application to a €7.5 million Horizon 2020 project that proposes to work with local communities to develop entrepreneurial skills in relation to opportunities arising from the transformation on historic urban areas.

- 3.3 Focusing on the regeneration of the city's maritime port and harbour areas, Belfast has bid for €700,000 to assist communities and local partners (including Titanic Foundation, Tourism NI and Ulster University's Future Screens NI) to work directly with citizens over a four year period to create entrepreneurial opportunities using innovative digital technologies.
- 3.4 The proposal is now going through its second (and final) stage of approval with a decision expected in February 2020. Members are

asked to provide retrospective approval for this second stage submission (which due to time constraints could not be brought to committee previously). If successful, a report with proposals for next steps will be brought to Members in March 2020.

3.5 Active and Empowered Community Innovation project

Following workshops facilitated by Smart Belfast, a local consortium representing Cisco, Ulster University's Connected Health Innovation Centre, Clarion Social Housing and others have bid to the £98 million UK Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for a Health Ageing project in Belfast.

3.6 The first stage application (the closing date was 27 November) will establish a business case for a £6 million smart cities project that would allow planners and the city's health and social care partners to rethink how neighbourhoods are designed to help people remain active and productive in later life. The project would seek to utilise a wide range of emerging digital technologies, and fits well with the Council's aims to develop a Smart District and Testbed programme.

3.7 Members are asked to retrospectively approve Belfast City Council's support for the scoping stage of the project. A decision is expected in February and, if successful, a report will be presented to Members with further details of the next steps.

3.8 Amazing Spaces, Smart Places

Members should note that Phase two of the 'Amazing Spaces, Smart Places' Small Business Research Initiative is now under way. The two-part project which was launched in October 2019, is receiving £215,000 funding from NI Government Departments. The aim is to work with innovative businesses to adopt technologies that can better inform how the Council manages its parks and open spaces.

3.9 Working with the Department of Justice, Department for the Economy and Strategic Investment Board, and City and Neighbourhoods Services, the Council has now appointed two SMEs to collaborate with Parks and Community Safety staff on innovative technology and data-driven solutions that can help us manage safe, accessible and enjoyable parks and open spaces in Belfast. Phase two will continue until March 2021.

3.10 Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal

The Smart Belfast approach has been influential in shaping the design and content of the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City

Deal. The aim of this £150 million investment is to ensure that our city region is well-positioned to address the disruption that new technologies are likely to have on our economy and the way we design and deliver public services.

- 3.11** The Digital pillar is also being shaped to ensure that it will support businesses to build their innovation capabilities and therefore be better placed to exploit the opportunities that emerging technologies represent. It is also seeking to leverage co-investment from private sector partners on joint projects. Members will be aware this work is already underway with the renowned Fraunhofer Institute (via BABLE) to provide specialist advice and to facilitate this engagement with industry.
- 3.12** In addition to this programme development, the City Deal process also requires that each project requires HM Treasury Green Book compliant Outline Business Cases (OBCs). While the work that BABLE is undertaking will go some way to informing the content of the OBCs, further work is required to determine the financial and commercial elements of the projects and to produce the actual documents which will be submitted to UK Government and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.
- 3.13** It is therefore recommended that a tender is published to procure these services, which is estimated to be in the region of £150,000. Members should note that the cost of this will be split between the BRCD partners based on the EPP, with Belfast City Council paying approximately one third of the total cost.
- 3.14** **Belfast Digital Commissioner**
- Building on the Smart Belfast approach and the development of the City Deal Digital Pillar, work is now under way with the Vice-Chancellors of both local universities, Belfast Harbour and Catalyst Inc to develop a small number of transformative investments in the city – which collectively have the potential to secure Belfast’s position as a globally significant location for innovation-led investments.
- 3.15** Members will be aware of Belfast Harbour’s commitment to invest £254 million over the next five years to contribute to its aims to be the smartest regional port in the world. Partners are now considering opportunities to complement this investment with plans for an FDI- focused innovation district; and a Belfast City Council-led ‘Smart District’ (for which over £40 million has been identified in the City Deal Digital pillar).
- 3.16** The value of the Smart Cities market is estimated to be worth over £2 trillion within the next five years. Partners have agreed that

there is significant potential for Belfast to be part of this market if the city builds on a shared proposition around these three significant investments.

- 3.17 In support of this aim, the Council is working with the universities and Harbour on proposals for a Digital Commissioner who would work with industry to grow the city's strengths and reputation as a place to invest in technological innovation. This type of position has been a critical factor in other smart cities (including Eindhoven, London, Helsinki and Amsterdam). Initial work is under way with the Strategic Investment Board to identify the specific roles that a Commissioner could play in Belfast, and to consider the most appropriate mechanisms through which this person could deliver the most benefit for the city.
- 3.18 Members are asked to note the importance of a Digital Commissioner role for Belfast and, subject to a further assessment, approve a potential one-quarter contribution of approximately of £50,000 per annum for two years to the establishment of the post.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.19 At this development stage the Hub-In and Active & Empowered Community Innovation Testbed projects require an in-kind contribution of officer time only.
- 3.20 The £150,000 for the Digital BRCD Outline Business Cases will be split across the six partner councils. The council's contribution will be met from the City Deal Budget.
- 3.21 When confirmed by partners, the budget for the Digital Commissioner will be split across four organisations with Belfast City Council making a one-quarter contribution to the total cost for two years (approximately £50,000 per annum). This is included within the City Deal budget.

3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Proposed adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan

The Committee considered the following report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) was subject to public consultation from June to September 2019. This consultation was in tandem with the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS), which is being led by City and Neighbourhood Services Department. It is proposed to make some minor revisions to the draft GBIP to take account of consultation feedback prior to the adoption and publication of the GBIP.

Proposed responses, actions and changes are set out at Appendix 1.

- 1.2 It is anticipated that the BOSS will be considered for adoption early in 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the update on the draft GBIP consultation process and to agree to revise the GBIP in accordance with the proposed responses, actions and changes set out at Appendix 1.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The Council agreed to the draft GBIP for consultation purposes in June 2018. The GBIP is a high level plan that recognises the many functions, including for health, biodiversity and environmental resilience, of our green areas and water features. It represents an over-arching strategy that will guide more detailed strategies and action plans over time. These include the new BOSS, which was prepared in tandem with it. A draft BOSS was agreed for public consultation purposes by the Council in April 2019.

- 3.2 The BOSS, including the data collected during its preparation, forms part of the evidence base for the Local Development Plan (LDP). The GBIP also supports the LDP and represents supplementary planning guidance it once the LDP is adopted.

Consultation Process

- 3.3 Given the linkages between the GBIP and BOSS, it was agreed to undertake a joint public consultation exercise and the consultation questionnaire allowed respondents to comment on either document or both. Analysis of the responses to the draft BOSS is being undertaken by the City and Neighbourhood Services

Department. Analysis of the draft GBIP has been undertaken by the Development Planning and Policy team. The consultation period was from 17th June to 20th September 2019, during which officers attended 6 events across the city to raise awareness and get feedback from a wide range of interests.

3.4 The events were:

- Summer Rose Fair - Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
- Sounds from Bank Square
- Summer Fun Day - Mount Eagles
- A World Of Rhythms - CS Lewis Square
- Summer Fun Day - Waterworks
- Pride - Village at Custom House Square

3.5 Consultation was also undertaken with the Youth Forum and a group from Age Friendly Belfast. At all events people were asked to fill in a brief postcard questionnaire on what comes to mind when thinking of green and blue infrastructure in Belfast how can we make these spaces better. A total of 337 postcards were completed.

3.6 During the consultation period we received a total of 96 detailed responses:

- 67 responses via Citizen Space
- 16 hard copy questionnaire responses
- 13 general written submissions

68 responses were from individuals, with 28 from groups/organisation.

Consultation findings

3.7 High-level findings are outlined below and further details and proposed responses and actions are attached at Appendix 1.

3.8 The Vision

86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the draft vision that *'By 2035 green and blue infrastructure will be strategically planned to enhance ecosystem services that benefit all living, working in and visiting Belfast.'* However, a significant number of respondents were concerned with the 2035 timeframe for the vision, particularly given the declared climate emergency. In this regard, the vision date aligns with the vision dates for the Belfast Agenda and new Belfast Local Development Plan and is considered appropriate. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the principles set out in the GBIP will not be realised until 2035. Rather,

these principles will immediately start to inform council operations and decision-making.

3.9 The Strategic Principles

The draft GBIP has five strategic principles to provide the framework for achieving the vision:

- SP1: Biodiverse
- SP2: Planned, interconnected networks
- SP3: Integrated into the urban environment
- SP4: Well designed and managed
- SP5: Appropriately funded

- 3.10 87% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the draft Strategic Principles are the correct ones to achieve the vision. However many respondents were concerned at the apparent lack of actions or clear commitments and targets arising from the Plan. In this regard, the GBIP is not intended as an action plan. Rather, it is an over-arching strategy recognising the many benefits of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and how these can be incorporated into projects across the city. Its implementation will be through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new Local Development Plan and decision-making and council investment in projects.

3.11 Other Feedback

In line with the strong level of agreement for the vision and principles, many respondents commended and supported the council for developing the plan, particularly its clear recognition of the critical role of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) in addressing climate change and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems services. The linkages to the BOSS were welcomed as it can play a major role in integrating and protecting vital city assets. In addition, respondents recognised the importance of certain areas for biodiversity and the need for special protection/management measures. There was also support for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), opportunities for de-culverting and the use of green roofs to benefit the city and help address climate change.

- 3.12 A number of respondents thought that the GBIP should include more detail or further emphasis on certain issues, such as the duty to further biodiversity and need to urgently address climate change. Many suggested additional wording. Others sought greater clarification of some of the main terminology or concepts, including 'ecosystem services'. Many of such comments have merit and it is proposed to amend the wording of some sections

accordingly. Nevertheless, such changes are minor in nature and do not represent any change to the overall direction of the Plan.

- 3.13 The responses received through the public events postcards raised a number of issues, including the need to provide more open space and improve biodiversity. Other issues raised generally related to operational matters, such as maintenance and provision of facilities.
- 3.14 Overall, some of the other key messages in responses included:
- Need to protect existing green and open spaces from development.
 - Need to create new open spaces, especially city centre green spaces.
 - Council should include commitment to lead by example throughout its own estate.
 - Importance of green active travel and interconnecting of assets.
 - Suggestion that a natural capital accounting approach should be adopted.
- 3.15 Many of the above matters are included the GBIP and are being addressed by the Council, including through other plans and strategies, including the new LDP and the BOSS. As regards the Council leading by example, the final BOSS will address operational matters and there are ongoing inter-departmental discussion around a co-ordinated approach to maximise GBI benefits to the city, including through its emerging Resilience Strategy and Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.
- 3.16 In summary, the wide support for the GBIP is welcomed, including the very strong support for its vision and strategic principles. A number of the comments received suggested some additional or revised wording of parts of the draft GBIP, either by way of emphasis or clarification. Following analysis, and having regard to the high-level nature of the GBIP and its influence on other emerging plans and strategies, the overall approach in the draft GBIP remains appropriate. Nevertheless, some revisions are proposed to improve or clarify draft wording and some of the accompanying maps and diagrams. These are summarised at Appendix 1 of this report and do not change the direction of the GBIP or its strategic principles.
- 3.17 It is understood that any proposed revisions to the draft BOSS will be brought to the Council in the new year. In this regard, as the GBIP is an over-arching framework its principles help to inform the BOSS. The BOSS will include more detail and actions that will help deliver the GBIP principles.

3.18 Equality screening and rural need assessment

A draft equality screening and a rural needs analysis were completed and were included in the public consultation. There were 10 responses on the equality screening and rural needs assessment. The issues raised generally related to the protection of open space, health & wellbeing and addressing disadvantaged communities. As with the general responses to the draft GBIP, some specifically related to the loss of green space at Glassmullin (Andersonstown). One respondent said a full equality impact assessment should have been undertaken. The feedback provided will be summarised and the final screening and assessment will be updated for publication with the final GBIP.

3.19 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no resource implications directly associated with the GBIP. Its principles will help inform other council plans, strategies and projects and should be taken into account in the relevant budgetary considerations at that time.

3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

The final GBIP will be subject to an equality screening and rural needs assessment in line with the Council’s process.”

Appendix 1

Key Issue Raised	Council Response and Action
Commend and support BCC for developing the plan which provides clear recognition of the critical role and benefits of GBI, including for ecosystems services, health and wellbeing and biodiversity.	We welcome the support given to our vision, together with the constructive comments and suggestions put forward in the responses we received. No action required.
Concerns were raised regarding target date being too long in the future. Some respondents	Comments noted. The vision date aligns with the Belfast Agenda (BA) and new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) timeframe and is considered appropriate. The principles set out in the Green and Blue

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suggested 2031 or sooner to reflect the climate emergency.	Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) will immediately start to inform council operations and decision-making. No action required.
Concern raised over the implementation and delivery of the GBIP and its lack of actions and targets.	Comments noted The GBIP is not intended as an action plan. It is an over-arching strategy recognising the many benefits of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and how these can be incorporated into projects and plans across the city. The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, Belfast Open Space Strategy (BOSS) and Local Biodiversity Strategy and council investment in projects. Also through engagement with other Government departments and bordering local Councils who have similar responsibility and functions. No action required.
Greater emphasis should be given to benefits of biodiversity and the council's duties in furthering biodiversity.	Comments noted and agreed. Proposed action: Add reference to the WANE Act 2011 and the council statutory duty to further biodiversity, along with minor consequential wording edits in relevant sections of document.
Clarification required on definitions of ecosystems and their services.	Comments noted and agreed. Proposed action: Definitions of ecosystems and ecosystem services to be included in final GBIP.
Suggestion made for specific recognition of ancient woodland and long established woodlands and the multi-benefits associated from trees and hedges relating to biodiversity, air quality and flooding.	Comments noted and agreed. Trees are mentioned throughout the GBIP. It is accepted that ancient trees and hedges are not specifically referred to and it is agreed that mention should be made. However, the GBIP is a strategic framework document and is unable to include every possible natural asset for detailed discussion in the Plan. Proposed action: Add references to ancient trees/hedges in introductory text.
Various suggestions for minor rewording	Comments noted and agreed.

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<p>to help clarify or emphasise key points throughout draft document.</p>	<p>Proposed action: Minor wording amendments throughout document to aid clarity or emphasis that do not alter the overall direction or strategic principles set out in the draft document.</p>
<p>Suggestion that some of the mapping could be improved.</p>	<p>Comment noted and agreed The GBIP is a strategic framework and the mapping is illustrative and not site-specific. Nevertheless, it is accepted that the environmental designations map may be confusing and could be simplified.</p> <p>Proposed action: Simplification of the environmental designations map.</p>
<p>Suggestion that the diagram showing LDP and Belfast Agenda (BA) linkages could be improved.</p>	<p>Comment noted. This diagram illustrates the potential linkages between GBI and the priorities of the BA and LDP. It is illustrative only. Nevertheless, it is agreed that a clearer description should be added, along with footnotes for data sources.</p> <p>Proposed action: Revise the diagram description/heading and add footnotes.</p>
<p>Suggested that council should lead by example in GBIP.</p>	<p>Comment Noted. The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, the BOSS, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and council investment in projects.</p> <p>No further action required</p>
<p>Suggestions to revise the wording of the vision to simplify it and make it more explicit in relation to Biodiversity.</p>	<p>Comments noted. The vision statement is concise and considered appropriate, given the nature of the document. It should be read in the context of the entire GBIP. Nevertheless, the proposed changes to clarify definitions and emphasise biodiversity outlined above will also help address suggestions made.</p> <p>No further action required</p>
<p>Comments stress the need to protect, enhance and preserve existing open spaces and</p>	<p>Comments noted. This is addressed in the GBIP, which includes specific reference to opportunities to green the city centre. This will be delivered through other plans,</p>

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create new open spaces, especially a city centre green space.	strategies and projects by the council and its partners. No action required
Suggestion regarding management principles for a healthy public realm and natural environment.	Comments Noted. The LDP includes planning policies in relation to the natural environment and public realm, which will address the concerns highlighted. No action required.
Comment that the rural portion of the area deserves a much more prominent and detailed emphasis.	Comment noted. It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly shows how the urban area sits with its countryside setting and that all areas have a part to play. No action required.
Comment that sustainable transport should have greater emphasis and the importance of connectivity and to include wildlife corridors between green spaces.	Comment noted. It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly recognises the opportunities for, and importance of, sustainable and active travel, including greenways. The GBIP aims to improve sustainable transport means and connectivity between greenspaces where possible and this will be implemented through the existing planning policies and the new LDP. No action required.
A number of respondents raised concern over the loss of green open space to development of 3G pitches - in particular Glassmullin Green.	Comments noted. This is a site specific matter that is not directly relevant to the GBIP, which is a strategic framework document. This specific matter was subject to due planning process. No action required

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 provides an update on significant milestones achievement and progress on movements.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

Movements under the Capital Programme

- *Leisure Transformation Programme* - agree to move the redevelopment of Avoniel to Stage 3 – Committed under the Capital Programme

Project Updates

- *Fleet Replacement Programme* - note the proposed new 4 year lease term for the Lord Mayor's Car with the replacement of the current car with a new hybrid model
- *Connswater Community Greenway* - agree to the allocation of the additional £200,000 residual balance from the Big Lottery contribution to CCG to be included as part of the previously agreed legal agreement with Eastside Greenways and to note the arrangement for the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Eastside Greenways in relation to the management and delivery of an animation programme along the Greenway

3.0 Main report

3.1 *Leisure Transformation Programme – update*

The new centres at Lisnasharragh and Brook have now both opened. This represents a major milestone in the delivery of the Leisure Transformation programme. These new facilities have received an overwhelmingly positive response from the media, key stakeholders and centre users. During the first week of opening, an average of over 100 members per day were joining the two centres. See Appendix 1 for photos. Members will be reminded that dates for the official launch for both centres have now been agreed as 8th January for Lisnasharragh and 17th January for Brook. Members will receive an invitation in due course.

3.2 The development of Andersonstown is continuing on schedule. The new centre is due to complete in late February, with a view to

an official opening in early April. Procurement of a contractor for the redevelopment of Templemore is currently underway and works are currently forecasted to commence in August 2020.

- 3.3 As of 1st December, Avoniel Leisure Centre is now officially closed and currently undergoing demobilisation. Members will be aware that Heron Bros Ltd will take forward the construction works at Avoniel with demolition works due to commence on site in January. Avoniel is currently at Stage 2 on the Capital Programme. Given that works are due to commence on site after Christmas it is recommended that this is moved to Stage 3 – Committed. Members will be aware that £8million has been committed to the redevelopment of Avoniel under the Leisure Transformation Programme.

Fleet Replacement Programme - Replacement of the Lord Mayor's Car

- 3.4 In 2015 the SP&R Committee agreed to enter into a 4 year lease for the Lord Mayor's car on the basis that leasing provided better value for money than the purchase of a similar vehicle. The current 4 year lease is a fixed term arrangement which expires in February 2020 and is for a BMW 7 Series (diesel model).
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that it is proposed that a new lease is taken out on a like for like basis to the previous terms. It is proposed that the replacement car will be a similar model and size to the current vehicle. However it is proposed that the new model will be a hybrid model with a combined 99mpg, and cleaner lower emission CO2 level of 52 g/km.
- 3.6 All costs for the Lord Mayor's car are included within the Fleet Replacement Programme which is at Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme.

Connswater Community Greenway

- 3.7 The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) is being developed and managed through an innovative partnership between EastSide Greenways (formerly CCG Trust) and Belfast City Council within the context of the Belfast Agenda. In this next phase of the Greenway's life, the Council in partnership with EastSide Greenways (ESG), will bring forward innovative proposals that seek to ensure its sustainability, enhancing the current asset and generating income. In keeping with The National Lottery Fund's ambitions for Living Landmark projects, a continuing focus on community engagement, involvement and ownership is fundamental.

- 3.8 In November 2018 SP&R agreed that the £1m balance remaining as part of the Big Lottery capital contribution be allocated as an endowment to the CCGT for the delivery of an annually agreed animation programme for the greenway. The Committee further agreed that the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor in agreement with the Strategic Director of CNS.
- 3.9 During the process of developing the above legal agreements Officers prepared a final account relating to the CCG project and agreed this with the Big Lottery Fund. The final account showed an additional balance of £200k (in addition to the £1m) which Members are now be asked to agree should be included as part of the endowment agreement. To date negotiations have been ongoing with EastSide Greenways and the initial legal agreement is yet to be executed. Subject to Members agreement it is proposed that the additional 200K will now be encompassed as part of this agreement and executed as one agreement.
- 3.10 To ensure the sustainability of the Greenway, the Council has agreed with the National Lottery to utilise unspent Lottery monies to fund EastSide Greenways as set out in the legal Agreement. EastSide Greenways will be delivered through a set of strategic objectives which will be subject to review on an annual basis as a response to need identified through research carried out by the Partnership. EastSide Greenways will submit an Annual Activity Plan to the Council each year setting out its proposed activities in the following year. The Annual Plan must be approved by the Council before any of the activities outlined in it occur.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial –

- Leisure Transformation Programme – Avoniel - £8m as agreed under the LTP
- Fleet Replacement Programme – Lease of the Lord Mayor’s Car – costs are covered under the Fleet Replacement Programme
- CCG - the balance on the capital funding has been agreed with Big Lottery and the project finalisation has now concluded with a balance of £1. 2m funding to support the annual animation programme over the next 10 years as per the legal agreement and MOU developed with Legal Services and C&NS

Resources – Officer time as required.

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

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations in relation to the Leisure Transformation Programme and the Connswater Community Greenway but agreed to defer consideration of the fleet replacement programme to enable a further report to be submitted on other possible options.

Assets Management

I. Dunmurry Station Footpath – Temporary Licence

The Committee approved a temporary licence agreement between Belfast City Council and John Graham Construction Ltd for their proposed closure, use and part development of the Dunmurry Station Footpath in connection with the wider Blacks Road improvement scheme on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure.

II. North Queen Street Community Centre – Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club – New Licence

The Committee approved the grant of a new Licence to Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club, subject to detailed terms being agreed to by the Estates Unit and Legal Services.

III. Plot 84 Balmoral Estate – Proposed lease extension

The Committee approved the extension of the current 99 year ground lease to Killultagh Estates Limited in respect of Plot 84 Balmoral Estate to 125 years, with effect from 1 January 1975 subject to the payment of a premium of £5,000.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1);
- approved the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2); and
- noted that the Committee had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts:

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Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders

Title of Tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for the provision of Residentials for groups of youths on the PEACE IV programme (T2032)	Nigel Grimshaw	From award until 31st December 2020
Tender for provision of energy management services (T1991)	Ronan Cregan	Up to 5 years
Tender for Provision of Civic Dignitaries Car (T2031)	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year lease
Tender for the manufacture, supply and installation of signage (T1943)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Tender for the supply, fitting and maintenance of fire extinguishers	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Tender for Consultancy Services to Provide a Programme OBC for the Digital Projects within the Belfast Region City Deal	Ronan Cregan	Up to 1 year

Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Title of tender	Supplier	Annual estimate
T1998 (b) - Tender for the Provision of Catering at Belfast Zoo	USEL	Up to £500,000 turnover per annum at the venue.

Brexit Committee – Commissioning of a Report

The Committee was reminded that the Brexit Committee, at its meeting on 7th November, 2019, had agreed the following:

“The Committee requests that a report be commissioned to examine the opportunities for co-operation in economic development supporting good growth, inclusive growth and to outline an ambition to a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and economic infrastructure that could be developed in an all-Ireland context. This report should examine this having regard to relevant scenarios post Brexit or those that remain in play up to the date of withdrawal and also address the island of Ireland as a single economic unit.”

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At that meeting the Committee had noted that it didn't have a budget and any expenditure would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The decision had been ratified by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees that Council officers research the issue and bring back a report on how it would be developed, resourced and led.

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

Equality and Good Relations

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 2nd December, 2019, including:

PEACE IV

CYP1 Tech Connects

That pending receipt of information from SEUPB in relation to CYP1, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, to agree the approach required to enable a timely action to be taken.

CYP3 On the Right Track

To note the challenges, affecting project delivery, agreed the revised delivery target for 2020 and agreed to request to SEUPB to engage more fully with the 3 main codes.

BPR4 Belfast and the World

To approve a maximum of 45 people (40 participants and 5 support staff, including the attendance of a maximum of 2 Council staff) to attend the EU study visit to Ypres, Belgium.

Notice of Motion – Srebrenica

That a programme be drawn up which would involve inviting suitable representatives to Belfast, as recommended by Remembering Srebrenica, to engage with a number of stakeholders about Srebrenica, acknowledgement and justice, and the importance of anti-prejudice work.

District Council Good Relations Action Plan

To note the update in relation to delivery and spend and the following funding allocations under the Shared and Safe spaces themes

To approve that identified underspend of £23,000 in both of these programmes be allocated to the following proposals;

- £5,000 for inspection and site recommendations reports for the provision of bonfire beacons
- £5,000 towards an programme focusing on prejudice and marking 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide with remembering Srebrenica UK
- £5,000 contribution to a significant piece of cross sectoral work to secure collective agreement on the strategic vision for the 'clean, green and safe' elements of work in the city centre.
- £3,000 towards review of approach to supporting positive cultural expression
- £5,000 to support the city wide initiatives which seek to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all.

International Women's Day 2020

The Committee noted the contents of a report and provided an update regarding the International Women's Day event, which would be held on 7th March, 2020. It noted also that the Council's funding contribution would be allocated to cover costs of a temporary stage and sound system for the public rally and a lunch for 200 participants in the City Hall following the rally. The budget of £6,500 would be provided through the Gender Action Plan budget.

Equality and Diversity: Quarter 2 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided Members with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessment for Quarter 2 (July till September 2019).

Operational Issues

Requests for Use of City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 2nd December, 2019, as set out in the undernoted appendix:

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2020 EVENTS						
Compassion Belfast	8 January 2020	2020 Clearing the Vision – Launch of collaborative working across 5 Christian denominations to develop a clear vision for engagement with the Belfast Agenda. Numbers attending – 500	B, C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Herstory	2 February 2020	Herstory International Light Festival Reception – Welcome reception to mark the illuminate event celebrating women through history taking place at City Hall, pending approval at December SP&R. Numbers attending – 60	C	No (Voluntary)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland	26 February 2020	Recognition Event to mark 20th Anniversary – celebratory event to recognise the achievements	C	Charge £300 <i>(Public Body)</i>	No Hospitality <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality

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		of the organisation over its 20 year history. Numbers attending – 150 – 180				
Dementia NI	28 February 2020	5th Anniversary Celebration – celebration event to mark achievements of the charity over its five year history. Numbers attending – 150	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
European Youth Parliament	2 March 2020	NI Regional Session of Youth Parliament - teams of secondary students debate and present their ideas and solutions on current topics. Numbers attending – 60	B & D	No (Charity)	No (they provide their own lunches for attendees)	Approve No charge No hospitality
Dunlewey Addiction Services	5 June 2020	Celebrating Recovery – Dinner to mark achievements of service users who have recovered from addiction through services offered by the organisation.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Soft Drink Reception	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception

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		Numbers attending – 300				
Suicide Awareness & Support Services	6 or 13 June 2020	20th Anniversary Celebration – dinner to mark the successful work of the organisation over its 20 year history. Numbers attending – 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Labour Relations Agency	9 September 2020	International Labour Relations Agencies Pre-Conference Reception and Dinner – reception and dinner to mark start of a one day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 50	A & B	Charge £300 <i>(Public Body)</i>	No Hospitality <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
2021 EVENTS						
British Nuclear Medicine Society	25 May 2021	BNMS Annual Awards Dinner – welcome dinner linked to 3 day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending –150	A & B	No <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

Herstory International Light Festival 2020

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

B2763

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To consider a request for the Herstory International Light Festival for the use of City Hall façade and grounds for an illumination project on Sunday 2nd February 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to;

- approve the application for use of the City Hall for this unique illumination and projection event.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

The Herstory Light Festival is an annual global event celebrating women and equality. The 2020 Herstory Light Festival takes place over Friday 31st January – Monday 3rd February 2020.

3.2 The 2020 Herstory Light Festival will feature a special celebration of Northern Ireland’s peace heroines and the United Nations Headquarters in New York will be illuminated in their honour.

3.3 ‘Women's achievements and struggles have been lost in the shadows for too long, resulting in global inequality and a regression of women's rights. That's why Herstory is harnessing the alchemical power of light, to celebrate women and equality, spotlight inequality, and create visions for a World of Equals.’ - *Melanie Lynch, Founder of Herstory*

3.4 The project will:

1. raise awareness of the achievements of women in Northern Ireland
2. encourage support for women in Northern Ireland
3. inspire and motivate young people
4. bring community groups together
5. increase an appreciation for the role of the arts

3.5 Key Issues

Herstory organisers seek permission to project portrait façade on the evening of 2nd February 2020.

3.6 A specialised company called Nightlight from Dublin will manage the project and linked in with Council’s Property Maintenance Unit in terms of the Council’s illumination system. A special 10,000

lumen laser projector will be placed in City Hall grounds and a small crew will be onsite to manage the projection from 6pm to 10pm.

- 3.7 The portraits for illumination are the creation of artists, Belfast College of Art students and school children in NI. The artwork will cover the following themes: mythology and ancient goddesses; remarkable NI women from the sectors of science, arts, sport; 'everywoman' the unsung heroines of our everyday life- mother, grandmother, aunt, friend; and the NI Peace Heroines.
- 3.8 The final illuminations will be based on the quality of the artwork and the technical illumination process.
- 3.9 Renowned local artist Colin Davidson has confirmed his involvement with the project and some of his famous portraits will be illuminated and projected onto City Hall.
- 3.10 The project and event will be supported by a marketing campaign with public along with participating groups and schools invited to City Hall grounds to view the portraits projected onto City Hall.
- 3.11 Herstory organisers, along with Women in Business, hope to host a reception in City Hall on the evening of 2nd February 2020 to acknowledge the support and involvement of various group to deliver Herstory. An application for use of City Hall function rooms has been received and will be presented in the monthly function report for committee approval.
- 3.12 **Financial and Resource Implications**
- There will be no cost to the Council in approving this request and no charge to the organisers for use of the City Hall grounds and façade.
- 3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Implications**
- This proposal will assist the Council meeting its equality and diversity aspirations."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Request for use of City Hall by
Belfast Children's Festival**

The Committee was reminded that a request for the use of the City Hall was normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for that purpose. Occasionally, however, it was

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necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, for example, for large scale events in the City Hall or its grounds and the following request fell into this category.

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Belfast-based Young at Art, for the use of City Hall on 8th March, 2020, for the purpose of hosting free events programmed as part of the Belfast Children's Festival 2020. The Council had granted permission for a similar event in previous years.

The event would be free to participants and the organisers estimated up to 500 people, the majority of which would families, would be in attendance.

The Committee:

1. Authorised Young at Art to use the City Hall on 8th March, 2020 for activities programmed as part of Belfast Children's Festival; and
2. Agreed to waive the fee for hire for this event.

**Audit and Risk Panel Report and
Minutes of Meeting of 3rd December, 2019**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 3rd December, 2019.

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Leaders' Consultative Forum of 9th December, 2019.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 9th December, 2019.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Michael Collins (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds; and
Councillors D. Baker, Black, Bunting, Cobain,
Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, M. Kelly, Kyle, Magee,
McCusker, McLaughlin, Mulholland, 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
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were reported from Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor McMullan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 5th and 20th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Black, Corr and Verner declared an interest in respect of item 2a – Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21, in that they worked for or were associated with organisations, which had applied for funding, and they left the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

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 on the following 2 items as, due to their nature, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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**Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21 –
Progress Report and Grant Funding Bands**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21 and which sought approval to progress funding allocations based on grant funding bands and budgetary constraints for the Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building Grants.

After discussion, the Committee:

- agreed that officers would move to final allocations on the basis of the 4 band system and the associated scoring ranges for each band;
- agreed that the shortfall in funding be brought to the attention of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and request that this be considered as part of the rate setting process; and
- agreed that officers produce a funding allocation report for Members' consideration in January.

Christmas Waste Collections Update

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services updated the Committee on discussions which were ongoing in relation to Christmas waste collections.

After discussion, the Committee noted the current position and options for the Christmas waste collection arrangements and agreed that officers continue to discuss and exhaust all possible options with the Trade Unions and, if a workable solution was not found by the end of the current week, then it be brought to the Party Group Leaders at the beginning of next week for final discussion and agreement given the need for an urgent decision.

Matters referred back from the Council/Motions

Action on Avoidable Winter Deaths

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 5th November 2019, a Motion regarding Action on Avoidable Winter Deaths was passed. The Motion called on Council ‘to convene and facilitate a meeting of Belfast’s community, voluntary and social enterprise agencies who 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’.**

1.2 This report outlines action being taken by Council and its partners to identify and support older people who may be vulnerable during the upcoming winter period and provides a list of available services for Members information.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of this report; and
- Agree to support the communication of winter messages and services.

3.0 **Main Report**

Background

3.1 The Belfast Agenda sets out the ambition to reduce the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods of the city by 33% and gives a commitment to ensure the needs of older people are met through the Age-friendly Belfast approach and that health inequalities are addressed by the design and delivery of integrated multi-agency city programmes.

3.2 The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) co-ordinates the interagency Age-friendly Belfast Plan and as part of its work convenes a Winter Planning Group who lead on communications regarding winter planning with older people each year in Belfast. Two city wide meetings take place in August and November each year involving a wide range of organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory services in Belfast (including Belfast City Council emergency planning and affordable warmth leads). The purpose of these meetings and ongoing communications is to:

- Maintain a list of 'services to support people in the winter'
- Update a comprehensive list of contacts for circulation of information in extreme weather-this is tested in November by Elma Greer and used to inform contacts of extreme weather warnings and additional initiatives or contact centres that are enacted
- Update each other on specific plans that each organisations has for the winter period.
- Circulate an up-to date list of organisations that distribute winter warmth packs to older people, families, and vulnerable groups of people at risk of fuel poverty and with specific conditions

- 3.3** As part of the work to reduce avoidable winter deaths, the winter planning group and other local contacts have been involved in the Living Here Board workshop on Avoidable Winter Deaths in October. Additional communications are also being provided on general messages for people to keep warm in the winter.
- 3.4** Working with our Community Planning partners through the Living Here Board, the issue of avoidable winter deaths was identified as a priority requiring a multi-agency approach. This was supported by the publication of Excess Winter Death (2017-18) statistics by NISRA which showed an increase of 220% in deaths since 2015-16 for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust area. The highest recorded figures since the major flu epidemic in 1989.
- 3.5** There is a substantial body of evidence linking cold temperatures with ill health and higher mortality and morbidity rates in winter, and the World Health Organisation estimates that 30% of winter deaths are caused by cold housing. The focus therefore for Council and its Community Planning partners has been on the mobilisation of statutory, community and voluntary agencies to identify and support people who are living in cold homes, including older people. For Council, this approach has clear links with our Affordable Warmth Scheme and officers have been in discussion to consider opportunities for collective gains across both.
- 3.6** Action to date taken by Council and its partners include:
- Citywide data analysis of risk factors associated with winter deaths including housing quality, income, prevalence of a chronic condition (heart disease, COPD, etc.) and age;
 - The identification of areas with multiple risks for the purpose of staging a targeted prototype intervention, which will identify and support vulnerable people with action across a range of areas including home energy efficiency, finances, health and social connections. The super output areas identified through data analysis are Shankill 1, Crumlin 2, Falls Park 2 and Andersonstown 1;
 - The hosting of a Process Mapping workshop to allow statutory, community and voluntary partners with the opportunity to shape the prototype intervention process and to establish links with community based support services; and
 - The appointment of National Energy Action (NEA) to operate as a single point of contact for referrals of vulnerable people from statutory, community and

voluntary partners working within the prototype intervention areas.

3.7 Further engagement with agencies serving the prototype intervention areas will continue in shaping aspects of local delivery including identification of vulnerable people and support networks available, and also in defining the evaluation measures and shared learning which will guide future roll out of the intervention across the city.

3.8 In addition to the prototype intervention, Council and its partners have been working to develop a series of shared city messages for winter, which all partners will be asked to communicate. Included within the messages will be signposting to services and general information on how to stay well this winter. Central to both the prototype intervention and wider city messages is a call to action for all statutory, community and voluntary partners to help support our citizens to be good neighbourhoods this winter and help us look out for people who may be vulnerable.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial or resource implications contained within this report.

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

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained within this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also:

- that the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership should consider an evaluation process on the measures/interventions being undertaken; and
- that the Reference Group on Older People be consulted as part of the evaluation.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Single Use Items

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To respond to a notice of motion from the 20 September Strategic Policy and Resources Committee calling for the

elimination of single use items and an overall review of the Council's purchasing of materials and internal waste management;

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

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 The committee is asked to approve the following recommendations

- The implementation of a centralised recycling and waste collection system for the entire Council estate.
- To broaden the remit of the Social Values working group to consider how to eradicate single use items through more effective purchasing procedures, assessed against the waste hierarchy and the wider sustainable agenda.
- To participate with Queen's University Belfast in the application of ESPRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences research Council) funding in the establishment of Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre to better inform future Council decision making).

3.0 **Main report**

Background and Context

- 3.1 The issue of single use plastics has come to the forefront of public attention as a result of BBC's 'The Blue Planet' programme which highlighted the stark consequences of our failure to manage the plastic we produce to meet our daily needs. However, we must ensure that we focus our attention on the issue of single use as simply substituting plastics with other single use items i.e. paper does not necessarily lead to better environmental outcomes with regard to either littering or CO2 production.
- 3.2 We must not lose sight of how plastic has transformed our lives and plays a significant role in reducing pollution in other areas. The problem stems from society and policy makers having limited regard for the wider ramifications of unfettered plastic

consumption combined with poor collection and disposal infrastructure.

- 3.3 Commendably the Council continues to invest heavily in behaviour change through the creation of outreach teams for both littering and recycling plus accompanying advertising budgets, resulting in recycling rates currently at 44% and litter behaviour decreasing year on year. Further work is required within both the council and our communities to reduce the amount of waste we produce and improving the capture of ever more items for recycling.
- 3.4 Both the EU and UK governments have taken the issue of single use plastics and sought to build a policy framework that EU member states and the UK to can work towards to eliminate their use.
- 3.5 As part of the Circular Economy Package adopted in early 2018, the European Commission is working on a directive to influence the demand, usage and disposal of the top 10 most commonly littered SUP items found in seas. The Single Use Plastic Directive which was adopted on the 5 June 2019 includes the following initiatives;
- Plastic reduction: Member States should adopt the necessary measures to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic products by 2026 compared to 2022 (through reduction
 - Targets, measures encouraging re-usable alternatives, economic instruments, marketing restrictions, etc.).
 - Plastics ban: Member States should prohibit the sale by 03/07/2021 of: cutlery, plates, straws, cotton buds.
 - Drinking bottles: From 2025, beverage bottles (PET bottles) should contain at least 25% recycled plastic; and from 2030 should contain at least 30% recycled plastic.
 - Caps and lids: Should remain attached to the containers during the use stage.
 - Marking: Every single-use plastic product should contain info on 1) appropriate waste management options and 2) acknowledge the presence of plastics in the product and the resulting negative impact of littering by 3 July 2021.

- **Separate collection: Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the separate collection for recycling: 1) by 2025, 77% of waste single-use plastic products placed on the market in a given year by weight and 2) by 2029, 90% of waste single-use plastic products. In order to achieve that objective, Member States could: (a) establish deposit-refund schemes; (b) establish separate collection targets for relevant extended producer responsibility schemes.**

3.6 The above is expected to be integrated into UK law after withdrawal from the EU.

- **The UK government via DEFRA has published its own requirements in the Waste and Resources Strategy (December 2018)**
- **Invoking the polluter pays principle and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market.**
- **Stimulating demand for recycled plastic by introducing a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic.**
- **Setting minimum requirements through eco-design to encourage resource-efficient product design.**
- **Incentivising consumers to purchase sustainably, for example by consulting on extending and increasing the carrier bag charge.**
- **Providing consumers with better information on the sustainability of their purchases through better product labelling.**
- **Continuing the ban on the most problematic SUP products (where there is a clear case for it and alternatives exist) in a systematic approach.**
- **Addressing barriers to reuse, repair and remanufacture.**
- **Introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) for single-use drinks containers, subject to consultation.**
- **Developing measures to reduce the environmental impacts of disposable cups.**

- Producing consumer guidance for the recycling, resale, reuse and disposal of consumer internet-connected devices.
 - Leading by example by procuring more sustainably and requiring all government bodies to remove consumer SUP products from government estate by 2020.
- 3.8 The UK Government's new planned actions are ambitious and will potentially result in drastic changes to the way waste management is currently handled by local authorities. The 'polluter pays' principle in particular is expected to take financial burden away from taxpayers, which could benefit local authorities significantly.
- 3.9 DAERA have also recently conducted a number of consultations on Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) and EPR for Northern Ireland and are currently updating the Waste Management Strategy to reflect the changing legislative framework.

Internal Improvements

- 3.10 From an internal Council perspective, the Recycling Outreach team have worked with the Catering section to implement a series of changes that has resulted in significant change to staff behaviour in the Atrium restaurant in the Cecil Ward Building. During European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) 2018 the teams actions dramatically impacted the number of single use disposable paper and plastic cups resulting in the following
- Single use paper coffee cup usage has fallen by 80% (3500 cups per month to just 750)
 - 70% of customers are using their own cup from almost none before November 2018
 - Complete eradication of the single use plastic cups for water
 - Non-recyclable waste has reduced by 1/3 as more food waste is being recycled and less paper cups are being used
- 3.11 And more recently during EWWR 2019 we have eliminated single use condiment sachets for salt, pepper, sugar and red and brown sauces. We are currently looking at methodologies to implement the same across all aspects of catering both internally and externally.

- 3.12 These changes are to be welcomed but do not cover the full spectrum of single use items used or purchased on a daily basis across all Council services. Therefore it is recommended that the Council broaden the scope of the Social Values Working Group to consider the issue of single use items in all future procurement exercises. The Working Group already has sustainability within its remit. It is advised that a suitably qualified officer be appointed to the group to consider these issues as they arise.
- 3.13 This group would work to ensure compliance with the forthcoming legislation but also to promote the Council's leadership within the city and demonstrate its sustainable credentials on the world stage via participation in such events as The Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index) and via its licensing of events across the city.
- 3.14 Another aspect of plastic pollution is inadequate or incorrect use of internal council recycling collection infrastructure. The existing recycling collection system is not always being used appropriately with higher than acceptable levels of contamination, despite having help shift the internal recycling rate to over 30%. Additionally, this system is only in place across city centre locations with limited recycling infrastructure across the wider Council estate.
- 3.15 To address this issue, the Recycling Outreach team has implemented a trial of a new centralised collection system within the Cecil Ward Building. The team worked with the cleaning staff to establish a baseline by measuring the limited performance of the current scheme in terms of participation, contamination of the bins and the lost productivity of the cleaning staff in the servicing the existing system.
- 3.16 The trial both in the Atrium restaurant and 3rd floor of the CWB has resulted in significant increase in the capture of food waste and reduced the levels of contamination. Staff satisfaction with the system has also improved. The scheme has also resulted in reducing the time taken to clean each floor in CWB by 40 minutes. This saving when replicated across CWB, 9 Adelaide and the City Hall would cover the cost of purchasing the new bins within the first year of introduction. Similar schemes have been implemented in Mid & East Antrim, Derry City & Strabane and Mid Ulster in addition to the Stormont estate and numerous other councils across the UK.

- 3.17 The volume of bins required would necessitate a tender process from the supply of both bin units and bags. It is envisaged that the scheme could be begin to be rolled out from March 2020.**

Knowledge Development

- 3.18 The Recycling Outreach team is regularly asked by both University of Ulster and Queen's University to participate in projects that help further our understanding of the wider sustainability agenda. To this end we are currently a stakeholder on the ACCEPT project seeking to explore the Circular Economic impacts of plastic cycle for Northern Ireland.
- 3.19 We have now been asked to be a partner in the application for ESPRC –UKRI for a research grant of £4.2 million to establish an Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre. The requirement for the Council is to commit officer to assisting in the application and if successful to allow the relevant officers time to help with the research in terms of communication best practice and legislation.
- 3.20 The committee is requested to approve of the Waste Manager (Education and Business Development) assisting QUB in its current application.

3.21 **Finance and Resources Implications**

The full cost of introducing the new internal Council recycling collection system would be approximately £26,000. This can be covered from within existing CNS and Facilities Management Unit budgets with phased introduction and taking into account the operational savings from improved recycling management.

3.2 **Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None at present, although this will be assessed on an ongoing basis.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Public Art Pilot Project – Belfast Canvas – update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in March, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had agreed to support a pilot public art project that focused on a number of the city centre utility boxes. It had been based on a similar project, which had been undertaken in Dublin, called the “Dublin Canvas”.

The “Belfast Canvas” project had got under way in early Summer 2019. In line with the Committee’s agreement, the project had focused on the city’s retail core and the Cathedral Quarter area. To date, professional street artists had painted 18 utility boxes.

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The Committee had agreed also that, following the initial works, the second phase of the pilot would be to engage communities to work with the professional artists in developing designs for a number of additional boxes. Work was set to get under way on that element of the programme in the coming weeks. It would involve up to six local community groups across the city. The engagement work would happen in the communities and the artists would then take the designs based on the community input and replicate these on the utility boxes. When completed, there will be a total of 22 utility boxes painted as part of this pilot phase.

The Committee was reminded further that in March the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had discussed what the next steps in the process might be, subject to satisfactory progress with the pilot scheme. It had been proposed that the phase two of the project might focus on the BRT route, engaging communities from both east and west of the city in the design process, working alongside the professional artists. Council officers would give further consideration to this proposal before it was submitted to the Committee and would set out details of how the engagement might take place and how the project might align with other activities taking place in those areas.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Boxing Strategy Quarterly update

The Committee was reminded that the Council had agreed previously, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.

In line with the Council's objective, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group met quarterly. The Steering Group was chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, with Council Officers, IABA Officers and Officials and County Antrim Board Officials also attending.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed a total of 34 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. The Director reported that the IABA had been compliant with all the reporting matters.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report.

Response to the DAERA Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered the following report and adopted the recommendations:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland and to provide a**

response to the consultation. The response closes on 11 December 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- agree the draft response to the DAERA consultation exercise regarding the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland and agree that the draft is forwarded to DAERA before 11 December 2019, but they will be advised that the response may be subject to change following the full the meeting of Council on 6th January 2020.

3.0 Main report

3.1 On 1 May 2019, the Board of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) agreed to consult on a Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI) by 31 December 2019. The consultation opened on 16 October 2019 and will conclude after eight weeks at 4pm on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

3.2 The revised Waste Framework Directive 2008/1 (rWFD) requires Member States to produce one or more waste management plans which cover, alone or in combination, the geographical territory of the Member State concerned. As waste is a devolved matter, the other UK devolved administrations and Gibraltar are preparing their own waste management plans which cover their geographical territories and which, together with this plan, are needed to meet the requirements of the rWFD.

3.3 Appendix 1 includes a copy of the letter to consultees dated 16 October 2019, appendix 2 includes a draft copy of the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland, while appendix 3 includes a draft response to the consultation.

3.4 The core aim of the plan is to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan; it is not the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland.

3.5 Officer discussions have taken place on the consultation of the WMPNI through the Technical Advisors Group for Northern Ireland. The officer view is that this is essentially a technical consultation as can be seen from the consultation question posed by the Department and one which is necessitated merely by compliance with EU timescales;

- 3.6** *Will the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI), including its constituent parts (detailed on page 5 of the WMPNI), when combined with the location specific guidance in the waste planning policy - meet the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive and the additional requirements as detailed in Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (see Appendix 1)? If not, what else is, in your view, needed?*
- 3.7** As a consequence, the considered officer view is that while the WMPNI does appear to meet the requirements of Article 28 of the rWFD it is merely delaying the process for the review of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy; 'Delivering Resource Efficiency'. It is also noted that the determination as to whether the WMPNI meets the requirements of the various legislative instruments will ultimately be a decision for the legislature in the event of any challenge.
- 3.8** The consultation response also expresses concern that the Department has yet to publish a timescale for the review of the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland as it is believed that the review and update of 'Delivering Resource Efficiency' is critical to setting the overall strategy which should then underpin the Council's Waste Management Plan.
- 3.9** Financial & Resource Implications
- There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
- 3.10** Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- There are no equality, good relations or rural needs issues associated with this report."

Appendix 3

Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for providing Belfast City Council with the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland.

The question posed by the Department is as follows;

Will the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI), including its constituent parts (detailed on page 5 of the WMPNI), when combined with the location specific

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guidance in the waste planning policy - meet the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive and the additional requirements as detailed in Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (see Appendix 1)? If not, what else is, in your view, needed?

It is noted that the mandatory requirements of **Article 28 of the rWFD** specify that the WMPNI should be established in accordance with Articles 1 (Subject matter and scope), 4 (Waste hierarchy), 13 (Protection of human health and environment) and 16 (Principles of self-sufficiency and proximity) of the rWFD and should contain the following information:

- An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, as well as the measures to be taken to improve environmentally sound preparing for re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste and an evaluation of how the plan will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of this rWFD.
- As appropriate, take account the geographical level and coverage of the planning area:
 - the type, quantity and source of waste generated within the territory, the waste likely to be shipped from or to the national territory, and an evaluation of the development of waste streams in the future;
 - existing waste collection schemes and major disposal and recovery installations, including any special arrangements for waste oils, hazardous waste or waste streams addressed by specific Community legislation;
 - an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, the closure of existing waste installations, additional waste installation infrastructure in accordance with Article 16 (on the proximity principle), and, if necessary, the investments related thereto;
 - sufficient information on the location criteria for site identification and on the capacity of future disposal or major recovery installations, if necessary;
 - general waste management policies, including planned waste management technologies and methods, or policies for waste posing specific management problems.

In addition, **Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**, as amended, sets out other obligations for the WMPNI which have been transposed from the rWFD. These other obligations include:

- a chapter on the management of packaging and packaging waste, including measures taken pursuant to Articles 4 (prevention) and 5 (re-use) of the Packaging Waste Directive²;
- measures to promote high quality recycling including the setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable;
- measures to encourage the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste;
- measures to be taken to promote the re-use of products and preparation for re-use activities, in particular—

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- measures to encourage the establishment and support of re-use and repair networks; the use of economic instruments;
 - the use of procurement criteria; and
 - the setting of quantitative objectives.
- Policies in relation to preparing for re-use, recovery and recycling targets including—
- measures to be taken to ensure that by 2020, at least 50% by weight of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled;
 - measures to be taken to ensure that by 2020, at least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste excluding—
 - hazardous waste; and
 - [F2naturally occurring material falling within code 17 05 04 in the Annex to the List of Wastes,] is subjected to material recovery.

The core aim of the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland as set out at page 6 of the Plan is;

“to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan”.

The Plan therefore essentially provides only a review of the current position in relation to waste management arrangements (plans and policies) within Northern Ireland and as it states (again at page 6);

“It is not, therefore the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland”.

The consultation question posed by the Department seeks consultees to comment on whether the Plan meets the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive.

Technically and on the basis of the core aims of the Plan and the references to other plans and policies within the Plan it is believed that the WMPNI meets the requirements of Article 28. However, this comment is without prejudice and it would ultimately be the responsibility of the governance and judicial framework of the EU, which would determine if the Plan meets EU legislative requirements.

However, in terms of progressing the strategic management of waste within Northern Ireland the WMPNI provides little or no strategic direction. Waste Management within Northern Ireland, in particular municipal waste, has developed significantly since “Delivering Resource Efficiency” (Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy) was published over six years ago in October 2013. With regards to the two key drivers of Landfill Diversion as set out in the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme and the 50% EU composting and recycling target; both of these are now in their final target years of 2019/20 and both are set to be exceeded.

The lead-in times in achieving these significant milestones are probably better measured in decades rather than in months and years; changes in public attitudes to waste, as set out in the wider environmental, circular economy and sustainable development agenda take time to change, as does the establishment of infrastructure to collect, treat and dispose

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of waste. As recent history has demonstrated, these changes can be achieved but only through strong central government leadership backed up and supported by appropriate legislation and adequate levels of subvention.

Given the level of change that has taken place since “Delivering Resource Efficiency” was published in 2013, what is now required is a new Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland rather than a gathering together of pre-existing and to some extent outdated plans and policies under the umbrella of a WMPNI.

It is therefore of concern that the Department has chosen to adopt this approach of an umbrella document and whilst there may be mitigating circumstances relating to the lack of a sitting Assembly, Brexit and EU timelines, it is surely incumbent on the Department to at the very least set out its timetable for the production of a new Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland. If councils are to produce meaningful Waste Management Plans then these need to be developed against the background of a revised and updated Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Proposal to have Regular Health Briefings to Committee

The Committee was advised that Council officers, along with representatives from the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), had met with the Lord Mayor on 22nd October to discuss recent notices of motion made in relation to homelessness, mental health and injecting drug use.

The officers from the three organisations had updated the Lord Mayor on existing structures and work already taking place in relation to addressing these issues and discussion had then taken place on how elected Members could become better informed about the work and plans of these agencies and partnerships, as well as become better placed to influence, and support, priorities and planned action within these topic areas and structures.

One potential solution proposed at the meeting was that the “health family”, that is, the PHA and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT), could be asked to provide twice-yearly written updates to elected Members via the People and Communities Committee, a similar arrangement as to that which already exists with the NIHE, on their plans for addressing homelessness, mental health and substance misuse in the City, with the Committee then having the option of requesting more detailed information, or a verbal presentation, by way of follow up.

The Committee:

- granted approval to have regular health briefings (bi-annually); and
- agreed that Council officers liaise with colleagues in PHA, HSCB and BHSCT to design and agree a reporting template, with the aim of having the first health-focussed report presented early in the New Year.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2019/20

The Committee noted the contents of a report which summarised the Quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. It noted that the Quarter 2 position showed an under spend of £154k, with the forecast year end position being an overspend of £544k (0.7%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

**Dormant Accounts Northern Ireland –
Consultation Framework Open**

The Committee was advised that The Department of Finance had directed the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to deliver Dormant Accounts funding in Northern Ireland.

The NLCF had opened a consultation exercise until the end of December, 2019 and were engaging with the voluntary community and social enterprise sector to determine how this non-lottery funding should be delivered.

The Committee noted the report and the consultation framework; agreed to receive a further report on the NLCF findings and associated strategic action plan in February, 2020; and agreed that any response should include a comment that an element of the funding should be targeted at an education programme for disadvantaged younger people to help them with financial management.

Your School Your Club Funding

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee of Sport NI ‘Your School Your Club’ funding and applications submitted from schools in Belfast City Council area.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Committee agrees to note;

- the support for two applications to Sport NI, Your School Your Club funding.
- that further information on how Sport NI intend to roll out the 20/21 fund will be provided to Members in the future, including clarification on what role is expected of Council.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 BACKGROUND

Your School Your Club is an initiative to promote community use of school sports facilities. The opening of the school sports estate to community and club use will have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland. Your School Your Club seeks to develop strategic partnerships in order to revitalise existing sports facilities or to develop new/additional provision.

3.2 The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group is governed by the Department for Communities (DfC); current membership includes DfC, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), representatives of District Councils, Department for Education (DE), Education Authority (EA) and Sport Northern Ireland.

3.3 Sport NI have not widely advertised access to the fund and Council was approached directly by the two schools requests requesting support for their submissions as Sport NI required Council sign off of the applications before the deadline 13 November 2019.

3.4 Given the fact that Council has no prior notice of this fund being available and that there was insufficient time between Council being approached by the schools and the deadline set by Sport NI for Committee consideration the applications were signed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services under delegated authority.

3.5 Council officers intend to meet with Sport NI to clarify how they intend to manage the 20/21 fund, to include how they will advertise and make all potential applicants aware of the availability of funding. Further information will be provided to Members following that meeting.

3.6 INVESTMENT

Sport Northern Ireland on behalf of the Your School Your Club Working Group is establishing a list of potential projects that would benefit from support and funding this financial year (i.e. no later than 31 March 2020). Sport Northern Ireland has a capital budget of £300,000 remaining for 2019/20, to assist the implementation of the outcomes envisaged by Your School Your Club. Sport Northern Ireland hopes to bid for additional

capital funds in future years. These projects will involve schools that make their sports facilities open to the community/clubs if the appropriate sports facility infrastructure is provided. Successful projects will be predicated on the principle that schools involved are committed to making their sports facilities accessible to sports clubs/local communities subject to the provision of fit for purpose and appropriate (sports) infrastructure.

3.7 FUNDING THRESHOLDS

Potential funding will be considered on a project by project basis within the following principles:

- The aim of YSYC is to enhance community access to the school sporting estate;
- While there is no minimum investment threshold, Value For Money and additionality will be taken into account in assessing projects;
- For large scale projects, partnership funding will normally be required. YSYC will not be the majority funder in these projects;
- For projects in, and/or benefitting rural areas, flexibility in funding will normally be provided.

3.8 FUNDING IN 2019/20

At a recent workshop hosted by CLOA (Chief Leisure Officers Association) SportNI outlined the current year funding status noting that approximately £300,000 was available out of the annual £1 million for projects. SportNI noted that they were particularly keen to have completed Expressions of Interest forwarded by Schools via Local Authorities by a deadline of 13th November for small projects of up to £60,000. SportNI noted they also are keen for Expressions of Interest for larger projects as well to support budget formation and that Expressions of Interest are welcome at any time from schools.

3.9 BELFAST APPLICATIONS

The Council received applications for submission from Rathmore GS and St Mary's GS. Sport NI have confirmed that the Rathmore submission is to be progressed this year and the St Mary's submission is on a long list for future consideration.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

No financial contribution is required from Belfast City Council. Sport NI have confirmed that further funding may be available in the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment

Equality and Good Relations implications and rural needs assessment are the responsibility of the funder Sport NI.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Use and Condition of Council Bowling Pavilions

The Committee noted a report which provided information on the use and condition of the bowling pavilions within the Council’s parks across the City, including their current status, and whether they were currently being used by any groups and whether any repairs were required.

Partner Agreements Update

The Committee noted the quarterly progress report in relation to Partner Agreements at seven sites and that all Partners had been compliant on reporting matters and financial checks for Quarter 2.

Operational Issues

Proposal for Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee approved the applications to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at North Link, Tardree Park, Norglen Gardens, Avoca Close, Monagh Grove and Norglen Parade.

Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Over the past year the City & Neighbourhood Services Department has received a number of requests from Elected representatives for a range of improvements to our Parks and Open Spaces. These include a notice of motion relating to the provision of artificial lighting in Parks and Water Refill points on Council property. We have also received request to provide recycling bins in Parks and to review the hours Parks are open to the public.**
- 1.2 If introduced all of these improvements have the potential to enhance and improve how we use our Parks and open spaces.**

However more work is needed to consider all the impacts from each and to estimate their cost. The views of users will also need to be gauged. This report is to update members on the range of requests received and to inform members of the framework within which these requests will be considered moving forward.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to;

- Note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Our green and blue infrastructure including our Parks affects the quality of life for everyone in our city. It helps to define a sense of place and the character of our communities; provides important spaces for recreation with associated health and wellbeing benefits and strengthens the resilience of our natural environment to change. Protecting these assets and enhancing the benefits that they provide is therefore integral to the future of Belfast.

3.2 This is a transformational time for our city, with the Belfast Agenda setting out shared commitments across public services to an ambitious vision to create a better quality of life for us all.

3.3 The Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) sets the strategic spatial framework, vision and five strategic principles for the future delivery, management and enhancement of the whole green and blue infrastructure network; helping to meet the outcomes envisaged in the Belfast Agenda's vision. It is supported by a number of other strategies which focus on specific sub-sets of green and blue infrastructure, such as the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS). As BOSS evolves this will inform and future site based plans including future infrastructure improvements and how are Parks and Open spaces will be used.

3.4 In order for our Parks and Open Spaces to work effectively they will need to be well designed, regularly maintained and appropriately funded. This needs to be recognized and used to help attract sustainable funding to ensure the benefits from any future improvements are fully realized.

3.5 Provision of Artificial Lighting to our Parks

We currently have approximately 300 km of road and pathways in our Parks and Open Spaces. To inform any potential lighting scheme a piece of work needs to be undertaken that will consider issues such as any impact on crime and ASB, any impact on landscape character and wildlife habitats and ultimately costings in relation to purchasing and installing the equipment and any associated revenue and maintenance trail.

3.6 Amending the Opening and Closing Hours of Parks

Historically, our parks are open to the public from dawn to dusk. The gates in the majority of sites are opened and closed on a daily basis, by our park warden teams. Changing this has the potential to impact on park users and how we manage our parks. Issues such as Health and Safety, ASB and crime in the parks and neighbouring properties also need to be considered.

3.7 Water drinking Fountains/Refill Points

Historically, water drinking fountains were common in parks but over time have been removed or decommissioned with the arrival of the domestic water supply. With changing trends new drinking fountains were installed in a number of parks around 7 years ago and are currently available in :

- Ormeau Park (x 2)
- CS Lewis Square (x 1)
- Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park (x 1)
- Woodvale Park (x 1)

3.8 If we are to increase the numbers of water drinking fountains in the city, a feasibility needs to be undertaken to establish the best location, design and cost implications of new fountains to ensure that they are utilised to their full potential.

3.9 Recycling Bins in Parks

Over the years, we have installed litterbins in all the key locations across the estate to facilitate the depositing of waste in the bins as opposed to on the ground. Currently there are minimal recycling bins in our Parks and Open Spaces. These bins are more costly than our normal street litter bins and past experience has shown that the recycling rates from them has been poor due to factors such as their location, contamination from dog waste and food waste and waste strewn from the bins by Seagulls and other birds.

3.10 Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) will provide a road map on how the public want to use our Parks and Open spaces over the next 10 -15 years. A public consultation exercise on the strategy has just been completed. The strategy proposes a number of strategic principles (SPs) and these will lay the foundation for future Action plans that will be developed for all our Public Realm.

3.11 If members wish to proceed with the improvements highlighted in this report more work is needed to establish the feasibility of each including some form of public consultation exercise. This work could then be used to inform BOSS and in particular any potential local plans for Parks and Open Spaces. Update reports can be taken back to committee.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs of any of the improvements referred to in this report have not been included within existing budgets.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no known Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.”

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast Youth Forum Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the ongoing work of Belfast City Council’s Youth Forum (BYF). The report outlined the main developments in BYF work in the following areas:

- Relationship and sexual health education project
- Mental health campaign
- Poverty campaign
- Racism and diversity project
- BYF recruitment
- Formalising youth participation structures within BCC
- Queens University “B-RADICAL” research project

The Committee:

- I. agreed the three suggested meeting dates between the People and Communities Committee and the Belfast Youth Forum;
- II. agreed to BCC being a partner stake holder organisation in the Queens University ‘B-RADICAL’ research project; and

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III. to grant permission for BYF recruitment to begin in April 2020.

It noted also the main developments and updates in the paper, particularly in relation to:

- I. the findings and recommendations contained in the BYF 'Any Use?' research report;
- II. BYF campaigns updates;
- III. BYF recruitment timelines

Update for elected Members of Major Events taking place in Belfast in 2020; and requests for use of Botanic Gardens

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th November, it had considered requests for the use of the Botanic Gardens for the following events

1. Tomorrowland, a Music Event in Lower Botanic Gardens on 25th July, 2020; and
2. A Beer and Cider Event, 5th -9th May, 2020 in the Great Lawn area in Botanic Gardens

Those requests had been deferred pending a future report which showed all of the planned events around the spring/summer period of 2020. Accordingly, the Committee considered a report in this regard, following which it approved the use of the Botanic Gardens for the events outlined, subject to the organiser:

- resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meeting all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities;
- consulting with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary and,
- the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services levying the relevant fee for the event company and authorising the level of any necessary bond of intent and reinstatement bond.

Belfast Mela 2020: Partnerships in Parks and Open Spaces.

The Committee was reminded that, over the past number of years, the Council had established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. The event was well received by audiences and added significantly to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. The partnership had delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets. This year the Council had received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use the Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 29th and 30th August 2020.

In previous years the Council had provided financial support through a number of different funding streams, including the Core Multi-Annual programme, Community Festival

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Fund and City and Neighbourhood Services. Each funding strand had been managed via separate funding contracts and monitored independently. In an effort to streamline the management of the Council's funding contribution and impact monitoring, future funding (from 2020) contributions to the Mela would be awarded within the context of the Cultural Strategy and would be facilitated through the Council's Economic Development unit.

The event would require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and would result in restricted access to the general public. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event was from 23rd August to 1st September, 2020, inclusive.

ArtsEkta had requested permission also to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access would be restricted to ticket holders only. In addition, the organisers would undertake consultation with other local stakeholders, such as Queens University, the Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.

The Committee:

- Approved the proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens, subject to the following:
 - that the appropriate legal agreements, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;
 - the Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and entertainment licensing;
 - the timely payment of the bond as required in the legal agreements;
 - Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.
 - The preparation of an event management plan which will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements; and
 - Noted that the organisers would also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use and would be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event might have to change due to adverse weather conditions which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy.

ParkLife Education Programme – Evaluation

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the ParkLife Education Programme and in particular, present for their**

consideration and agreement, an evaluation undertaken of the Programme in 2018/19 by Queen's University Belfast (QUB).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report and the continued success of the ParkLife Education Programme;
- consider and endorse the ParkLife Evaluation report including key findings and recommendations; and
- support the related publicity and the sharing of the learning from the Programme.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The ParkLife Education Programme uses and promotes the Council's parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning. The Programme has been in operation since 2007 and is delivered under contract, by Ulster Wildlife, along with Council staff. The Programme has three main elements: schools, Saturday Clubs and community groups. In 2016, QUB was commissioned as external evaluators to examine the effectiveness of the school element of the Programme, establish an evidence base for the benefits of outdoor learning as well as help guide the future delivery of the Programme.
- 3.2** The findings from the 2016/17 evaluation indicated that the ParkLife Education Programme was a positive experience for the children who attended it, should be regarded as an example of good practice and the findings should be widely publicised. The report recommended that the evaluation should be repeated at a later date to increase the sample size, build a larger evidence base and include a qualitative study with focus groups, to enable a deeper analysis of their understanding of the Programme and its impact on them.
- 3.3** The findings from the report were subsequently publicised and a launch took place in February 2018 and copies of the evaluation report were circulated widely including to all schools involved with the Programme.
- 3.4** A second evaluation of the Programme was therefore undertaken by QUB in 2018/19 and many of the same measures were used, to enable comparability between both evaluations. The Primary outcomes were that as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:

- spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks;
- have learned more about their local park; and
- be more connected to nature.

3.5 The Secondary outcomes were that, as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:

- have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability;
- have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors; and
- rate their health and well-being as higher.

3.6 Key Findings

The evaluation was undertaken between September 2018 and June 2019 in eight schools. 171 children completed an on-line pre-programme and post-programme questionnaire and twelve children from two schools took part in two focus groups.

3.7 The evaluation presents robust evidence that the Programme has a positive impact for all of the outcomes measured and continues to be a positive experience for the children who attended it. In summary, the post programme questionnaire and focus groups indicated that the children, after their involvement in the Programme:

- spend more time in their local parks either on their own, with family or with their teacher and take part in a wider range of activities
- show a substantial improvement in their level of knowledge of their local park and were more positive about their connection and enjoyment of nature and attitudes to environmental sustainability;
- were more positive about learning outdoors and approximately 60% responses included about feeling 'happy', 'good', 'fun' 'amazing/amazed' or that they 'love/like' learning outdoors;
- were generally more positive in their responses relating to their perception of their health and well-being;
- enjoyed learning outdoors (93%) which is the same result as the 2016/17 cohort of children and they mentioned how fun the Programme was, how much they learned/enjoyed specific activities and/or learning about/being in nature/outdoors;
- were less worried about learning outdoors by the time they had finished the Programme;

- when asked for ideas on how they would teach outdoors, their responses reflected how the ParkLife Education programme is currently taught. The most popular suggestions were ‘learn/explore nature, have time in the play park after the learning, learn how to look after/protect nature, explore beyond the park and visit the park more as well as keeping ParkLife activities the same’.

A copy of the evaluation report is included in Appendix A.

3.8 Recommendations

Based on the positive findings presented, the benefits of the Programme are strengthened further as this is the second evaluation of the Programme which are akin to the 2016/17 evaluation and is also supported by evidence from the focus groups. The report recommends that:

- the Programme continues to be delivered in its current model to as many schools as possible so that more children can benefit;
- there should be a scaling up of the Programme throughout other areas/countries together with a further in-depth evaluation, such as a trial (with a control group) and a process evaluation; and
- the Council should consider sharing this best practice with other organisations throughout Northern Ireland and beyond.

3.9 Next Steps

Given the significant findings from this second evaluation, it is important that the ParkLife Education Programme continues in its current format and for the new contract which is being procured for its delivery, from 1 April 2020, is awarded.

It is paramount that the benefits of outdoor learning as exemplified in the Programme are also communicated widely, as best practice. It is therefore proposed that a seminar will take place in Spring 2020 to promote the Programme, the value of outdoor learning and the wider benefits of increasing usage of our parks and improving physical and mental health.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The annual budget for the ParkLife Education Programme has been allocated in the revenue estimates which is subject to final agreement in the departmental budgetary process.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no known implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Kerbside Glass Collection Options

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To respond to the motion raised at the Council meeting of 1st November 2018 and re-iterated at the Committee meeting of 6th August 2019, namely;

‘This Council is committed to increasing household recycling across the city of Belfast; notes the colossal impact waste is having on our oceans, cities and countrysides; welcomes the recent waste consultation; and will commit to introducing glass recycling in households across the city of Belfast as soon as possible.’

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The provision of a kerbside glass collection scheme is a matter frequently raised by Members on behalf of their constituents. This report examines the various collection options and in particular the desire by Members to explore the possibility of expediting such a scheme, in light of the indicative time frame associated with the implementation of a Wheelie-box scheme throughout the city, as noted in the committee meeting of 6th August 2019.
- 3.2 Currently, around 80,000 households (54%) within Belfast have access to a kerbside collection of glass. The total volume of glass captured through kerbside schemes is approximately 3,800 tonnes per annum, contributing 2.5% per annum to the city’s recycling rate. It is estimated that there is around 6,100

tonnes of glass per annum which remains in the residual bins and which is destined for landfill.

- 3.3 Members will be aware that the Council conducted an options appraisal on recycling collection schemes in 2017. This piece of work examined a number of options for the collection of dry recyclables, including glass, from an environmental, financial and legal compliance perspectives. The results were presented to the November 2018 committee. In summary, after consideration of the factors outlined above, the preferred approach which was agreed and carried forward into the public consultation exercise conducted in Summer 2018, was that based on the Wheelie-box approach with proposed restrictions to residual waste.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding the results of the collections options appraisal, the following sections examine the various kerbside glass collection schemes deployed by Local Authorities with commentary on their pros and cons and indicative timeframes for deployment. The timeframes for deployment include key issues such as; governance processes, procurement exercises, lead times for vehicles and containers, Communications and then the delivery of the scheme on the ground. In all instances the roll-out is on a phased basis which, while slower, allows for assessment, bedding-in and corrective action if required. This is a realistic and reduced risk approach to deployment.
- 3.5 A kerbside sort scheme (Wheelie-box or Bryson Recycling scheme) collects a range of dry recyclables including glass in separate boxes and these are stored in separate stillage compartments on a Resource Recovery vehicle (RRV). The focus of this scheme is on the collection of higher quality materials to deliver higher income yield and support local re-processors rather than relying upon the export of these resources. The RRVs are designed to capture a wide range of materials (dry recyclables including glass and food waste) on a single pass rather than the requirement to have a specific vehicle allocated for the collection of glass only. The Indicative timeline for implementation of this scheme which seeks to deliver, as far as reasonably practicable, a standardised scheme across the city, is around 4-5 years. This is the scheme which is being tested in around 5,000 households in the Castle DEA.
- 3.6 A twin stream collection of glass would involve the provision of an additional wheeled bin to householders in the outer city (88,000 hh). New split bodied vehicles would be required to take the current blue bin materials in one compartment and the glass and tins/cans/plastics in the other compartment. This type of

scheme maintains the integrity of the key materials and in particular paper as this remains separate from the glass during the collection process. This scheme would retain and re-enforce the two distinct dry recyclables collection schemes in the city as inner city households currently on the box scheme will not have the storage space for two bins. The indicative timeline for implementation is around 5-6 years, the additional year over the kerbside sort scheme, being the internal governance and public consultation considerations.

- 3.7 A caddy insert scheme involves the provision of a caddy/box which sits inside the existing dry recycling bin. Similar to the twin stream approach this scheme would require new split body vehicles along with the procurement and delivery of the caddy boxes. The insertion of the caddy also impacts upon the capacity of the bin and additional bins would need to be provided in such cases. This type of scheme would also result in the maintenance of two distinct schemes throughout the city; inner city kerbside sort and outer city 3 bin scheme. The indicative time line for implementation is 5-6 years.
- 3.8 There are approximately 22,000 households which have a fortnightly collection of glass only via the purple box scheme. The extension of this scheme to the remaining households which do not have kerbside collections of glass is relatively uncomplicated at an operational level however the environmental benefit of capturing the additional glass tonnage versus the carbon created by the collection service may be questionable. In addition, such schemes tend to be expensive on a cost per tonne basis with limited opportunity to mitigate the cost through the income stream as glass is a low yielding material, typically £10 per tonne compared with £70 per tonne for paper. Based on the existing purple box scheme, the net revenue cost of adopting this approach would be in the region of £650k per annum. The indicative time line for implementation is around 5 years.
- 3.9 A fully co-mingled scheme, involves the inclusion of glass within the dry recyclables bin. Members will be aware that at the committee meeting of 6 August this approach was discussed and it was the recommendation of officers not to progress this type of scheme for various reasons outlined in the report. In addition, the existing Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract precludes this system for the Council during the course of the contract (3 years plus option to extend 2 years).
- 3.10 Based on the outcome of the options appraisal of future kerbside collection arrangements, the public consultation feedback, and progress to date in terms of the Capital

Programme and taking into consideration that the most expeditious of schemes may not necessarily deliver the desired environmental, economic or social benefits, the approach adopted by committee at its meeting on 6 August 2019, remains the most judicious option.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Stadia Community Benefits Initiative

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and update on the action plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the content of the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.

3.2 The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative (‘the Project’) to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting

equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.

- 3.3** In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in gaelic games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities are now fully incorporated into the action plan in this financial year with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at Communications Board, Delivery Board, Policy and Performance Board.
- 3.4** The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary. Formal review of the agreement will be carried out in years 5 and 10.
- 3.5** The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:
- a. Number of coaching sessions provided
 - b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching
 - c. Number of sessions improving club governance
 - d. Number of volunteering opportunities
 - e. Participation opportunities for under 16s
 - f. Female participation rates
 - g. Number of people completing skills development programme
 - h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups
 - i. Number of sessions for school and youth groups
 - j. Community group usage of stadia
 - k. Number of clubs attaining club-mark
 - l. Educational opportunities
 - m. Number of programmes targeting ASB
 - n. Improved collaborative working

- o. Number of disabled participants
- p. Number of older people participating

- 3.6 Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, annual work-plans were developed for years 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.7 Programme delivery for year 3(19-20) is currently under-way including similar programmes as last year. IFA and GAA agreed a transition year action plan drawing additional resources for this years activities.
- 3.8 At the end of quarter 2, the performance report for 2019-20 indicates that the majority of intermediate benefits are on target. The board received satisfactory assurance that these benefits would be caught up in quarter 3 and 4. Quarter 1 & 2 (19-20) performance report is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.9 To improve collaborative working and increase the community benefits through the 2020-2021 workplan, a joint planning workshop was held in the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park to identify specific themes.

3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**

In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.

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

There are no additional impacts related to this report.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Update on the Reference Group on Older People

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 5th November 2019.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Cross Party Discussion on the need for a Drug Task force

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McCusker requested that – *“Belfast City Council convene a cross party discussion on the need for a drug task force in response to the increase in drug related incidents and deaths. Chief medical officer Michael*

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Mc Bride is currently discussing this proposal with all departments including DOH, DOJ, PHA and PSNI. The drug task force needs to be led as an independent body that can review and recommend change and we need total honesty and transparency with a different approach on how we are dealing with the increase in drug related incidents.”

The Committee noted the work and meetings which were currently taking place on these issues between Party group leaders and key responsible organisations, and ongoing between Senior Council officers and Senior officers from other organisations; noted that a further meeting would take place in January; agreed that representatives of Extern, Addiction NI and the DfI be invited to the relevant meetings, and agreed that a report on the outcomes of those meetings be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Comber Greenway –
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds

In accordance with notice on the agenda Councillor McReynolds requested that –
“Following incidents where rat poison has been laid along the greenway by an unknown individual and the subsequent death of a dog, I would like officers to bring a report back to advise what steps can be taken to improve the greenway and what measures could be introduced to deter such actions happening again.”

The Committee noted that the Council did not have responsibility for the Greenway and noted also that the Director of Neighbourhood Services undertook to discuss the issues with the relevant teams in the Department to see actions could be taken.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 27th November, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: 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 Aldermen Kingston and Spence and Councillor Whyte.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest on the basis that a family member was employed by Co-Operative Alternatives.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy declared an interest in that a family member was employed by the NOW Group.

However, as neither organisation was seeking support from the Council, they were not required to leave the meeting.

Presentations

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that it had granted approval previously for a number of social enterprise/co-operative sector organisations to attend a future meeting in order to outline the extent of their work.

He drew the Members' attention to the publication in 2019 of the Re-Balancing the Economy Report and the Co-Operatives UK Annual Report, which had highlighted the significant contribution made by social enterprises and co-operatives, respectively to the Northern Ireland economy. He then provided an overview of the work which the Council had undertaken to date in support of that sector and pointed to the Social Enterprise and Co-operative Action Plan, which had been formulated in the context of the Belfast Agenda, the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Enterprise Framework for Belfast, and had been approved by the Committee on 11th September.

The Committee then received presentations from the following organisations:

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Social Enterprise NI

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. C. Jess, Director of Social Enterprise NI, to the meeting.

Mr. C. Jess informed the Committee that social enterprises were defined as being businesses with primarily social objectives, whose surpluses were principally reinvested in the business or in the community, rather than creating profit for shareholders and owners.

He explained that Social Enterprise NI acted as the representative body for social enterprises and social entrepreneurs across Northern Ireland. The organisation provided its members, irrespective of their size or experience, with an opportunity to have their views publicised, to learn from one another and to collaborate with the public and private sectors.

He highlighted the contribution which social enterprises were making to the economy of Northern Ireland and pointed out that, between 2013 and 2018, the number of organisations had risen from 473 to 843, employee numbers had risen from 12,200 to 24,860 and turnover had grown from £592m to £980m. He highlighted also the challenge faced by the fact that approximately 70% of leaders of social enterprises were currently aged between 45 and 64 years and confirmed that Social Enterprise NI had, as part of its increasing education and awareness work, recently appointed a Young Ambassador. Mr. Jess concluded by providing an update on Social Enterprise NI's current activity, which included engagement with Political Parties and Government departments.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Trademark

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Nolan and Ms. A. McLarnon, representing Trademark and the Belfast Cleaning Society respectively to the meeting.

Mr. Nolan reported that Trademark, which was a member of the Worker Co-operative Network, assisted in the development of community-owned and worker-owned co-operatives. The organisation was a supporter of the Belfast Cleaning Society and was a founding member of the co-operative development body, Co-operative Alternatives.

He explained that worker co-operatives were beneficial in that they built wealth at a local level, met employment needs and outperformed conventional investor owned enterprises. Their survival rates also exceeded those of conventional enterprises and local economies which had higher densities of co-operatives had higher levels of economic equality, resilience and social cohesion. He outlined the nature of the financial and institutional support which was required to develop co-operatives and highlighted the fact that the establishment in 2005 by the Scottish government of a co-operative development sector to assist sustainable co-operative businesses had resulted in a three-fold increase in the number of worker co-operatives since 2015.

Ms. McLarnon outlined the background to the establishment in 2011 of the Belfast Cleaning Society cross-community workers co-operative. The number of workers/owners

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had risen subsequently from five to fourteen and would rise to nineteen as a result of the co-operative having secured a major contract recently. She pointed out that the organisation was a living wage employer and highlighted its success in attaining in 2016 a Living Wage Champion award, in recognition of its support for the Living Wage movement.

She concluded by pointing out that the Belfast Cleaning Society was working with Trademark, the European Confederation of Industrial and Service Co-operatives and other stakeholders across Belfast and Northern Ireland to establish an all-island network of co-operatives.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Co-operative Alternatives

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. T. O'Hara and Mr. G. Bell, who were Board members of Co-operative Alternatives, to the meeting.

Ms. O'Hara informed the Committee that Co-operative Alternatives, which had been established in 2013, was Northern Ireland's leading co-operative development body and that it was guided by the co-operative values of democracy, equality, equity and solidarity with the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and care for others. The organisation's primary objectives were to:

- support the development of co-operatives and community benefit societies and contribute to the creation of a co-operative economy;
- provide services and business support to enterprises and projects which value people and the environment as much as profit;
- provide information and share resources and encourage co-operation amongst co-operatives nationally and internationally;
- promote the co-operative business models by educating, researching and publicising; and
- work in collaboration with the wider social economy and the third sector.

She explained that Co-operative Alternatives supported sectors such as craft and artisan food, creative industries, housing and renewable energy and provided details of regional co-operative support programmes and local council programmes. She concluded by outlining the economic, financial and legislative challenges faced by those wishing to establish a co-operative and by highlighting the economic, financial and cultural benefits which could be derived, if successful.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

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Now Group

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. M. Monaghan, Chief Executive, NOW Group, to the meeting.

Ms. Monaghan informed the Members that the NOW Group was a social enterprise which supported people with learning difficulties and autism into jobs with a future, as well as offering training, transition and volunteering opportunities. She explained that, of the 1,000 people who would be supported in 2019, at least 100 would secure paid employment and a significant number would gain accredited qualifications. In terms of its social impact for this year, every £1 invested which was invested by the NOW Group would generate £15 in social value.

She provided details of a number of successful initiatives which had been established by the NOW Group, such as the Loaf catering academy, four cafes, a corporate catering, a pottery and a consultancy business. She highlighted also the benefit of the JAM (Just a Minute) card initiative for those with a learning difficulty, autism or communication barrier and stressed that further work was needed to make the City centre more JAM card friendly.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 4th December, 2019

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors S. Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Ferguson,
Flynn, Garrett, Graham, T. Kelly, McAllister, McLaughlin
and Murphy.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. S. Dolan, Acting Director of City Regeneration
and Development; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Chairing of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, the Committee agreed that Councillor Flynn chair the meeting.

(Councillor Flynn in the Chair.)

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Hargey), the Deputy Chairperson (Councillor Howard), Alderman Spence and Councillor O'Hara.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were reported.

Presentation

Tourism NI

The Committee was informed that Mr. J. McGrillen, Chief Executive, Tourism NI, was in attendance in order to provide an overview of the work of Tourism NI and he was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. McGrillen reviewed the roles of Tourism Ireland, Tourism NI and Visit Belfast and explained that Tourism NI was responsible for promoting Northern Ireland as a

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
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destination to tourists from within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It was responsible also for the statutory certification of all tourism accommodation provision in Northern Ireland, the funding of major events and supporting investment in the development of visitor attractions and experiences.

He reported that, between 1998 and 2018, the number of out-of-state visitors to Northern Ireland had increased by 90% and, significantly, tourism spend had risen by 208%. He highlighted the importance of Belfast to the local tourism sector and drew the Members' attention to the fact that, in 2018, it had accounted for 41% of all tourism spend in Northern Ireland. He compared tourism figures for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and pointed out that, based upon current performance, Tourism NI was optimistic that the previously agreed target of delivering £1bn of tourism spend in Northern Ireland by 2020 could be achieved within the current calendar year and that there was the potential to double that spend by 2030. The Department for the Economy was in the process of finalising a strategic document to be issued for consultation early in 2020, which it was anticipated would endorse that target. He outlined the work which would be required to achieve that objective and stressed that it had the potential to create 25,000 new jobs within the tourism sector over the next decade, including 12,000 in Belfast.

Mr. McGrillen then outlined the extent of Tourism NI's work in promoting Belfast to the travel trade and highlighted, in particular, the hosting in 2018 of the Hosts Global Forum and in 2020 of Visit Britain's Explore GB and Northern Ireland travel trade event, as well as a number of 'Meet the Buyer' tourism networking events. He provided details of Tourism NI's capital funding expenditure in recent years and pointed to the fact that it provided £1.6 million annually to support events across Northern Ireland, as well as allocating £200k to a subvention fund to attract conferences to Belfast and £300k to Visit Belfast to assist in promoting the City overseas.

He informed the Committee that 2019 had seen the launch of the innovative "Embrace a Giant Spirit" branding initiative and outlined how it would be utilised by Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to promote Northern Ireland on the island of Ireland and internationally, with the aim of increasing visitor numbers and ensuring economic impact across all regions. He then drew the Committee's attention to the outcome of a detailed survey which had been undertaken in 2018 of approximately 3,000 visitors to Northern Ireland, which for Belfast had been largely positive, in terms of strengths and areas for improvement. He concluded by highlighting both the challenges being faced currently by the tourism sector around Brexit, funding, skills availability and international connectivity and the opportunities to work collaboratively on events programming, the Belfast Region City Deal/Belfast Story and neighbourhood tourism.

Mr. McGrillen then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by the Members and was thanked by the Chairperson for his presentation.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Restricted Items

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

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

Belfast Zoo – Update on Performance

(Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a report on the performance of the Zoo for the second quarter of 2019/20, under five key areas, namely, Animal Collection/Welfare, Education Services, Financial Performance, Marketing and Events and Visitor Services. The report had confirmed that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency had renewed the Zoo's operating licence for a further three years, with no conditions attached, and had provided an update on the implementation of the high priority recommendations arising from the independent reviews in 2018 of animal welfare and security.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided, congratulated staff on the renewal of the licence and agreed that the next quarterly report should include details of the Zoo's planned annual programme of events and of visitor footfall trends for the past three years.

Requests to Present

Purple Flag Accreditation

The Committee agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation on Belfast's bid for Purple Flag night time economy accreditation.

Markets Development Action Plan

The Committee agreed to receive at its next monthly meeting a presentation on the Development Plan for St. George's Market and that it should make reference to the Sunday market offering for cruise ship visitors and the potential for increasing the frequency of the Twilight Market.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Site Visit – Merchant Square

The Committee agreed, at the request of the developer, to undertake a site visit to the Merchant Square Development in Wellington Place.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting 2019/20

The Committee considered a report which set out the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for the second quarter of 2019/20. The report confirmed that there had, during that period, been an underspend of £74,000 (0.8%), with a year-end overspend of £326,000 (1.9%) being forecast. The underspend could be attributed primarily to vacant posts across a number of services, which had been offset by lower than budgeted income and to additional health and safety expenditure.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 11th December, 2019

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor S. Baker (Chairperson);
The High Sherriff, Alderman Sandford;
Councillors Bunting, Donnelly, Groves,
Hussey, Hutchinson, T. Kelly, Magee,
Magennis, McAteer and Smyth.

In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Dorrian, Howard and M. Kelly.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Delegated Matters

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

Applications Approved under Delegated Authority

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

Application for the Grant of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel

The Committee considered the undernoted report for the Grant of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the Grant of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence based on the Council’s Standard Conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.**

Premises and Locations	Applicant
Wellington Park Hotel 19-21 Malone Road Belfast BT9 6RU	Mr Felix Mooney Dunadry Development Company Ltd Wellington Park Hotel 19-21 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 6RU.

- 1.2 A location map is attached as Appendix 1 (copy available [here](#)).**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations made you are required to make a decision to either:**

- 1. Approve the application for the grant of the Entertainments Licence, or**
- 2. Approve the application for the grant of the Entertainments Licence with Special Conditions, or**
- 3. Refuse the application for the grant of the Entertainments Licence.**

- 2.2 If the application is refused, or Special Conditions are attached to the Licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council’s decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members are reminded that all applications for the Grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences are brought before Committee for your consideration.**
- 3.2 Committee are advised that an application for this outdoor area was considered at your meeting of 18 April 2018 and, whilst objections had been received in respect of the**

application, the Committee agreed to grant the outdoor entertainments licence for a period of six months.

- 3.3 However, the applicant did not apply to renew the licence and it subsequently expired.

Details of Premises and Proposals

- 3.4 The applicant proposes to provide outdoor entertainment within the external beer garden, which is located to the front of the Wellington Park Hotel. The external area will be utilised by both the Botanic Inn and the Wellington Park Hotel.

- 3.5 The previous Licence was issued with the following terms and conditions:

(a) Occupancy of the external beer garden to be 350 persons.

(b) The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided are:

- Monday to Saturday 11.30 am to 11.00 pm, and
- Sunday 12.30 pm to 10.00 pm.

(c) Special Conditions:

1. The capacity of 350 persons for the outdoor area will be included in the existing overall maximum occupancy of the indoor areas; it is not in addition to this occupancy.
2. The maximum indoor occupancy for both premises will be managed in conjunction with the external area to ensure numbers in all areas do not exceed capacity.
3. Entertainment to be provided to the outdoor area must be no greater than 75 dBLAeq, 5mins at 1m from the loudspeaker.
4. Outdoor area must be managed in accordance with the Noise Management Strategy dated January 2018.
5. Music must be provided through the in-house sound system.

The applicant has advised that, if a Licence is granted for the area, it is his intention to provide low key entertainment in the form of solo performers, live bands or a DJ through the in-house speaker system.

- 3.6 Layout plans of the proposed external area are attached as Appendix 3 (copy available [here](#)).

- 3.7 The applicant has provided a Noise management Plan which is attached as Appendix 4 (copy available [here](#)).

Representations

- 3.8 Notice of the application has been advertised and no written representations have been lodged.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

- 3.9 The police have offered no objection to the application. A copy of their correspondence is attached as Appendix 5 (copy available [here](#)).

3.10 **Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service**

The Fire and Rescue Service have offered no objection to the application.

Health, Safety and Welfare Issues

- 3.11 The premises will continue to be inspected as part of our During Performance Inspection regime to ensure the applicant adheres to their Licence Conditions.

Noise Issues

- 3.12 The Council's Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the application and they have confirmed that two complaints were received in the past 12 months relating to noise break out from the premises, neither of which related to noise arising from entertainment.

Applicant

- 3.13 The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting should you choose to hear from them or have any queries in relation to the application.

3.14 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment which is catered for within existing budgets.

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

There are no issues associated with this report.”

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The Building Control Manager provided an overview of the application. He highlighted that, if the Licence was approved, the special conditions under 3.5 of the report would be attached to the Outdoor Entertainments Licence.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to approve the application for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel, Malone Road, with entertainment being permitted to take place on Monday to Saturday between the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. and Sunday between the hours of 12.30 p.m. and 10.00 p.m., subject to the conditions outlined in the report.

Application for the Variation of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for The Deer's Head - 3am

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the variation of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Deer's Head, based upon the Council's standard condition to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that entertainment was provided currently on Monday to Saturday from 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 a.m. and on Sunday from 12.30 p.m. to midnight. The licensee had now applied to provide entertainment till 3.00 a.m. the following morning on Monday to Sunday.

He pointed out that the applicant had stated that the main reason they wished to extend the hours of entertainment was to compete with other premises in the City centre providing late night entertainment. He advised that the applicant considered the current 1.00am Licence left them at a disadvantage and, as the area they were situated in was severely underdeveloped, they needed to make themselves a destination venue with a key role to play in the regeneration of the North Street area.

The Building Control Manager confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for the Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, given that the application related to the extension of the hours of entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m., it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

He advised that no noise complaints had been received in relation to the premises in the last 12 months.

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for The Deer's Head, 1-3 Lower Garfield Street, thereby permitting entertainment to take place till 3.00 a.m. the following morning on Monday to Sunday.

Consideration of Designating Resolutions for Street Trading Sites

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting of 19 June this year, the Committee granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the designation of a new street trading site at the entrance into Victoria Square from Ann Street for the sale of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.

1.2 At that meeting the Committee also granted approval to initiate the statutory process for the rescinding of the designating resolution for the 3 Designated sites at Queen’s Quay.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Based on the information presented the Committee is requested to consider each proposal in turn and to decide whether to:

2.2

A) New designation

- 1. Approve a Designating Resolution to designate the entrance into Victoria Square from Ann Street for the sale of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date, or**
- 2. Decide not to proceed with the proposal.**

2.3 In addition to making any Designating Resolution, Members may, having considered all comments, record any reasonable Conditions that should be applied to a subsequent Licence. For example, these may include hours of trade, days of trade, duration of Licence, etc.

2.4 Members are reminded that once the site becomes designated the Council will subsequently have to consider any applications that may be received for a Street Trading Licence.

2.5 At that time, an assessment will be made of the suitability and quality of the proposal within the requirements of the Act. Any Street Trading Licence granted may also be subject to reasonable conditions which can be used to control the commodities being sold, and potential nuisance, etc.

2.6

B) Rescinding of designation

1. Approve the rescinding of the Designating Resolution for Queen's Quay and include the operational date, or
2. Decide not to proceed with the proposal.

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

3.1 The designation process involved seeking comments from interested parties, including relevant statutory bodies, through public advertisement and consultation.

3.2 The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 requires the Council to ensure that each application is fairly and objectively assessed, that all relevant factors are considered and, in doing so, the Council must consult with the:

- a) PSNI, and
- b) Department for Infrastructure - Roads.

3.3 The Council may also consult other persons as it considers appropriate. Such consultees may include:

- a) Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM)
- b) Local residents, business and commercial premises in the vicinity of the site in respect of which the application has been received.

3.4 Subsequently, the Service has received responses to the applications from a variety of interested parties and individuals.

3.5 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider each of the proposals in conjunction with any submissions received and make a decision on whether or not to designate or rescind the sites.

A) Designation of new Site

3.6 Victoria Square Management have applied to the Council requesting that a site, measuring 14ft by 15ft, is designated on their land at the entrance into Victoria Square from Ann Street for the sale of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities.

3.7 A map of the proposed site is attached as Appendix 1 (copy available [here](#)).

- 3.8 Committee may wish to note that the Act applies to land which is privately owned, if the public have access to it.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

- 3.9 The police have offered no objection to the proposal.

DFI Roads

- 3.10 The Department have advised that this location is not part of the adopted road network and consequently they have no objection to the application. However, it is likely that patrons queuing at the stall will cause an obstruction of the footway, taking into account the density of pedestrians expected during its hours of operation and the presence of existing street furniture.

Belfast City Centre Management

- 3.11 BCCM state there are already a number of businesses in the vicinity of Ann Street which all sell similar items.

Commerz Real

- 3.12 Commerz Real is the landowner of Victoria Square and have confirmed they have no objection to the proposal.

Boojum – Victoria Square at the Ann Street entrance.

- 3.13 They have objected to the proposal because:

- They have an existing exclusivity agreement with the Landlords of Victoria Square Shopping Centre which is in place to protect their business against competition in and around the space that is being proposed for designation.
- Designating a new site for the sale of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages in this location brings direct competition. They believe there will be no control over the business, which could be direct competitors, discounting on the same products or even something that is not well managed, and this would reduce footfall.
- They pay substantial occupational costs including rates as part of their unit.

- They have existing sight lines from Ann Street to their front door which is crucial to customers knowing where they are. The proposed location will severely diminish that and have an impact on their trade. Shopping Centre customers sit and relax in this location and that will be taken away.

- 3.14 In response to this objection Victoria Square Management have confirmed there is an exclusivity agreement with Boojum, however, it only relates to Mexican fast casual dining, and it expires in February 2020. It is also never their intention to introduce a direct competitive offer with any of their tenants, this would not be in any of their interests. The sole purpose is to create activity and have the ability to have food trucks offering additionality, for periods of time.
- 3.15 Victoria Square Management have met with Boojum, to reassure them of their intentions, however, Boojum still wish to maintain their objection.

Fish City - 33 Ann Street Belfast

- 3.16 Fish City do not want another vendor selling similar commodities as their business and they do not want any structure to block their sight lines on Ann Street.
- 3.17 Copies of all the responses are attached to this report for your information as Appendix 2 (copy available [here](#)).
- 3.18 **Published 28-day Notice**

No responses were received to the public notice.

B) Rescinding the Designation of sites

- 3.19 The procedures that must be followed for rescinding a Designating Resolution are the same as those for making the Designation in the first place.
- 3.20 The Department for Communities, Belfast Regeneration Directorate, as landowner of Queen's Quay, had asked that the designation of 3 sites on their land at Queen's Quay is rescinded.

PSNI

- 3.21 The police have offered no objection to the proposal.

3.22 DFI Roads

Dfl Roads have offered no objection to the proposal.

Published 28 day Notice

3.23 No responses were received to the public notice.

3.24 Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets.

3.25 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no issues associated with this report.”

Victoria Square from Ann Street

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the potential impact the stall would have on existing businesses in the vicinity of Ann Street which sold similar commodities, obstruction of the footway, overdevelopment of the area and the objections which had been received from local businesses.

After discussion, the Committee, having considered the comments and the objections which had been received, agreed not to designate the above-mentioned site for the purpose of street trading.

3 sites at Queen's Quay

The Committee considered the request from the Department for Communities, Belfast Regeneration Directorate, to rescind the designation of 3 sites on land at Queen's Quay.

Accordingly, the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agreed, pursuant to Section 3 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, to pass a resolution to rescind the original designating resolution with effect from 31st January, 2020.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licenses Issued Under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted the applications that had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Non-Delegated Matters

Update on Institute of Licensing National Training Event

The Committee was reminded that Institute of Licensing's National Training Event took place in November 2019 and the Committee had authorised the attendance of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of Planning and Building Control and the Building Control Manager to attend.

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The Building Control Manager advised that the event had been a great opportunity to meet with licensing professionals from across the UK and keep abreast of changes to licensing in other jurisdictions. He reported that themes and learning from the conference included presentations on:

- Cumulative Impact areas;
- Drug Trends;
- Public Sector Equality Duty in Licensing;
- Partnership approach to enforcement;
- Safeguarding in Licensing;
- Fit and Proper Person Criteria; and
- Public safety Challenges for Licensed Events.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 10th December, 2019

PRE DETERMINATION HEARING

- Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);
Aldermen McCoubrey and Rodgers; and
Councillors Brooks, Canavan, Collins,
Garrett, Groogan, McKeown,
McMullan and O'Hara.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning
and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Hanvey.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Pre Determination Hearing for application LA04/2019/0991/F – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 10 storey mixed use development comprising a restaurant on the ground floor and mezzanine floors and 71 apartments at 57-59 and 61-63 Dublin Road

The Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Pre-Determination Hearing for the application. He explained that a Pre-Determination Hearing was simply to hear the views of interested parties and statutory consultees, and for Members of the Committee to seek clarification from these parties on the facts surrounding the development.

He reminded the Members that the objective of the meeting was to focus on the material planning considerations and to facilitate the Committee in making its determination of the application. The Committee was reminded that no decision may be reached at the Hearing, as Committee Members and planners might wish to consider the views made prior to making a determination at the scheduled Committee meeting later that evening.

The Principal Planning officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a ten storey mixed use development.

He reminded the Committee that it had previously considered the application at its meeting on 15th October, where it had resolved to approve the application, with

**Planning Committee,
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conditions, including a Section 76 Agreement. He explained that, under the Planning (Notification of Applications) Direction 2017, it had been necessary to notify the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) of the decision, as the resolution to approve was contrary to the views of a statutory consultee, namely, the Historic Environment Division (HED).

He advised the Members that HED considered that the proposal would have an adverse impact on the nearby listed Shaftesbury Square hospital and that it failed to satisfy Policy BH 11 of PPS 6.

The Committee was advised that, on 12th November, the DfI had confirmed that it did not consider it necessary for the application to be referred to it for determination. The Principal Planning officer explained that, Regulation 7(1) of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 required the Council to hold a Pre-Determination Hearing to give the applicant and interest parties the opportunity to be heard by the Planning Committee.

The Principal Planning officer advised the Members that NI Water had confirmed, on 5th December, that it was now content that a new 375mm diameter concrete surface water sewer had been laid on the Dublin Road which would be able to serve the proposed development and that it therefore had no issues with the application.

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. R. O'Toole, agent, was in attendance in order to answer any questions from the Committee. As no Members had any questions for the agent, the Chairperson thanked him for his attendance.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted that no decision would be taken on the application until later that evening, at the monthly meeting.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 10th December, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);
Aldermen McCoubrey and Rodgers; and
Councillors Brooks, Canavan, Collins,
Garrett, Groogan, Hussey, McKeown,
McMullan, Murphy and O'Hara.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning
and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Hanvey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 12th and 14th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 2

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 financial position for the Planning Committee, which was a net underspend of £544,000, with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £326,000.

The Committee was advised that the main reasons for the underspend related to planning fees received having exceeded the anticipated level for the quarter by £352,000 which was offset by an under achievement of £48,000 fee income in Building Control. The Committee was advised that a number of interim vacancies within the Building Control section and a reduced expenditure on dangerous structures had driven a £176,000 underspend in expenditure budgets with other underspends across the Planning Service equating to £63,000.

Site Visits

It was noted that the Committee had undertaken site visits on 21st November in respect of the following planning applications:

- LA04/2018/0022/F - Community, cultural and sporting hub for the Upper Andersonstown area incorporating; a community hub building accommodating a multi-functional hall, handball court, fitness suite, health and well-being suite and associated ancillary accommodation. Replacement of floodlit grass pitch with floodlit synthetic pitch. Two floodlit multi-use games areas. Pre-nursery building housing 1 no. classroom and a small outdoor play area, landscaping and a new footpath link from the Shaw's Road and associated car parking at Rossa Park, Shaw's Road;
- LA04/2018/0471/F - Upgrading of playing fields to include new 3G surfaces, floodlights, fencing, dug outs, 2No. 200 seater stands, toilet blocks, turnstiles, additional car parking and associated ground works at The Boys Brigade Recreation Centre, 108 Belvoir Drive; and
- LA04/2017/1991/F - Construction of a new 5 storey office development for science and I.T. based business and associated car parking and public realm works at Land adjacent to Concourse Buildings, Queens Road (Catalyst Building).

It was also noted that a briefing and a site visit had been undertaken, on 6th December, in respect of application LA04/2017/2341/O - lands bounded by Royal Avenue, York Street, Church Street, North Street, Rosemary Street, High Street and Donegall Street (former Royal Exchange).

In response to a Member's request, the Committee agreed to invite the Belfast Harbour Commissioners in to a future meeting to discuss the regeneration of the Harbour area.

Abandonments

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposal to abandon:

- Land located to the side of No. 13 Fortfield Place/the Back Street at Duncairn Gardens.

Planning Appeals Notified

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

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 5th November and 2nd December, 2019.

Miscellaneous Items

Listed Building

(Alderman McCoubrey left the meeting at this point)

The Committee was advised that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required HED to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It was reported that the Second Survey of all of Northern Ireland's building stock was currently taking place, whereby the first List of Buildings of special architectural or historic interest, which had been established in 1974, was being updated and improved.

The Principal Planning Officer explained that correspondence had been received from the Historic Environment Division (HED) regarding the proposed listing of St. Columba's Church of Ireland, Knock, King's Road.

The Committee noted the proposed listing.

Draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan – Update

The Principal Planning Officer explained that the Council's draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) had been subject to public consultation from June to September 2019, in tandem with the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS). He explained that some minor changes were being proposed to the GBIP as a result of consultation feedback, prior to its adoption and publication.

The Committee noted the update on the draft consultation process and the proposed changes and actions as detailed within the report, and that the agreement regarding the proposed changes to GBIP would be considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th December.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 4 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

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exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Consultation response to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council LDP Draft Plan Strategy 2030

The Planning Manager (Policy) provided the Committee with an overview of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's (MEABC) Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy, which he advised was out for public consultation. He highlighted to the Members that the consultation period would close tomorrow, on 11th December, 2019.

The Committee considered the draft response, which was sought by MEABC as an adjoining metropolitan area local planning authority.

The Committee agreed the submission of the draft response to MEABC.

Consultation response to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council LDP Draft Plan Strategy 2032

The Planning Manager (Policy) provided the Committee with an overview of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's (LCCC) Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy, which he advised was out for public consultation. He advised the Members that the consultation period would close on 10th January, 2020.

He advised the Committee that the draft Plan Strategy had been circulated amongst the Council's Departments for comments and that the feedback received primarily related to Land Supply and Housing Growth, Strategic Employment Allocations including West Lisburn/Blaris mixed use site, Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre and Transport.

The Committee was advised that the consultation response would be submitted for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th December.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Developer Contributions Framework

The Director of Planning and Building Control explained that a 12 week consultation had taken place on the Developer Contributions Framework in 2018.

A Member requested that officers ensured that the Motion that the Committee had agreed at its meeting on 12th November, regarding the Management of Communal Areas and Open Space in Developments, be considered alongside the Framework.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and noted that it would be submitted for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th December.

Revised Scheme of Delegation

The Director of Planning and Building Control provided the Committee with an overview of a number of proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation.

He explained that the report would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration on 17th December, and also highlighted that, when agreed by the Council, it was also then required to be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure for its agreement.

The Committee noted the contents of the report in advance of it being submitted for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th December.

Issue Raised in Advance by a Member

Best Practice Protocol for the Operation of Planning Committees and a Review of Decisions that “assess the quality of decision taking” – Councillor McMullan to raise

Councillor McMullan requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting in relation to the former Department of the Environment’s (DoE) report of June 2015 “Best Practice Protocol for the Operation of Planning Committees”, which suggested that an annual review of a number of Planning Committee decisions be assessed in terms of the quality of its decision taking.

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting considering the feasibility of such a practice for Belfast City Council.

Planning Applications

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

LA04/2019/0991/F - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 10 storey mixed use development comprising a restaurant on the ground and mezzanine floors and 71 apartments at 57-59 & 61-63 Dublin Road

(Alderman McCoubrey re-joined the meeting at this point)

The Principal Planning officer reminded the Committee that it had held a Pre-Determination Hearing in relation to the application earlier in the evening.

He provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application and reminded the Members that they had previously resolved to approve the application, on 15th October, but that as a statutory consultee had objected, it had been necessary to notify the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) of the decision. The Committee was advised

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

He advised the Members that HED considered that the proposal would have an adverse impact on the nearby listed Shaftesbury Square hospital and that it failed to satisfy Policy BH 11 of PPS 6.

The Principal Planning officer drew the Members' attention to the Late Items pack, where NI Water had confirmed that it was now content that a new surface water sewer had been laid on the Dublin Road which would be able to serve the proposed development and that it no longer had an issue with the application.

The Committee was advised that Mr. R. O'Toole, agent, was in attendance in order to answer any questions from the Committee. As no questions were posed, the Chairperson thanked him for his attendance.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions and to enter into a Section 76 Agreement.

**(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 Chairperson advised the Committee that, as Alderman McCoubrey had not been present for the discussion on the application on 15th October, he could not take part in the vote on the item.)

The Committee was reminded that it had previously considered the application at its September meeting, where it had agreed to defer in order to undertake a site visit, and then again at its October meeting. The Principal Planning Officer explained that, at its meeting in October, the Committee had again agreed to defer consideration of the application, noting that the proposal involved an important Listed Building on the At Risk Register and to allow the applicant further time to engage with planning officers to see if the outstanding issues could be resolved.

The Members were advised that sketch drawings of a potential alternative scheme had been submitted to the Planning Manager in late October, indicating a change in design approach and with a reduction of two units. She reported that the architect had been advised that the proposal remained unacceptable as the new build element remained over-dominant, its form would jar with the Listed Building, the roof terrace would be harmful to the street-scene, it would be harmful to the adjacent Listed Building and the Conservation Area and that other concerns had not been satisfactorily addressed. She explained that HED had also been sent the sketch drawings and that it had advised

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the architect that the proposal remained unacceptable as it would have a negative impact on the Listed Building.

The Committee was advised that the alternative scheme had not formally been submitted by the applicant to the Council and that it would therefore proceed to determine the application based on the last formally submitted plans, dated September 2019, with additional information relating to an amended floor layout and cycle parking arrangements also being taken into consideration.

She explained that DFI Roads and Environmental Health had been re-consulted on the additional information and advised the Committee of the outstanding concerns which DFI had expressed in relation to Policy AMP7 of PPS3, in that the application failed to demonstrate adequate parking provision, including for disabled users.

The Members were also advised of concerns which officers had regarding the proposed open bicycle parking which was proposed to the front of Wilton House, which was thought to be detrimental to the setting of the listed building as well as concerns relating to the security of the bicycles.

The Principal Planning officer advised the Committee that, as detailed in the Late Items pack, Environmental Health had since provided a number of negative conditions to ensure that contaminated land and dust reports would be submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of development. She explained, therefore, that refusal reason seven in the report no longer applied.

However, for the remaining six reasons outlined within the Case officer's report, the application was recommended for refusal.

The Committee welcomed Mr P. Stinson, agent, Mr. H. McConnell, architect, and Mr. C. Toman, applicant, to the meeting. In addressing the refusal reasons as detailed within the Case officer's report, they advised the Committee that:

- weight should be afforded to the fact that the proposal would secure the future of a currently vacant Listed Building, which was on the At Risk register;
- the proposals were no longer considered contrary to the core planning principles of SPPS and that refusal reason 1 previously formed part of refusal reason 4 in previous officer reports – these related to the design, form and scale of the new build with the proposed massing no longer forming part of the refusal reasons;
- refusal reason 1 created no further barrier to approval if the Committee agreed that the design, form and scale met the policy tests for a listed building in a conversation area as set out in the new refusal reason 3;
- significant amendments had been made to the proposal since submission – focusing on improving the relationship between the new build and the existing building;
- HED accepted the principle of a separate new building on the site and considered that the separation distance went some way in achieving

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subservience and providing an acceptable relationship between old and new;

- in considering the acceptability of the design, the appearance of the existing rear return and the contribution it made to the character and appearance of the conservation area must weigh in the planning balance and that this received little consideration in the officer's report;
- an aspect in relation to the inadequate private amenity space was new to the reasons listed;
- in relation to public amenity space, the proposal was around 300 metres from the public grounds of the City Hall and that a park was close by on Durham Street;
- 80% of the units would face away from the Courtyard and that all units met the recommended internal space standards in Addendum PPS7, even though there was no such requirement for a city centre development;
- in relation to the listed building, they had agreed to retain the unique double stair format internally and not to include a lift; and
- they had reduced the height of the new building to the level of the eaves line of the existing building, and that the new block could not be seen from Donegall Square North.

In response to a Member's question regarding why sufficient evidence in relation to the current state of the Listed Building had not been forthcoming from the applicant, the architect advised the Committee that floorplans and elevations had been submitted, that they were more than happy to engage with HED on the finer details and that further information would be submitted when the principle of development was granted.

A further Member requested further information from the applicant in relation to the amenity space and on the lack of light in a certain number of the units. The agent reported that, in their resubmitted proposal, they had proposed a roof terrace but that planners had advised them that it would impact negatively upon the streetscape. In relation to the poor levels of lighting which had been referenced, the architect advised the Members that angled windows would be used to maximise the amount of daylight entering the units.

In response to a further question regarding the proposed uncovered bicycle parking area, the developer advised the Committee that, as part of the Travel Plan, residents would be provided with a subscription to the Belfast Bike Scheme and that it was felt that most residents would prefer to store their bike in their apartments.

A Member stated that he felt that the proposal was acceptable. He outlined the following reasons as to why he felt that the officers' recommendations for a refusal of the application were not applicable:

- Refusal reason 1 – there was a difference in judgement between officers and Members, in that he felt that the proposed new build was not over dominant;
- Refusal reason 2 – the requirement for evidence as to the current condition of the Listed Building could be conditioned instead;

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- Refusal reason 3 - there was a difference in judgement between officers and Members, as the Member felt the proposed new build to the rear was reasonably subservient;
- Refusal reason 4 – it was a vacant listed building in the city centre and that a compromise had to be made in relation to amenity space and that the developer had outlined nearby public amenity spaces;
- Refusal reason 5 – in that the windows would be angled to provide more natural daylight in the units; and
- Refusal reason 6 - bicycle parking would be provided within the apartments, as well as subscriptions for residents to the Belfast Bikes scheme.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees to grant approval to the application, in accordance with the aforementioned rebuttal for each refusal reason.

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

The Committee was advised that, as there were objections from statutory consultees, the decision to approve the application would have to be referred to the Department for Infrastructure for its consideration.

The Divisional Solicitor explained that the Travel Plan and associated issues would usually be dealt with by way of a Section 76 Agreement.

Upon receiving advice from the Director of Planning and Building Control and the Divisional Solicitor, the Committee agreed to delegate the drawing up of conditions and the details of a Section 76 Agreement to the Director of Planning and Building Control, and that they could be considered when the application came back before the Committee, given that a Pre-Determination Hearing would be required.

(Reconsidered item) LA04/2019/2051/F - Retrospective change of use from a dwelling to HMO at 4 Easton Crescent

(The Chairperson advised the Committee that, as Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Collins, McKeown and McMullan had not been present for the previous discussion on the application on 12th November, they could not take part in the vote.)

(Councillor McMullan left the room at this point)

The Committee was reminded that it had initially considered the retrospective application at its meeting on 12th November and that it had agreed to defer consideration to allow officers further time to compare the licensing and the planning data which was held on the number of HMOs in the area.

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The Principal Planning officer highlighted to the Members that there was an error in the addendum report on page 135, whereby the second bullet point should read “No.16 Easton Crescent” and not No.8. The Members were advised that the HMO License team had confirmed that there were a total of 4 properties on Easton Crescent with HMO licences.

The Principal Planning officer advised the Members that, as there were 22 properties in the street, 2 HMO properties were permitted. She explained that records showed that there was currently just one property on Easton Crescent which had HMO approval. Therefore the opinion of officers remained that the application be recommended for approval.

She advised that one letter of objection had been received in relation to the proposed change of use, in relation to issues related to parking, and that the matter had been dealt with in the Case officer’s report.

A number of Members questioned what would happen in the event that the property on the street which was currently under investigation was able to produce evidence that it had been operating as an HMO for over five years, thereby potentially breaching the 10% threshold. The Principal Planning officer explained that the Committee could not prejudice against those who applied for permission in the correct way, such as the current application.

The Chairperson subsequently put the Case officer’s recommendation for approval to the Committee for its consideration.

On a vote by show of hands, six Members voted for the recommendation and none against and it was accordingly declared carried.

(Councillor McMullan re-joined the meeting at this point)

LA04/2019/0054/F - 20m telecommunications mast, with shroud enclosed antenna and associated works including 3No. equipment cabinets (in substitution for planning approval LA04/2018/1472/F) at edge of public footpath 7m North of the junction of Millfield & Samuel Street

The Case officer presented the key aspects of the application to the Members.

She outlined the key considerations which had been assessed in relation to the proposal, which included the impact on visual amenity, the impact on the local environment and the history of the surrounding area.

The Committee was advised that there was currently one 17.5metre high mast located directly adjacent to the site, approximately 11.5metres from the proposed mast.

The Case officer reported that there was an extant approval for a 20metre high telecommunications mast, with shroud enclosed antenna and 3 equipment cabinets, on

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land at the edge of the footpath 18metres south of the junction of Millfield and Samuel Street. The Members were advised that the site was located approximately 30-35metres from the site of the current proposal and that, if approved, the proposed development would be built instead of the previously approved development.

The Case officer advised that one representation had been received from the Department for Communities (DfC). In addition, she explained that the Council's City Regeneration and Development section, a consultee, had objected to the development.

She explained to the Members that it was considered that the cumulative impact of the two masts and seven equipment cabinets over a relatively short distance would result in damage to visual amenity. She added that the proposed development was located adjacent to a development opportunity site, as designated in Draft BMAP and in the Belfast Inner North West Masterplan, and that there were concerns that the proposed development would limit the development potential of the site in terms of providing active frontage and an accessible environment. The Case officer explained that, while the proposal could bring improvement in terms of communications infrastructure, it was considered that it would result in unacceptable damage to visual amenity and that it had not been sited to minimise environmental impact.

The Committee welcomed Mr. L. Ross, the agent, to the meeting. He outlined that:

- engineers could no longer access their existing mast on top of the nearby Barewood building as it was deemed unsafe;
- this was a replacement site to an extant approval, LA04/2018/1472/F, as when the applicant had carried out an investigative works at that site, they had discovered infrastructure relating to a number of statutory agencies;
- the new site was basically the only viable site for the mast and cabinets to be positioned;
- the new site was a shared site;
- that it was misleading to say that the works would be "an improvement" as, if they did not replace the mast, there would be no network coverage in that part of the City; and
- given the concerns raised in relation to the upcoming regeneration in the area, a temporary permission for three years was requested if permanent permission could not be given.

A Member raised a concern regarding the different responses from two sections within the Council. The Case officer explained that, while there was a new policy within the draft Planning Strategy, until it was adopted it carried no weight. She explained that the Development Plan Team's advice was to assess the application under the BUAP policy and that, given their awareness of the Inner North West Masterplan, officers should engage with the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Team.

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In response to a Member's query as to why they applicant had chosen that site specifically, the agent explained that the masts had to be relatively close together in order to provide complete coverage and that the applicant was also mindful, generally, not to place masts too close to houses.

A further Member stated that it was concerning that the statutory consultees had provided no objections to the original proposal site, given that the applicant had subsequently come across substantial infrastructure belonging to them beneath the footpath at that location.

In response to a Member's question regarding the footpath width at the location, the Committee was advised that DfI had no objections to the proposals and that the street furniture would not impact on pedestrians access to the pavement.

A number of Members queried how a temporary approval for three years would work in practice, specifically in the event that redevelopment works in the area were to commence within that timeframe, and whether an impasse would be created between the landowner and the applicant. The agent explained that, in terms of a developer actually starting construction within the Smithfield area, three years was not a long time and that, if the Committee was to grant temporary permission for three years, the Council would have absolute certainty that the mast would have to be taken down in three years. He stated that, if an agreement could not be made with the landowner, telecommunications companies actually had a statutory power to place infrastructure on top of buildings

A Member stated that communications infrastructure was vital for the City and, on balance, given that the period of time granted could be time limited, he felt that the coverage was more important than the temporary impact on the visual amenity at that site. In addition, he advised that a temporary approval was appropriate in recognising the development opportunity site beside the application site.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Brooks
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

Resolved - that the Committee agrees to approve the application, in substitute for the extant approval LA04/2018/1472/F, for a temporary period of three years.

The Director of Planning and Building Control advised the Committee that, in relation to the extant permission on other side of the junction, he would recommend a Section 76 Agreement to rescind that permission and that power also be delegated to him to write up the necessary conditions and a Section 76 Agreement. The Committee agreed to that course of action.

LA04/2019/0200/F - Public realm improvements comprising of existing footpaths with natural stone and kerbs; new/replacement tree planting, street lighting, and railings/walls; new street furniture; decorative hoarding panels; realignment of roadside kerbs; improvements to pedestrian crossings and on street parking; improvements to the junction on lands at Peters Hill, Millfield, North Street, and Carrick Hill

The Case officer presented the principal aspects of the major application for public realm improvements to the Committee. He advised the Members that the applicant was the Department for Communities (DfC). He explained that the design principles for the proposals included high quality materials, a greater emphasis on pedestrian priority, junction improvements, improved street lighting and that disabled access would be maintained or improved.

The Committee was apprised of the main issues which had been considered in the assessment of the application, including the potential impact of the public realm improvements on residential amenity, impact on the setting of listed buildings and the impact on visual amenity.

The Case officer pointed out that the application site fell within the development limits for Belfast and complied with the Development Plan and relevant policy. He explained that, on balance, the proposals were considered to be acceptable.

He advised the Members that DfI Roads had been consulted in respect of the application in February but was yet to submit a substantive consultation response despite repeated requests. It was reported that officers had recently advised DfI Roads, on two separate occasions, that, in the absence of any response, it would be assumed that it had no objection.

In response to a request from a Member, the Committee agreed to send a letter to the Chief Executive of the DfI Roads highlighting the lack of response to the consultation on the proposals.

A number of Members welcomed the proposals for a main arterial route into the City, but two Members highlighted that there had perhaps been a missed opportunity in terms of improving the cycling infrastructure as part of the proposal.

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.

LA04/2019/0081/F - 12 apartments (social/affordable housing units comprising 3x 1 bed & 9x 2 bed) with provision of community pocket park, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works on Lands at former Maple Leaf Club, 41-43 Park Avenue;

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The Committee agreed to consider the application along with the two related applications:

LA04/2019/0082/F - Section 54 application to remove condition 2 of Z/2010/0434/F. The condition reads as follows, "No part of the residential development hereby permitted shall be commenced until the social club hereby approved is constructed and operational in accordance with the approved plans." The removal of the condition is necessary to allow the construction of the social/affordable housing (LA04/2019/0081/F) on Lands at former Maple Leaf Club, 41-43 Park Avenue; and

LA04/2019/0083/F - Section 54 application to remove condition 2 of LA04/2015/0075/F. The condition reads as follows "No part of the residential development hereby permitted shall be occupied until the social club hereby approved is constructed and operational in accordance with drawing 06A date stamped 20th August 2016, drawing 07B date stamped 03 February 2016 and drawing 08 stamped 01 April 2015". The removal of the condition is necessary to allow for the construction and occupation of the social/affordable housing (LA04/2019/0081/F) on Lands at former Maple Leaf Club, 41-43 Park Avenue

(Councillor Murphy left the meeting at this point)

The Principal Planning officer presented the principal aspects of each of the three applications to the Committee.

She explained that application LA04/2019/0081/F had previously been scheduled for determination at the Planning Committee meeting on 11th June, 2019, with a recommendation for refusal. She advised the Members that the application had been withdrawn from that agenda to enable the consideration of the proposed terms of a Section 76 Agreement in respect of mitigating against the proposed loss of open space.

The Committee was advised that the original report of June 2019 had cited two reasons for refusal, namely, the loss of open space and the under-provision of amenity space for the proposed development. She confirmed that, notwithstanding those issues, the proposal was otherwise acceptable in terms of its design, height, scale and mass, as well as access and parking. The Members were therefore advised that the addendum report only sought to deal with the original reasons for refusal and that the original report from June 2019 should be considered alongside it.

The Principal Planning officer outlined that, historically, the site was in use as a substantial area of open space, incorporating a bowling green and a clubhouse/social club. She highlighted that residential development had been granted on the site subject to a replacement recreational social club being provided to off-set the loss of open space. The Members were advised that the provision of the recreational social club, in combination with the social housing to be provided, was the justification for setting aside Policy OS1 of PPS8 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation and granting the proposal.

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The Committee was advised that the current application proposed an apartment block in place of the social recreation club. Following the publication of the officer report in June 2019, the applicant had submitted a Section 76 Agreement setting out terms to offset the loss and under provision of recreation facilities by offering to provide a financial contribution of over £52,000 towards improvements to the King George V Playing Fields. The Principal Planning officer explained that the Playing Fields were eight minutes walk from the site. She outlined that, in accordance with Policy OS1, the combination of the associated community benefits were considered, on balance, to decisively outweigh the loss of the provision of the recreation club and the shortage in the amenity provision.

The Members were advised that Environmental Health, Rivers Agency, the BCC Tree Officer and NIHE had all offered no objection to the proposal.

The Principal Planning officer drew the Members' attention to the Late Items pack, whereby DfI had advised that the Private Streets Determination drawing submitted had addressed technical matters and that the application now proposed one car parking space provided per unit in addition to covered bicycle parking.

She drew the Members' attention to the two linked applications, LA04/2019/0082/F and LA04/2019/0083/F, which were Section 54 applications to remove condition 2 of planning permission Z/2010/0434/F and LA04/2015/0075/F respectively, which stated that "no part of the residential development hereby permitted, shall be occupied until the social club was constructed and in operation".

The Case officer explained that the applicant sought removal of the conditions given that the Maple Leaf Club had closed and that there was no replacement occupier. She explained that the removal of the condition would enable the granting of LA04/2019/0081/F and that the developer contributions outlined would contribute to the Belfast Agenda priorities of Living Here and City Development and the Local Development Plan Strategic Aims of Shaping a Liveable Place, a Green and Active Place and a Smart, Connected and Resilient Place.

The Committee was advised that Mr T. Stokes, the agent, was in attendance to answer any queries from the Committee but no questions were posed by Members.

The Committee then considered each application in turn.

It granted approval to:

- application LA04/2019/0081/F, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions and the Section 76 Agreement;
- application LA04/2019/0082/F, subject to the completion of the Section 76 Agreement and conditions under planning permission LA04/2019/0081/F; and

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- application LA04/2019/0083/F, subject to the completion of the Section 76 Agreement and conditions under planning permission LA04/2019/0081/F.

(The Committee adjourned for a ten minute break at this point)

(Councillor Murphy re-joined the meeting at this point)

LA04/2019/1609/F - Demolition of existing buildings to provide a residential development of 7x 2 bedroom apartments, 2 x 3 bedroom apartments and 6 townhouses with associated car-parking and amenity facilities at 28 & 34-52 Gardiner Street

The Principal Planning Officer presented the principal aspects of the application to the Committee.

She explained that the application sought permission for 15 residential units, consisting of 9 apartments and 6 townhouses, on a brownfield site in the city centre.

She outlined the main issues which had been considered in the consideration of the proposal, which included the principle of development and use at the location, the design, layout and impact on the character and appearance of the area, the impact on amenity and traffic movement and parking.

The Committee was advised that, in Draft BMAP and the BMAP that was pertained to be adopted, the site was located within a protected city centre housing area. The Members were advised that the principle of residential development had already been established under LA04/2016/2059/F and Z/2008/0324/F, the former being an extant approval.

The Members were advised that one objection had been received, raising concerns with traffic congestion, car parking and illegal car parking concerns. The Principal Planning Officer reported that DfI Roads, NI Water, Rivers Agency, Environmental Health and HED had offered no objection to the proposed development, subject to conditions.

She highlighted that nine on-street car parking spaces were proposed as part of the application. She added that the site was within a highly accessible and sustainable location within close proximity of public transport routes as well as walking and cycling provisions. The Members were advised that bicycle storage would be provided within the development.

The Committee was advised that the application was considered to be compliant with the SPPS, PPS3, Policy QD1 of PPS7, Creating Places, BUAP and Draft BMAP.

In response to a Member's question regarding the balconies in the extant approval, the Principal Planning Officer explained that the current proposal, without balconies, was deemed to be acceptable given the tight urban grain.

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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.

LA04/2019/2633/F - Change of use from dwelling to a house of multiple occupation (HMO) at 93 Bloomfield Avenue

The Case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for a change of use from a single dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). She highlighted that there was an error in the Case officer's report, in that paragraph 3.2 should read 77 Bloomfield Avenue and not 77 Bloomfield Road.

She advised the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area as designated in the HMO Subject Plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015.

She explained that the Land and Property Services Pointer database illustrated that there were 24 domestic properties on that section of Bloomfield Avenue, which would permit 2 HMOs before the 10% threshold was exceeded. She explained that, according to records held by the Local Development Plan Team, 1 HMO was currently registered within that section of Bloomfield Avenue.

She explained that no third party representations had been received in respect of the application. The Committee was advised that DFI Roads, Environmental Health and the Council's internal Development Planning and Policy Team had all been consulted in relation to the proposal and that all had offered no objection to the proposal.

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 none against and it was accordingly declared carried.

LA04/2019/2589/F - Change of use from dwelling to a house of multiple occupation (HMO) at 8 Pinkerton Walk

The Case officer provided the Committee with the details of the application for a change of use from a single dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She advised the Members that, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area, Policy HMO 5 applied.

The Members were advised that the Land and Property Services Pointer database showed that there were 22 domestic properties on Pinkerton Walk, which allowed 2 HMO properties before the 10% threshold was exceeded. She advised that, according to records held by the Local Development Plan Team, no HMOs were currently in use on Pinkerton Walk and that there were no other current planning applications in the system seeking HMO use on that section of road.

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She explained that no third party representations had been received in response to the application.

The Committee was advised that DFI Roads, Environmental Health and the Council's internal Development Planning and Policy Team had been consulted in relation to the proposal and that all had offered no objection to the proposal.

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 none against and it was accordingly declared carried.

LA04/2019/2583/F - Change of use from dwelling to a house of multiple occupation (HMO) at 50 Carlisle Road

The Case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for a change of use from a single dwelling to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She advised the Members that policy HMO 5 applied, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area as designated in the HMO Subject Plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015.

She explained that the Land and Property Services Pointer database illustrated that there were 70 domestic properties on Carlisle Road, which allowed 7 HMO properties before the 10% threshold was exceeded. She explained that, according to records held by the Local Development Plan Team, no HMOs were currently in HMO use on Carlisle Road and that there were no other current planning applications in the system seeking approval for HMO use on that section of the road.

She explained that no third party representations had been received in relation to the application.

The Committee was advised that DFI Roads, Environmental Health and the Council's internal Development Planning and Policy Team had been consulted in relation to the proposal and that all had offered no objection to the proposal.

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 none against and it was accordingly declared carried.

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LA04/2019/1533/F - Demolition of existing ramped access, single storey extension on existing office toilets on south elevation and single storey extension to pitch on north elevation; external alterations to existing toilets and office on western elevation at Knockbreda Parish Church Hall

(Alderman McCoubrey left the meeting at this point)

The Case officer provided the Committee with the details of the application for front and rear extensions to the existing Church Hall, including new ramp access, and highlighted that the application had received Council funding.

She explained the key issues which had been considered in the assessment of the development, including the impact on a listed building/monument setting, impact on neighbouring amenity and traffic and parking.

The Case officer reported that Environmental Health, DFI Roads Services and Historic Environment Division (HED) had been consulted in respect of the application and had no objections to the proposal. She confirmed to the Members that no third party representations had been received.

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

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

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PRE DETERMINATION HEARING

- Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);
Alderman McCoubrey; and
Councillors Brooks, Canavan, Collins,
Garrett, Groogan, Hanvey, Hussey,
McKeown, McMullan, Murphy and O'Hara.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning
and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development
Management); and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Pre Determination Hearing for application LA04/2017/2341/O – Lands bounded by Royal Avenue, York Street, Church Street, North Street, Rosemary Street, High Street and Donegall Street (former Royal Exchange)

The Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Pre-Determination Hearing for the application. He explained that a Pre-Determination Hearing was to hear the views of interested parties and statutory consultees, and for Members of the Committee to seek clarification from these parties on the facts surrounding the development.

He reminded the Members that the objective of the meeting was to focus on the material planning considerations and to facilitate the Committee in making its determination of the application. The Committee was reminded that no decision may be reached at the Hearing, as Committee Members and planners might wish to consider the views made prior to making a determination at the scheduled Committee meeting which was likely to be in January, 2020.

The Senior Planning Officer provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the outline application for a mixed-use scheme comprising offices, 367 residential units, restaurants/cafes, a hotel, retail units on the ground floor and cultural and community space. She reported that the proposal also sought to reconfigure Writer's Square, to pedestrianise North Street, the creation of new public squares ("Central Square" and

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“Assembly Square” at the junction of North Street and Rosemary Street) and the creation of new pedestrian links between North Street and Donegall Street.

She advised the Members that the currently approved scheme for the site, which had been granted permission in 2012, hereafter known as the extant scheme, was for a larger site than the current proposals. She highlighted to the Committee that the extant scheme was an important material consideration in the determination of the current application and was given significant weight as it was capable of being implemented.

The Members were advised that the application was first received in October 2017 and, at that time, included a 27 storey tower at the junction of Rosemary Street and North Street, the redevelopment of a large retail anchor store to replace North Street Arcade (where the end blocks would be retained), approximately 247 residential units, offices, hotels and 850 basement car parking spaces. The Senior Planning officer reported that, following feedback received during the consultation process and advice from officers on those proposals, the applicant significantly revised the scheme. She explained that, through over 12 months of intensive dialogue with planning officers, the applicant submitted the revised scheme in August 2019.

In addition to other changes, the proposed 27 storey tower and the large anchor retail store were no longer proposed and the revised scheme proposed the replacement of the North Street Arcade with a new arcade influenced by the original arcade's alignment, with retention and restoration of its external facades on North Street and Donegall Street. The Planning officer added that the level of demolition in the proposals had also been reduced.

She explained that the basement and the multi-storey car parks were no longer proposed and that the only on-site parking which would be provided were 25 disabled spaces and 6 spaces for car club vehicles. The applicant had advised that the reduction in parking would be mitigated through green transport measures including travel plans, the use of car club and the distribution of Travel cards to residents which would be secured through a Section 76 Agreement. DfI Roads had indicated that they were content, subject to conditions.

In relation to the residential units, it was proposed that 10% of the housing, approximately 37 units, would be affordable housing. The Senior Planning officer explained that the applicant also proposed to relocate the existing Choice Housing Facility (SHAC), which was within the site boundary, and to provide an additional 10% social housing within the same relocated facility in close proximity to the site. She explained that NIHE was content with the proposals, where it had stated that its preference was that both the 10% affordable and social units were provided within the application site itself, but that, given the current policy context, the proposal was nevertheless acceptable.

The Committee was reminded that full planning permission had been granted for Phase 1B of the scheme in March 2019. The Planning officer explained that the current outline application was for Phases 1C, 2 and 3 of the development.

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The Planning officer reported that works were proposed to a number of Listed and on-Listed buildings of heritage value within the site, with partial demolition of three listed buildings. She advised that full details had been provided for the proposed works to the three Listed Buildings within the site boundary, namely, the Former Assembly Rooms at 2 Waring Street, the Braddells building at 11 North Street, and the alignment of the new arcade and worked to the retained facades of the North Street Arcade.

The Committee was advised that the extant scheme permitted the demolition of the internal portion of North Street Arcade. The Members noted that the extant permission also allowed the partial demolition of a 1950s extension to the Former Assembly Rooms while the revised scheme proposed partial demolition of the extensions to the original building, including the 1950s extension, its conversion to a hotel and a six storey extension. The Planning officer reported that the extant scheme permitted partial demolition of a rear extension at the Braddells building and a fourth floor extension. She explained that the revised proposals comprised partial demolition of the rear extension, internal alterations to facilitate the insertion of a lift and to provide a double height space, change of use to retail/café/restaurant on the ground floor and cultural/office space on the upper floors.

The Senior Planning officer explained that the façade retention of nos. 13-15, 17-23 and 25-29 North Street (St. Anne's building) were not included in the extant scheme. The Members noted that the facades of Nos. 16-18 Donegall Street and No. 24 Donegall Street would also be retained.

In relation to the height of the proposed buildings, the Committee was advised that the tallest buildings which were proposed were the Central Block (Block 3), between North Street and Donegall Street, which would be up to 15 storeys, with a maximum height of 60metres AOD, and Block 9 comprising a maximum of ten storeys and a maximum height of 46.5metres AOD.

The Senior Planning officer provided the Members with details of the Design Code which had been provided, which set out the mandatory design principles, in relation to key design components including uses, layout, scale, open space, plant and servicing, elevations and materials of the proposed blocks and the replacement arcade.

The Senior Planning officer advised the Committee that it was considered that the revised scheme provided an opportunity to enhance the city centre and the Cathedral Conservation area, an area which was dilapidated and in need of significant investment and regeneration. She outlined that the proposal would revitalise the area whilst securing the upkeep of listed buildings, replacing North Street Arcade and revitalising the important heritage features in the area.

The Committee was advised that a structural survey of the North Street arcade had been carried out in August 2019. The results illustrated that it was in a very bad state of repair with buckling steel at the roof level. She explained that a sweeping curve was proposed for the new arcade, where the interior would be reminiscent of the original arcade.

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The Members' attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack. The Committee was advised that the applicant had provided figures to show the comparison in public realm/open space approved in the extant scheme, within the site boundary of the revised scheme, and that which was proposed in the revised scheme. The officer explained that the extant scheme included a net increase of 47% on current levels of open space/public realm, while the revised scheme proposed an increase of 88%. The Members were advised that the revised scheme included the semi-pedestrianisation of North Street, the creation of Long Lane, the creation of Central Square and Assembly Square and the new Mews Lane and areas of public realm adjacent to Braddells, 11 North Street.

The Committee was advised that 336 additional objections had been received since the publication of the Pre Determination Report, 332 of which were template letters and which raised a number of points, including the following which had also been raised by Save CQ, Ulster Architectural Heritage (UAH), the Cathedral Quarter Trust, and St. Anne's Cathedral.

- the proposals lacked housing diversity (type and tenure), provision of affordable and social housing and services for new residents;
- concerns regarding relocation of existing residents within the boundary;
- there was virtually no arts and culture floor space;
- only façades were being retained;
- the scheme was contrary to heritage policies in SPPS and PPS6 and would erode the unique character of the area;
- agreement to control rent and rates for local businesses was required;
- the two tower blocks were out of context for the area, would set a dangerous precedent and would cause unacceptable loss of daylight;
- a lack of green space/trees were being provided;
- an unacceptable provision of play space;
- there were concerns about the ownership and management of the event space, including the pedestrianisation of North Street and new Assembly Square, and how it would be shared and managed with commercial units facing onto it;
- the privatisation of Writer's Square was unacceptable;
- the reduction in the capacity of Writer's Square and constraints on its use were concerning (and potential overspill into the Cathedral);
- they had concerns regarding overshadowing of the Square by tall buildings;
- that the focus on the latest scheme had changed from retail and commercial anchors to core residential with notional tenants;
- the application should be dealt with by DfI and that it was unacceptable that the Council's Planning Committee dealt with it, given its minimal experience and training;
- overmassing and overshadowing;
- inappropriate treatment of built heritage;

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- cumulative loss of and damage to the City's diminishing historic fabric;
- absence of adequate waste water treatment and mains water capacity;
- the scheme should not be supported as a "less worse" option than the extant scheme;
- the proposed buildings facing the Cathedral were out of context;
- the two new buildings were not be in keeping with the nature of the conservation area and suggested that red brick and traditional roof styles be used;
- there was a need to have a discussion with key stakeholders and funders as well as the arts and cultural sector regarding the level of arts and culture provision;
- the west façade stained glass windows of the Cathedral would be prejudiced by shadowing;
- the height and distance of the proposed buildings from Cathedral were not clear and the axis of the buildings were not in alignment with the Cathedral;
- concerns regarding the wooden pile foundations of the Cathedral;
- concerns relating to the control and management of events in the square; and
- concerns relating to the loss of trees which had been planted by Archbishops from around the world.

The Senior Planning Officer outlined that the majority of issues raised in the Late Items pack had been addressed with in the Pre Determination Hearing report.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. J. Watson, St Anne's Cathedral, Mr. J. Anderson, Ulster Architectural Heritage, and Dr. A. Martire, Vice Chair of Save CQ, to the meeting, who were representing a group of objectors.

Mr. Watson explained that he was speaking on behalf of the Belfast Cathedral, the Cathedral Quarter (CQ) Trust and the owners of the new Cathedral Buildings. He outlined that, while they were in favour of regeneration and housing in the area, they had a number of queries which remained unanswered. He advised the Members that they had found it hard to access all of the information online in respect of the application. He explained that they objected to the reduction in size of Writer's Square, the tall buildings which would cause overshadowing and to the removal of historic trees which had been planted by Archbishops from around the world.

Dr. Martire advised the Committee that Save CQ campaign welcomed the removal of the anchor retail store, the underground car park and the 27 storey tower in the revised proposals. However, she explained that they still had serious concerns, including:

- that the proposed residential units were too small, expensive and were not life-long family homes.
- that there was far too little provision for arts and culture in the proposals.

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- that, while there was less demolition in the new proposals, it was still mostly just the facades of buildings which would be retained;
- that an opportunity to rebuild and restore the arcade would be lost forever;
- that the two towers were completely out of context for the area;
- the amount of usable space was to be greatly reduced, which would impact on community events, and that the new streets proposed would not make up for the space lost;
- a lack of partnership with key bodies such as DfC;
- that the policy ambition for the City was to create a high quality of life for everyone who lived here and for the City to be a great place to work, study, visit or set up a business.

Mr. Anderson advised the Members that the UAH believed that the proposal was not a heritage-led proposal and that, instead, it was square footage focussed. He added that the application should not be judged as to whether it was better or worse than the extant permission, as he found it difficult as to how the extant permission had ever been granted. He added that the Annual Report from NI Water had recently stated that the City's sewage and water system was already operating far beyond its capacity.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and invited the Committee to ask them any questions in relation to the proposals.

In response to a Member's question regarding the plans to retain just the facades of listed buildings, they advised the Committee that North Street Arcade was listed in its entirety and that unlisted buildings should not be viewed as "not worth saving".

The Chairperson then welcomed Mr. D. Stelfox, Consarc Design Group, Mr. P. McErlean, MCE PR, and Mr. R. Rana, President of Belfast Chamber, to the meeting, representing the agent/applicant and supporters of the application.

Mr. Stelfox advised the Committee that substantial changes had been made to the proposal since the approval of the extant scheme. He outlined that the scheme amounted to the largest single private sector investment that the City had ever seen. He explained that he disagreed with the representatives of the UAH, and that both Planning officers and Conservation officers agreed that it was a heritage-led scheme. He added that, under the extant scheme, permission had been granted for partial demolition of North Street Arcade, with the retention of the end units. He explained to the Members that a structural study had since been carried out and that Historic Environment Division (HED) had advised they were content that its condition had deteriorated and that the interior could not be retained.

Mr. McErlean advised the Members that he had been working for over twenty years to see regeneration at the current location and that he felt that the proposals were by far the best opportunity in a generation for the area. In terms of the consultation process, he explained that the developer had reviewed the comments after the previous submission and had decided to undertake another new process of engagement, including the use of a shop unit which allowed anyone to view the new proposals. He advised the

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Members that a genuine listening exercise had taken place. He reported that over 300 people had visited the unit to view the proposed plans and that six walking tours had also taken place. He added that the proposal would represent £213million Gross Value Added per year.

Mr Rana explained that he wished to put on record the Belfast Chamber's strong support for the proposals. He advised the Members that the Chamber represented businesses across all sectors, throughout all parts of the city, and that it was important for them that developers attained the highest levels of quality in terms of public realm. He highlighted that he was impressed with the developers' commitment to the City.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their contributions and invited the Committee to ask them questions regarding the proposals.

A number of Members asked the representatives questions, including queries relating to the condition surveys; the loss of open/green space; the management and the capacity of the new public spaces; HED's objections to the North Street Arcade proposal; the scale and massing of the new, taller buildings being out of proportion with the existing buildings; transport and the significant reduction of proposed car parking spaces; the make-up of the housing units; the private amenity space for the housing units; overshadowing; the loss of spacing around the cathedral; and difficulties with finding information on the application.

The Committee was advised that, in addition to the representatives which had previously addressed the Committee, Mr. M. Levinson, Squire and Partners Architects, Mr. C. O'Brien, Savills Planning, and Ms. K. McShane, Transport Consultant, were also in attendance to answer any technical questions relating to the proposals.

In response, the representatives collectively advised the Committee that:

- in terms of the listed buildings, a high quality restoration of the Braddells and the Assembly Rooms buildings would take place, which largely consisted of removing unoriginal elements, which HED were content with;
- in relation to open space, while they were proposing to reduce the size of Writers Square they would be providing two new public squares, as well as new streets such as Long Lane, which, overall, would double the public realm space available and would provide better usable spaces;
- there would be no restrictions to public access for the new public spaces and that the developer was open to DfI engaging in adopting them;
- in relation to the North Street Arcade, that government structural engineers had advised that it could not be retained after the fire;
- in terms of the scale and massing of the new buildings, that a certain scale of development was required in order to create an economically viable scheme which included the regeneration of the existing buildings which had been derelict for a significant period of

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time and that it was the only way that a scheme could ever come to fruition;

- the taller residential building would not be overbearing when in North Street or Donegall Street;
- the car club scheme had been proven successful in other city centre schemes such as Bristol, Edinburgh, Dublin and London;
- there were 6,000 car parking spaces within 600metres of the site and that only 56% of car parking spaces were used within the city centre;
- half of the residential units would be 1 bedroom, 45% would be 2 bed units and 5% would be 3 beds;
- they had included 20% social housing even though it was not a current policy requirement;
- the extant plan proposed a lot more demolition than the current proposals;
- in terms of queries regarding overshadowing, the Building Research Establishment (BRE) Report demonstrated that the proposals were acceptable ;
- in relation to public consultation, there had been extensive communication and that the developer had genuinely listened to previous concerns and that the door continued to be open and that, if approval was granted for the outline application, they would reconsult on the reserved matters applications, despite not being required to do so; and
- they had been required to balance the desire for open space and had therefore been unable to provide a playpark as part of the scheme.

The agents advised that they would provide further detail on the private amenity space to the Committee.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. B. McKervey and Ms. N. Golden of Historic Environment Division (HED), and Mr. L. Walsh, Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), were in attendance in order to answer questions from the Committee.

In response to a Member's question regarding the proposed Blocks 9 and 3.7, Mr. McKervey advised the Committee that HED had concerns that the scale and massing of Block 9 was out of character and introduced a cliff face beside the Assembly Rooms. He added that the 15 storey residential tower, Block 3.7, was completely at odds with the character of the Cathedral Quarter and would adversely impact on the listed buildings by virtue of its height, scale and massing. He also advised that he felt that the loss of the original footprint of the North Street Arcade would be a loss to the City.

Mr. Stelfox advised, in response to HED, that the new arcade would be of architectural quality, and that the layout would provide a better experience and modern and attractive arcade. He advised that the perceived level of the streets would remain, with the additional storeys being set back from the street fronts. He added that an

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important part of the scheme was to create active frontages facing onto all the public squares.

The Chairperson then invited the Committee to ask any questions to the Planning officers.

In response to a Member's question regarding the potential use of developers' contributions to provide employees with travel cards, in order to discourage them from bringing cars into the area, the officers advised that the advice from DfI Roads was that the requirement was meant to offset residential use.

In response to a further Member's question, the Planning Manager highlighted to the Committee that significant weight had been attributed to the fall-back position, which allowed for significantly more demolition, and highlighted that the regeneration of an area which had been derelict for quite some time was also taken into consideration.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted that no decision would be taken on the application until the application was formally presented to the Committee, which was likely to be in January 2020.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 5th December, 2019

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor de Faoite (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors D. Baker, Canavan, Collins, Flynn,
Hanvey, Magennis, McKeown, McLaughlin,
Newton and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Haire and Councillors Brooks and McAteer.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th and 21st November 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 December subject to the variation of the minute of the meeting of 7th November, under the heading "Commissioning of a Report", to reflect that Councillor McLaughlin had agreed to include Councillor Flynn's proposal around good growth, inclusive growth and an ambition to a just transition to a zero-carbon economy within his proposal and that no amendment had been put to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

Northern Ireland Environment Link - Nature Matters NI Campaign

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. S. Kelly, Northern Ireland Environment Link, Mr. J. Martin, RSPB NI, Mr. V. Magreehan, National Trust and Mr. R. Hunter, Ulster Wildlife.

Mr. Martin provided an overview of the Nature Matters NI Campaign, a coalition drawn from more than 70 members of NI Environment Link, working together to secure the best future for the environment.

He explained that the project board was made up of the following four workstreams:

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- International Advocacy – to raise awareness of and build support for our key Brexit messages at a North/South, East/West level and beyond;
- Sustainable land-use – to develop a new sustainable land-use policy in coalition with others and to advocate this to government;
- Nature and Environmental Protection – to ensure that existing levels of protection for nature and the environment were maintained/enhanced; and
- Marine and Fisheries – to develop a new sustainable fisheries policy and designate an ecologically coherent and well managed network of protected areas at sea.

He highlighted the number of laws that would be affected by Brexit in relation to agriculture and environment, consumers and health protection policy areas.

Mr. Martin stated that Brexit would impact Directives – particularly Birds, Habitats and Water Framework which was the basis of nature conservation and environmental legislation and regulation. He raised concerns in relation to the potential lowering of environmental standards and ‘race to the bottom’.

He highlighted that the UK would no longer be subject to the European Court of Justice and the threat of heavy financial penalties through infraction. He suggested that the current systems would need a major overhaul and re-invigoration to safe-guard the key environmental priorities.

He summarised the Cross-Border and all-Island Environmental Issues such as the implications of the Land Use Policy and the guidance needed for use and protection of shared sites.

He raised concerns in relation to the UK’s future access to EU environmental funding such as LIFE+, INTERREG and partnership project funding.

Mr. Martin then provided an overview of the Non – EU International Environmental Agreements and stated that the UK was a signatory to other international Environmental agreements which would be ‘unaffected’ by Brexit. He advised that most of the 41 environment, agriculture and fisheries policy areas currently dealt with ‘under’ the EU would require 4 nation agreements in the future.

He highlighted that the Nature Matters NI was campaigning for:

- A sustainable agriculture and land use policy that was fair to farmers, good for nature and benefits society;
- Nature and environmental protection to ensure Northern Ireland’s most treasured species and habitats could thrive;
- A nature–friendly marine and fisheries policy to protect Northern Ireland’s seas and marine biodiversity;
- Funding for nature conservation to replace existing EU funding programmes such as LIFE+ and INTERREG; and

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- The island of Ireland to be considered as a single biogeographic unit with effective mechanisms in place to resolve and manage cross border environmental issues and prevent unfair competition post–Brexit.

He advised that many MLA's had made a pledge to Nature Matters NI Charter to 'Protect and Restore Nature' and they wished to develop a similar Charter for Councillors across Northern Ireland.

During discussion, the representatives answered a range of questions in relation to the impact of Brexit on the environment such as air pollution, the spreading of ammonia, the importance of enforcement and restoration. Mr. Kelly highlighted that enforcement of breaches and a clear strategy was required to protect and manage the environment, together with an independent environmental watchdog to help mitigate some impacts of Brexit and hold the government to account.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Dr. Mary Dobbs, Queen's University Belfast

With the permission of the Committee, the Chairperson welcomed Dr. M. Dobbs to the meeting.

Dr. Dobbs provided an overview of the immediate implications of Brexit on the environment and agriculture sector leading to new relationships with new challenges and new opportunities. She explained the changes to some laws and the options for future governance mechanisms and explained the various approaches and obstacles. She advocated that there was an opportunity for the UK to develop its own objectives and principles

She explained her analysis of the EU Withdrawal agreement and advised that it would be used to patch some gaps in the environmental policies but there would also be some significant changes. She suggested that without the EU Commission to oversee protection of the environment, the UK should develop its own Common Framework for environmental protection with an independent body for oversight, as allowing DAERA to take on this role would be a conflict of interest. She advised that cross-border treaties and trade considerations would also be essential as the UK becomes a non-EU state.

She highlighted that there had been some Policy and Legal Developments and provided a risk analysis of new trade deal options and their potential impacts on environmental policies. She advised that with economic pressures, laws might shift giving rise to internal competition within the UK, leading to divergence within the UK and with Ireland.

She suggested that potential next steps included:

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- Maintain existing standards and improve existing standards;
- Strengthen internal governance mechanisms where possible, such as extending current Bills;
- Collaborate (cross interests/fields/borders) and avail of grass roots and external bodies;
- The Assembly to reconvene to progress legal developments and advancements;
- Equivalent of current funding; and
- Feed into environmental strategy and push for a common framework.

During discussion, Dr. Dobbs answered a range of questions from the Committee, in regards to the additional powers of DAERA, the Repeal Bill, potential impact on well-being and access to green and open spaces, waste removal and the processing and smuggling of waste.

The Chairperson thanked Dr. Dobbs for attending and she retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to invite representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to a future meeting of the Committee.

Energy Report

The Commissioner for Resilience provided an overview of the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main issues

The purpose of this report is to provide a briefing for the committee on potential implications of UK Exit on energy prices. The briefing has been prepared by summarising the conclusions of a range of official sources and academic sources. It does not offer a technical appraisal or assessment, rather provides an opinion from officers, and should be treated as such.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the update provided.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that at the October 2019 Council meeting the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

‘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.’

Members are advised that the Utility Regulator has been invited to attend this Committee but a suitable date has yet to be agreed.

It is impossible to provide a definitive view of how UK Exit might affect energy prices in Northern Ireland, and much of the opinion in this area is speculative. Furthermore, reports on the issue tend to focus on the GB context, which is not always instructive regarding NI. Major differences exist between GB and NI energy systems, in particular because of the existence of a single electricity market (SEM) in Ireland.

Electricity

A key determinant of supply and price is the operation of the Single Electricity Market. Giving evidence to the House of Lords EU Committee, the Utility Regulator explained, ‘If SEM cannot operate as a functional market post Brexit then this could have a range of repercussive social and economic aspects—including security of supply concerns and the potential for higher prices with consequential impacts on fuel poverty and manufacturing costs in NI.’

The EU Exit Single Electricity Market Team within the UK Government has provided information on its intentions regarding the SEM, stating that ‘it is the UK Government’s position that by far the best outcome for electricity in Northern Ireland is to maintain the Single Electricity Market (SEM). In the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, the UK Government is determined to protect electricity supplies in Northern Ireland. We are therefore committed to seeking

to maintain the SEM in any EU Exit scenario including in No Deal and will take all possible measures to do so.'

The team has also confirmed that in terms of 'No Deal' Preparation the UK government announced its intention to legislate, to enable the modification of electricity industry licences and codes for the purpose of maintaining or restoring the effective operation of the SEM. This legislation would be brought forward in circumstances where there is substantial risk that the SEM will cease to operate effectively, or if the SEM has ceased to operate effectively.

If government meets the intentions set out above, the operation of SEM would not be materially impacted by a planned UK Exit withdrawal arrangement. However, in the event of a 'no deal' or disorderly withdrawal the operation of the SEM would be dependent on the successful passage of legislation as set out above.

Prices are impacted beyond the operation of the SEM. Access to the EU's internal energy market (IEM) is also a determinant of price, it gives efficient access to market, and as a net importer of energy, this is of critical importance to the city's economy and to households. Leaving the EU will mean either leaving this market, or agreeing new terms of trade within the EU market. For Northern Ireland the terms of the relationship with the IEM is critical for the operation of the Single Energy Market. As pointed out above, decisions which impact on the operation of the SEM could lead to higher prices.

Put simply, when energy trading becomes less efficient, prices tend to go up. The cost of electricity will therefore be determined by the manner of the UK's exit, whether new trading arrangements with the EU internal market can be agreed, and how these terms of trade will specifically impact Northern Ireland, and the SEM.

New North-South Interconnector

Critical to the continuation and functioning of the electricity system in Ireland is the construction of the newest 'North-South Interconnector'. The House of Lords EU Committee recognised its importance in the context of the UK's decision to leave the EU, and concluded, 'The construction of the North-South interconnector on the island of Ireland is vital for reducing consumer costs in both countries, and for maintaining energy security in Northern Ireland. The Government must satisfy itself that its construction is not at risk as a result of Brexit.'

Oil

Home heating oil is a globally traded commodity and is therefore subject to a range of factors that affect its cost, including trade-related or other shocks. Currency volatility will impact price in the future (see section below), as ever. Oil prices are unlikely to be fundamentally impacted by UK Exit, any more than any other commodity.

Gas

The UK already has mitigation against security of supply risks built into the system, so price rises due to security of supply issues are not expected. Price rises would have to have occurred due to export tariffs, but given supply capacity within the UK at present, any changes are not likely to be a result of UK Exit. It is understood that by and large, fundamental changes to gas trading as a result of UK Exit are currently unlikely. However, given the dependence, which NI has on connectivity with GB for gas supply, it is worth reiterating that interconnectors between Great Britain and the island of Ireland play a critical role in security and affordability for Belfast.

Currency Volatility

The 19% reduction in the value of UK sterling since the referendum has had material impacts on the cost of consumer goods, including energy. At this point, currency volatility is likely to continue to impact the cost of energy.

Cost pressures due to uncertainty

The operation of the energy market, which requires companies to set energy prices in advance, could result in higher prices being set, to mitigate for future price shocks. These shocks could emerge, for example, due to ongoing uncertainty around a future carbon-pricing regime for the UK post- Brexit. At present the UK is part of EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), and how or whether that will continue is unclear.

Long Term Investment

Transition to low-carbon energy sources is critical to the future of the Northern Ireland economy, and to Belfast. Risks to future investment in low-carbon initiatives remain while the manner of UK Exit remains uncertain. This could have a

longer term impact on the supply of renewables and how quickly we can increase the proportion of renewable energy supplied to households. In turn, it could negatively impact prices in the medium term.

Public Perceptions

Public views of energy prices since UK Exit are worth noting. The NI Consumer Council published a perceptions study in October, which had found that 40% of people felt UK Exit will have a negative impact on the cost of electricity, and a further 44% and 41% on oil and gas prices respectively.

Source:

https://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-10/EU_Exit_Survey_Consumer_Council.pdf

Conclusion

The decision of the UK to leave the European Union will require careful planning to ensure security of supply and price stability for residents in Belfast. This is particularly the case for the electricity market. While we do not expect short-term supply issues, it is critical that steps are taken to ensure that the market's competitiveness is not undermined, which might result in cost increases for consumers. These steps would include maintenance of effective energy trading arrangements between the UK and EU ensuring access to gas and electricity and preventing price shocks for consumers. It would also include maintaining the SEM and co-operation between regulators and standards boards that govern cross-border trading.

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no implications relating to this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.”

During discussion, the Strategic Director advised that electricity black-outs had been assessed and ruled out as part of the Day One Readiness Assessments.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Day 1 Readiness

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The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reiterated the existing Civil Contingency Arrangements which included the following:

- Due to the extension and the general election, reporting structures had now been stood down;
- Depending on the outcome of the general election, there could be a range of Brexit related outcomes so the Council needed to continue to be ready to stand up again if required; and
- A review of the Business Continuity Management process would be undertaken for the Council's critical services to prepare for the various scenarios.

During discussion, the Strategic Director advised that learning from the Emergency Planning Exercises included the importance of sharing information and escalating issues with the reporting structure and highlighted the critical role of the Council in the process.

The Committee noted it would be kept updated on the Contingency Arrangements process.

Chairperson

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