

Public Document Pack

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 2nd March, 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 - 18)
5. Official Announcements
6. Requests to Address the Council

To consider a request from:

- Mr. Liam Corr, Belfast Boxing Development Officer, to address the Council in relation to the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st February, under the heading “Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2019/20”, relating to a request from the Ulster Boxing Council for funding towards the hosting of the 2020 EUBC School Boys and School Girls European Boxing Championships from 7th June - 11th July 2020;
- Mr. John Jo McGrady, Chair of the Belfast Youth Forum, to address the Council in advance of Councillor Mulholland’s motion on Relationship and Sexual Education; and
- Ms. Mandy McDermott, Director of Compass Counselling, to address the Council in advance of the motion on Compass Counselling being proposed by Councillor Matt Collins.

7. Change of Membership on Committees/Outside Bodies
8. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 19 - 68)
9. People and Communities Committee (Pages 69 - 102)
10. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 103 - 146)
11. Licensing Committee (Pages 147 - 150)
12. Planning Committee (Pages 151 - 160)
13. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 161 - 164)
14. Brexit Committee (Pages 165 - 170)
15. Motions

a) School Uniform Exchange

Proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds),
Seconded by Councillor McAllister,

“This Council agrees to introduce, in liaison with community partners, a school uniform exchange across Belfast, where items can be donated or claimed, free of charge, to help provide parents with good quality, clean and pre-worn uniforms and P.E kits; to help, in liaison with community partners, to make exchange available to all, without prejudice or means testing; and to liaise with other councils in Northern Ireland who already provide/have agreed to provide a similar service.”

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Dunmurry Manor Care Home

Proposed by Councillor Heading,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

“This Council reiterates its support for the Dunmurry Manor families in their campaign to bring justice to the victims of abuse.

The Council notes the 59 recommendations listed in the Commissioner for Older People’s ‘Home Truths’ report and calls upon the Minister of Health to ensure that the recommendations are adopted for implementation as soon as possible. It notes also the work carried out on behalf of the Department of Health by CEPA Ltd. into the care of older people in residential homes.

Accordingly, the Council welcomes this work and calls upon the Minister to publish in full the CEPA Ltd. report as soon as possible.”

(To be debated by the Council)

**c) Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland –
Inclusion of Misogyny as a Standalone Offence**

Proposed by Councillor Groogan,
Seconded by Councillor Verner,

“This Council recognises the impact of misogyny and transmisogyny on those affected by it, as well as the role these attitudes play in a variety of crimes, including harassment, assault, sexual assault and hate crimes, and on the career choices and personal lives of women, girls and non-binary people.

The Council supports the inclusion of misogyny as a standalone offence and as a category of hate crime, recognising crimes targeted at women including trans women as hate crimes based on misogyny, and will write a letter to that effect to Judge Desmond Marrinan, as part of his ongoing review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland.

The Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland, by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) SUDS and the City

Proposed by Councillor Black,
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin,

“This City has a big vision, including realising aspirations for City centre living, whilst dually supporting environmental sustainability. One obvious way of contributing to these somewhat conflicting goals is via SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems).

There is real potential for SUDS at viable, multi-impact community sites to substantially support the immediate locality and wider City infrastructure.

SUDS can help to prevent water pollution, slow down surface water run-off and reduce risk of general and sewer flooding during heavy rain. Additionally, it can help to create, or contribute to, habitats for wildlife in dense urban areas and quality green spaces.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to explore mechanisms to support SUDS and to write to the Department for Infrastructure, NI Water and the Living with Water Programme Board to highlight the value of SUDS progression at an existing viable location, namely, Distillery Street/Westlink.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Higher Education Tuition Fees

Proposed by Councillor Kyle,
Seconded by Councillor McKeown,

“This Council:

- i. recognises the important contribution which higher education institutions and their students make to the economy of Belfast and believes that all people, irrespective of their socio-economic background, should be able to access higher education if they choose to do so;
- ii. notes that research by University College London and Universities UK shows that tuition fees and the loans system can create a barrier to accessing higher education to those from lower income backgrounds;
- iii. recognises the wider need for the Northern Ireland Executive to increase the current Northern Ireland student admissions cap, to meet the demand for places; and
- iv. resolves to write to the Minister for the Economy asking her to rule out an across the board increase in tuition fees, which would further limit access to university to those from lower income backgrounds, and to undertake an urgent review of the current funding for universities in Northern Ireland so that a sustainable funding model can be achieved.”

(To be debated by the Council)

f) Relationship and Sexual Education

Proposed by Councillor Mulholland,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

"This Council notes the importance of accurate, inclusive, age appropriate Relationship and Sexual Education (RSE) in the development of young people and the formation of healthy, safe and fulfilling attitudes towards relationships, sexuality and intimacy.

The Council endorses the Belfast Youth Forum's recent report on Relationship and Sexual Education entitled 'Any use?' and notes with dismay that, of the 2/3 of respondents who actually received RSE in school, 60% indicated that they felt that the information they received was either 'not very useful' or 'not useful at all'.

The Council supports the three asks in this report, namely:

1. that a rights based and proactive approach to RSE should be adopted;
2. that a curriculum programme and relevant interventions be co-developed with young people;
3. that specialist staff should deliver RSE.

Given that 86% of respondents believed that the school environment was the best place to receive RSE, the Council agrees to write to the Minister of Education requesting him to endorse this report and the recommendations made within it and to consider the implementation of the three main asks."

(To be debated by the Council)

g) Compass Counselling

Proposed by Councillor Matt Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson,

“This Council notes with deep concern that the mental health organisation Compass Counselling is facing imminent closure.

The Council recognises that we have huge problems in our community around mental health related issues and that this is a vital organisation in helping the citizens of Belfast to address these problems.

The Council declares its support for this organisation to remain open and requests that officers organise at the earliest opportunity a cross party delegation, made up of Elected Members and officers and involving the Department of Health and all other relevant agencies, to discuss ways of intervening in order to save this important organisation, so that it can continue to keep its doors open in the period ahead.”

(To be debated by the Council)

h) DNA Testing of Dog Fouling

Proposed by Councillor McMullan,
Seconded by Councillor M. Kelly,

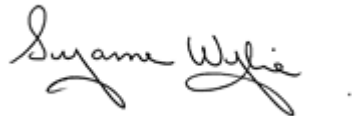
“This Council notes:

- the high number of complaints and the frustration of residents regarding dog fouling;
- that cleansing, signage and bins to address the issues come at considerable cost to ratepayers, as well as being a public health risk; and
- that other councils have piloted and adopted new methods for tackling persistent problems, notably DNA testing on dog fouling;

The Council agrees, therefore, to undertake its own scoping exercise of DNA testing and to bring back recommendations on whether it is something that could be adopted for Belfast.”

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Wylie'.

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd February, 2020
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

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

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Lyons and Pankhurst.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Long pointed out that his wife was the Assembly's Justice Minister and that, should any matters of a pecuniary nature be raised which fell within the remit of the Department of Justice, he would leave the Chamber. However, as no matters were raised, he was not required to do so.

Councillor McDonough-Brown declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, under the heading "Council Response to the Liquor Licensing Laws in Northern Ireland Consultation Document", on the basis that he was associated with a brewing company, and left the Chamber whilst the item was under discussion.

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the item contained within the minutes of the People and Communities Committee minute of 14th January, under the heading "Community Development Funding Programme – Recommended Allocation", in that they worked for or were associated with the organisations listed, but remained in the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion:

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- Councillor Beattie - Blackie River Community Group;
- Councillor Black - Grosvenor Community Centre;
- Councillor Canavan - Blackie River Community Group;
- Councillor Corr - Falls Community Council;
- Councillor Donnelly - Upper Springfield Development Trust;
- Councillor Dorrian - Ballymac Friendship Trust;
- Councillor Gormley - Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group;
- Councillor Groves - Upper Andersonstown Community Forum;
- Councillor Hutchinson - Mount Vernon Community Development Forum;
- Councillor Kyle - Lagan Village Youth And Community Group;
- Councillor Newton - Lagan Village Youth And Community Group; and
- Councillor Verner - Greater Shankill Partnership.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in relation to the motion on the establishment of a Drug Task Force, insofar as it was relevant to the work of his employer, and left the Chamber whilst it was being debated.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Baker),
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 6th January be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Gormley, who had replaced former Councillor Hargey, to the meeting.

At the request of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds), the Lord Mayor extended his condolences to Mr. Christopher Burns, Tours and Collections Officer, on the recent death of his father.

Alderman Kingston welcomed the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly and congratulated those former Members who had been appointed to Ministerial or other prominent posts.

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Requests to Address the Council

Drug Task Force

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. C. Rintoul of Extern's Drugs and Alcohol Consultancy Service to address the Council in advance of the motion on a Drug Task Force being proposed by Councillor McCusker.

The Council acceded to the request and Mr. Rintoul was welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Mr. Rintoul informed the Council that Extern's Drugs and Alcohol Consultancy Service was responsible primarily for delivering specialist training to individuals wishing to gain awareness of drug and alcohol misuse. He reviewed the types of drugs which were now most prevalent and confirmed that, in 2018, the number of drug-related deaths in Northern Ireland per 100,000 of the population had exceeded both England and Wales. He pointed out that the Belfast Agenda had, encouragingly, within its vision for 2035, made reference to everyone in Belfast experiencing good health and wellbeing and he stressed that a commitment to helping people who were most vulnerable, including those who used drugs in a harmful way, was central to achieving that outcome. He highlighted the success of initiatives such as the Council's sharps disposal scheme and the importance of continued partnership working and concluded by urging the Council to support Councillor McCusker's call for the establishment of a Drug Task Force to address the ongoing challenges around drugs misuse.

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

**Sections 43A and 43B of the Building
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

The Council was informed that a request had been received from Dr. S. Colclough of the Ulster University to address the Council in advance of Councillor Heading's motion on Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.

The Council approved the request and Dr. Colclough was welcomed to the meeting.

Dr. Colclough informed the Council that the Passive House standard was regarded as being the world's leading standard in energy efficient construction. The standard focused upon providing good indoor air quality, comfort and low energy consumption and contributed to improving health outcomes, alleviating fuel poverty through energy savings and reducing the impact of climate change. Whilst the standard had been widely adopted, including in a number of cities in Great Britain, it had yet to be implemented in Northern Ireland. It was essential, therefore, to ensure that the Passive House standard was included within the revisions to Northern Ireland's building regulations being proposed currently.

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Dr. Colclough concluded by commending the Council on its ongoing work around climate change and by calling upon it to support Councillor Heading's motion.

The Lord Mayor thanked Dr. Colclough for his presentation, following which the Council noted the information which had been provided.

Change of Membership on Committees and Outside Bodies

Committee Membership

The Chief Executive reported that notification has been received from the following Political Parties of changes to membership of Committees:

DUP

- Councillor Pankhurst to replace Alderman McCoubrey on the Planning Committee.

Sinn Féin

- Councillor Gormley to replace Councillor Walsh on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee; and
- Councillor Gormley to replace Councillor McLaughlin on the People and Communities Committee.

The Council approve the changes.

Position of Responsibility – arc21 Joint Committee

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that it held three seats on the arc21 Joint Committee, which were appointed at the Annual meeting of the Council on the basis of d'Hondt.

She explained that one of the seats had been held by the DUP. However, its nominating officer had indicated that his Party had vacated the seat and that it would not be filling the position.

In accordance with the d'Hondt order of choices, the vacancy had been offered to the next Party on the list, namely, the Alliance Party, whose nominating officer had advised that his Party would be filling the vacancy and had nominated the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds) for the position.

The Council noted the appointment.

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Minutes of Active Belfast Limited Board

Moved by Councillor Ferguson,
Seconded by Councillor Matt Collins,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th January, under the heading “Minutes of Active Belfast Limited Board”, insofar as it relates to the Schedule of Charges for 2020/21, be rejected and accordingly the matter be referred back to the Board with a request that it reconsider the proposed price increases.

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

Family Membership Scheme

The Chief Executive confirmed, in response to a Member, that a one-year pilot family membership scheme, which had been operating for six months in the Olympia Leisure Centre, would from 1st March be extended to all centres and that staff would be appraised accordingly.

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

Asset Management

At the request of Councillor McKeown, the Council agreed that that portion of the minute under the heading “Asset Management”, relating to the renewal of the lease for Ormeau Golf Club, Park Road, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment and omission, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 24th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, were approved and adopted.

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People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Michael Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th and 14th January be approved and adopted.

**Invitation to Compete in Britain in Bloom Awards 2020
and Ireland's Best Kept Awards Competition 2020**

At the request of Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed to amend the minute of the meeting of 14th January, under the above mentioned heading, to provide that the report to be presented to the Committee on recent awards and ceremonies which the Council had entered and the forthcoming competitions which it intended to enter would include details of the associated costs.

**Football for All – Request for the
use of Belfast Playing Fields (Mallusk)**

At the request of Councillor de Faoite, the Council agreed to recommend to the Irish Football Association that the Belfast Braves LGBT football team be included in the Football for All Festival.

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council agreed that a further invitation be extended to the President and the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association to meet with the People and Communities Committee to discuss Members' concerns around the Association's proposals for the restructuring of Intermediate league football.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment and additions, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th and 14th January were approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Murphy,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 15th January be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor S. Baker,
Seconded by Councillor T. Kelly and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 22nd January, omitting matters in respect of which the

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

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 21st and 23rd January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Mulholland,
Seconded by Councillor Flynn and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 20th January be approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor de Faoite,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 9th January be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Menopause Aware

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

“This Council resolves to work with organisations to ensure that Belfast City Council and its staff are Menopause Aware and have an understanding of the support available should they be concerned over symptoms which they might be experiencing.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

At the request of Councillor Ferguson, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to read as follows:

“This Council resolves to work with organisations, such as Trade Unions, to ensure that Belfast City Council and its staff are Menopause Aware, have an understanding of the support available should they be concerned over symptoms which they might be experiencing, and recognises menopause as a workplace issue.”

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

Support for People with a Gambling Addiction

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

“This Council notes the outdated and deeply flawed nature of the current law on gambling in Northern Ireland and the need for urgent root and branch reform of gambling legislation. It welcomes the announcement by the Department for Communities of a consultation on gambling law and policy.

The Council notes also with concern the report on problem gambling published by the Northern Ireland Office (September 2019) which states that ‘no gambling specific services are commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board for individuals suffering from gambling addiction’ and the negligible financial contribution from the gambling industry for these services.

The Council calls for an urgent review to be conducted by the Department of Health into the support provided for people with a gambling addiction and calls upon the gambling industry to significantly increase the financial support which it provides for problem gambling services.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

At the request of Councillor de Faoite, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to reflect that the Council would write to Baroness Morgan, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and to Ofcom, enquiring if they had any further plans for the regulation of both broadcast and online advertising by gambling companies.

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

Cycle Lanes

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

“Safe cycling is paramount to developing a carbon-neutral city.

This Council, therefore, agrees to seek a meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure to discuss previously agreed motions on safe cycle networks throughout the City.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Donnelly.

At the request of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McReynolds), the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the addition of the following wording at the end of the final paragraph:

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“to secure her commitment towards the delivery of new cycle networks across the City and around schools; improvements to an understaffed and overburdened Cycling Unit; an update on the Belfast Cycle Network consulted on in 2017 and her Department’s progress against the performance indicators and budgetary targets set out within the Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland; and the creation of an independent steering group for active travel delivery.”

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

“Safe cycling is paramount to developing a carbon-neutral city.

This Council, therefore, agrees to seek a meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure to discuss previously agreed motions on safe cycle networks throughout the City, to secure her commitment towards the delivery of new cycle networks across the City and around schools; improvements to an understaffed and overburdened Cycling Unit; an update on the Belfast Cycle Network consulted on in 2017 and her Department’s progress against the performance indicators and budgetary targets set out within the Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland; and the creation of an independent steering group for active travel delivery.”

Drug Task Force

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

“This Council calls upon the Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities to establish a drug task force to respond to the increase in deaths. The figure is 40% higher than 2017 and has more than doubled over the last 10 years.

The primary role of the taskforce will be to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death.

Safe injection rooms, prevention, quicker access to services, including crisis intervention, with an urgent review of current provision is required to deal with an increase in drug and alcohol related deaths.

The Council agrees, therefore, to write to the aforementioned Ministers calling for the establishment of a drug task force to be prioritised as a matter of urgency. We can no longer wait and watch the devastation being witnessed in every community.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Smyth.

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:

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“The taskforce will target actions or localities where the reverberations of drug use are felt more acutely and will consider recommendations of contemporary research initiatives, including but not limited to, the West Belfast Drugs Panel.”

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

“This Council calls upon the Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities to establish a drug task force to respond to the increase in deaths. The figure is 40% higher than 2017 and has more than doubled over the last 10 years.

The primary role of the taskforce will be to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death. The taskforce will target actions or localities where the reverberations of drug use are felt more acutely and will consider recommendations of contemporary research initiatives, including but not limited to, the West Belfast Drugs Panel.

Safe injection rooms, prevention, quicker access to services, including crisis intervention, with an urgent review of current provision is required to deal with an increase in drug and alcohol related deaths.

The Council agrees, therefore, to write to the aforementioned Ministers calling for the establishment of a drug task force to be prioritised as a matter of urgency. We can no longer wait and watch the devastation being witnessed in every community.”

Public Sector Pay

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

“This Council notes that NIPSA civil service members are currently campaigning for fair pay, which included a recent strike campaign across Belfast and beyond. The Council notes the context of wage freezes and attacks on working conditions for public sector workers and believes that strike action is a measured response to the insufficient pay deal that was most recently offered to public sector workers.

The Council fully supports NIPSA in its campaign for better pay and better terms and conditions, including the strike action which continued after the re-establishment of the new Executive, which has the power to deliver fair pay.

To this end, the Council agrees to write to the Minister of Finance to implore him to immediately implement fair pay for civil servants, in line with NIPSA’s demands.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

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At the request of Councillor Murphy, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to provide for the addition of the words “as a result of Tory austerity” after the word “workers” in the first paragraph and of the words “and to the British Secretary of State, Julian Smyth, demanding that the British Government fully funds its commitments contained within the New Decade, New Approach agreement” at the end of the final paragraph.

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

“This Council notes that NIPSA civil service members are currently campaigning for fair pay, which included a recent strike campaign across Belfast and beyond. The Council notes the context of wage freezes and attacks on working conditions for public sector workers, as a result of Tory austerity, and believes that strike action is a measured response to the insufficient pay deal that was most recently offered to public sector workers.

The Council fully supports NIPSA in its campaign for better pay and better terms and conditions, including the strike action which continued after the re-establishment of the new Executive, which has the power to deliver fair pay.

To this end, the Council agrees to write to the Minister of Finance to implore him to immediately implement fair pay for civil servants, in line with NIPSA’s demands and to the British Secretary of State, Julian Smyth, demanding that the British Government fully funds its commitments contained within the New Decade, New Approach agreement.”

**Sections 43A and 43B of the Building
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

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

“This Council will be aware of Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 outlining that new public building owned by public authorities from 2019 and all new buildings, including social and private housing developments, “must be a nearly zero energy buildings”, (NZE43B) by 31st December, 2020.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to work with statutory and non-statutory agencies to end fuel poverty and the reduction of carbon emissions.

In addition, it acknowledges the evidence gathered by the World Health Organisation and environmental groups indicating the damage to both health and our climate from fuel poverty.

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Accordingly, the Council agrees to:

- i. write to the Minister of Finance in the NI Assembly seeking an update on how the Department will assist local councils in implementing Sections 43A 43B and enquiring if the Department has had an assurance from the building industry that they are prepared and their staff trained to meet this policy implementation;
- ii. seek a meeting with the Minister of Finance or his officials to consider the adoption of Passive House standard as an amendment to the 2012 Building regulations or in any new legislation reforming building regulations;
- iii. seek an all-Party meeting with the Northern Ireland Federation Housing Association and the Chartered Institute of Housing to discuss how their members will implement and adhere to Sections 43A and 43B and NZEB;
- iv. seek an all-Party meeting with the Minister for Communities or Department officials to discuss Passive House standard for all social housing developments, as a means of meeting current obligations set out in Sections 43A and 43B; and
- v. write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain if there are any proposals for planning legislation to be amended or introduced to tackle fuel poverty.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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

Graffiti

In the absence of Councillor Nicholl, in whose name the motion had been submitted, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed:

“This Council notes that graffiti is an area of concern for many residents of Belfast. It spoils the local environment and can encourage other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Council notes also that it can also be costly to remove graffiti and that it is not a service which it currently provides, but believes that it is an issue it should be taking responsibility for.

The Council will, therefore, review current practices in other councils to remove graffiti and will work through the Area Working Groups to develop

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an Anti-Graffiti Strategy, which will identify areas of partnership in order to creatively and proactively tackle this growing problem.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor M. Kelly.

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

Market Gardens and Urban Farming

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

“This Council:

- i. notes the objectives of the Growing Communities Strategy 2012 – 2022, which include supporting environmental sustainability and the development of the social economy;
- ii. recognises that, as society continues to care more about how food is produced, processed and transported, market gardens and urban farming are increasingly popular alternatives for climate-conscious consumers;
- iii. further recognises that market gardens and urban farming align closely with the three pillars of sustainable development: they contribute to production; they boost social integration; and they improve our environment and general health;
- iv. acknowledges that market gardens and urban farming can play a positive role in supporting the development of environmental and agricultural education at all levels; and
- v. resolves to work with all relevant partners to establish an urban farm for community use and market garden development on an existing site within the Belfast City Council land bank, using revenue raised by the disposal of other sites.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McKeown.

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

Irish Language Street Signage Policy

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

“This Council has one of the most restrictive policies of any council in the North in regards to Irish Language Street Signage Policy.

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Currently, the policy is that you need a 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in a street to sign a petition which starts the process. Once the process has been initiated, a letter is sent to everyone in that street who is on the electoral register asking if they consent to have bilingual signage installed. The resident has three options, namely, Yes, No and Don't Care. For the process to come to a successful conclusion, 2/3rds of the total electorate in the street need to consent to yes. If a letter is not returned, it is considered by the Council as saying that they don't consent for the bilingual signage. Furthermore, where residents send the survey back saying 'Don't Care, this is also considered to be a negative response.

If we, as Elected Members were held to the same standard as this policy in the Local Government elections, not one Member would have been returned to serve on this Council, as we would not have met those restrictive parameters. The Council's Language Strategy refers to increasing the visibility of the Irish Language in our City. However, it is essential not to impose the Irish language on residents if the majority of them in a street do not consent to it.

Therefore, this Council will amend its Irish language street signage policy to the following:

- i. continue with the 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in the street to initiate the process;
- ii. change the policy to reflect that it will be the majority of respondents to the survey that will decide if the process has been successful. Therefore, it will be 50% +1 of respondents that will determine if the petition to erect bilingual signage has been successful. Non-respondents will not be considered as a negative response; and
- iii. those respondents who respond as 'Don't Care' are not considered to be a negative response and will be treated as a void vote."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.

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

Growth Deal

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

"This Council agrees to task officers to prepare an initial report on developing a new growth deal for the city of Belfast.

The Belfast Agenda recognises and builds on our City's achievements. Our success in economic growth is making a vital contribution to the broader economy. We are a significant employer of people living in and

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outside the city. However, for Belfast to achieve its ambitions, it needs to work in partnership with the Executive.

One potential avenue for this growth deal could be the regional rate. If the Council was to work in conjunction with the Department of Finance and secure an additional 2% from the regional rate, it would derive an additional £30 million in revenue.

Two of the potential sectors to benefit from this additional growth fund could be in the building of much needed public housing or the renewable energy market in the form of an offshore wind farm. Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in the North of Ireland. These two potential options both conform to the Belfast Agenda and the draft Programme for Government. They are sustainable projects which would ensure a steady return to this Council over many years.”

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.

Belfast Zoo

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

“This Council agrees to an ambitious plan to transform Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures is wrong and unethical, it doesn't mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.

The ratepayers of this City have to subsidise the Zoo to the sum of £2.5 million per year. The savings from the Zoo site could provide substantial funding for the much-needed regeneration of the City, create jobs, opportunities and attract more visitors. The five-year transitional period will enable the Council to safely return animals to their natural habitats in a carefully crafted phased approach.

Furthermore, the Council will retain on-site an animal conservation programme for indigenous animals. The five years will also enable the Council to consult with trade unions, staff and residents of the City through direct engagement and consultation. The Council will commit to securing all jobs currently on the Zoo site, with the options of retraining and redeployment. This will create an opportunity for the Council to develop the site, create jobs and to promote the City ethically.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

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

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Historic Graveyards

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

“This Council is deeply concerned about the serious neglect of two of our Belfast Historic Cemeteries, namely Balmoral and Clifton Street. In Balmoral Cemetery, many headstones and monuments are dilapidated and many of the Victorian iron surrounds have been damaged and suffer from rust. The railway and northern embankments at Balmoral are completely covered with undergrowth, making it impossible to locate the graves in these sections. Clifton Street Cemetery suffers from a similar set of conditions, the undergrowth along its perimeter walls is accelerating the deterioration of a number of headstones and tablets. Often, when environmental work is carried out, rubbish is left on graves near the entrance.

Given the historical importance and worth of these burial grounds to the narrative of our Belfast history, it is proposed that the Council organise a tour of the two cemeteries for Members; prepare a maintenance and conservation plan; provide a report on the plan and costs and set a timeframe for the completion of the required works.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Magee.

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

Sustainable Transport

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

“This Council supports the promotion and expansion of sustainable transport in Belfast as a critical step in addressing the dangerous levels of air pollution and congestion across the City and in the context of our climate emergency.

With the appointment of a new Minister for Infrastructure, the Council should ensure that the Minister is clear about our commitment to sustainable transport options and the need for urgent action on climate.

Therefore, the Council agrees to write to the Minister to state that the Experimental Traffic Control Scheme Permitted (Taxis in Bus Lanes), which was proposed by her Department, does not have the Council's support and to urge her to not progress this further, instead focusing efforts on further measures to enhance the provision of public transport, cycle infrastructure and pedestrian priority in the City.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O'Hara.

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

High Speed Rail Connection

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

“This Council welcomes the commitment in the ‘New Decade New Approach’ document which states that “The Irish Government is supportive of serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island.”

As this is also a Council priority, the Council will seek a meeting with Irish Government officials, Council officers and party group leaders to discuss this proposition further.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Garrett.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st February, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillors Kyle, Maskey, McMullan and 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;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Graham, Heading and Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th January, 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 3rd February.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Haire declared an interest in relation to item 2e – George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge Centenary Dinner in that he was in attendance at the event and he left the meeting whilst the item was under discussion.

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

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

Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2019/20

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which presented the Quarter 3 financial position for the Council, including a forecast of the year-end outturn. It included a reporting pack with a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. In addition, it had provided a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

The Director reported that the departmental year-end forecast was an underspend of £764k which represented a variance of 0.5% of the annual net expenditure budget. The district rate forecast from Land and Property Services (LPS) was a clawback of £1.4 million. He pointed out that officers would continue to work with LPS to scrutinise the rate forecast before the final position was presented to Committee at year-end.

He reminded the Members of previous commitments to support a number of unbudgeted initiatives as detailed in the report, that is, Air Quality, the World Irish Dancing Championships and the 2021 UEFA Supercup and it was recommended that they be prioritised for funding given the forecasted available balances. He pointed out that requests for funding had been received from the Ulster Boxing Council, The Belfast Advice Group (Citywide Tribunal Service), the Centre for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) and the MAC, and the Committee would have to consider whether it wished to provide any funding to those organisations.

After discussion, the Committee affirmed its commitment to support the unbudgeted initiatives as detailed in Par 3.7 - 3.9 of the report, that is, Air Quality, The World Irish Dancing Championships and the 2021 UEFA Supercup.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin,

That the Committee agrees to provide additional support of £100k to the Ulster Boxing Council to host the 2020 EUBC School Boys and School Girls European Boxing Championships from 7th June - 11th July 2020.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

That the Committee agrees:

- that the General Reserves balance be set at £13 million;
- to defer the decision on funding of £75,000 to the Belfast Advice Group (Citywide Tribunal Service) to cover the period April 2020 – March 2021 until the Department for Communities clarifies its position; and

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- the remaining forecasted underspend be considered again at the year-end (quarter 4) with a view on it being put into a general reserve and consideration being given to it being used to support alleygating and Belfast Bikes.

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

The amendment was put as the substantive motion and agreed.

**Department for Communities (DfC)
Consultation on Regulation of Gambling**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th January, it had agreed to a corporate response being submitted to the Department for Communities (DfC) consultation on the Regulation of Gambling and that each of the Party Group Leaders would nominate a Member to engage with officers to draw up the response.

The City Solicitor reported that that engagement had now taken place and he submitted for the Committee's consideration a proposed response to the consultation.

The Committee agreed:

- the corporate response to the DfC Consultation on the Regulation of Gambling; and
- the response insofar as it related to casinos within the consultation.

Request for Revision of Public Tours of City Hall

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a further report to be submitted in relation to free tours for Belfast citizens.

NI Water

The Chief Executive tabled for the Committee's information a report which highlighted issues being raised with the Council by Northern Ireland Water in relation to the impact of underinvestment in the waste water infrastructure in Belfast and requested the Committee to consider the position it wished to take in response.

The Committee requested that letters be forwarded to NI Water, the Utility Regulator and the Ministers for Finance and the Department for Infrastructure seeking clarification in relation to the issues outlined in paragraph six of the report.

George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge Centenary Dinner

The City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration a report outlining the findings of an investigation following an incident at the City Hall on 12th October, 2019 at a centenary dinner hosted by the George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge.

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The City Solicitor outlined the summary of findings and the recommendations for the future use of the City Hall arising from the investigation.

During discussion, a Member requested that the terms and conditions of use include other Council facilities and, after a lengthy debate, the Committee:

1. noted the report and findings;
2. agreed that the terms and conditions for the use of City Hall and other Council facilities be revisited and refreshed, with express reference to the Council's equality obligations;
3. agreed that those who fail to comply with terms and conditions for the use of City Hall may be subject to a sanction barring them from the future use of Council facilities, either permanently or for a time-bound period; and
4. agreed that event organisers be asked to meet any additional costs of providing security staff for events if the risk assessment or event management plan indicates additional staff would be required.

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

That, given the decision taken by the Committee in relation to point 3, the George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge and Govan Protestant Boys be banned from booking the City Hall in the future.

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

The Committee proceeded to discuss a proposed statement to be issued by the Council in relation to the incident and it was:

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

That the statement to be issued by the Council include the decision in relation to the banning of the George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge and the Govan Protestant Boys from booking the City Hall in the future.

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

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

**Motion: Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening –
Response from Permanent Secretary**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider a response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, to a motion on Bowel and Breast Cancer

Screening which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to

- consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 At the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor S. Baker, was passed:

‘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.’

3.2 A response has now been received from the Permanent Secretary.

3.3 The Permanent Secretary explains that the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme currently covers all men and women between the ages of 60 and 74. In relation to the further development of the Programme, the Northern Ireland Screening Committee has recommended a phased approach involving, firstly, the replacement of the Faecal Occult Blood test with the Faecal Immunochemical Test, which has a better performance in terms of participation rates, and, secondly, giving consideration to offering screening from the age of 50. The move to Faecal Immunochemical Testing is due to take place early this year and, once completed, the extension of the age range for bowel screening will be considered. In view of these developments, there is, therefore, no plans to undertake a review of bowel screening at this time.

- 3.4 The Permanent Secretary then provides details of the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme. He explains that, in line with the recommendations of the UK National Screening Committee, women between the ages of 50 and 70 are invited for screening every three years. Those over the age of 70 are able to self-refer every three years by contacting their local screening centre. Breast screening is not, however, offered to women under the age of 50, as their risk of developing breast cancer is deemed to be lower and their mammograms tend to be more difficult to interpret, thereby leading to false positive results, anxiety and unnecessary biopsies. He adds that, in April, 2013, the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme assumed responsibility for the surveillance screening of women with a higher risk of breast cancer and that women from the age of 20 upwards were now included in the Programme.
- 3.5 He goes on to provide details of a National Health Service Breast Screening Programme 'Age X' trial which is running currently in England. The trial, which will conclude in 2026, offers some women an extra screen between the ages of 47 and 49 and another between the ages of 71 and 73, with a view to determining if extending the age range reduces deaths from breast cancer. More than five million women will be selected over the course of the trial to receive additional or usual screening, with such a large number being required to ensure that the research will produce reliable results for informing future screening policy.
- 3.6 He points out that a major research trial, such as Age X, will not be given approval unless there are enough participants to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups, a separate research trial for Northern Ireland would not be considered, as it would be unable to produce sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.
- 3.7 The Permanent Secretary concludes by stressing that the screening tests do not provide a guarantee that all cancers will be detected early or prevented and that it is important that people are aware of warning signs or symptoms and act promptly by contacting their GP with any concerns.
- 3.8 Financial and Resource Implications
- None associated with this report.
- 3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- None."

The Committee noted the response.

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**Motion: Irish Unity Referendum –
Response from Governments**

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion, which had been proposed by former Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, had been adopted by the Council:

“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 LGBTQ+ communities are respected.

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.”

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It was reported that responses had now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State and the Tánaiste addressing in detail the issues raised within the motion in relation to a unity referendum and Brexit and copies of the responses had been circulated for the information of the Members.

A Member pointed out that the responses did not address the questions which were asked in the motion and requested that the Committee consider forwarding a further letter in this regard.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

**Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign
and Water Refill Stations**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Committee is asked to consider a request from Northern Ireland Water for the Council to engage with them in relation to the Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign.

1.2 Committee is also asked to note the update re the Notice of Motion, raised by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor McReynolds in regards to examining the feasibility of installing Water refill points across the Council Estate.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to;

(i) Consider the request from Northern Ireland Water and to approve that officers engage with them in relation to Belfast City Council participating in this scheme.

(ii) Note that a recommendation to add ‘Installation of Water Refill Points in Council Assets’ as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme is contained within the Physical Programme Update report which is also on the agenda for consideration by Members today at Item 6

3.0 Main report

3.1 REFILLUTION CAMPAIGN

Members are advised of a request from Northern Ireland Water in relation to the ‘Refillution’ Campaign. This request compliments previous discussions on water refill points and would encourage

members of the public to refill a reusable bottle with tap water rather than buy single use plastics.

- 3.2 Over the last year, Northern Ireland Water has engaged with Northern Ireland Councils, including Belfast City Council, to partner with them on helping reduce plastic pollution. Northern Ireland Water launched its 'Refillution,' Campaign on 19th June to coincide with a National Day of Action.
- 3.3 The 'Refillution' Campaign is aimed at encouraging people to refill a reusable bottle with tap water and buy less single use plastic bottles.
- 3.4 Ards and North Down Borough Council became the first Council area to partner with Northern Ireland Water in May 2019. A number of businesses in the Borough, around 70, have signed up to 'Refillution' where the public can refill their reusable water bottles for free, from shops or cafés that are supporting the campaign.
- 3.5 Northern Ireland Water provides the business with a number of window stickers, posters and bottles as part of a 'Toolkit.' There are also opportunities for joint press and shared articles in the Council Magazine.
- 3.6 Eight of the other Councils also supported the NI Water launch on 19th June. Northern Ireland Water have requested that the Belfast City Council meet with them to look at how this scheme can be introduced into the City.
- 3.7 **WATER REFILL STATIONS**
- 3.8 Members will recall the notice of motion brought forward by Cllr McMullan, seconded by Cllr McReynolds at the August meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:
- 3.9 *"This Council recognises the over reliance on single use plastic water bottles. It notes innovative solutions to tackle this issue and support sustainable living, for example, the water refill stations recently installed by Mayo County Council.*

The Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.

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

Councillor McMullan had referred to the facility within Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park as being an excellent example of a water refill point and requested that other potential Council locations and models be identified and costings provided”.

In furtherance of the above NOM, given the infrastructure and asset implications the proposal would need to be taken through Council’s agreed physical programme development process, and added as a Stage 1 Emerging project on the Capital Programme, in order to be worked up further. Members are asked to note that this is on the Physical Programme report for consideration by Members at today’s meeting.

3.10 Financial & Human Resource Implications

If Members wish to see additional drinking fountains / units across the Council estate then this would need to be considered as part of the emerging list within the capital programme (see Physical Programmes update report, Item 6).

3.11 Asset and Other Implications

There are no known implications.

3.12 Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications

There are no known implications.”

Councillor McMullan, who had submitted the motion, requested that the Committee agree to support the recommendations contained in the report. He also requested that the Committee consider introducing a water refill pilot scheme at two locations, in the grounds of the City Hall and at St. George’s Market, that the existing water refill points be added to the City refill scheme, to the installation and appropriate signage to provide awareness of the refill points and to the Committee undertaking a marketing campaign to promote the refillution scheme with business and residents.

After discussion, the Committee:

- considered the request from Northern Ireland Water and approved that officers engage with them in relation to Belfast City Council participating in this scheme;
- noted that a recommendation to add ‘Installation of Water Refill Points in Council Assets’ as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme was contained within the Physical Programme Update report which was also on the agenda for consideration by Members later in the meeting; and
- agreed to the submission of a further report which would consider:

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- a. the introduction of a water refill pilot scheme at 2 locations, that is, the City Hall grounds and St. George's Market;
- b. that all existing water refill points be added to the City refill scheme and, should Belfast join the NI Water Refillution campaign, they be added to that as well;
- c. the installation of appropriate signage to provide awareness of the refill points; and
- d. a marketing campaign to promote the refillution scheme with businesses and residents.

Motion - Market Gardens and Urban Farming

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 3rd February, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor McKeown and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council:

- notes the objectives of the Growing Communities Strategy 2012 – 2022, which include supporting environmental sustainability and the development of the social economy;
- recognises that, as society continues to care more about how food is produced, processed and transported, market gardens and urban farming are increasingly popular alternatives for climate-conscious consumers;
- further recognises that market gardens and urban farming align closely with the three pillars of sustainable development: they contribute to production; they boost social integration; and they improve our environment and general health;
- acknowledges that market gardens and urban farming can play a positive role in supporting the development of environmental and agricultural education at all levels; and
- resolves to work with all relevant partners to establish an urban farm for community use and market garden development on an existing site within the Belfast City Council land bank, using revenue raised by the disposal of other sites.”

Councillor de Faoite, who proposed the motion, addressed the Committee and requested support for the proposals outlined. He referred to the report which would be considered later in the meeting in relation to the Council-owned land at Beechvale Farm. He requested the Committee to consider alternative proposals for the land, in particular those which were outlined in the motion.

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After discussion, the Committee:

- agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be brought back; and
- the proposals be taken into consideration when the Committee was considering the report on the Beechvale Farm later in the meeting.

Motion – Growth Deal

The Committee was reminded that the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Garrett at the Council meeting on 3rd February. In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

“This Council agrees to task officers to prepare an initial report on developing a new growth deal for the city of Belfast.

The Belfast Agenda recognises and builds on our City’s achievements. Our success in economic growth is making a vital contribution to the broader economy. We are a significant employer of people living in and outside the city. However, for Belfast to achieve its ambitions, it needs to work in partnership with the Executive.

One potential avenue for this growth deal could be the regional rate. If the Council was to work in conjunction with the Department of Finance and secure an additional 2% from the regional rate, it would derive an additional £30 million in revenue.

Two of the potential sectors to benefit from this additional growth fund could be in the building of much needed public housing or the renewable energy market in the form of an offshore wind farm. Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in the North of Ireland. These two potential options both conform to the Belfast Agenda and the draft Programme for Government. They are sustainable projects which would ensure a steady return to this Council over many years.”

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

Motion - Belfast Zoo

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd February, a motion on the Belfast Zoo had been proposed by Councillor Maskey and seconded by Councillor Murphy and subsequently referred to the Committee for consideration. The proposer of the motion, Councillor Maskey, had indicated that he wished to amend the motion into the following form and the Committee agreed that that be accepted:

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“The Council agrees to undertake a feasibility study with a view to producing an ambitious plan to transform the Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures doesn’t mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.

The five year transitional period will enable the Council to explore how best to facilitate the most ethical, safe and appropriate future environment for the animals which are currently housed at the zoo.

The ratepayers of the city have to subsidise the zoo to the tune of £2.5 million annually. The feasibility study will consider if the savings could be re-invested in the site to create a world class visitor attraction. The study should include the feasibility of incorporating a conservation facility and programme for indigenous animals. In doing so the Council will seek to commit to securing all jobs currently at the zoo site, with the options of retraining and redeployment if required. The feasibility study to inform the transformation plan would include consultation with staff, trade unions and the residents of the city.”

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor Groogan,

That the motion in relation to the Belfast Zoo be substituted with the following:

“This Council reaffirms its support for the Belfast Zoo and its staff and its long term sustainability and future investment.

The Council agrees to scope future investment and a feasibility study for the long term sustainability of the Belfast Zoo and the surrounding area, including the Flora Hall. This will be done in conjunction with leading experts, key stakeholders and public consultation and engagement.”

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

The motion, as amended, was put to the Committee as the substantive motion and agreed.

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

The Committee deferred consideration on the matter to enable briefings to be provided to those Parties who so wished.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 21st February, 2020**

Motion: Lucy's Law - Response from Minister

The Committee was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 6th January, had passed the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Flynn and 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.”

It was reported that a response had now been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs.

In the response, the Minister explained that his Department was monitoring changes in the legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy's Law. He pointed out that the new rules, which were due to come into effect in England in April, would mean that puppies and kittens could no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they had bred the animal themselves. Anyone seeking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months old must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.

The Minister had confirmed that he intended to monitor the changes being implemented in England, with a view to considering the most appropriate way forward for Northern Ireland. He concluded by stressing his commitment to ensuring that Northern Ireland had high welfare standards and that the wellbeing of pets remain protected.

The Committee noted the response.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

City Region Growth Deal – Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- To note the progress in the further development of the BRCD
- To note the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements and BRCD partner response
- To note the minutes of the BRCD Council Panel held on 29th January 2020.

3.0 Main report

Programme Update

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the BRCD proposition contains 22 projects across Digital, Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism & Regeneration investment pillars, which will be underpinned by an integrated employability and skills programme.
- 3.2 Robust Outline Business Cases (OBCs) demonstrating the ability of each project to support the BRCD's stated objectives are required for each project in order to release the BRCD Funding. The main focus of this stage of the process, Phase 2, is therefore the development of the OBCs. Projects are being progressed by individual partners with the guidance and support of Advisory Boards and an update on each investment pillar is provide below.

Investment Priorities

3.3 Tourism and Regeneration

Plans for the development of many of the OBCs within the agreed timeframes have been reviewed by the Advisory Board, which is now receiving monthly updates on the progress of each project. Project teams have confirmed that they are largely on course to produce OBCs between February and May, but there is limited

room for slippage if deadlines are to be achieved. To ensure projects align with emerging government strategies and tourism priorities the Advisory Board includes representation from Tourism NI, the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities. Tourism NI is now examining possible market testing options for projects in order to assess their potential tourism 'appeal' - this will provide important evidence for inclusion in the OBCs. To complement this Tourism Ireland has also offered to produce analysis of the strengths/weaknesses of each project.

3.4 Innovation

The Innovation Board is continuing to oversee the development of plans for five global centres of excellence in the digital and creative industries, life and health sciences and advanced manufacturing growth sectors, aligned with the priorities of the UK industrial strategy. Business cases have now been drafted in consultation with government stakeholders. The Board has also been working with the E&S pillar to consider how to ensure the skills will be in place for the jobs emerging as a result of these projects. The challenges of minimising carbon emissions were the subject of a recent workshop and work to consider potential synergies with the digital pillar has also commenced. The Innovation strand continues to be furthest advanced with the completion of the first draft OBCs for the following centres of excellence;

- The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre which will provide high quality innovation support to manufacturing and advanced engineering industry by bringing together early stage research and education delivery (AMIC Campus) together with a new Factory 4.0 facility (AMIC Factory 4.0) that brings multiple industries, sectors and technologies to address major industrial challenges within advanced manufacturing.
- A Global Innovation Institute will be an analytics innovation centre, incorporating AI and Machine Learning which builds on the success of the NI cyber ecosystem. It will support the development of a new One Health business cluster in which Northern Ireland will lead the world, and working with key partners, help to anchor the creation of a distinctive Innovation District, from central Belfast extending to Titanic Quarter.
- I-Reach an ecosystem for clinical trials and evidenced based decision making in healthcare. It will transform the ability to test new drugs, pathways and societal interventions and determine the redundancy of current practice following the introduction of transformative medicines and practice.

These will now be submitted to UK and NI government departments for consideration and review.

3.5 Digital

The Fraunhofer/BABEL Institute, a global leader in digital innovation and smart districts/testbeds, is progressing the development of an implementation plan for the highly ambitious digital pillar. A Digital Advisory Board has been established comprising central and local government, universities and colleges and intends to enhance its membership with additional technical and commercial capability. Technical support is also being commissioned with a view to developing a programme level OBC for this pillar by June 2020. At the same time BABLE will support BRCD Partners to identify and develop proposals for specific and viable digital projects. Examples of international good practice will be used to help inform proposals for regional innovation hubs and testbeds.

3.6 Infrastructure

As the Department with responsibility for the delivery of the infrastructure projects, the Department for Infrastructure is leading the Infrastructure investment pillar. The first meeting of the newly established Infrastructure Advisory Board took place in December. The Board includes representation from the BRCD partners with an interest in the three infrastructure projects. OBCs will also be required for these projects to enable the financial strategy and implementation plan to be agreed and it is expected that the OBCs will take account of linkages with plans for investment in digital and employability and skills. The infrastructure projects will also play an important role in ensuring improved accessibility to the new jobs created within the Deal.

3.7 Employability and Skills (E&S)

Unlike the other BRCD strands this area of work does not itself have 'capital projects' but focuses instead on:

- Providing support to the capital projects to ensure that they design and develop their projects to create pathways to deliver the skills that will be needed;
- Developing and applying an agreed approach to social value across the City Deal so that the investments maximise the contribution to the delivery of employability and skills requirements;
- Integrating and aligning the resources and plans of the partners and government departments to help create an

employability and skills pipeline in the growth sectors targeted by the BRCD.

Specialist support is now in place to help support the development of the E&S programme with an initial focus on assisting projects to draw out the skills requirements of the direct and indirect jobs that are being created. Partner organisations are continuing to engage with each other and with our government partners to consider opportunities to develop a more integrated approach to the planning and prioritisation of E&S interventions going forward. A recent workshop identified the scale and scope of employability and skills interventions taking place through the 6 local councils, spanning across employability, educational provision, business support and sectorally focused activities. Opportunities for collaboration and alignment of interventions have been identified and will be explored with councils, colleges, universities, government departments and key sectoral partners in the coming months.

NI Funding and Governance Arrangements

- 3.8 The BRCD Partners received the NI Funding & Governance Arrangements paper (attached at Appendix 1) which sets out the high-level governance structures that will be applied to all NI City & Growth Deals including the Belfast Region City Deal.
- 3.9 The arrangements and governance structures proposed have been based on other City Deals and lessons learned across the UK, but have also taken account of the model developed for the Belfast Region City Deal which were developed in advance of this document. The document has been developed by NI Civil Service (NICS) in regular consultation with UK Government, through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The NICS and UK Government agreed the attached paper prior to it being shared with the Executive Board in December.
- 3.10 The BRCD Partners considered the proposed arrangements in December 2019 and drafted a proposed response (attached at Appendix 2). The comprehensive response set out areas requiring clarification and requests for amendment/reconsideration by NICS.
- 3.11 In addition to commenting on a range of specific points of detail, the draft response emphasises the importance of constructive ongoing engagement with the NICS in developing a robust programme that is capable of delivering the ambitions of the BRCD Partners. This response was considered and agreed by the BRCD Council Panel at its meeting on 29th January 2020.

- 3.12 Members should also note that the Governance and Funding Arrangements was drawn up in advance of the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and the BRCD Partners will also seek clarification on what impact, if any, this will now have on future governance arrangements for NI City and Growth Deals.

BRCD Council Panel

- 3.13 The BRCD Council Panel provides a joint forum for members from all six councils to meet to jointly discuss issues, progress and benefits of the BRCD. Each council has four members on the Forum and as agreed by this committee the four nominees from BCC are the party group leaders (or their nominees) of the four largest parties.
- 3.14 The second meeting of the Panel was held in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 29th January 2020. At the meeting the members received an update on the programme of work, considered the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements (as outlined at above), and discussed proposals for future stakeholder engagement, in particular with the restored NI Assembly. A large focus of the meeting was on the Employability and Skills element of the BRCD and the Chief Executive of Belfast Metropolitan College provided a detailed update on work to date as well as an outline of proposals to ensure that the employability and skills challenges were being addressed across the programme. The minutes of the Panel meeting are attached at appendix 3.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Partners will continue to progress the OBC development in line with the predicted timeframe and processes are being put in place to review the OBCs as they emerge with a view to draft OBCs being sent for first consideration to both UK and NI government departments. At this stage no funding is being committed to an individual project as more work is required to understand the finances.
- 3.16 Communication and engagement continues to be a priority both at a project and programme level and specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement. It is envisaged that this specialised support will be in place by February 2020 and that with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with Ministers and political representatives from across the Belfast Region.

- 3.17 The BRCD Partners will also continue to liaise with colleagues in NICS to clarify outstanding issues raised in the response to the NI Funding and Governance Framework and commence work on the development of the next set of deal documents, including the financial plan.

3.18 **Financial & Resource Implications**

All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.

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

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations

NI Executive Ministerial Engagement

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the key proposals set out within the recently published 'New Decade, New Approach' document; and highlighting several specific points for discussion with NI Executive Ministers.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- (a) Note the summary of the New Decade, New Approach attached at Appendix 2.
- (b) Review the proposed discussion points for Ministerial enagemnt, as set out in section 3 below, and identify any additional issues which Members may wish to raise.

- (c) Note that an agenda and supporting briefing papers will be prepared for each Ministerial meeting based on the list of issues agreed by Members.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Members will be aware that the 'New Decade, New Approach' was published by the British and Irish Governments on 9th January 2020 (copy attached at Appendix 1). The document is split into two main parts with a series of sub-commitments set out covering the following areas:

- Priorities of the Restored Executive (pages 6-10)
- Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement (pages 11-44)
- Annex A: specific UK Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 45-56)
- Annex B: specific Irish Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 57-62)

- 3.2** A summary of the document is attached at Appendix 2 for Members information. Clearly, there are a wide range of positive commitments set out within the deal which will benefit Northern Ireland and it will be important that we gain a full understanding of their potential impact on Belfast. Correspondence has been issued to all NI Executive Ministers seeking meetings with a cross-party delegation to discuss specific issues and opportunities for the city.

3.3 Ministerial discussion points

Given the likely limitation of time secured with Ministers, it will be important that the discussion is focused on key priority areas. To help focus discussion at the meetings, the following areas are proposed for Members consideration and comment.

3.3.1 General Comments

- Joining up the skills issue across Departments
- Local government – links to UK policy and funding
- Local government – relationships with all island bodies
- The importance of place and the role of local government in place-making.
- Role of cities as Economic Drivers. Definition of a regionally balanced economy – urban policy
- Climate adaptation and mitigation planning at local and regional level including funding strategy
- Refresh of Programme for Government - alignment with Belfast Agenda - strengthened relationship between

departments and Belfast CC and other Councils. New mechanisms for collaboration, co-design and delivery

- City Deal – forerunner to a new local/regional partnership and funding approach
- Further devolution agenda
- Innovation in public sector
- 5G and digital connectivity

3.3.2 The Executive Office

- The importance of local government in supporting achievement of Executive priorities. Refresh of Programme for Government – linkages to Belfast Agenda: NOTE it is recommended that BCC ask for a role in the PfG development process.
- The importance of place - strengthened central/ local government relationships – local outcome agreements.
- Potential for LGR phase II
- BRCD – governance and funding
- An understanding of the role of the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression in relation to local government
- Dealing with legacy issues such as flags, paramilitaries and bonfires
- Emergency Planning – future model for ensuring resilience
- Future of Executive funding – SIF, TEUC etc
- The Future of Shared Prosperity Funds

3.3.3 Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

- Role of the new independent EPA
- Environment Strategy – relationship with Energy and Climate adaptation and mitigation plans
- Climate Act, strategy and funding plan
- NI Waste Strategy and funding plans – potential for a NI Waste Authority & Infrastructure
- Air Quality Strategy, interventions and funding plan

3.3.4 Department for Communities

- Transfer of regeneration functions- further devolution / transfer of assets
- Community capacity building – new approaches
- Housing in Belfast – joint approaches with BCC. Review of the Private rented sector
- Welfare Reform – advice service and tribunal service
- Connectivity Study – implementation – future of streets ahead programmes

- Areas of special need, e.g. Holylands
- Culture, Arts support and funding / future of Arts Council
- Poverty Strategy / Social value procurement
- BRCD – governance and funding
- City Regeneration and Development (including place shaping, DfC regeneration funding – 5 transformation areas and city centre)
- Employability and Skills – collaboration and co-financing for the delivery of Employability NI pilot. Civic growth / affordable and joint approach to site development / public assets and maximising the regeneration potential of significant development schemes
- Legislative changes (e.g. liquor licensing reform, review of gambling legislation, Local Government Act and supplementary legislation)
- Technical aid for communities re planning
- Future design of Shared Prosperity Fund
- HED Partnership Approach

3.3.5 Department for Economy

- New Economic Strategy – co-design with local government
- The role of the Belfast Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission
- Brexit – support for business – negotiating the future arrangements for services – building the potential of the London – Belfast – Dublin Triangle
- Energy Strategy and need for local government involvement of local government
- BRCD – governance and funding - Innovation and Digital Plans
- Skills Strategy / talent retention – the importance of place in shaping solutions and delivering to local need and growth
- Future of further and higher education – Masen Cap
- Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds / UK RI
- Support for alternative economic models – co-operatives and social enterprises
- Tourism – destination Hub, Game of Thrones, community tourism
- Sub regional economies
- Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor
- Inhibitors to Investment

3.3.6 Department of Education

- Educational Underachievement
- Future of schools – local planning and capital investment

- Childcare Strategy to support employment
- Plans for future of the careers service
- Transition to F&H Education / employment

3.3.7 Department of Finance

- Belfast Region City Deal – governance, funding and streamlining of the approach to business cases. Building on the model of City deals – new partnerships – new financing methods
- Non-domestic rates revaluation 2020 – rates reform
- Revenue raising powers and initiatives such as tourist tax and rates retention – rates incentive – APD, corporation tax, rate reliefs
- Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds
- Green Finance
- Government office consolidation - next phase / impact on regeneration
- Data sharing / open data – evidence bases
- Multi annual budget planning – ability for more co-design of programmes

3.3.8 Department for Health

- Reform agenda – future of PHA – future of joint arrangements such as the Belfast Health Development Unit
- Mental health/suicide – outreach / interventions / investment
- Drugs & Alcohol use – ownership of the issue
- Skills shortages – potential for joint solutions

3.3.9 Department for Infrastructure

- Local Development Plan – RDS and role of Belfast as regional driver of the local economy – growth ambitions
- Planning review – role of Dept / LAs / Role of stat consultees
- Role in driving greener and bluer infrastructure (BOSS)
- Belfast Region City Deal – DFI project progress
- Infrastructure investment and facilitation – water, sustainable transport and 5G
- Transport infrastructure – York Street interchange, cycle network, Belfast transport study/plan
- Future plans for residents parking schemes
- Future role of the harbour/port
- City Connectivity – implementation of the vision
- Environment/climate adaption and mitigation

- Dublin-Belfast fast rail – commitment and urgency to progress
- Potential to fund free public transport for under 25yr olds
- Maintenance priorities & budget

3.3.10 Department of Justice

- Acceleration of plans associated with Peace Walls
- Bonfires/bonfire materials – policy and enforcement
- Potential for new regional ASB policy, including potential for increased powers - funding - diversionary activities and interventions
- Potential for a new approach to Community policing / wardens
- Approaches to tackling drugs
- Holylands and wider South Belfast Area.
- Review functionality and effectiveness of PCSPs
- Troubles related funding in Deal
- Anti-abortion imagery being displayed in public places

Financial & Resource Implications

None

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed to the inclusion of those additional issues which Members had raised with the Chief Executive.

Draft Improvement Objectives 2020/21

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the draft corporate improvement objectives for 2020 - 2021 and to seek Committee approval to issue these for public consultation in line with our statutory obligations.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the draft improvement objectives for 2020-21, and subject to any refinements, to authorise the public consultation required as part of the council’s improvement duty. The proposed improvement objectives for 2020-21 are as follows:**

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Working & Learning
We will support people into employment
Growing the Economy
We will support investment and business growth in the city
City Development
We will support the regeneration of the city centre
Living Here
We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes
Resilience and Sustainability
We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses
We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill
Organisational Priorities
We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council

- 2.2 More information on the improvement objectives, including indicative actions, is contained in Appendix 1. Subject to feedback from the public consultation, detailed actions, performance targets and alignment to inclusive growth will be developed.**

3.0 Key Issues

Background

- 3.1 Council has a statutory requirement to produce an annual improvement plan that sets out our improvement objectives for the year ahead. The Improvement objectives and plan does not include everything that council plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities, as informed by resident priorities and evidenced by need.**

Review and Development of our Improvement Objectives

- 3.2 In 2017-18, we aligned our improvement objectives to the key priorities within the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda is the overarching strategic plan for the city. Developed following extensive engagement and analysis, it articulates the key priorities for the city and provides a robust basis for both our corporate plan and our improvement objectives. As a result of this alignment, our objectives are outcome based and strategic in nature, so although we update the improvement actions on an annual basis, the improvement objectives themselves are likely to remain valid to 2023 (i.e. aligned to the four yearly cycle of the Belfast Agenda planning).
- 3.3 Each year however, the council's strategic hub reviews the improvement objectives to determine whether they are still valid and appropriate. For 2020-21, we are recommending that council retains last year's improvement objectives but includes a new improvement objective related to resilience and sustainability. This reflects the growing importance of this issue and the ongoing work in relation to the City Development priority. It also provides a direct read across against the priorities in our new draft four-year corporate plan. As a result, the existing improvement objective relating to recycling and waste will move from City Development to Resilience and Sustainability. Members should also note that our 'inclusive growth' ambitions have been embedded within the improvement objective actions and associated planning and monitoring process.
- 3.4 The rationale for the proposed improvement objectives, along with indicative actions for 2020-21, is attached at appendix 1. In developing the improvement objectives and actions, we have taken account of previous and ongoing public and stakeholder consultations, updated performance data and Belfast Agenda programming to assess ongoing need. Feedback from the Local Government Auditor has also informed in terms of our review and development process.

Next Steps

- 3.5 Although the objectives are aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the extensive engagement that accompanied its development, we are obliged to consult with residents and key stakeholders regarding our annual improvement objectives. Subject to Committee approval, the draft improvement objectives will be issued for public consultation via our on-line platform for a period of 8 weeks with targeted outreach through existing council communication channels.

- 3.6 Council is legally required to publish its Improvement Plan by 30th June each year. A report will be brought to SP&R in May outlining the results of the consultation and any recommended changes; a draft Improvement Plan will also be presented for approval so that a final plan can be published on the council website before the end of June.

3.7 **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

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

There are no equality or rural need implications arising directly from this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Healthy Cities

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 4th June 2019, it was agreed that a review be undertaken of the Departments ongoing partnership agreements with a focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda and value for money. Included within this review was the partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, who facilitate the city’s membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
- 1.2 Following the decision of Committee, officers have been engaging with Belfast Healthy Cities and its three other core funding partners, to inform and establish a shared review process, taking account of the potential to enhance alignment of the city’s membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.
- 1.3 This report outlines action being taken to review Council’s partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, providing a timeframe for the completion of the review and subsequent next steps, and asks that Members approve a six month extension to the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to allow for the completion of the review.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report;
- Agree to receive a follow up report outlining the outcomes of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities; and
- Agree to extend the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities to 30th September 2020.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** Members approved the completion of an Expression of Interest for Belfast to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 17th August 2018.
- 3.2** Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation, recognised as having charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Belfast Healthy Cities is governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually and representing the public, university, voluntary and community sectors.
- 3.3** As part of the partnership agreement with Council in 2019/20, Belfast Healthy Cities have been leading on the development of the city's application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, including undertaking action to satisfy each of the 13 requirements for the city's membership. It is envisaged the application for Phase VII will be drafted in the coming months and will be brought before Council in early Summer for approval.
- 3.4** During Phase VI (2015-19) of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, the local context in Belfast and the region has shifted, most notably with the introduction of Community Planning and a greater emphasis being placed on outcomes. The city's Community Planning Partnership is the key strategic partnership for Council in terms of the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, including reducing the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived communities in Belfast.
- 3.5** The review of Council's partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities, is therefore timely in shaping how best the city's

membership for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is aligned with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

- 3.6 Council are one of four core funders to Belfast Healthy Cities, along with the Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Officers have engaged with the other funding organisations to outline the decision of Council and in the spirit of 'collaborative gain' as set within the Belfast Agenda, it has been agreed to widen the scope of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to also include the agreements of the other core funders.
- 3.7 A collective specification has been agreed by the four core funding organisations of Belfast Healthy Cities and external, independent support has been secured to undertake a collective 'value for money' review of partnership agreements with Belfast Healthy Cities, taking account of the direct and indirect benefits brought to the city.
- 3.8 It is envisaged the review will be completed by late May 2020, with a report brought back to the both the People and Communities Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June, outlining the outcome of the review, recommended actions and implementation timescales.
- 3.9 Members are asked to approve an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 30th September 2020 to allow for the completion of review, submission of the application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and to provide an initial period for transition and implementation of the recommendations.
- 3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- Extending the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities as recommended, will require the ongoing grant aid of £40,647 for six months. This has been included within the revenue estimates for 2020/21 and does not represent any growth.
- 3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**
- There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications and no Rural Needs Assessment required for the recommendations outlined above."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Governance

APSE Local Government Commission 2030

The Committee was advised that the APSE Local Government Commission was conducting an independent inquiry into the future role of local government across the United Kingdom. The Commission believed that, after years of austerity across public services, local government faced a number of policy issues, be it growing inequalities, housing, climate change or public health. At the same time, the organisational landscape of local government had undergone a patchwork re-organisation through City Deals and combined authorities, partnerships and shared services, asset transfers and local authority companies.

The Commission would consider the future role of local government across the broad themes of stewardship of place; local finance and funding regimes; local government organisation and structures; workforce capacities and roles; local service provision; local democracy and accountability; community leadership, equality and diversity; and centre-local relations.

To understand and evaluate what those issues meant for the future of local councils, the APSE Local Government Commission would develop an independent analysis of the state of local government in the United Kingdom and focus on its future challenges and emerging role in delivering a New Municipalism. Importantly, the Commission had taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signaling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

The Commission would then produce a report, with recommendations, in early 2021, based on its findings from written and oral evidence from interested parties across the UK. The Commission had stated that its recommendations would recognise the multiple, complex and evolving systems that mark the landscape of local government across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In terms of early engagement with APSE, officers had indicated that the likely key areas of interest for Belfast would include:

- enhanced devolution to local government, including regeneration, planning, skills investment and planning, and local transport planning;
- enhanced local investment powers, to ensure that councils had the fiscal levers to tackle issues at community and city level; and
- the introduction of legislation/measures that strengthen the relationship between central and local government, including a duty to collaborate to provide for responsive and integrated public services delivery at regional, city and community level.

As part of the evidence gathering process, APSE was hosting a special evidence session for Northern Ireland Local Government to further inform the work of the Commission. This session was being held today and Council officers were in attendance. This session

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would be the first face-to-face engagement between APSE and local government and Members would have the opportunity to feed into that work as the inquiry progressed.

The Committee:

- a) noted that officers have had early engagement with APSE on this inquiry to highlight headline issues for local government;
- b) agreed that, as the independent inquiry progresses, the Council would provide a comprehensive corporate response.

Revision to Scheme of Allowances 2020/21

The Committee was advised that the Council was required, under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, to publish a Scheme of Allowances which set out the allowances and support services that apply to a Councillor.

The Committee, at its meeting on 21st June, 2019, had revised the Council's Scheme of Allowances to make arrangements to cover what should happen to the payments of a Councillor's Basic Allowance and/or Special Responsibility Allowance if that Councillor was disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.

No arrangements were currently in place in regard to Civic Allowances should a similar disqualification or suspension be imposed on the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor. However, the Council had received an addendum to circular LG 23/2016 from the Department for Communities requiring the Council to update its Scheme of Allowances in relation to the payment of Civic Allowances to provide that:

"A Scheme should state that where a Councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the part of the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended should be withheld."

Also, the Department for Communities determined the maximum hourly rates of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for both standard care and specialised care. The rate for standard care was based on the hourly National Living Wage for age 25+, which would increase on 1st April, 2020 from the current rate of £8.21 per hour to £8.72 per hour. The rate for specialised care was double the rate for standard care. In addition, the Department for Communities set the maximum monthly amounts for standard care and specialised care, capped at the equivalent of 52 hours per month.

As the Council received its lawful authority to make any payments from the Department under the Payments to Councillors Regulations, then it must abide by any instructions from the Department in relation to those Regulations.

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Accordingly, in line with the guidance issued by the Department regarding Civic Allowances, and the increase in the National Living Wage, the Committee agreed to the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as follows:

“Civic Dignitaries Allowance

Where a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of Civic Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended will be withheld.”

and

“Dependants’ Carers’ Allowance

<i>Standard Care</i>	<i>£8.72 per hour limited to £453.44 per month</i>
<i>Specialist Care</i>	<i>£17.44 per hour limited to £906.88 per month”</i>

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 Capital programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves the existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report seeks approval to move projects to the next stage of project development process, and provides an update on other projects on the capital programme.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to –**

Movements under the Capital Programme

- Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location: agree to move the Customer Hub Location project to a Stage 2 - uncommitted, under the Capital Programme.**
- Water refill points – agree to add as an Emerging Stage 1 project, under the Capital Programme i.e. SOC and scoping to be worked up.**

Project Updates

- *Fleet Programme - Lord Mayor's Car* – note the further detail provided in relation to options for replacement of the Lord Mayor's Car and agree which option is to be progressed – a plug-in hybrid model or a fully electric model

Issues for consideration

- Request for permission –
 - a) Consider the request from The Executive Office in relation to aerial footage of capital projects on council land (UV Programme).
 - b) For Council to conduct aerial footage over council lands re PEACE IV connecting open spaces project.

3.0 Main report

Proposed Movements – Capital Programme

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

3.2

Project	Overview	Stage
Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location	Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members	Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted
Water refill points	Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project

Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location - A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been completed and an Outline Business Case (OBC) will now be worked up on the Customer Hub Location proposal – a capital project within the corporate priority Customer Focus Programme - and presented back through internal governance and Committee approval process.

Water refill points – Members are asked to note that a paper on the ‘Northern Ireland Water Refilloution Campaign & Water Refill Stations’ is also on the agenda for consideration by Committee at its meeting on 21st Feb. In terms of the Water Refill Stations this relates to a Notice of Motion that was brought to Council in August 2019 requesting that *‘the Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.’* This proposal will have capital implications for the Council and it is therefore recommended that this is now added as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme to allow the project and costs to be fully worked up with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. In line with all capital projects this will be required to go through the three stage process.

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

- 3.3 At SP&R Committee 17th December, Members were advised that the current lease for the Lord Mayor’s vehicle was due to expire this month and it had been proposed that this would be replaced on a new 4 year lease arrangement with a plug-in hybrid vehicle similar to the size and model of current vehicle (BMW 7 Series) but with a combined 99mpg, and cleaner lower emission CO2 levels. It was highlighted at this stage that it was felt this would provide continuity in terms of the standard and reliability of vehicle required, balancing the requirements of duties of the Lord Mayor’s Office, while reflecting a change and recognition of a more sustainable approach to travel. Following further discussion at last month’s SP&R Committee, additional information was requested in relation to electric vehicle options.
- 3.4 The key issue remains around acquiring a replacement vehicle that achieves value for money, offers reliability given the commitments of the Lord Mayor’s Office and fulfils the function of a civic vehicle fit for high profile Office (security of both Lord Mayor and Chain; wide ranging travel needs from short to long distance journeys), while supporting sustainable/green priorities for the Council.
- 3.5 As per previous considerations, looking at the options available the Fleet Unit engaged closely with the Lord Mayor’s Unit to ensure that the requirements, duties and obligations of the Office of the Lord Mayor were taken into consideration. In addition, an exercise was also undertaken in relation to analysing the mileage of the Lord Mayor’s car. The current usage shows an average mileage of 6,000 miles per year, with a typical average daily mileage of 30 miles. Whilst the usage profile is mainly around the city, there is

reasonably regular requirement for longer trips, therefore a key requirement is for a long wheel based format which would allow for comfort on longer journeys.

3.6 There are two options that are available – a plug-in hybrid model that allows for electric use on city based journeys with a petrol back-up for longer journeys or an electric only model. As requested by Members, Appendix One provides a comparison of the options available – plug-in hybrid vs electric models. In considering these there are a number of areas which it is worth highlighting for Members attention –

- **Model** - It is not possible to do a direct like for like comparison between the different types of vehicles as there are no fully electric executive saloon four door cars (long wheel based options) available on the market at this time and the plug-in hybrid is the only 'green' option available in this type of vehicle. The fully electric models that are currently available are all either Estate or Hatchback models and therefore would be a move away from the traditional type of model of the Lord Mayor's vehicle towards a smaller type of vehicle
- **Charging** – All models are plug-in models and all will require to be charged. As highlighted at Committee last month officers are currently progressing the installation of a dedicated charging point within the Courtyard of the City Hall. The average full charge for the electric vehicles is approx. 260miles while the plug-in hybrid model will do approx. 30miles on a full charge – both of which adequately cover the typical average daily mileage given that the majority of journeys are city based (meaning the vast majority of journeys can be achieved on electric mode). The average full charge for an electric vehicle may not meet some of the requirements of longer journeys and would require additional secure charging on route.
- **Costs** – Members are asked to note that on average the lease costs for the electric vehicles are lower than the plug-in hybrid model however this is to be expected as they are different types of vehicles with differing specifications. The exception to this being the Tesla model where the lease costs are higher than the plug-in hybrid model. However Members are asked to note that the final lease costs will depend on the model and the final specification.
- **Delivery lead in time** – the delivery lead in time for all of the electric models is approx. 4-6 months while the delivery time for the plug-in hybrid model is approx. 2-3 months.

- 3.7 **On the basis of the above information and the detailed information at Appendix One Members are asked to decide which option in terms of a replacement vehicle that they wish to progress.** In considering this Members are asked to note the outcome of previous reports and recommendations to replace the Lord Mayor's current car with a new plug-in hybrid model given the factors above in terms of reliability and standard of vehicle. If Members decide that the replacement vehicle should be a fully electric model then it is recommended that the final decision on the type of model is delegated to officers to agree in conjunction with the Lord Mayor's Office, the Fleet Unit and Corporate Procurement Services.
- 3.8 In addition Members are asked to note the lead in time for any new replacement vehicle (4/6 months for an electric model and 2/3 months for a hybrid model). The current lease is due to expire this month and Members are therefore asked if they are happy to agree an extension to the current lease for the Lord Mayor's car (up to a maximum of 6 months). The approx. cost of this will be around £5k.

Request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites

- 3.9 Members are asked to consider a request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites with request to the two following programmes of work:

1. The Executive Office (TEO) Urban Villages (UV) Programme - Members will be aware of TEO UV programme through Council physical programme updates as the delivery partner for UV capital projects across 4 UV areas in Belfast. These four UV areas, including UV council asset projects are:

- North Belfast, Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan area– Glenbryn playpark; Marrowbone Park; Ballysillan playing fields; Sunningdale community centre
- West Belfast, Colin area –New park in Colin (site to transfer to BCC).
- EastSide area – Short Strand community forum and community centre
- South Belfast, Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets areas – Sandy Row Playpark; Rev. Robert Bradford park

The Council has received a request from TEO UV Programme team for permission to undertake aerial filming of council sites undergoing capital investment as part of the UV capital programme - the plan is to produce an overarching aerial films of projects in these areas showing fly overs to capture where capital projects have been completed, are underway or will be starting.

This will include a number of projects being delivered by Belfast City Council and/or on council land. This filming will show the impact on areas by capturing the physical overview and documenting the delivery and community partner and descriptions of the projects. An approximate timeframe for completion of filming is the end of March. As part of this the Council will request that it is able to use the footage of those projects which are either on Council assets and/or which the Council has delivered.

2. PEACE IV Connecting Open Spaces project - This Council project is £3.06m PEACE IV funding to create a network of shared spaces through the creation of some 12km of a pathways/cycleway network that will interlink open space sites stretching from Glencairn to Bog Meadows. The project is at development stage, with a number of consultations undertaken and underway, however the project has not yet been formally launched. The Council will be organising a formal launch (anticipated timescale, May 2020), however given the geographic extent of the project, aerial footage of the council sites – Glencairn Park, Woodvale Park and Falls Park - would to be an effective means of showing, through a video, the area that is to be developed. This video is seen as an important communication and awareness raising tool with local communities and stakeholders, as part of the launch arrangements.

In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, special permission for aerial footage to be taken over Council assets under UV programme (3.11 above) and three parks as per PEACE IV open spaces project (3.13 above), is therefore being formally requested. All necessary licences would be sought from procured suppliers.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial —

- Fleet Replacement Programme – Lease of the Lord Mayor's Car – these costs are covered under the Fleet Replacement Programme (costs are dependent on option to be agreed and subsequent formal procurement process).
- Aerial footage of council parks re PEACE IV Connecting open spaces project – associated costs will be drawn from existing project budget.

Resources – Officer time as required.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee considered each of the recommendations and made the following decisions:

Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location:

The Committee agreed to move the Customer Hub Location project to a Stage 2 - uncommitted, under the Capital Programme.

Water refill points

The Committee agreed to add, as an Emerging Stage 1 project, under the Capital Programme, that is, for the Strategic Outline Business Case and scoping to be worked up.

Fleet Programme - Lord Mayor's Car

The Committee agreed to replace the Lord Mayor's Car with a fully electric model.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees that the replacement model be a Hyundai Ioniq.

On a vote by show of hands, seven Members voted for the proposal and seven against. There being an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote against the proposal and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the final decision on the type of model would be agreed by the appropriate Council Manager.

Requests for Permission to take Aerial Footage

The Committee:

- approved the request from The Executive Office in relation to aerial footage of capital projects on Council-owned land (UV Programme); and
- approve the Council to conduct aerial footage over Council- owned lands re: PEACE IV connecting open spaces project.

Assets Update

(i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements

The Committee approved the renewal of three conacre licences for the growing of crops, grazing and grass cutting on agricultural lands at Beechvale Farm, Comber for a licence period from and including 1st April, 2020 to 31st March,

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2021; agreed to defer actioning or implementing the decision of 21st June, 2019, that is, to market Beechvale Farm for sale, to enable a further report to be submitted on other future options for the site taking into consideration the proposals in the motion discussed earlier in the meeting on Market Gardens and Urban Farming.

(ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC

The Committee approved the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for use of premises at Morton Community Centre.

(iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal

The Committee approved the renewal of the lease of c. 137 acres of land at Park Road to the Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club for a term of 25 years from 1 July 2020 at a rent of £14,500 per annum with rent reviews every 5 years.

**Leisure Transformation Programme
Phase 1b – Operational Update**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the mobilisation and opening of the Lisnasharragh and Brook Leisure Centres and which highlighted the successes and challenges to date.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts Update

The Committee approved:

- the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Table 1; and
- the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Table 2:

Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders

Title of Tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Provision of Arboricultural Services (T2020)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Delivery of TechConnects – a cross community peace building programme for children & young people using digital technology (T2056)	Nigel Grimshaw/ Ryan Black (SRO)	Up to 31 st December 2022

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Fleet strategy review	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year
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Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Title of tender	Supplier	Total Value
Rate Relief System for iWorld (NIHE)	Northgate	£664,750
Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Airport	Belfast City Airport	£45,000
Professional Services for the Innovation Factory Operator Contract	KPMG	£91,000
Energy Management Services	Schneider Electric	£60,000

Equality and Good Relations

**Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting
on 10th February 2020**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 10th February, 2020, including to:

PEACE IV Secretariat

- an extension request to September 2022 being explored for the Programme, subject to approvals and budget availability.

Peace IV - Children and Young People

- extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 Tech Connects to March, 2022; and
- reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 Tech Connects project.

Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services

- approve the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway'.

Good Relations Audit and District Council
Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21

- note the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval subject to the above changes;
- note that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;
- approving the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 being submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and
- note that this Action Plan submission was subject to agreement by the Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.

PEACE Plus Stakeholder Engagement - Preparing the Peace Plus
Programme European Territorial Co-operation 2021-2027

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To inform elected members of the current stakeholder engagement on PEACE Plus Programme 2021 -2027 being undertaken by The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and seek approval of the council response to the stakeholder survey. A stakeholder survey forms part of the programme engagement exercise running from the 10 December 2019 and has been extended until 17:00 on 28 February 2020. As part of wider engagement SEUPB held stakeholder engagement events including two in Belfast City Hall on 5 February 2020. Council Officers attended both events.**
- 1.2 Peace Plus is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. It will succeed both of the current 2014 -2020 PEACEIV and INTERREG VA Programmes. This new programme represents an exciting opportunity to continue to fund peace building interventions alongside activities which help to make the region a more prosperous, healthier place to live through funding of areas of mutual interest on a cross border basis. Input is welcome from persons or organisations regardless of whether you have been involved in the current or previous PEACE or INTERREG Programmes, or whether this is your first encounter with an SEUPB managed programme.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked

- To note the stakeholder engagement currently being undertaken by SEUPB full details of which are outlined in their stakeholder information document at Appendix 1 and approve the Council draft response to the stakeholder survey attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 SEUPB is one of the six – cross border Bodies set up under the Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies signed on 8 March 1999 (the British- Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999). SEUPB are responsible for the implementation of the EU's PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€ 283m) Programmes. They also have a sign posting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.

3.2 SEUPB have provided a supporting information document to help completing the stakeholder survey which is composed of five sections attached at Appendix A of this report. In summary the draft policy objectives for the 2021-2027 funding period are outlined within as follows;

3.3 Policy Objective 1 A SMARTER EUROPE by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation. This Policy Objective focuses on boosting the innovation capacity of the region, the uptake of advanced technology, the growth and competitiveness of the SME sector, and improving digital services.

3.4 Policy Objective 2 A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE, by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation, and risk prevention and management.

Actions could include:

- measures to improve energy efficiency,
- additional renewable energy production capacity,
- smart grids for improved energy management,
- improved disaster monitoring, warning or response systems,
- improved water and waste treatment,
- measures to improve biodiversity.

- 3.5 **Policy Objective 3 A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE** by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity. This Policy Objective focuses on improving transport and ICT infrastructure in the region.
- 3.6 **Policy Objective 4 A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights in the region. This Policy Objective focuses on improving employment opportunities; increasing access to quality education; reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services; and increasing access to quality health care. Actions on community and social cohesion would also be supported under this Policy Objective. All of the PEACE activities within PEACE PLUS must be within this objective.
- 3.7 **Policy Objective 5 A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas, and local initiatives in the region. These initiatives can focus on tourism, cultural heritage, community facilities, and security in urban areas.

Cooperation Programme Document

Input from the engagement activities, together with other research and reports, will form the basis of the draft Cooperation Programme document. A further statutory public consultation is likely to be held in the Autumn of 2020.

3.8 **Key Issues**

Current programmes and future available funding

Belfast City Council has effectively delivered previous PEACE and INTERREG programmes and currently has successfully through the work of staff and partners mobilised projects under current PEACE IV programme and INTERREG programmes. Current activities include a joint application as an associate partner in an EU INTERREG Faster project to bring 73 new electric vehicle rapid chargers to 3 regions if successful.

- 3.9 In the current 2014-2020 period, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) manages two cross-border cooperation programmes: the PEACE IV programme (total budget: €270 million) in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (including Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); and the INTERREG VA programme (total budget: €283 million) which includes the same area plus the west of Scotland³. The SEUPB has commenced the preparation of a single successor programme for the period 2021 to 2027. This new programme will be called the PEACE PLUS

Programme. It is anticipated that the new programme will have the approximate value of more than the current two programmes combined at approximately €650 million.

3.10 Programme design and eligible area

PEACE PLUS is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The programme will achieve this by funding peace and reconciliation activities, and by funding activities that contribute to North/South cross-border economic and territorial development of the region. The combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme is reflected in the name of the programme where 'PLUS' represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities.

- 3.11** The area that the PEACE PLUS Programme funding has been made available for includes Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. PEACE and INTERREG activities do currently, and can in the future, involve partners and activity outside the programme area, as long as they are making a contribution to the objectives of the programme and benefit citizens within the programme area.

3.12 Administrative and delivery arrangements

The SEUPB will continue to act as a Managing Authority, operating under the scrutiny of a Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of EU, Member State, Sponsor Department, cross-border and other relevant stakeholders. However, certain changes to current delivery arrangements are foreseen in the draft regulation.

3.13 Single Jurisdiction Partnerships

Both PEACE IV and INTERREG VA are cross-border EU funding programmes designed to forge peace and reconciliation and foster economic development across the region.

- 3.14** Within PEACE programmes there has always been a specific derogation given to fund projects in a single jurisdiction (although cross-border partnerships are encouraged and much of the PEACE IV programme is implemented on a cross-border basis). Under INTERREG programmes, partnerships must involve organisations from both jurisdictions, with projects co-designed and delivered on a cross-border basis.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Belfast City Council under the current PEACE IV programme received a funding award as follows;

Children and Young People: £3,063,471.23
Building Positive Relations: £6,338,955.80
Shared Space and Services: £5,172,449.12

Total Funding Award: £14,574,876.15

For projects currently funded under PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, projects are commonly funded up to 100% of project costs. However, there are also many projects that include a contribution from the partners were they are capable of doing so.

In the PEACE PLUS programme the SEUPB will continue to explore arrangements where partners contribute some or all of their match-funding if they are in a position to do so.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no equality or good relations or rural needs assessment implications at this point associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

**Brexit Committee – Proposed Visit to
Belfast and Dublin Ports**

The Committee was advised that the Brexit Committee, at its meeting on 9th January, had agreed to a proposal that the Committee undertakes a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin. The Committee had noted that, if possible, both visits should be undertaken on the same day. At that meeting, the Committee had noted also that it did not have a budget and any expenditure agreed by that Committee would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee approved a budget of up to £1,500 for the Members of the Brexit Committee to undertake a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 10th February, 2020 as set out below:

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2020 EVENTS						
European Connected Health Alliance	26 March 2020	NI Connected Health Ecosystem Gathering – Launching the Implementations of XX Report (confidential) – Launch of implementation plan to address health inequalities & support Belfast Agenda to promote a healthy lifestyle for everyone in Belfast. Numbers attending – 120	C & D	No (Not For Profit)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i> Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Marine Society and Sea Cadets	23 June 2020	My LegaSea Multi-Generational Impact Study Report Launch – launch of impact study highlighting importance of youth work through Sea Cadets. Numbers attending – 80	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Family Nurse Partnership	17 September 2020	Family Nurse Partnership Graduation Event – celebratory event to recognise achievements of local service users with the Family Nurse Partnership. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	Yes - £115 (Public Body)	No hospitality (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
The Executive Office	17 September 2020	Good Relations Awards Ceremony – celebration event to recognise achievements of	B & C	Yes - £300	No hospitality (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		local groups working in their community through various funding programmes. Numbers attending –200		(Public Body)		
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Community Health Nursing	10 October 2020	Celebrating 2020 Year of The Nurse/Midwife Gala Dinner – celebration dinner to mark 2020 Year of the Nurse within Community Health Nursing. Numbers attending – 300	C	Yes - £300 (Public Body)	No hospitality (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
Irish FA Foundation	19 November 2020	Irish FA/McDonalds Community Football Awards – awards ceremony to recognise achievements of volunteers involved in the Irish FA Foundation. Numbers attending – 200	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality
Flax Trust	3 December 2020	Flax Trust Inter-Community Schools Choir Award – award ceremony for cross community choirs with aim of eliminating community tensions and religious prejudices. Numbers attending – 400 -500	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2021 EVENTS						
NSPCC Northern Ireland	13 February 2021	Celebration Ball – celebration event to recognise contributions of local partnerships and individuals who have fundraised for charity. Numbers attending –300 - 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception

Minutes Meetings of Area Working Groups

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups as follows: South Area Working Group 27th January, North Area Working Group 29th January, West Area Working Group 30th January and East Area Working Group 6th February.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Party
Group Leaders' Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum of 13th February, 2020.

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis of 10th February, 2020.

Issues raised in advance by Members

**Flying of the Flag on 19th February to mark
the Birthday of the Duke of York**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Beattie referred to the above mentioned issue and the Committee agreed that it be referred to the Party Group Leaders.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th February 2020

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Deputy Chairperson) (In the Chair);
the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
the High Sheriff, Councillor Verner,
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Black, Bunting, Cobain, Corr, de Faoite,
Garrett, Gormley, M. Kelly, Magee, McAteer, McCusker,
McMullan, Mulholland, Newton, Smyth.

Also Attended Councillor Heading and McLaughlin.

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

An apology for inability to attend was reported from the Chairperson, Councillor Michael Collins.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 8th and 14th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in respect of item 8d Request for the use of the Waterworks by ArtsEkta insofar as a family member worked for that organisation and she left the meeting whilst that item was under discussion.

Matters referred back from the Council/Motions

Motion - 'Parenting in the Picture' Campaign

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council, at its meeting on the 4th November 2019, considered a motion which had been moved by Councillor Mulholland and seconded by Councillor Smyth:**

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

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

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

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

The motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the findings of the service audit outlining Council’s support/ provision for Parents.
- ii. Agree that officers should work collaboratively with the Belfast Area Outcomes Group to explore the potential to enhance service provision to address parents’ needs in the city.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the recent audit of the existing initiatives which council delivers to support parents in the city. In addition, officers met with Parenting NI in order to discuss the range of possible actions that BCC and other relevant agencies might take to support the promises and commitments included in the ‘Parenting in the Picture Campaign’. (Attached as Appendix 1)
- 3.2 Council do not have the specific remit of developing and implementing Parent Support Programmes and, as such, does not deliver any targeted support programmes for Parents in the

city. There are, however, a number of current initiatives that have an impact on parents directly or indirectly.

Direct Provision of Parenting Support Initiatives

3.3 We defined direct provision as an intervention directly delivered by Council where parents are the main target beneficiaries and the aim of the programme is related to their parental skills, abilities, confidence and knowledge. The range of services delivered by council are:

- **Mother and Toddlers Groups:** delivered by Community Services in our Community Centres. There are 13 regular M&T groups across the city meeting on a weekly basis. The groups run from September to June annually.
- **Outreach Play Programme:** delivered by the Play Service to local voluntary and community groups and other Play Providers in the city. The outreach programme supports groups and parents with resources, information and advice on Play. The programme is implemented via weekly sessions for twelve consecutive weeks. There are around 19 programmes delivered weekly from Sep to Jun annually.
- **Playgroup Parent Support:** delivered by the Play Service. Programme to parents of statemented children. The group meets weekly for 15 weeks with parents participating in group discussions, information sharing, mindfulness and specific workshops on parenting and development.
- **Parenting NI Staff training:** Corporate HR provided staff introductory training to officers across council on effective Parenting and Raising a child during 2019.

Indirect provision

3.4 Defined as activities and interventions that have an impact in supporting parents but that might not necessarily be designed initially to provide parent support. There are a wide range of initiatives across Council, and the value of the contributions that they make should not be underestimated. Given the variety of interventions, we have provided an illustrative summary of the most relevant.

- **Council Network of Community Centres and other local neighbourhood facilities:** There is a huge number of events and interventions facilitated in our local community centres and other local venues such as women's groups, sports clubs, Crèches or particular parent activities such as art clubs, sports, informal

training, children thematic projects and information sessions.

- **Officer support:** Officers across our community provision teams deliver a wide range of programmes which are supportive of parents in the city for example, afterschool projects, afterschool play provision and homework clubs.
- **Summer Scheme:** BCC host a summer scheme programme at each of our BCC community and play centres during July and August offering children a host of activities and play opportunities in safe and accessible environments.
- **Summer Scheme Grant programme:** Local community sector schemes have access to small grant funding and other support to extend the summer scheme offer in the city.
- **City Events:** Programmes of large-scale free events across the city. Examples such as Halloween, Christmas Light switch on and a range of local events in our parks and open spaces.

3.5 Officers held a series of meetings with Parenting NI in order to explore opportunities to progress some of the commitments outlined in the 'Parenting in the Picture Campaign'. We propose that the report and the note of the meeting with Parenting NI are shared with the Belfast Area Outcomes Group to explore the potential to enhance service provision to address parents' needs in the city. Some of the recommendations include:

- Consider the need for a specific scope of parental needs in the Belfast area replicating the regional Big Parent Survey.
- Expand the availability of the 'wellbeing in the workplace' seminars provided in the last year.
- Establish a 'parent network' for employees.
- Further train staff who interact directly with children, young people and parents in order to improve their ability to work with parents.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report, however any agreement on a Belfast specific scoping study and related activity will need to be considered in terms of resource implications for the council.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that officers work through Corporate Communications to review the accessibility of information in relation to the Council's direct and indirect provision through its website.

Motion – Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting of the Council on 3rd February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council will be aware of Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 outlining that new public building owned by public authorities from 2019 and all new buildings, including social and private housing developments, “must be a nearly zero energy buildings”, (NZEB43B) by 31st December, 2020.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to work with statutory and non-statutory agencies to end fuel poverty and the reduction of carbon emissions.

In addition, it acknowledges the evidence gathered by the World Health Organisation and environmental groups indicating the damage to both health and our climate from fuel poverty. Accordingly, the Council agrees to:

- (i) write to the Minister of Finance in the NI Assembly seeking an update on how the Department will assist local councils in implementing Sections 43A 43B and enquiring if the Department has an assurance from the building industry that they are prepared and their staff trained to meet this policy implementation;
- (ii) seek a meeting with the Minister of Finance or his officials to consider the adoption of Passive House standard as an amendment to the 2012 Building regulations or in any new legislation reforming building regulations;
- (iii) seek an all-Party meeting with the Northern Ireland Federation Housing Association and the Chartered Institute of Housing to discuss how their members will implement and adhere to Sections 43A and 43B and NZEB;

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- (iv) seek an all-Party meeting with the Minister for Communities or Department officials to discuss Passive House standard for all social housing developments, as a means of meeting current obligations set out in Sections 43A and 43B; and
- (v) write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain if there are any proposals for planning legislation to be amended or introduced to tackle fuel poverty."

The Committee agreed to adopt the motion and approved the actions outlined.

Motion – Graffiti

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd February, the following motion had been referred, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for its consideration. The motion had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor M. Kelly:

"This Council notes that graffiti is an area of concern for many residents of Belfast. It spoils the local environment and can encourage other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Council notes also that it can also be costly to remove graffiti and is not a service which it currently provides, but believes that it is an issue it should be taking responsibility for.

The Council will, therefore, review current practices in other councils to remove graffiti and will work through the Area Working Groups to develop an Anti-Graffiti Strategy, which will identify areas of partnership in order to creatively and proactively tackle this growing problem."

The Committee agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed and be brought back to a future meeting.

Motion – Irish Language Street Signage Policy

The Committee was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd February, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Walsh and Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council has one of the most restrictive policies of any council in the North in regards to Irish Language Street Signage Policy.

Currently, the policy is that you need a 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in a street to sign a petition which starts the process. Once the process has been initiated, a letter is sent to everyone in that street who is on the electoral register asking if they consent to have bilingual signage installed.

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The resident has three options, namely, Yes, No and Don't Care. For the process to come to a successful conclusion, 2/3rds of the total electorate in the street need to consent to yes. If a letter is not returned, it is considered by the Council as saying that they don't consent for the bilingual signage. Furthermore, where residents send the survey back saying 'Don't Care, this is also considered to be a negative response.

If we, as Elected Members were held to the same standard as this policy in the Local Government elections, not one Member would have been returned to serve on this Council, as we would not have met those restrictive parameters. The Council's Language Strategy refers to increasing the visibility of the Irish Language in our City. However, it is essential not to impose the Irish language on residents if the majority of them in a street do not consent to it.

Therefore, this Council will amend its Irish language street signage policy to the following:

1. continue with the 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in the street to initiate the process;
2. change the policy to reflect that it will be the majority of respondents to the survey that will decide if the process has been successful. Therefore, it will be 50% +1 of respondents that will determine if the petition to erect bilingual signage has been successful. Non-respondents will not be considered as a negative response; and
3. those respondents who respond as 'Don't Care' are not considered to be a negative response and will be treated as a void vote."

The Committee agreed that a report on the proposals outlined in the motion and the impact on the current Policy be submitted to a future meeting.

Motion – Historic Graveyards

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Magee, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council is deeply concerned about the serious neglect of two of our Belfast Historic Cemeteries, namely Balmoral and Clifton Street. In Balmoral Cemetery, many headstones and monuments are dilapidated and many of the Victorian iron surrounds have been damaged and suffer from rust. The railway and northern embankments at Balmoral are completely covered with undergrowth, making it impossible to locate the graves in these sections. Clifton Street Cemetery suffers from a similar set of conditions, the undergrowth along its perimeter walls is accelerating the deterioration of a

number of headstones and tablets. Often, when environmental work is carried out, rubbish is left on graves near the entrance.

Given the historical importance and worth of these burial grounds to the narrative of our Belfast history, it is proposed that the Council organise a tour of the two cemeteries for Members; prepare a maintenance and conservation plan; provide a report on the plan and costs and set a timeframe for the completion of the required works.”

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

Motion – ‘Nutrition in Council After/Out of Schools Provision’

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Council, at its meeting on the 4th November 2019, considered a motion which had been moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor McAteer:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The committee is asked to:

- i. Note the findings outlining Council's current practice in relation to addressing nutrition in Council-owned/supported facilities providing either after schools or out of school hours (e.g. summer schemes) youth provision.
- ii. Support the recommendation that officers should work collaboratively with the Active Belfast and Nutrition Leads within the Belfast Health Development Unit to develop and promote a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to promoting healthy eating (as well as increased physical activity) within BCC supported after school and summer scheme initiatives – in our community and leisure centres, aligning with Belfast Agenda priorities.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 To inform this report, Grainne McMacken, a BHSCT dietician working within the Belfast Health Development Unit liaised with the Public Health Agency and Food Standards Agency and spoke with staff within Council's Community Services Team as

well as BHSCT's Community Dietetic Team alongside the Food in Schools dietician.

3.2 Findings from a sample survey on current practice

(completed by Assistant Community Development Officer)

- A number of after schools projects accommodate a short break and provide some refreshments e.g. water, diluted juice (no added sugar), fruit, plain biscuits, toast.
- Parents provide details of allergies in the registration form which helps staff if they are supplying items of food or drinks.
- For trips during summer schemes lunch is provided by the parents. Staff encourage the parents to provide healthy options and discourage the inclusion of items such as energy drinks, fizzy drinks and crisps however ultimately the decision rests with the parents.
- Parents providing the lunch or snacks reduces/removes the risk to staff in terms of inadvertently providing items that could cause a reaction if a condition exists.
- Overall there appears to be a general culture of encouraging healthy options however there are no prerequisites and there's no formal guidance/instruction in place.
- There would also be limits on what can be provided in Centres due to budget constraints.

3.3 Current After schools food and physical activity provision

Almost all of the 22 BCC owned Community Centres have after schools activities in place for 5-11 year olds. Activities include a combination of drama/arts/crafts/open play/music etc. as well, to a lesser extent, sporting activities. The main focus is on recreation and play.

In general food (as in a meal) is not provided due to the short time period the child is present (less than 2hrs). Mostly children go home first and then attend to the centre to take part activities (assumption being then that they eat in lunch in school and perhaps have a snack/small meal prior to going to the centre).

Although food currently does not appear to be a big feature of existing after schools provision there could still be potential to raise awareness amongst staff and parents of the importance of healthy eating and providing nutritious snacks as well as the value of offering, and taking part in, more physical focussed activities within the after schools setting.

After schools clubs/programmes have also been supported via the Belfast Health Development Unit's Active Belfast grants scheme. In these instances, grant awardees are invited and encouraged to attend a nutrition update session at the start of their project which focusses on promoting healthy eating, support available from other organisations and highlighting resources.

3.4 Current Summer Scheme food and physical activity provision

Food provision is different at summer schemes as children usually attend for a longer session (2 hours or more with a break included). They may attend either once or twice a day for 4 weeks. A snack is also provided morning and afternoon and there isn't currently a BCC-led healthy eating policy or guidance in place that the centres have to follow/adhere to in relation to providing nutritious meals and snacks.

BCC fund community based summer schemes via a grants scheme and one of the criteria is that the scheme *'provides activities that improve health - including physical activity/exercise/mental health/healthy diet/health behaviours.'* This criteria could be strengthened were we to develop a guidance and support process (further outlined in 3.6) Applicants are allowed to include a small budget line within their bid for provision of food.

3.5 Current Guidance

The nutritional guidance for afterschool clubs or school related activities in Northern Ireland comes from the 'Nutritional standards for other food and drinks in schools' document [available from the PHA website www.publichealth.hscni.net]. This publication provides details of the standards as they apply to all food and drinks served outside of lunchtime, which will include breakfast clubs, break time services such as tuck shops, vending machines and after schools clubs. It also explains the reasons why nutritional standards have been introduced and offers practical advice on how to implement the standards.

'School food: the essential guide' is another useful, practical supporting document available from the PHA website which is accompanied by a range of other resources including guidance on how to develop a healthy eating policy – within the school setting (but which could easily be adapted to other settings such as community provision).

3.6 Potential actions

- Belfast Health Development Unit, in partnership with BCC officers within community services and other stakeholders such as PHA/FSA, are best placed develop a range of actions to support a more consistent and coordinated approach to promoting and encouraging health eating and increased physical activity within the after school and summer scheme settings provided or supported by Council. These actions could include:
- Further engagement with the BCC Assistant Community Development Officers Forum
ACDOs are responsible for supervising BCC's after schools and summer scheme projects within the community setting and have expressed an interest in exploring further with BHDU leads how they could support this work going forward.
- Resource development
The resources referred to in 3.5 could be adapted and tailored for use in the community setting – Council could then, via lead officers responsible for community services and leisure, put in place processes for both developing and promoting them within Council facilities such as community centres and leisure centres – particularly where/when after school clubs and summer schemes are running. Consideration could also be given to developing a template healthy eating policy for after school programmes/summer schemes which highlights to children, parents and staff actions that will be taken to promote healthy eating/being active. A healthy living centre healthy eating policy already exists which could be referred to.
- Staff training
Potential for the development and delivery of a nutrition/ physical activity awareness session delivered by a community dietitian to key target groups involved in delivering children's programmes within BCC community centres. This would involve providing information on healthy eating – the importance of eating well for school-aged children/benefits to health/what is meant by a healthy diet for children/what are healthy snacks/the importance of oral health/healthy cooking as well as covering current physical activity recommendations for children. Staff would also be alerted to relevant resources e.g.

posters/websites/healthy snacks leaflets for parents and children/ recipes etc.

- **Information provided for parents – and children**
There may be potential for input to be delivered directly to participating children around healthy eating/ physical activity e.g. incorporating it into games/ activities. Information (written or verbal) could also be provided to parents on the importance of healthy eating and regular physical activity.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report, however if Committee agree that the actions outlined in 3.6 should be pursued, this will need to be considered in terms of resource implications for both the BHDU and Council, that being said promotion of physical activity and nutrition are currently a priority work area within the Belfast Agenda framework and for staff within BHDU.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also to engage with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.

Request to Present

Request to Present - Mr Declan Boyle

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Mr. Declan Boyle to make a presentation in relation to the administration of Houses of Multiple Occupation Licences. It was reported that, subject to the report having been issued, further requests had been received from Ms. B. Ruddy and the Landlord's Association of Northern Ireland (LANI).

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to the Members the work which had been undertaken and was currently ongoing in relation to this issue, which when completed, would be presented to the Committee for consideration. He pointed out that, later in the meeting, the Committee would consider a report in relation to the holding of a workshop regarding Houses of Multiple Occupation and it was a matter for the Committee how it wanted to proceed with the requests.

The Committee agreed not to accede to the requests and noted that, as part of the process, all relevant stakeholders were being included and would continue to be consulted.

Restricted Items

The information contained in 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 on the following 4 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.

Proposal to install a Panoramic Wheel in Botanic Gardens

The Committee considered a report in relation to request from G Force Amusements Ltd to install, promote and operate a 33 metre Panoramic Wheel in the lawn area adjacent to the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens during the period 22nd May 2020 - 13th September 2020.

The promoter had indicated that they would be flexible regarding dates for the installation of the Panoramic Wheel. They had stated that they would require at least a 6-week installation period to ensure it was economically feasible. They had been advised that other events had already been booked into the Botanic Gardens, for example, music events and the Belfast Mela. The promoters would be required to liaise with the existing pre-booked events to ensure there are no operational impediments to events already booked into the venue.

The Committee granted authority to:

1. G Force Amusements Ltd to install, promote and operate a 33 metre Panoramic Wheel in lawn area adjacent to the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens during the period 22 May 2020 – 13 September 2020, or a suitably agreed time scale over the summer of 2020;
2. The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for use of lawn area, adjacent to the Tropical Ravine, on condition that:
 - The promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
 - The promoter meets all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence;
 - The promoters are advised that a social levy will also be charged in accordance with Council policy;

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- The event company reimburse any ancillary costs for services provided by the Council at the event; and
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

Keep NI Beautiful Communities CARE Funding Application

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for the Council to support its National Lottery Community Fund funding application.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful was an independent charity dedicated to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Northern Ireland by delivering on improving environmental education in every school in Northern Ireland, increasing public engagement for communities in need and raising environmental standards for the places where people spend time, where they live, work and relax.

Its mission was to inspire all sectors of society to take responsibility for creating cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities. They worked with councils, volunteer and community groups, local businesses and other organisations to deliver the vision of creating cleaner, greener communities.

During discussion, several Members suggested that it would be useful if the Council could provide support and resources to assist local communities to participate in such initiatives as local alleyway/community clean-up programmes.

The Committee:

- agreed to provide a letter of support for this funding application to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining the support and resources available to assist local communities to participate in local alleyway / community 'clean up' programmes.

Morton Community Centre –
Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC

The Committee was advised that a request for the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for use of premises at Morton Community Centre had been received.

Streetwise Community Circus was a not for profit company which had been established and based in Morton Community Centre since 1995. The core activity was the provision of 'social circus' programmes throughout the community using the benefit of circus to have wider social impacts. Programmes were delivered throughout Northern Ireland.

It was reported that the use of Morton Community Centre had been under a block booking arrangement with the group having use of a small office. Due to the growth and

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expansion of its activities, Streetwise had now exclusively occupied a small office, store and open mezzanine storage area.

Following consultation with Streetwise Community Circus, the Council's Estates Unit had advised that their occupation should be dealt with by way of a licence agreement. The group were willing to enter into a rolling one year licence agreement from 1st April 2020 for the accommodation they occupied, up to a maximum of five years.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to approve the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for the use of premises at the Morton Community Centre.

Request for The Hire of Boucher Road Playing Fields

The Committee considered a report in relation to a request from UP Productions for the hire of Boucher Playing Fields from the 24th May - 7th June 2020 for the AVA Music Festival.

The Committee was advised that the AVA Festival was an Audio Visual Arts 2-day event with multi-stage electronic music, visual art installations and an outdoor art exhibition. The Festival was part of a wider event across the City called AVA Belfast, which was supported by the Council and included a free conference in The Mac and a proposal for more installations at Custom House Square. The event programme featured both local and International talent, with over 60+ artists involved.

The Committee was advised that the festival was a ticketed event, for strictly over 18's, with the demographic of the event being music fans, tourists and arts enthusiast. The average age was 23-24 years old. Over 35% of the tickets were sold to tourists travelling in from outside of Northern Ireland, so there for the event was key in driving economic and social benefits for the City. This would be the Festival's 6th Year, and it had celebrated great success and press to date being named 'One of the UK Best City Festivals' by the Guardian, and a finalist in the UK Festival Awards for 'Best Metropolitan Small Festivals' and a winner of that category in the Irish Festival awards.

The Arts Council, Future Screens NI, Invest NI and the Tourist Board all supported the AVA Festival and AVA partnered with Help Musicians NI in order to raise money via guest list donations for that charity. It also broadcast a stage, which went out live from the event to over 900,000.

The event would operate controlled access and the space used would be securely fenced off with steel shield type fencing. All attendees would hold a ticket, and would need to present both a ticket and a passport or driving license in order to gain access. Those tickets could be purchased via the Council's website and the main ticketing providers.

The Committee approved the request, subject to the following:

- the appropriate legal agreements, including bond arrangements being prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;

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- the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services negotiating an appropriate fee for use of the facility, taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy;
- the Event Organisers being 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 consulting with public bodies and local communities as necessary;
- The preparation of an event management plan, which would be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;
- Organisers would also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers 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.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Every Body Active 2020 Year 5 Extension

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To advise the committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NIs investment programme called Every Body Active 2020 Strand 1 (EBA2020).**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to extend the Every Body Active 2020 Strand 1 programme to 31 March 2021 with our delivery partners, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**
- **Continue to support additional programming being coordinated by BCC officers; Programme Manager and EBA Coordinator, where there is an identified underspend in delivery partner budget or delivery partner underperformance against any of the KPIs.**

3.0 Main report

Sport NI Programme

- 3.1 In 2016, Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with the other council areas to deliver the participation strand of Every Body Active 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

Sport NI Targets

- 3.2 Belfast's programme had five specific targets namely, overall participants, women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need and sustained participation. Participation evidence highlights lower levels of participation within these groups.

Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public application process to deliver Belfast's Every Body Active 2020 targets.

3.3 Participation targets 2020-21

Total Participants	Women / Girls	People living with a disability	High Social Need	Sustained Participants	Surveys	Surveys 4-17 Years	% 4-17 Joining a Club
25,949	15,564	4,929	9,754	7,782	1,749	1049	51%

There are significant increases in all targets set by Sport NI for Year 5 2020-21

- Unique Participants - Increase of 3,426 (15%)
- Female Participants – Increase of 2,268 (14.6%)
- People with a Disability-Increase of 877 (21%)
- Areas of High Social Need- Increase of 1,876 (23.8%)
- Sustained Participation –Increase of 578 (8%)

- 3.4 The table above also includes three additional targets which have been added by Sport NI; the number of user surveys to be collected, the number of surveys to be collected from participants aged between 4 and 17 and the number of participants between the ages of 4 and 17 joining sports clubs.
- 3.5 The funding offered has seen a reduction from £468,074.00 in Year 2019-20 to £460,596 in Year 2020-21. A reduction of £7,478.

The impact of this represents 17% reduction in budget per unique participant and will present Council with significant challenges in delivery. Along with efficiencies in management costs, reduction in budget has to be negotiated across the 15 programmes delivery partners, whilst supporting partners to increase in their outreach into underrepresented communities to increase participation targets.

- 3.6 Officers will continue to link programme delivery to other Council investments including the new indoor and outdoor leisure infrastructure, small grants programmes, neighbourhood working and Peace IV programmes to enhance the outcomes from Every Body Active 2020.
- 3.7 The final permission to proceed for Year 5 is expected by the end of February 2020. Sport NI have indicated that this will be the final year of funding for Every Body Active 2020. Taking into account the challenges in terms of both the significant increase in targets and the reduction in budget, BCC officers have worked in partnership with our delivery partners to produce the proposed Belfast City Council Every Body Active Strand 1 Year 5 programme. It is opportune to remind Committee that the Sport NI funding for this high impact participation programme will end in March 2021. Consideration should be made to how Council continues to draw down external funding and enable partnership working with key governing bodies through the emerging Sports Development Strategy and funding framework.

The partners and the main KPIs each will work to achieve are:

Partner Organisation	Main KPI Target Groups
1.Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need-Disability Inclusion
2.Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
3.Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need-Disability
4.Disability Sport Northern Ireland-Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability-Areas of High Social Need
5.Disability Sport Northern Ireland/Live Active (North and West Belfast)	Disability-Areas of High Social Need
6.Disability Sport Northern Ireland/Live Active (South and East Belfast)	Disability-Areas of High Social Need

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7.Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
8.Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
9.Irish Football Association	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
10.Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
11.Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
12.Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls-Disability Inclusion
13.Ulster Rugby Disability Participation	Disability Inclusion
14.Ulster Rugby Female Participation	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
15. Ulster Squash	Women and Girls

Current Position

- 3.8 Every Body Active Strand 1 provides council a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes citywide and within the Belfast Agenda Framework.

3.9 **Financial and Human Resource Implications**

Sport NI has given an indicative budget of £460,596 for the delivery of Every Body Active Strand 1 in Belfast for Year 5 (2020/21) which is a reduction of £7,478 from the budget offered for Year 4 (2019/20). Sport NI have indicated that this will be the final year of funding for this current programme. This Sport NI funding covers the cost of a fixed term contract of the Every Body Active coordinator, this officer's contract will be extended to match the term of the funding offer.

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

This programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the frameworks for providers."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing Scheme Workshop

The Committee considered a report in relation to the holding of a workshop in late February/early March to consider the HMO licensing scheme. This would be in the context of planning controls, policy issues in terms of the draft Local Development Plan, and the

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impact of the operation of the scheme on local communities, particularly in areas where there were significant numbers of HMOs. All Members would be invited to participate in the workshop, which would be supported by presentations and information from Place and Economy and the City and Neighbourhood Services.

The Committee agreed the following actions:

- To invite all Members to a workshop to consider the HMO licensing scheme in the context of planning controls, regulation and the impact of the operation of the scheme on local communities;
- That officers could send out an invitation to attend the workshop to all council elected members in advance of ratification of the minutes of this Committee by Council; and
- That a further report be brought back to the Committee clarifying the existing controls and identifying a course of action to address any policy or legislative gaps that might exist.

Alleygating Programme Review

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a further report to be submitted on the possibility of the evaluation being undertaken in-house or options to reduce costs associated with an external evaluation.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Request to install Porta Cabin at Orangefield Park

The Committee:

- Agreed to defer consideration of the request from Bloomfield FC and any future or outstanding requests until the Council had developed a policy position in relation to the installation of these type and similar structures on Council-owned land; and
- Noted that Council officers would continue discussions with representatives of clubs on the use of the pavilions at parks .

**City Cemetery Heritage Project –
Request for Aerial Mapping**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the requirement within the City Cemetery Heritage Project for aerial digital mapping.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, to give special permission to allow a suitably competent company with sufficient public liability insurance, to undertake the necessary aerial digital mapping as part of the City Cemetery Heritage Project.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Background

3.2 In late 2013, BCC began liaising with Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) around potential to apply into their Parks for People Fund. The fund is designed to protect and enhance existing heritage in parks/cemeteries across UK and attract/encourage more people to engage with this heritage

3.3 After visits to several Council sites, City Cemetery was agreed as having vast potential in this regard and in mid-2014, a Council Project Sponsor and internal project team was established to develop the work.

3.4 The overall objective of the project is to ‘protect and enhance the existing history and heritage of Belfast City Cemetery and to encourage more people to access, engage with and understand it in order that it is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy, and the initial project identified the following project elements:

- Capital - new visitor centre
- Restoration - of key listed assets
- Interpretive - improved signage, storytelling, genealogy etc.
- Biodiversity - enhance natural heritage
- Promotion/Engagement - encourage greater engagement with site from wide range of stakeholders

3.5 The Stage 1 application was submitted to HLF in March 2015 (high level project plan) and Stage 1 funding of £160k (match funded with £60k from BCC) was secured in late 2015. The stage 1 funding was used to engage relevant external expertise (design team, conservation architect, interpretive planner, activity planner) and work up detailed project plan (18 month process).

- 3.6** The Stage 2 application was submitted to HLF in late 2017 with delivery funding of £1.67m secured from HLF in summer 2018 (match funded with £620k from BCC). 2019 was spent finalising designs/costs, securing planning, procuring contractors etc and planning for the move of the Council service yard to another location within the site to accommodate the new project. The move of the service yard is funded by Council up to value of £420K.
- 3.7** The contractor has been appointed for the three core elements of service yard move, visitor centre build and restoration of listed assets. Additionally, an engagement officer has been recruited. Works are due to commence on site in February 2020 alongside an extensive activity plan delivered by the engagement officer over the next three years (tours programme, schools programme, volunteer initiatives, events etc.).
- 3.8** In tandem, a range of non-capital elements such as a detailed activity plan, extensive research and robust interpretive plan are also being delivered. The delivery of these will be further enhanced by the recent recruitment of a dedicated engagement officer.
- 3.9** Another key aspect of the project is the genealogy element, where people will be able to search and interact with the cemeteries burial records. This will involve the enhancement of the current records and the development of appropriate hardware and software to ensure that the records can be accessed in a user friendly way, from both within the visitor centre and remotely.
- 3.10** A key requirement of the digital element of the project is that the cemetery is digitally mapped. This involves photographing the cemetery from the air and geo-tagging each grave and monument. Photographs are then also taken of each grave. This means that graves are not only much easier for cemetery visitors to physically locate, but also that pictures of each and every grave/monument within the site can be accessed from anywhere in the world.
- 3.11** The digital mapping element of the project is seen as absolutely essential to the project's success and requires a drone flight over the site. In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, special permission for this flight over City Cemetery is therefore being formally requested through Committee.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs of the aerial digital mapping of the site have been built in to the costs of the overall project.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment

These have been considered throughout the project with necessary screenings undertaken. These will be reviewed as the project progresses.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Support for Mary Peters Trust

The Committee considered a report in relation to the provision of financial support to the Mary Peters Trust for its contribution to its work for the 2020/21 financial year. The Committee was advised that an assessment of the request had indicated that it would bring a direct benefit to the inhabitants of Belfast, based on the Trust’s previous annual allocation of £22,800 to Belfast athletics in the previous financial year. An agreement was in place to co-ordinate funding allocations between the Trust, GLL Sports Foundation and Support for Sport Individual grants to avoid duplication. The Council had supported the Trust, in the amount of £5,000 annually over 15 years. Any support for the year 2020/21 would be from the Support for Sport Development Grant Budget.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to provide an amount of £5,000 to the Mary Peters Trust, which provided significant financial support for developing talented athletes from Belfast; and
- (ii) to review this partnership as part of the planned City and Neighbourhood Services partnership review.

Active Belfast Grants – Process for 20/21

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Active Belfast Partnership established a grant scheme in April 2012, utilising pooled resources from the Public Health Agency and Belfast City Council.**
- 1.2 The scheme has been operational now for the past eight years and aims to create opportunities, at local/community level, for**

individuals to participate in physical activity and promote healthy eating in Belfast in order to help reduce health inequalities. It also raises awareness about the importance of being active and the benefits that stem from regular to moderate activity.

- 1.3 Staff within the Belfast Health Development Unit promote, administer and monitor the Active Belfast Grants Scheme. The BHDU is a co-located team of people from BCC, BHSC and PHA working together to support better health and wellbeing outcomes for the city of Belfast. The role and function of the BHDU and the staff within it is currently under review and it was agreed during this transition period that where possible workload would be kept at a level to allow for the necessary review and developmental processes to take place.
- 1.4 With this in mind, and to build capacity and sustainability within the C&V sector to address health inequalities, the option was built in to the previous 19/20 grants process to offer continuation funding where applicants could demonstrate that they were meeting targets and that they could build on their successes/achievements for a further year.
- 1.5 Furthermore, with all of the changes at a strategic level, dissolution of the Belfast Strategic Partnership, introduction of the Belfast Agenda and associated Boards and the aim to establish a Healthier Belfast Forum – there is a need to review and rejuvenate the Active Belfast Partnership in terms of role and function, membership and priorities going forward. The three partner organisations (BCC, BHSC and PHA), have committed to driving forward this process during 20/21 with the view that the Partnership will then be best placed to recommend how physical activity and nutrition-focussed outcomes can be best supported going forward.

Budget for 2020/2021:

BCC	£90,000	Active Belfast
PHA	£90,000	Active Belfast
PHA	£17,051	Enhancement 'Nutrition & Healthy Eating'
Total: £197,051		

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree recommendation for current Active Belfast Grant holders to be able to continue their programmes/initiatives subject to meeting review

criteria and agreeing a new action plan with relevant leads within the Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU).

- Support the reconvening of the Active Belfast Partnership, supported by BHDU, who will have responsibility for defining priority areas and developing a new funding model post 20/21 for consideration (which takes account of, and aligns with, the BCC review of grants and grant processes).

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware senior staff from Council, BHSCT and PHA/HSCB have been considering the future of their joint working to address health inequalities in the Belfast area to include reviewing and reaffirming current commitments to the previous Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and the reduction of life inequalities in line with the Belfast Agenda/Community Plan, Making Life Better and a range of forthcoming strategic developments focussing on public health.

- 3.2 In relation to Active Belfast specifically, the partners have considered a range of options which have been discussed and agreed at corporate level. The agreed preferred option involves:

- A refresh of the Active Belfast Partnership.
- Allocation of continuation funding to current Active Belfast Grant holders (from 2019/20 through now to 2020/21) where targets have been met and outcomes are promising and where the contract holder has indicated that they can build on the initiative (ability to do so was built into the process in 19/20). This is being proposed for two reasons, to increase capacity and foster sustainability at the local/community level as well as to allow time for development and consideration of a new funding model for future resourcing of physical activity and nutrition focussed work in Belfast.

3.3 History of AB Grants

The Active Belfast Grants Scheme was created in April 2012 and aimed to create opportunities for individuals to participate in physical activity. The Parks and Leisure Committee at the time agreed to match fund the Belfast Strategic Partnership/Active Belfast investment (£90k in place from PHA) by agreeing to

provide a total of £90k from BCC towards the Active Belfast Grants (this has continued for the past 8 years).

The current focus of the Grants is to create opportunities for individuals to participate in physical activity and promote healthy eating in Belfast in order to help reduce health inequalities.

3.5 Rationale for Continuing to Fund Current AB Grant holders

In 2019/20 the application for the grants included a sustainability question for the first time.

Question: If further funding was to become available for an additional 3 years, how would you develop/shape the programme?

The form stated that there was no guarantee of additional funding however if this could be offered it was made clear that any further funding awarded would be subject to the outcomes and performance of the original contract having been met and/or exceeded.

- 3.6** During this transition year (2020/21) the three partner organisations and leads within BHDU are proposing to roll over and extend the current contracted Grants, with BHDU staff continuing to monitor on a quarterly basis and continuing to release funding based on positive progress monitoring, this will help sustain, and test out ongoing sustainability and achievement of outcomes, from the previous year (2019/20).
- 3.7** There may be a few instances where some contracts are not rolled forward or funding amounts are reduced – in this instance any surplus funding (expected to be small) will be considered and allocated by the Active Belfast Partnership – options include enhancing contracts that are performing well and funding of developmental or exploratory work to inform the priorities of the partnership going forward.
- 3.8** BHDU will direct anyone making enquiries around funding to other potential sources of support such as the BCC Everybody Active grants round which opens in April 2020 as well as other grant opportunities such as those provided by the National Lottery Community Fund – as well as directing them to NICVA as a source of advice re. grants.

3.9 Active Belfast Partnership

The partnership has not met in over a year, however a meeting date has now been set for the 27th January 2020 for key stakeholders to meet and agree the process for reconvening the partnership and refreshing terms of reference, membership, etc. It is anticipated that the rejuvenated Active Belfast Partnership will align with the Belfast Agenda/Healthier Belfast Forum (once established) and work closely with Active Belfast Limited to clearly define and guide work to address physical activity and nutrition focussed actions for the City.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Subject to Council and PHA approval/agreement a minimum of £197,051 (as outlined in the table at 1.0) will remain available to support this work in 20/21, BCC contribution has been included as part of the rates setting process.

Kim Kensett (PHA) and Grainne McMacken (BHSCT) will continue to lead on this work within the BHDU during the transition year. Project and business support is also currently available within the BHDU.

Oversight will continue to be provided by Kelly Gilliland within BCC and David Tumilty within PHA with all stakeholders in the Active Belfast Partnership taking on a more active role as the year progresses and the partnership regains its focus and momentum

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

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

The Committee approved an application for naming two new streets in the City and the continuation of an existing street in the City as set out below:

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Proposed Name	Location	Applicant
Castlegowan Crescent	Off Castlegowan Drive, BT5	Braidwater Limited
Castlegowan Road	Off Castlegowan Drive, BT5	Braidwater Limited

Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant
Castlegowan Drive	Off Castlegowan Place, BT5	Braidwater Ltd

Proposal For Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee approved the applications to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Slieveban Avenue and Rockville Street.

Appointment of Public Analyst

The Committee was advised that Article 27(1) of the Food Safety(NI) Order 1991 required the Council to appoint suitably qualified persons as Public Analysts within the district of the Council, for the purpose of examining and analysing food samples to determine compliance with food safety, compositional and labelling requirements. Such individuals must meet the qualifications prescribed within the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations (NI) 2013.

The Committee approved the appointment of Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC as a public analyst with the district.

Request for The Use of Waterworks by ArtsEkta

The Committee was advised that ArtsEkta had requested the use of the Waterworks to stage its "Luminate" event on Saturday 21st March, 2020, from 6pm – 8.30pm. The normal park closing times were 7.00pm and the event organisers would be required to notify the public if the park was to close before that time.

The event organisers would set-up from 10.00am on Saturday 21st March and would have the event dismantled by 10.00pm that evening. They would be required to liaise with the Park Run organisers to ensure the weekly Park Run would continue as normal.

The public art project would involve widespread community participation from young people and help create hundreds of light-up sculptures to form an illuminated cityscape that would float on the Lower Pond. The event would be free to attend and was a public funded

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project. It would be focused near the Lower Pond and would use the surrounding area of the park.

The event would include food vendors, market stalls, family entertainment and live music. A stage and gazebos would be erected and the organisers would provide all first aid cover, event stewards and toilets. In addition, the event organisers would be required to submit an Event Management Plan and all the appropriate paperwork to the Council prior to the event, in a timely manner.

The Committee:

- approved the ArtsEkta event at the Waterworks on Saturday 21st March 2020, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser
 - resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - meets all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover and Health and Safety; and
 - shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

The Committee also approved:

- any further "Luminate" events by ArtsEkta at Waterworks, subject to the completion of an Event Management Plan and all other appropriate paperwork for each event.

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

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council has received a request from Aiken Promotions to re-consider its decision to restrict advanced approval to an annual basis for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022, to include set up and take down.**
- 1.2 Given previous queries raised by Members, Aiken Promotions has requested an opportunity to attend a meeting of the People and Communities Committee to enable them to respond directly to any queries raised, which was agreed in advance by the Chair and Vice Chair.**

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Committee is asked to:

1. Grant authority to Aiken Promotion request:

- for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022 to include set up and take down.
- 2. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:
 - the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 - the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the park's Entertainment Licence.

2.2 To address concerns previously raised by Members, Officers are to ensure that the license agreement includes clauses that requires the promoter to:

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

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

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

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1** Members are reminded that on 4th June 2019 a formal request was received by Aiken Promotions to host a series of music events during the month of June in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in Botanic Gardens.
- 3.2** Members agreed to defer a decision and await a report concerning the music events in Botanic Gardens in June 2019.
- 3.3** Members received a report on 6th August 2019 concerning the recent music events held in June 2019 in Botanic Gardens. Members agreed to defer a decision and requested confirmation concerning a number of issues;
- Impact of underage drinking
 - Social clauses in License Agreements to support youth services
 - Charges for use of Council Services to Promoters during music events.
 - Option of reviewing 3 year contract on an annual basis.
- 3.4** September Committee granted authority to Aiken Promotion for the use of the great lawn for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons for last week in May and the month of June 2020 to include set up and take down.
- 3.5** The promoter understands Committee have concerns with granting the use of the Great Lawn for 2021 and 2022. The promoter has asked to attend the meeting to discuss these concerns.
- 3.6** Members had previously received a copy of the annual programme of events for a 'typical year', and a copy of this is attached for Members' information.
- 3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**

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

3.8 Staffing resources from our Open Space & Street Scene and Community Safety teams will be required to provide support around site management and issues in relation to maintaining a safer event (i.e. Alcohol enforcement / Safer Neighbourhood Officers). Cost associated with this will be recouped as part of the agreed fee and used to offset gaps in service provision, which may be created in other parts of the city.

3.9 Equality, Rural proofing or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee was advised that Mr. C. McNamee, Aiken Promotions, was in attendance to answer any questions in relation to the application and he was welcomed by the Deputy Chairperson.

Mr. McNamee reviewed the events which his company had put on in the city the previous year and the type of acts which were booked for the Botanic Gardens to ensure that they in keeping with the venue and its surroundings. He outlined the measures which his organisation undertook to mitigate against overwhelming the city and its resources and the risk assessments undertaken for each different type of event which were based on demographics, age, male/female ratio and other factors. He referred also to other measures such as the use of Safer City Officers, the provision of medical facilities and identification checks at the bars.

Several Members expressed the view that there was still not enough information provided in relation to the exact dates of events and potential clashes, the types of event and the resources required by the Council to manage them, benefits/non-benefits to the city in order to make an informed decision for granting the application over a three-year period.

The Members also recognised the commercial nature of the organisation and its need to secure venues and dates in advance in order to book the best acts for Belfast.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee agrees to adhere to its previous decision to approve the application for one year only, that is, 2020, and to consider the application for 2021 and 2022 after that event.

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

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Accordingly the Committee:

1. Granted authority to the Aiken Promotion request:
 - for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022 to include set up and take down.
2. Granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:
 - the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 - the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the park's Entertainment Licence.

To address concerns previously raised by Members, the Committee noted that officers are to ensure that the license agreement includes clauses that requires the promoter to:

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

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

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

Invitation to a Address the Committee

The Committee agreed to invite to a future meeting, Mr. Eddie Lynch, Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland, to discuss the "Home Truths – A Report on the Commissioner's Investigation into Dunmurry Manor Care Home".

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 12th February, 2020

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Murphy (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston; and
Councillors S. Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Ferguson,
Flynn, Graham, Gormley, Hanvey, T. Kelly, Lyons,
McAllister, McLaughlin, O'Hara and Whyte.

Also attended Councillors Groogan and Nicholl.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration
and Development
Mr. S. Dolan, Senior Development Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Spence and Councillors Beattie, Heading and Howard.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 15th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd February.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Matters referred from Council Meeting

Motion – Sustainable Transport

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 3rd February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor O'Hara, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council supports the promotion and expansion of sustainable transport in Belfast as a critical step in addressing the dangerous levels of air pollution and congestion across the City and in the context of our climate emergency.

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With the appointment of a new Minister for Infrastructure, the Council should ensure that the Minister is clear about our commitment to sustainable transport options and the need for urgent action on climate.

Therefore, the Council agrees to write to the Minister to state that the Experimental Traffic Control Scheme Permitted (Taxis in Bus Lanes), which was proposed by her Department, does not have the Council's support and to urge her to not progress this further, instead focusing efforts on further measures to enhance the provision of public transport, cycle infrastructure and pedestrian priority in the City."

Councillor Groogan reminded the Committee that the Department for Infrastructure had, in 2017, introduced a twelve-week pilot scheme, which had granted approval for all taxis, including those for private hire, to use the Belfast Rapid Transit routes in East and West Belfast and connecting routes in the City centre. She reported that the Department had deemed the results of that scheme to be inconclusive and, as a result, had brought forward the more extensive Experimental Traffic Control Scheme (Taxis in Bus Lanes) 2018, which had the potential to run for up to twelve months and had been extended to include all bus lanes in the City. However, in the absence of a Minister, the scheme had been unable to proceed at that time. Both of the aforementioned schemes had, she pointed out, been supported by the Council.

She explained that, should the Department for Infrastructure proceed with the proposed pilot scheme, now that a Minister was in place, the number of taxis using bus lanes would increase from 500 currently to approximately 5,000. That would have a detrimental impact upon air quality, increase traffic congestion, add to cyclists' safety concerns and jeopardise any planned or future transport infrastructure improvements. She stressed that the promotion and expansion of sustainable transport initiatives remained the most effective way of addressing the climate emergency, traffic congestion and poor air quality and, accordingly, she urged the Committee to reconsider its current policy, endorsing the use of all taxis in bus lanes, and support her motion.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Donnelly,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the motion to enable a report to be submitted to its next monthly meeting providing details of any research/data available on the impact on air quality, traffic congestion etc. of permitting all taxis to operate in bus lanes.

On a recorded vote, nine Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

<u>For 9</u>	<u>Against 7</u>
Councillor Murphy (Chairperson); Alderman Kingston; and Councillors S. Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Gormley, Graham, T. Kelly and McLaughlin.	Councillors Ferguson, Flynn, Hanvey, Lyons, McAllister, O'Hara and Whyte.

Motion – High Speed Rail Connection

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 3rd February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor S. Baker and seconded by Councillor Garrett, had been referred to the Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), for consideration:

“This Council welcomes the commitment in the ‘New Decade New Approach’ document which states that “The Irish Government is supportive of serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island.”

As this is also a Council priority, the Council will seek a meeting with Irish Government officials, Council officers and party group leaders to discuss this proposition further.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the motion.

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.

Draft Belfast Off-Street Parking Order

(Mr. G. Doherty, Off-Street Car Parking Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 11th September, it had approved a draft Belfast Off-Street Parking Order for public consultation, together with the commissioning of suitably qualified persons to undertake the consultation and apprise the Council of their findings.

The Off-Street Car Parking Manager reported that suitably qualified persons had now been appointed and that the twelve-week consultation period was scheduled to commence on 6th March. He reported further that the Committee had, within the draft Order, agreed to increases in the hourly tariffs for a number of car parks. However, due to an administrative oversight, those had not been applied to the season ticket tariffs for the car parks in Little Donegall Street and Station Street. He confirmed that Schedule 2 of the draft Order had since been amended and that a small number of minor changes had also been made to the wording of parts of the Order to allow for greater clarity.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the following revised draft Order for public consultation:

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“Draft Belfast Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2020”

Made XXXX 2020
Coming into operation XXXX 2020

ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

1. Citation and commencement
2. Interpretation

PART 2
USE OF PARKING PLACES

3. Specified parking places
4. Vehicles of a specified class
5. Position in which a vehicle may wait
6. Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles
7. Parking bays for electric vehicles
8. Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait
9. Use of parking place other than for parking
10. Issue of licences
11. Surrender and revocation of licences

PART 3
TARIFFS AND TICKETS

12. Requirement to pay appropriate tariff
13. Payment of charges
14. Pre-paid tickets
15. Use of telephone parking system
16. Display of printed tickets
17. Particulars of tickets
18. Season tickets
19. Blue Badge parking

PART 4
RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING PLACES

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29. Erection of structures and lighting of fires
30. Supermarket trolleys
31. Reserving a parking bay
32. Suspension of parking places
33. Use of car park or sections of for the purposes of temporary meeting place

SCHEDULE 1 — PARKING PLACES

SCHEDULE 2 — TARIFFS

Belfast City Council (a) makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 10, 11, 13, 14 and 26(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(b) and Off-street Parking (Functions of District Councils) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Council has consulted such persons as the Council considered appropriate in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 to that Order.

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as The Belfast Off-Street (Public Car Parks) Order 2020 and shall come into operation on ^{xx} day of XXXX

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

“charging hours” means the period during which the driver is required to pay a charge for the use of a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 in accordance with the scale of charges set out in column 6 of Schedule 1;

“driver” means the person who whether as owner or otherwise has the charge or control of a vehicle or being present is entitled to give orders to the person having charge or control thereof;

“electric vehicle” means any vehicle which uses one or more electric motors for propulsion;

“electric vehicle charging post” means apparatus which supplies electricity for the charging of electric vehicles;

(a) S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(1)

(b) 2015. c.3

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“hand-held device” means apparatus used by a traffic attendant which is programmed to interface with the telephone parking system;

“intoxicating liquor” means spirits, wine, beer, cider and any fermented, distilled or spirituous liquor with an alcohol content exceeding 1.2 per cent by volume;

“light goods vehicle” means a motor vehicle, constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods, the permissible maximum weight of which does not exceed 3.5 tonnes and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type;

“motor car” means a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed solely for the carriage of passengers and their effects, seating not more than 6 persons in addition to the driver and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type;

“motor cycle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle not being an invalid carriage or motor car having fewer than 4 wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kgs;

“parking bay” means a space which is marked out in a parking place for the leaving of a vehicle;

“parking charge” means any charge set by the Council for leaving a vehicle in a parking place authorised by this Order.

“parking ticket” means a ticket issued by a ticket machine relating to any parking place for which a charge is made identified in Schedule 1;

“pay and display parking place” means an off-street parking place authorised by this Order where permitted vehicles may park with a parking ticket issued by a ticket machine and displayed in the manner specified in Article 16 or whose driver is a registered driver who has paid the relevant fee via the telephone parking system;

“public service vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than 8 seated passengers in addition to the driver, and used in standing or plying for hire, or used to carry passengers for hire;

“registered driver” means the driver of a vehicle who has, prior to leaving their vehicle in a pay and display parking place, had registered so many of their personal details with a service provider as that service provider may require to enable the telephone parking system to be activated in favour of said driver;

“service provider” means a person or company providing services to or on behalf of the Council;

“telephone parking system” means a system to facilitate and monitor any parking charge paid using any telephone or internet enabled device via communication with the service provider in accordance with instructions indicated on signs located at each pay and display parking place where the system is operational;

“ticket machine” means an apparatus designed to issue a ticket indicating payment of a charge and the day and time at which it was issued and the number of hours for which it is valid or the date and time at which the ticket expires;

“disabled persons vehicle” means a vehicle lawfully displaying a blue badge; and

“blue badge” means a badge of a form prescribed under section 14(1) of the [1978 c. 53.] Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978.

PART 2
USE OF PARKING PLACES

Specified parking places

3. Each area of land specified by name in column 1 of Schedule 1 may be used subject to the provisions of this Order as a parking place for such classes of vehicles during such hours on such days as are specified in relation to that area in Schedule 1.

Vehicles of a specified class

4. Where in Schedule 1 a parking place is described as available for vehicles of a specified class, the driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in that parking place unless it is of the specified class.

Position in which a vehicle may wait

5. The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place other than in a position wholly within a parking bay where such has been marked out.

Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles

6. The driver of a vehicle, other than a disabled person's vehicle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for a disabled person's vehicle.

Parking bays for electric vehicles

7.—(1) The driver of a vehicle, other than an electric vehicle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for an electric vehicle.

(2) An electric vehicle waiting in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for an electric vehicle shall do so only if it is connected to an electric vehicle charging post.

Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait

8. The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place for longer than the maximum period permitted for waiting specified in column 5 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

Use of parking place other than for parking

9.—(1) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for advertising is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council.

(2) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for displaying information to the public is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council.

(3) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for the collection of recyclable materials is authorised in accordance with a licence issued by the Council.

Issue of licences

10.—(1) A registered charity may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for the collection of recyclable materials.

(2) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for advertising.

(3) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for displaying information to the public.

(4) A person may apply to the Council for the issue of a licence authorising the use of part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for any reasonable use or purpose or in such circumstances as the Council considers reasonable.

(5) The Council may require an applicant in any particular case to submit such additional information or documents as the Council determines are necessary to determine the application.

(6) On receipt of an application made under paragraph (1), (2), (3) or (4) the Council, upon being satisfied that the use of part of the parking place referred to in that application for the purpose referred to in that application will not materially affect or materially interfere with the provision of parking spaces in that parking place, may issue a licence in accordance with Article 13(15) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 authorising the use by the applicant of part of that parking place for that purpose.

In this Article –

“registered charity” means a charity registered in the register of charities required to be kept by the Charity Commission by virtue of section 16(1) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008^(a)

Surrender and revocation of licences

11.—(1) A person to whom a licence is issued (“a licensee”) may surrender a licence to the Council at any time.

(2) The Council may serve on the licensee a notice revoking a licence, stating the reasons for the revocation if it appears to

the Council that one of the events set out in paragraph (4) has occurred, and the revocation shall take effect on the expiration of the period of one month from the service of that notice.

(3) A notice under paragraph (2) shall be served by delivering it to the person to whom it is addressed at their proper address, or by sending it to such address by telefacsimile or other electronic means, or by post.

(4) The events referred to in paragraph (2) are—

(a) if the licensee fails to comply with any condition of the licence;

(b) if the Council considers the withdrawal of the licence is necessary for the purpose of the exercise of its statutory functions.

^(a) 2008 c. 12

PART 3
TARIFFS AND TICKETS

Requirement to pay appropriate tariff

12. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place during charging hours shall pay the appropriate tariff set out in Schedule 2 in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

Payment of charges

13.—(1) Save as provided for in Article 18 the driver of a vehicle leaving it in a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 during the days and hours specified in columns 3 and 4 in relation thereto shall pay the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 in relation thereto and set out in Schedule 2.

(2) Charges may be paid by—

- (a) inserting into a ticket machine a coin or combination of coins of appropriate denominations;
- (b) inserting into a ticket machine a credit or debit card of a type indicated, and following the instructions displayed, on the machine;
- (c) the purchase of a pre-paid charge card for use in a ticket machine; or
- (d) the use of pre-paid tickets; or
- (e) a registered driver using the telephone parking system; or
- (f) use of Direct Debit where available.

(3) Telephone and credit/debit card charges incurred in the course of making any parking payment transaction shall be the responsibility of the registered driver.

Pre-paid tickets

14. In the case of pre-paid tickets the instructions given on the tickets in respect of making distinct perforations in the tickets or taking other appropriate action to clearly indicate the date and time of arrival shall be carried out by the driver as soon as he takes up position in the parking place.

Use of telephone parking system

15. If at any time a vehicle is left in a parking place during the specified hours and a check is carried out by, or on behalf of, the Council and no indication that a parking charge has been paid using the telephone parking system in respect of that vehicle for that controlled parking zone appears on a traffic attendant's hand-held device it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved that either—

- (a) a parking charge had not been paid in respect of that vehicle; or
- (b) the parking period for which payment was made had already expired.

Display of printed tickets

16.—(1) The driver shall attach the ticket issued by a ticket machine or a pre-paid ticket duly perforated on the inside surface of the windscreen or a side window facing the kerb or place the ticket on the dashboard area immediately below the windscreen so that the

particulars recorded on the front of the ticket are clearly visible to a person standing at the front or side of the vehicle.

(2) In the case of a motor cycle the ticket shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in a ticket holder or in front of the driver's seat.

Particulars of tickets

17.—(1) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine and the particulars on the ticket indicate that the period in respect of which payment was made has expired, for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that said particulars are evidence of the expiry of such period.

(2) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine, and a ticket is not displayed in accordance with the provisions of Articles 16 or 18(6) for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the absence of a ticket is evidence of the fact that a ticket has not been purchased.

Season tickets

18.—(1) The Council or their service provider may on application from the driver or owner of a vehicle sell to that person a season ticket on payment of the appropriate tariff referred to in Article 12.

(2) A season ticket shall be valid only in respect of such parking places as are specified thereon for the period for which it is issued and for the vehicle in respect of which it is issued.

(3) The Council or their service provider may by notice in writing served on the season ticket holder by recorded delivery post to the address stated on the season ticket holder's application, require the surrender of a season ticket where:

- (a) the season ticket holder has not complied with the relevant Off-Street Parking Order; or
- (b) a season ticket has been issued upon receipt of a cheque and the cheque is subsequently dishonoured; or
- (c) the season ticket holder has ceased to have an interest in the vehicle in respect of which the season ticket was issued;

and the season ticket holder shall surrender the season ticket to the Council or their service provider within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the said notice.

(4) The issue of a season ticket shall not guarantee that any parking place will be available for the use of the season ticket holder.

(5) A season ticket shall include the following particulars:

- (a) the registration mark of the vehicle in respect of which the season ticket has been issued;
- (b) the period during which the season ticket shall remain valid; and
- (c) the names of the parking places for which the season ticket is valid.

(6) Where a vehicle in respect of which a season ticket has been issued is left parked in a parking place the driver shall display the ticket in a conspicuous position behind the windscreen of that vehicle so as to be clearly visible to the parking attendant.

Blue Badge parking

19. A vehicle displaying a valid Blue Badge shall be entitled to one extra hour of free parking in addition to the time allowed following payment of the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges specified in Schedule 2.

PART 4

RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING PLACES

Requirement to stop the engine of a vehicle

20. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall stop the engine as soon as the vehicle is in position in the parking place and shall not start the engine except when about to change the position of the vehicle in or to depart from the parking place.

Trading in a parking place

21.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) and save as provided in Article 24 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, a person shall not use a parking place in connection with the selling of any article or thing or supplying a service for gain or reward whether or not in or from a stationary position to persons in or near the parking place unless the person holds a valid trading licence for the location issued by the Council under the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in respect of any fee payable for the use of an electric vehicle charging post.

Sounding of horn

22. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall not sound any horn or other similar instrument except when about to change the position of the vehicle in or to depart from the parking place.

Driving in a parking place

23. A person shall not, except with the permission of any person duly authorised by the Council, drive any vehicle in a parking place other than for the purpose of leaving that vehicle in the parking place in accordance with the provisions of this Order or for the purpose of departing from the parking place.

Ball games

24. A person shall not play any ball game in a parking place.

Miscellaneous activities

25. A person shall not use any part of a parking place or any vehicle left in a parking place—

- (a) for sleeping or camping purposes;
- (b) for eating or cooking purposes; or
- (c) for the purposes of servicing or washing any vehicle or part thereof other than is reasonably necessary to enable that vehicle to depart from the parking place.

Means of passage

26. A person shall not use a parking place as a means of passage from one road to another road or to any premises unless a right of way has been granted in writing by the Council.

Consumption of intoxicating liquor

27. A person shall not use any of the parking places specified in Schedule 1, or any vehicle in any of those parking places, for the purpose of consuming intoxicating liquor.

Use of entrances and exits, and direction of travel

28. Where in a parking place signs are erected or surface markings are laid for the purpose of—

- (a) indicating the entrance to or exit from the parking place; or
- (b) indicating that a vehicle using the parking place shall proceed in a specified direction within the parking place,

a person shall not drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle—

- (i) so that it enters the parking place otherwise than by an entrance, or leaves the parking place otherwise than by an exit, so indicated; or
- (ii) in a direction other than that specified, as the case may be.

Erection of structures and lighting of fires

29. In a parking place a person shall not—

- (a) erect or cause or permit to be erected any tent, booth, stand, building or other structure without the written consent of the Council; or
- (b) light or cause to be lit any fire.

Supermarket trolleys

30.—(1) A person shall not cause or permit a supermarket trolley to enter a parking place in or under a building, and any supermarket trolley left there may be removed by a person authorised by the Council.

(2) A person shall not cause or permit a supermarket trolley to be left in any other parking place, other than in an area set aside for that purpose, and any supermarket trolley so left may be removed by a person authorised by the Council.

Reserving a parking bay

31. A person shall not reserve a parking bay in a parking place.

Suspension of parking places

32. The Council may suspend the use of a parking place or any part of it in the following circumstances:

- (a) upon request from a statutory agency, utility operator, contractor or similar body;
- (b) upon request for the making of a film in or adjacent to a car parking place;
- (c) upon request for any sporting event, social event, entertainment event or other activity deemed by the Council to be to the benefit of the public; or

- (d) upon request from any person for any other use or purpose or in such circumstances as the Council considers reasonable.

Use of car park or sections of for the purposes of temporary meeting place

33. No persons shall use a parking place as a meeting place or point unless authorised by the Council in writing in advance.

SCHEDULE 1 PARKING PLACES

Articles 2, 3, 4, 8, 12

	Name of Parking Place	Classes of Vehicle	Days of operation of Parking Place	Hours of operation of Parking Place	Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait	Scale of Charges
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andersonstown Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
2	Ashdale Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
3	Charlotte Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
4	Corporation Square, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

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5	Corporation Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
6	Cromac Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
7	Dunbar Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
8	Dundela Crescent, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
9	Exchange Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge

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			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
10	Glenburn Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
11	Grampian Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
12	Hope Street North, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				9.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	11 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
13	Kent Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
14	Little Donegall Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2

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		light goods vehicle		6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
15	Little Victoria Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
				9.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	11 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
16	Marlborough Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
17	Northumberland Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
18	Parkgate Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

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19	Ravenscroft Avenue, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
20	Sandown Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
21	Shaw's Bridge, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
22	Slievegallion, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	All days	All hours	12 hours	No charge
23	Smithfield Market, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
			Thursday	8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.	13 hours	Tariff 4 as set out in Schedule 2
24	Station Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 3 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

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25	Stranmillis, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
26	Wandsworth Road, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
27	Westminster Avenue East, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No Charge – Blue Badge holders only
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
28	Westminster Avenue West, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge – Blue Badge holders only
29	Westminster Avenue North, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	4 hours maximum no return within 1 hour	Tariff 1 as set out in Schedule 2

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		light goods vehicle				
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
30	Whitla Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge
31	York Street I / Lancaster Street, Belfast	Motor car, motor cycle, invalid carriage and light goods vehicle	Monday to Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.	10 hours	Tariff 2 as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m.	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	12 hours	No charge

SCHEDULE 2 TARIFFS

Articles 12 and 13(1)

The Council may at any time apply reduced tariffs and/or reduced charging hours.

Vehicles displaying a valid Blue Badge shall be entitled to one extra hour of free parking in addition to the time allowed following payment of the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charge specified in Schedule 2.

Motor cars, Motor cycles, Invalid Carriages, Light Good Vehicles										
Tariff	0-1 hour	1-2 hours	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	5-6 hours	6-7 hours	7-8 hours	8+	Within 1 hour of closing
Tariff 4	£1.20	£2.40	£3.60	£4.80	£6.60	£8.40	£10.20	£12.00	£13.80	£1.20
Tariff 3	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£4.00	£5.00	£6.00	£7.00	£8.00	£9.00	£1.00
Tariff 2	£0.60	£1.20	£1.80	£2.40	£3.00	£3.60	£4.20	£4.80	£5.40	£0.60
Tariff 1	£0.30	£0.60	£0.90	£1.20						£0.30

EXPLANATORY NOTE

	Tariff for monthly ticket(Valid Monday-Friday)	Tariff for quarterly season ticket (Valid Monday-Friday)
Corporation Square	£81.90	£198.90
Corporation Street		
Lancaster Street		
Little Donegall Street	£136.80	£329.40
Station Street		

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order:

- (a) Reproduces and amends provisions of The Off-Street Parking Order (Northern Ireland) 2000, as amended by The Off-Street Parking (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, to facilitate Belfast City Council in the operation of the car parks it took responsibility for from 1st April 2015.
- (b) Harmonises the tariff structure and varies parking charges (Schedule 1)
- (c) Introduces tariffs/parking charges and limited time parking in selected free car parks (Schedule 1)
- (d) Includes 4 additional existing public car parks and removes 2 existing car parks
- (e) Introduces concession for Blue Badge parking (Article 19)
- (f) Introduces provision for the suspension of car parking places for works or events to be undertaken (Article 32)

This Order does not revoke the provisions and amendments of previous Orders, this Order is intended to supersede those Orders. The Department for Infrastructure retains responsibility for the revocation of previous and amended Orders.”

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

**Pragma Retail Analysis and Emerging
Future City Centre Programme**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Members:

- the key findings and recommendations in the Executive Summary of the Retail Analysis as developed by Pragma Consulting Limited, as circulated; and
- the work undertaken by the Place and Economy Department in developing the Future City Centre Programme and its programme strands.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the key findings and recommendations in the Executive Summary of the Retail Analysis, as developed by Pragma Consulting Limited;
- ii. note the progress in relation to shaping the Future City Centre Programme and its programme strands aligned to the Retail Analysis;
- iii. agree that officers develop the programme strands through engagement with city stakeholders and provide the Committee with an annual update on collective benefits and outcomes of the programme; and
- iv. approve the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair (or their nominees) at the Belfast Chamber Belfast Forward Conference on 27th February, 2020.

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1 Belfast City Centre is currently experiencing significant levels of development and investment across a range of sectors, with a number of major regeneration and development projects set to come forward in the years ahead. Belfast City**

Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) recognises that the city's large-scale development projects are catalysts for wider city regeneration. This is further supported by the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan. Fundamental to the delivery and development of the city's ambitions, and ensuring that no one is left behind, is the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy.

- 3.2 The retail sector is crucial to Belfast's physical and economic development. BCCRIS provides a vision for retail in Belfast City Centre as *'providing a regionally competitive retail offer and a shopping experience that is unmatched anywhere else in Northern Ireland'*.
- 3.3 Pragma Consulting Ltd was commissioned in April 2018 to undertake a Retail Analysis of Belfast City Centre to identify the challenges facing the city's retail sector and inform recommendations on how best to address these. The scope of the Retail Analysis was developed in conjunction with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC).
- 3.4 At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting in September, Pragma Consulting Ltd presented the key findings and market intelligence on the retail sector and identified a number of recommendations and opportunities within the city's retail offer. The attached Executive Summary of the Retail Analysis Report documents the key findings and recommendations.

Key Findings

- 3.5 Key findings as documented in the appendix which has been circulated and as presented to the Committee in September 2019:
- 3.6 1. Catchment and shopping patterns: Belfast is the major shopping destination in Northern Ireland. Benchmarking its performance against comparable cities highlights the opportunity to draw more shoppers into the city centre from the existing catchment area. Belfast currently has a market share of £2.4bn and ranks 21st alongside Aberdeen and it is the relevance of Belfast's retail and leisure offer, and the lack of point of densities that is causing low sales densities, along with a vacancy figure of 17% within the Primary Retail Core. That said brands unique to Belfast and not replicated anywhere else in NI perform well. Independent retailing forms an integral part of Belfast's retail offer accounting for 51% of the city's retailing units, some 20% above comparable locations.

- 3.7 **2. Trading Gap Analysis** is a realistic estimate of potential turnover growth worth £114m a potential increase 23% on current non-grocery sales. This gap in the market highlights an opportunity to increase sales from existing customers by improving the relevance and breadth of the current offer.
- 3.8 **3. Impact of the City Centre:** Belfast's retail sector has the potential to be a driving factor for improving the city centre's performance and supporting further development. The positive impacts on the city centre include Belfast's strong independent retailing sector, tourism potential, new office developments, and the increasing demand for city centre living. The challenges of the retail sector are not unique to Belfast and are felt in the UK and Ireland. The ripple effect of the demise of popular high street brands have impacted on the retail landscape itself and performance of our high streets. Current trends affecting the retail industry and the shift away from physical bricks and mortar retail towards online shopping feed the customers desire for convenience and 'experience' on their shopping trips.

Recommendations

- 3.9 Pragma outlined a number of high-level recommendations and opportunities to address these challenges and to ensure the retail sector offers a dynamic and experiential destination for shoppers. These include; reviewing opening hours and legislation, enhancing the leisure provision, animating spaces and maximising the tourism opportunity through the development of a new central tourist destination, proposed as part of Belfast Region City Deal. Creating a point of difference and a unique offering will be paramount in driving visits/footfall; supporting city centre living, improving accessibility, connectivity and infrastructure along with increased office/work space development. Together these will have positive impact on city centre vibrancy and inclusive growth.

Future City Centre Programme

- 3.10 To maximise the benefits and opportunities the retail and leisure sector can bring, the Council and its city partners must work together to embrace current and future trends to address the shortcomings in the existing retail offer. Taking into account Member's comments at Committee in September 2019 officers have developed a programme of work aligned to the retail analysis recommendations. The Future City Centre Programme aims to create a dynamic and experiential destination for shoppers and bolster Belfast as NI's dominant retail and leisure destination. Officers will continue to engage

city partners including the BCTC, city reference groups, agents and retailers specialising in retail and leisure, local communities and traders and the Institute of Place Management.

- 3.11 The emerging key areas of work fall into five priority areas of focus as outlined below and will require cross-cutting collaboration across Council and wider city centre stakeholders.
- 3.12 Physical Regeneration and Environmental Improvements: Pragma recommend a clean, accessible and pleasant environment is a key aspect of the city centre experience. In collaboration with the BIDs, the Council have established a cleaner, greener, safer city stakeholder group to maintain focus cultivating a pleasant and clean city centre.
- 3.13 Pragma recognise that office and workspace development can help support the city's overall economy and help the retail sector flourish. Encouraging new developments to deliver quality environments through green and blue infrastructure improvements will help to improve the city centre. This is addressed through the public realm catalyst projects, upgrading the entries and lanes, and the City Centre Connectivity Study (CCCS) which will be presented to Members on a later agenda.
- 3.14 It also suggests that providing inclusive City Centre Living could provide a way to manage the amount of retail provision. A city centre residential population will benefit independent traders, providing 'round the clock' demand for goods and services. 'Living over the Shops' should be viewed as a key factor to bring vibrancy to the heart of the city while addressing vacancy and benefitting and protecting our built heritage.
- 3.15 City Centre Vitality: According to Pragma, the trend of 'Renewable Placemaking and Creating Instagram-able Places' is a key industry trend that aims to create spaces that encourage customers to visit more regularly to 'see what's new'. In response to the fire at Bank Buildings, the Council has been delivering on this through coordinated entertainment, events and pop-up retail. Pragma recommend the better use of public space for animation events, pop up activities such as markets can entice people to the city centre. A calendar of events and entertainment to support this could provide an active marketing tool to drive footfall and encourage longer visits/stays in the city centre.

- 3.16 To tackle the trading gap, Pragma highlight the opportunity to increase sales from new and existing customers through improving the relevance of the city's offer. Pragma suggest reviewing opening hours and legislation will improve performance and create an opportunity to attract new brands, entice start-ups and add to the desire to create a livable, mixed-use city centre. Members agreed in September 2019 that there was a need to consider the city centre Sunday offer in a wider context than 'Holiday Resort' designation through an agreed Terms of Reference. The outcomes of this consultation and recommendations will be presented to Committee in a later agenda item.
- 3.17 Positioning the City to Complete: Pragma recognises that Belfast's retail pull is driven by the 'destination' status the city holds. However, other comparable cities with dominant catchment achieve a greater shopper spend potential. This along with the challenge of online shopping suggests an opportunity to develop a proposition that provides 'something different' to stand the best opportunity of future-proofing the city's retail activity.
- 3.18 The proposed proposition is twofold:
1. Targeting new/first to market brands unique to Belfast/Northern Ireland which will increase the retail pull and bolster Belfast as a retail destination; and
 2. Supporting independents and start-up's. The importance of SME's and independent retailers as a growing focus for city centre retailing provides diversity and a point of difference versus online and out of town competition.
- 3.19 Vacancy: Officers have identified the need to understand the vacancy rate in the Primary Retail Core in terms of marketing and positioning the city. A work plan has been identified to examine the number units that are commercially marketed (i.e. to let/for sale), those which are part of development sites and those which are vacant/derelict with current unknown ownership. Officers are currently engaging with commercial property agents to understand their retail portfolio, level of interest from international brands in locating to Belfast, feedback on challenges facing retailers/leisure operators from locating in the city centre and barriers to new entrants. An opportunity exists to utilise available vacant units for a plethora of alternative uses such as meanwhile uses potentially suited to community infrastructure, startups and the culture and arts sector as a means of testing products and concepts.

- 3.20 **Policy and legislation:** Pragma recommends the need to create an overarching vision for the city centre as the economic driver of the region. They reinforce that communication between all departments, agencies and organisations could be more efficient and joined up. The Council has worked to establish a city governance structure to support the regeneration, development and the inclusive economic growth of the city. This involves the establishment of the Growing the Economy and City Development Community Planning Board and a cross public / private sector City Centre Reference Group.

Next Steps

- 3.21 Individual project strands will be brought back to the Committee as they develop. The Future City Centre Programme will be reported to the Committee on an annual basis, focusing on its collective benefits and outcomes, and identified future priorities.
- 3.22 BCTC is hosting a Belfast Forward Conference on 27th February to help harness the energy in the city to promote regeneration, economic growth and social benefits with strong linkages to the Future City Centre Programme. The Chamber has extended an invitation to attend the conference to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee, along with officers involved in the Future City Centre Programme.

Finance and Resource Implications

There are no current financial implications for the Future City Centre Programme, however emerging work strands will be brought to the Committee as appropriate.

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

All emerging work strands will be individually screened for Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Future City Centre Programme –
City Centre Connectivity Study**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the draft Phase 1 of the City Centre Connectivity Study and seek approval to progress to Phases 2 and 3.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. endorse Phase 1 of the City Centre Connectivity Study;
- ii. agree to progress to Phases 2 and 3; and
- iii. agree to develop demonstration and pilot projects that helps build interest and discussion in the city about the future shape and functions of the city centre.

3.0 Main Report

City Centre Connectivity Study

- 3.1** The Belfast Agenda outlines the City's ambition to promote the development of sustainable transport and includes promoting walking and cycling. The support, and concept, of sustainable place-making in the city reflects one of the key policies in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), which seeks to create a green, walkable, cycleable city centre. It specifically references the lack of green space and tree-lined streets, and identifies the need for rebalancing the scales between tarmac and soft landscaping and recognises that there is no provision for children in the city centre.
- 3.2** Recent events in Belfast City Centre, including the fire at Bank Buildings in 2018, have prompted calls to examine how the heart of the city could be reimagined to create more sustainable, liveable and people-focussed places that better meet the needs of those who live, work, visit and invest here. The future success of Belfast as a regional driver will require a clear understanding of the changing role of the City Centre, and ensuring the right mix of offices, retail, hotels, tourist attractions, creative industries, universities and colleges, housing and social infrastructure. It is acknowledged that the city centre must adapt to provide the requirements of this changing environment and must also provide for inclusive access and growth, ensuring all communities have the opportunity to benefit from enhanced employment, leisure and social opportunities.
- 3.3** At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 5th June and subsequent amendments at Council on 1st July, it was agreed to examine how the city centre should develop to take into account the emerging changing use in a way that is accessible and welcoming for all, and to include an

exploration into models of pedestrianisation and other initiatives that facilitates the development of the city centre enabling both pedestrian enjoyment and sustainable transport access.

- 3.4 The Council, DfC and DfI agreed to jointly commission the City Centre Connectivity Study that will develop a shared vision for the city centre. After a competitive procurement process, a multi-disciplinary team from Jacobs was appointed.
- 3.5 The aim of the Connectivity Study is to agree a shared approach to creating a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city centre which will improve economic, societal, health and environmental wellbeing for all by:
- creating healthy, vibrant, sustainable and shared spaces;
 - providing improved access for people walking and cycling;
 - creating places for people to live;
 - encouraging regeneration; and
 - enhancing civic pride to attract local people and visitors
- 3.6 The primary study area is the central core of Belfast city centre and key connecting corridors (see Figure 1). The wider area of impact is defined by the Inner Ring Road, and the study will seek to understand and address connectivity issues experienced along key arterial routes and how these affect adjacent communities.

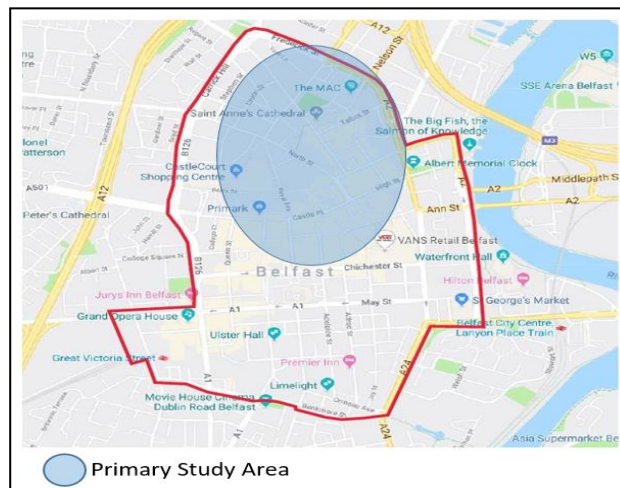


Figure 1 Map of Study Area

Phase 1 Sept – Dec 2019:

3.7 *Development of a Shared Vision*

This Phase is complete. Throughout Phase 1 Jacobs worked closely with officers and departmental officials and stakeholders to develop the draft Vision. Within this initial Phase there were three elements of work that informed the shared Vision for the city centre;

- Stage one - *Understanding Best Practice* considered how Belfast could address current issues, through analysis of established benefits and dis-benefits of approaches that other cities with similar characteristics have implemented to transform their city centre.
- Stage two - *Understanding Belfast City Centre* looked at how the city centre functions to ensure a balance between the different requirements and needs of users in terms of access, city centre servicing, deliveries, movement and footfall, modes of transport and land use. This Stage also analysed the changing nature of the city centre, including mapping of emerging and built developments that will deliver diversification of the city centre including enhanced tourism, city centre living, working, leisure and open space, and green infrastructure.
- Building on this information and best practice, Stage three resulted in an ambitious Vision, *A Bolder Vision for Belfast*.

Stakeholder Engagement

3.8 Statutory bodies, businesses, interest groups, communities and resident's groups will be engaged throughout each Phase of the study. The following engagement took place during the development of the draft Vision in Phase 1:

- engagement with key stakeholders, statutory authorities and delivery partners;
- Residents Workshop with communities in and surrounding the city centre
- Visioning Workshop with key civic partners and organisations
- Political briefing (invites to all Councillors and Belfast MLAs and MPs)
- Briefings to BCC Chief Executive and DfI and DfC Permanent Secretaries

Final draft Vision: A Bolder Vision for Belfast

- 3.9 This document sets out the Case for Change, learning from other cities of similar size and Visioning Principles that underpin the Vision. The Vision is ambitious and challenging and provides the framework for 13 'What If?' ideas that were identified through the engagement events and benchmarked against the Visioning Principles. These are high-level and are intended to inspire potential solutions to shape a dynamic 21st century city. In order to achieve this level of transformation, future changes must be radical. This will present challenges, and require intensive partnership working to maintain focus and alignment of resources on the overall mission and vision of the Connectivity Study. Commitment across statutory partners and stakeholder organisations to ensure coherence, momentum and phased delivery is required as is communication and engagement with citizens to support behaviour change and to create people-focused city.
- 3.10 The Visioning Principles, as identified in the '*A Bolder Vision for Belfast*' are:
- Creating a healthy, shared, vibrant and sustainable environment that promotes wellbeing for all, inclusive growth and innovation.
 - Fundamentally changing the centre of Belfast to prioritise integrated walking, cycling and public transport and end the dominance of the car.
 - Providing lively, safe and green streets linking inclusive shared spaces to promote resilience and enhance our built heritage.
 - Removing severance and barriers to movement between the centre of Belfast and the surrounding communities to improve access for all.
- 3.11 The draft document has been agreed with the Permanent Secretaries for DfI and DfC and the Council's Chief Executive and is currently undergoing Ministerial review and approval within DfI and DfC.
- 3.12 In early January 2020 BCC, DfC and DfI commenced the scoping of Phases 2 and 3 and intend to procure both Phases in April, with a projected timeframe as outlined below:
- Phase 2 Spring/Summer 2020: Develop an action plan to outline scenarios and delivery options based on the Future Vision. The action plan and options will be used to inform further discussion with key civic partners,

communities, residents, Third Sector organisations, interest groups, statutory authorities and city leaders.

- Phase 3 Autumn/Winter 2020/21: A 12 week, city-wide public consultation on the options to deliver the Future Vision and the emerging actions.

3.13 Members should be aware that currently there is no capital funding aligned to delivering the outcomes of the Phase 2 and 3 works, however this work will be critical to informing the design criteria of key infrastructure projects including, but not limited to, Streets Ahead Phase 3 & 5, and the BRT Phase 2 projects. The ambition of the three organisations is that this work will help to shape and inform strategies, policies and projects going forward, pending approvals and adoption as outlined in section 3.11 of this paper.

3.14 Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications

There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications at this stage. The Council's Equality and Diversity Officer will be consulted during any future consultation process and any proposed approach will be subject to the Council's screening requirements to ensure that Equality and Good Relations implications and Rural Needs are fully considered.

3.15 Finance and Resource Implications

The budget requirements for Phases 2 and 3 are currently under assessment along with the scope and specification. Whilst there will clearly be both financial and human resources attached to taking forward the City Centre Connectivity Study, the specific resource implications are still to be determined in-line with the emerging programme of work. It is expected that the council's contribution to Phase 2 and 3 will be met from within existing department budgets subject to approval from the Committee at a future date."

The Committee was informed that Mr. K. Gowenlock and Mr. P. Smyth of Jacobs Consulting were in attendance to provide an overview of the City Centre Connectivity Study and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Gowenlock reported that the Connectivity Study had been commissioned in response to an identified need by the Council, the Department for Communities and the Department for Infrastructure to work together to explore options to create a functioning and successful City centre. The resulting "Bolder Vision for Belfast" had been based on a strong understanding and agreement of the key challenges and opportunities facing the City and had taken into consideration similar initiatives in cities such as Liverpool, Oslo and Utrecht.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 12th February, 2020**

Mr. Smyth explained that the eight key themes for change which had been identified initially had, following engagement with stakeholder and community groups, been streamlined into four visioning principles, namely, Creating Healthy, Shared Vibrant and Sustainable Environments; Prioritising Walking Cycling and Public Transport; Providing Lively, Safe and Green Streets and Enhancing the Built Heritage; and Removing Severance and Barriers to Movement. He drew the Committee's attention to a series of "What If" ideas, based upon transformational changes which had been achieved in other cities, which had been identified through an engagement process and benchmarked against the four visioning principles, and pointed out that they were intended to inspire potential solutions to match the ambitions of the City. He concluded by reviewing Phases 2 and 3 of the connectivity process and by stressing that, in order for the vision to be successful, it would, would require collaboration with those agencies responsible for development, regeneration, environmental and community policies and strategies.

Mr. Gowenlock and Mr. Smyth then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by the Members and were thanked by the Chairperson.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations set out within the report.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

**Future City Centre Programme –
Sundays in the City**

The Committee agreed, with nine Members voting for and six against, to defer consideration of a report on the above-mentioned matter to enable the Political Parties to engage further with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), if required.

Strategic/Operational Issues

City Growth and Regeneration Committee Priorities 2020/21

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee's priorities for the financial year 2020-21, which have been developed in the context of the current work programme, the workshop with members in September and the draft Corporate Plan. This has been informed by the commitments that are in place and the ongoing work that the Committee has oversight for in the delivery of the Belfast Agenda.**
- 1.2 These priorities have been developed to highlight the Committee's role in delivering on the Belfast Agenda priorities**

and demonstrate the centrality of growing and diversifying the local economy to deliver inclusive and sustainable growth and improve the quality of life in Belfast so that by 2035:

- Our economy supports 46,000 additional jobs
- Our city is home to 66,000 people
- There will be 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to approve the priorities for 2020/21, which will inform the development of the more detailed Committee Plan.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for:

- the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed towards regeneration and growth of the city in the context of outcomes agreed in the community (Belfast Agenda) and corporate plans and other corporate strategy decisions; and
- oversight of the exercise of Council functions in relation to economic development, urban development, tourism, culture and arts, European and international relations, car parks, city markets, city events, Belfast Castle, Malone House and Belfast Zoo.

Key Priorities

- 3.2 The Committee has a key role in overseeing the delivery of several key strategies and frameworks aimed at driving regeneration and inclusive and sustainable growth of the city. In particular:

- The Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) 2015-2030 was produced and adopted by the Council in 2015 and; subsequently adopted as policy by the Department for Communities (DfC). The Strategy provides the framework for change

to drive the regeneration of the city core and its surrounding areas.

- Delivering inclusive growth through a series of frameworks and strategies for economic development, employability and skills, international relations and the Cultural Strategy. These strategies and frameworks work together to support a balanced approach to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the city.

3.3 These have directly informed the draft 2020/21 priorities for the Committee's consideration and are key mechanisms to deliver the shared ambitions of the Belfast Agenda. The Committee will receive more detailed work programmes and reports to support delivery of these priorities.

3.4 The draft priorities have been shaped by the current work programme which was agreed by Committee in June 2019; the feedback from the Committee workshop in September; and the draft Corporate Plan, which was subject to public consultation. It also takes account of emerging Local Development Plan and key developments such as Brexit, the Belfast Region City Deal, the draft Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Council's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan and the commitment to work towards zero carbon.

3.5 The draft priorities have been set out below to align to and support the delivery of the Council's draft Corporate Plan.

3.6 Corporate Cross Cutting Priorities - priorities which will have a multitude of social, economic and environmental benefits for the city, with inclusive growth at the centre in order to achieve the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

3.7 *Delivering the Belfast Region City Deal* by progressing the following projects within the BRCD timelines:

- Delivery of the Destination Hub; development of Outline Business Case and site selection
- Shaping and developing Innovation and Smart Districts; development of Outline Business Cases
- BRT Phase 2; development of Outline Business Case
- Ormeau Park Bridge; development of Outline Business Case
- Support the delivery of the Employability & Skills programme; development of the Outline Business Case

3.8 *Deliver the Cultural Strategy 'A City Imagining'*

- Continue with the development work on the UNESCO city of music bid, with a view to making an application in 2021
- Agree the proposals to work on a focus programme of cultural celebration in 2023.
- Sustainable tourism development, including implementing the neighbourhood tourism strategy, and developing a leisure and business tourism strategy with partners.

3.9 Committee key actions to deliver on the Belfast Agenda priorities

- *Growing the Economy* - to create an inclusive, resilient economy through creating good, long term jobs
- *Encourage business start-up and support indigenous business growth to support inclusive and sustainable growth by:*
- Creating a balanced city economy by increasing the level of support and volume of Social enterprises and Co-operatives
- Developing the Enterprise Framework action plan for the city to improve and join up provision of support and increase the volume and value of business start ups across all sectors of the local economy
- Completing the development plan for St George's Market and implement the key recommendations to support the ongoing sustainable development of the venue as a key location for tourism, business start-up and city animation
- Providing support to entrepreneurs to start a business and for existing businesses to grow, including oversight of the Innovation Factory.
- Helping businesses address the operational implications in relation to the emerging Brexit situation

3.10 *Maximise the economic benefit of the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor*

- Continue to build the economic case for the Belfast – Dublin economic corridor; specifically examine potential joint investment proposals and the associated economic return

3.11 *Position the City to Compete to help support the city's goals for a sustainable and inclusive city*

- Develop an overarching framework for the purposes of attracting institutional investment aligned with our development priorities and to support other strategic initiatives
- Participate in national and international initiatives to secure strategic, institutional and real estate investment to support the city's development and regeneration priorities
- Develop refreshed communication and engagement with city stakeholders in the context of regeneration and development
- Continue to deliver the International Relations Framework 2020-2021 and promote and market the city internationally to position Belfast as a location of choice for business, tourism, education and investment

3.12 *Living Here - Working with partners to maximise residential development opportunities*

- Working with statutory partners to provide strategic leadership to identify and unlock barriers to inclusive city centre living
- Strategic use of public and private sector lands (SSA) to achieve the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and BCCRIS, including the promotion of inclusive residential opportunities
- Working with communities to enable inclusive and shared spaces
- Improve green infrastructure to support and encourage mixed tenure living
- Attract investment & collaborative working with private landlords
- Master-planning to deliver coherent urban design, residential communities & facilities

3.13 *City Development - to ensure the city is sustainable with robust infrastructure that protects future generations*

- Provide strategic leadership on major developments to ensure alignment with Belfast Agenda and emerging policies and plans, such as the Council's commitment to carbon reduction
- Future City Centre Programme to diversify the offer and promote Belfast as a destination. This includes

physical and environmental regeneration, city vitality, animation and positioning the city to compete

- Developing and implementing priority areas of action emerging from the MOU with Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Continue to manage the City Centre Investment Fund and the promotion of The Sixth through Bel Tel LLP
- Attract investment to promote employment, innovation and residential, taking account of the Council's commitments to inclusive growth and climate adaption and mitigation
- Strategic city-wide approach to development and use of public sector lands, taking account of climate adaptation and mitigation.

3.14 City connectivity, attractiveness and infrastructure to deliver on the city's inclusive and sustainable growth ambitions

- Improve engagement to address issues in existing communities, i.e. parking, connectivity, inclusive housing etc to improve the benefits & reduce the impacts of major regeneration and infrastructure projects.
- Provide strategic leadership and lobby key government departments on major infrastructure schemes (Living with Water, York St Interchange, BRT, Belfast Streets Ahead, Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Car Parking Strategy)
- City Centre Connectivity Study – Finalise and agree the 'Bolder Vision for Belfast' and integrate the outcomes into existing and emerging policies and plans, such as the inclusive growth strategy and Council's climate adaption and mitigation plan
- Public Realm Improvement Schemes (utilising existing developer contributions)
- Finalise and Agree the Belfast Infrastructure Study
- Promote sustainable connectivity to major economic centres (links to Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor)
- Continue delivering the Car Parking Strategy Action Plan
- Continue to make improvements and review the commercial aspects of BCC assets (Zoo, Belfast Castle, Malone House)

3.15 Working and Learning - to deliver on the inclusive growth by ensuring that people are appropriately skilled for the jobs created in the city by:

- Supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities through our programme of

employment academies, European Social Fund projects and working with our partners to establish effective pathways of support.

- Employability NI: working with the Department for Communities to ensure that the new mainstream support programme for the long term unemployed and economically inactive is effective in supporting those individuals in most need in Belfast to support inclusive growth
- Exploring opportunities to develop strategic relationships with key employers in order to support greater alignment between skills supply and demand
- Delivering on the opportunities from the implementation of the Developer Contributions Framework and Social Value Procurement Framework to support inclusive growth
- Educational underachievement; including working with key partners to design and test new employability approaches targeted at those at risk of becoming NEETs and to identify and provide early intervention support to young people to deliver on the inclusive growth strategy.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

The Committee Plan and annual programme of work will need to align with the budget agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24th January 2020.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Strategies and plans are subject to the Council's equality, good relations and rural needs requirements."

The Committee approved its priorities for 2020/21, as set out within the report.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Air Passenger Duty

The Committee agreed, at the request of Councillor Graham, that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing details of any research/data which has been produced on the impact of Air Passenger Duty on business, inward investment, exporters and tourism in the City. It agreed also that the report should examine the funding implications associated with any loss of revenue and the environmental impact, should Air Passenger Duty be abolished.

Supporting Artists in Belfast

Councillor Nicholl, who had requested that this item be placed on the agenda, drew the Committee's attention to difficulties which were being faced currently by grassroots arts organisations in the City and suggested that it might wish to obtain further details from representatives of those organisations who were in attendance.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from the representatives and, accordingly, Ms. J. Morrow, Interim Chief Executive, University of Atypical, and Mr. R. Hilken, Visual Arts Ireland, were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Morrow informed the Committee that there were currently approximately seventeen studios/artist-led organisations in the City, accounting for around 450 artists. Those organisations were unique in the context of the cultural infrastructure and, whilst their contribution could not be measured using traditional methods, such as income generated through ticket sales and audience numbers, their importance to the visual culture of the City had long been recognised.

She reported that essential support infrastructure for artist-led galleries, organisations and studios was being severely threatened due to the insecurity of short-term leases on the buildings in the City centre from which they were operating and funding issues generally. A number of organisations had closed in the past year and several others were facing imminent closure. That, she pointed out, would impact upon activities such as the Late Night Art initiative, which helped to promote the City's night time economy. She explained that these difficulties could be attributed primarily to three factors, namely, regeneration and property speculation in the City centre, the politics of austerity and the consequential loss of public funding and a lack of specific support for grassroots infrastructure as an essential part of a vibrant arts ecosystem.

She highlighted the fact that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's INSPIRE | CONNECT | LEAD five-year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-24 had made no mention of studios, workspaces or other production resources for artists. In addition, the Council's core multi-annual funding (CMAF) scheme presented difficulties, in that income/turnover and time/sustainability thresholds had to be met, which had a detrimental impact upon those grassroots organisations and artist studios with low operating costs.

In terms of potential solutions, Ms. Morrow requested that the Council, firstly, affirm its support for grassroots arts organisations in the City and, secondly, make available to them capital grants to raise match funding, secure charitable loans to purchase buildings and establish co-ownership schemes. She called also for the introduction of a developer contribution initiative, similar to that in place for public realm projects, and for discussions to take place at a strategic level between the three main funders of grassroots art activity in the City, namely, the Council, the Arts Council for Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities to address the issues which she had raised.

Mr. Hilken reiterated the points which had been made by Ms. Morrow and invited the Members to attend a meeting of the Belfast Visual Arts Forum being held on

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25th February to discuss the current crisis in this sector and the potential impacts should a resolution not be found.

Mr. Hilken and Ms. Morrow were thanked by the Chairperson.

After a discussion, the Committee:

- i. agreed that officers seek a meeting with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities to discuss cultural and arts infrastructure requirements within the City;
- ii. agreed that the Council should seek to identify potential studio space for artists within the City centre through existing work streams;
- iii. agreed that support for the culture and arts sector should continue to feature prominently within the Committee's priorities;
- iv. noted that a report would on 26th February be presented to the Committee in relation to the allocation of CMAG funding for culture and arts organisations and making reference to other potential funding streams; and
- v. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing an update on the progress which had been made since this meeting and agreed also that it should receive update reports on a regular basis thereafter.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Murphy (Chairperson);
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors S. Baker, Beattie, Brooks, Donnelly,
Ferguson, Flynn, Gormley, Graham, Hanvey, T. Kelly,
Lyons, McAllister, McLaughlin, O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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 Committee 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 (NI) 2014.

A City Imagining Investment Programme – Cultural Multi-Annual Grants

(Ms. E. Henry, Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism, attended in connection with item.)

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 28th August, 2019, it had approved a new ten-year cultural strategy, namely, 'A City Imagining'. The Committee had, as part of the strategy, approved a new investment model, which had included the phased implementation of new funding

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Wednesday, 20th February, 2020**

programmes. The first phase of that work had commenced with the opening of a competitive funding programme for cultural multi-annual grants.

The Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism, explained that the cultural multi-annual grants scheme was comprised of two funding strands, namely, Arts and Heritage and Festivals and Events. Each strand included a two-year and a four-year tier of investment and had replaced the existing core multi-annual funding for arts and heritage, which was due to end in March, 2020, and the previous one-off funding agreements for events and festivals which had been awarded on an annual basis through the Committee process, respectively.

She reported that applications for funding under each strand had opened on 7th October and had closed on 22nd November. The scheme had been advertised through various websites, existing networks, social media and information sessions. In total, eighty-four applications, requesting £4,446,113.50, had been received. She reviewed the various steps in the assessment process and confirmed that, following that exercise, fifty-four organisations were being recommended for funding totalling £2,363,264 across the four funding streams.

She highlighted the fact that it had been acknowledged from the outset that the core funding programme accompanying the new cultural strategy would not be the best fit for every organisation currently in receipt of core funding. It had, therefore, been agreed that, where any organisation currently in receipt of core funding was deemed to be ineligible for funding under the cultural multi-annual grants programme or had been unsuccessful following the assessment process, one-year of transition funding, up to a maximum of £30,000, would be offered. She reviewed the process which would underpin the transition programme and confirmed that eleven organisations were being recommended for funding totalling £168,000.

The Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism, went on to point out that, although an application for cultural multi-annual grant funding from the Cathedral Quarter Trust to deliver a scaled-up Culture Night had been unsuccessful, the importance of holding a large scale shared cultural event in the City had been recognised. It was, therefore, being recommended that support continue to be provided in 2020 to the Trust to enable it to deliver, in partnership with the Council and other stakeholders, such an event and that funding of £50,000 be allocated for that purpose. An independent strategic review of Culture Night would be undertaken in parallel, which would examine, for example, governance arrangements and a sustainable partnership model to be considered in the context of the City's overall events calendar.

She then drew the Members' attention to the fact that the outcome of an equality screening of the investment model element of the Cultural Strategy, which had included the cultural multi-annual grants programme, had found that there had been an under-representation of groups from or representing the PUL (Protestant Unionist Loyalist) community. Capacity building had been identified as a mitigating action and, accordingly, it was recommended that that be addressed by allocating funding of £80,000 towards the development of a capacity building programme.

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She concluded by pointing out that the next steps in the process would involve awareness raising around the increase in the Council's investment in the cultural sector, the provision of advice, debriefs and support for all organisations involved in the process, including information on project funding, and the undertaking of a cultural mapping exercise of the City.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. agreed that funding totalling £2,363,264 be allocated under the Cultural Multi-Annual Grant scheme to those organisations set out within Appendix 5 of the report;
- ii. approved the proposed approach for addressing issues which had emerged during the Cultural Multi-Annual Grant process, including the allocation of transition funding of £168,000 to those organisations set out within Appendix 6 of the report;
- iii. agreed that funding of £50,000 be allocated to the Cathedral Quarter Trust to deliver, in partnership with the Council and other stakeholders, a large scale shared cultural event in the City;
- iv. agreed that funding totalling £80,000 be allocated to a capacity building programme, with the PUL community to be proactively targeted;
- v. agreed that the aforementioned capacity building programme be extended to include LGBT and all other recognised Section 75 groups; and
- vi. noted that the funding commitments set out above would be met from within agreed Departmental budgets for 2020/21.

It was noted that the restriction on the Committee report and the appendices would, with the exception of Appendix 4, be removed immediately following the Council meeting on 2nd March.

Standing Order 14 - Submission of Minutes

In accordance with Standing Order 14, the Committee agreed, as the meeting had been held later than seven clear days before the meeting of the Council, that the minutes of the meeting be submitted to the Council on 2nd March for ratification.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor S. Baker (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland and Sandford; and
Councillors Bunting, Donnelly, Ferguson,
Groves, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, M. Kelly,
T. Kelly, Magee, Magennis and McAteer.

In attendance: Ms N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. K. Bloomfield, HMO Unit Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds and Councillors Dorrian, Smyth and Whyte.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declaration 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)

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.

Applications for the renewal of a Licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 86 University Avenue

The Committee was reminded that responsibility for HMO's had been transferred to local district councils in April 2019 with the introduction of a new licensing regime. The HMO Unit Manager advised that any existing registrations under the old NIHE Registration Scheme were deemed to be licences at the point of transfer. He stated that

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licences were issued for a 5 year period with standard conditions, however, where it was considered necessary to do so, the Committee could also impose special conditions.

The HMO Unit Manager advised that, as a valid objections had been received, the application must be considered by the Committee and highlighted that, pursuant to the 2016 Act, the Council may only grant a licence if it was satisfied of the following:

- a) the occupation of the living accommodation as an HMO would not constitute a breach of planning control;
- b) the owner of the living accommodation, and any managing agent of it, were fit and proper persons;
- c) the proposed management arrangements for the living accommodation were satisfactory);
- d) the granting of the licence would not result in overprovision of HMOs in the locality in which the living accommodation was situated;
- e) the living accommodation was fit for human habitation and—
 - (i) was suitable for occupation as an HMO by the number of persons to be specified in the licence, or
 - (ii) could be made so suitable by including conditions in the licence.

He explained that the issues which could be taken into account when considering the fitness of an applicant were set out at Section 10 of the 2016 Act and included offences concerning fraud or dishonesty, violence, drugs, human trafficking, firearms, sexual offences, unlawful discrimination in, or in connection with, the carrying on of any business; or any provision of the law relating to housing or of landlord and tenant law. It also permitted the Council to take into account any other matter which the council considered to be relevant. Section 20 of the 2016 Act stated where the holder of an HMO licence made an application for renewal, the council must apply the above provisions except for (a) and (d); namely whether the use was a breach of planning control or would result in overprovision.

He pointed out that Legal Counsel had advised that councils could not take into account the absence of planning permission through the prism of fitness. On the basis of that advice, Legal Services had confirmed that that also applied to issues around overprovision.

He advised that 2 noise complaints, in relation to 86 University Avenue, had been received in 2019 and suggested that, to alleviate further issues, a special condition could be applied to the License which would require the Landlord to provide contact details to the Council or neighbours so that noise complaints could be dealt with quickly.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. S. Boyle, on behalf of the applicant Mr. P. Boyle. Mr. Boyle advised that the property had joined the HMO scheme and welcomed the protection that it brought for Landlords. He stated that his father had invested in the property and it was maintained to a high standard. He suggested that they had not been made aware of the any noise complaints and questioned how they could be kept informed. He confirmed that he would be happy to provide contact details for any further noise complaints.

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During discussion, the Divisional Solicitor highlighted that noise complaints would include personal data and confirmed that there was no current mechanism for the Council to share noise complaint data with Landlords or Managing Agents, however, this would be examined.

After discussion, the Committee approved the application for the Grant of the renewal of a Licence to Operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 86 University Avenue, subject to the imposing of the additional condition that the Landlord/Agent contact details be provided to the Council/neighbouring properties so that any noise complaints could be escalated and promptly dealt with, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the condition.

Applications for the renewal of a Licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 77 Haypark Avenue, Street

The HMO Unit Manager provided an overview of the application and explained that the as a valid objection had been received, the application must be considered by the Committee, pursuant to the 2016 Act and aforementioned legal advice.

He advised that 7 noise complaints had been received in relation to the property since March, 2017 and suggested that, to alleviate the issue, a special condition could be applied to the License which would require the Landlord to provide contact details to the Council or neighbours so that noise complaints could be dealt with quickly.

The Democratic Services Officer tabled correspondence from the applicant in response to issues raised by the objector as outlined in the report.

The Committee received a representation from the applicant, Dr. T. McIntyre. He confirmed that he had not been made aware of the aforementioned noise complaints but would be happy to provide contact details for any further noise complaints.

The Committee approved the application for the Grant of the renewal of a Licence to Operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 77 Haypark Avenue, subject to the imposing of the additional condition that Landlord/Agent contact details be provided to the Council/neighbouring properties so that any noise complaints could be escalated and promptly dealt with, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the condition.

Applications for the renewal of a Licence to operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 5 Edinburgh Mews

The HMO Unit Manager provided an overview of the application and explained that the as a valid objection had been received, the application must be considered by the Committee, pursuant to the 2016 Act and aforementioned legal advice.

He advised that no noise complaints had been received in relation to the property.

The Committee approved the application for the Grant of the renewal of a Licence to Operate a House of Multiple Occupation for 5 Edinburgh Mews.

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Non Delegated Matters

Additional Item – HMO Committee Workshop

The Divisional Solicitor advised that a Special People and Communities Committee had been scheduled for the 5th May which would encompass a HMO Workshop. She explained that this would consider the HMO licensing scheme in the context of planning controls, policy issues in terms of the draft Local Development Plan, and the impact of the operation of the scheme on local communities, particularly in areas where there were significant numbers of HMOs to which all Members would be invited to participate.

She informed the Committee that officers had also attended the Committee of the Department for Communities and had submitted a paper which responded to a range of queries from the Department on inspections, hazards, accommodation standards, development plans, approaches and data. She confirmed that a copy of the response had been emailed to the Licensing Committee.

During discussion, the Divisional Solicitor confirmed that officers would continue to liaise with the Department on the matter, with a view to engaging with the Minister for Communities after the HMO Workshop.

Noted.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 11th February, 2020

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Carson (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Brooks, Collins, Garrett,
Groogan, Hanvey, Hussey,
Maskey, McKeown, Murphy,
Nicholl and O'Hara.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager
(Development Management);
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 21st and 23rd January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared in an interest in Item 5a, namely LA04/2018/0471/F - Upgrading of playing fields to include 2 new 3G pitch surfaces and 1 grass pitch, floodlights, fencing, dug outs, 1No. 200 seater stand, toilet blocks, turnstiles, additional car parking and associated ground at the Boys Brigade Recreation Centre, 108 Belvoir Drive, in that he was the Honorary President of the Belfast Battalion of the Boys Brigade. He left the room for the duration of the item and did not participate in the vote.

Councillor Brooks declared an interest in the same item, in that he was a season ticket holder at Linfield Football Club, while the project was a BB-led initiative, Linfield FC had a role in it. He left the room during the item and did not participate in the vote.

Pre-Emptive Committee Site Visits

In response to a suggestion from the Planning Manager (Development Management) relating to a number of major planning applications which were due to be considered by the Committee over the next few months, the Committee agreed to undertake pre-emptive site visits to the following four sites:

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- LA04/2019/2850/F - Extensions to existing aerospace manufacturing facility and associated site works to include internal access road , replacement car parking, drainage and existing access onto Heron Road at Bombardier Wing Manufacturing and assembly Facility Airport Road West Belfast BT3 9ED;
- LA04/2019/2810/F - Titanic Quarter eastern access road including new signalised junction on Sydenham Road and associated works at lands to the south and east of Belfast Metropolitan College east of Public Records Office of NI north of Sydenham Road west of Cuming Road and south of Hamilton Road Titanic Quarter Belfast;
- LA04/2019/2387/F - Residential development comprising 151 apartments and ancillary uses including; management suite, communal space, reception area and servicing (refuse/recycling/bicycle storage) and plant equipment; and associated car parking and public realm improvements to Scrabo Street, Station Street and Middlepath Street at Land adjacent to Quay Gate House 15 Scrabo Street Belfast BT5 4D: footpaths and public realm at Scrabo Street, Station Street and Middlepath Street; and
- LA04/2019/2299/F - Demolition of existing property and re-development of the site including the provision of approximately 243,000sqft gross build floorspace comprising class B1 (a0 office on 6 levels over active ground floor uses including retail (A1), restaurants, cafes and bars (sui generis) with a hotel of 174 bedrooms over ground plus 7 levels and associated double deck carparking of 62 spaces and related access for the redevelopment at 1-7 Fountain Street 24-40 Castle Street and 6-8 Queen Street Belfast.

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 7th January and 3rd February 2020.

Miscellaneous Items

Planning Performance Update – April to December 2019

The Planning Manager (Development Management) provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the Planning Service's performance from 1st April to 31st December, 2019. He explained that the report provided statistics on the progress across the three statutory targets for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases. It also provided information relating to performance against the Council's corporate targets.

The Committee was advised that a total of 2,153 valid applications had been received between 1st April and 31st December 2019, which was a 15% increase compared to the same period for the previous year. He outlined that the number of local applications received had reduced by 8% while the number of major applications had increased by 20%. He highlighted to the Committee that "other development", such as Certificates of Lawful Use Development and Discharge of Condition applications, were not included in statutory performance targets but currently made up 42% of applications received. He explained that applications such as Discharge of Conditions, had increased by 38% from the previous year and did not attract a fee. He advised the Members that officers would continue to appeal to the Department regarding the requirement for a fee for the work associated with those applications.

He advised the Committee that approvals had been granted for over 1,300 residential units, 5 outdoor leisure facilities and 440 house-holder applications. He highlighted that the number of major decisions which had been issued had doubled and that the overall number of decisions issued had increased by 13%. The Members were advised that 93% of applications were approved.

In relation to enforcement, he advised the Members that 51% of cases had been resolved and that the Enforcement team had exceeded their targets by 23%.

The Committee was reminded that the statutory target for major applications was that they should be processed within an average of 30 weeks. The Planning Manager highlighted to the Members that the average processing time for major applications had almost halved from the previous year, from 78 weeks in 2018, to 37 weeks in 2019. He advised that the statutory target for processing local applications was 15 weeks and that they had been processed in 13.8 weeks in 2019, compared with 15.2 weeks in 2018.

A Member stated that he wished to put on record his thanks to the Planning Service for the steady progress which had been made in terms of meeting the targets.

The Planning Manager advised the Committee that performance would continue to be closely monitored.

Noted.

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Updated Training Schedule for Planning Committee Workshops

The Planning Manager (Development Management) provided the Committee with the following revised schedule of Workshops for the Thursday sessions between March 2020 and May 2021:

Committee	Workshop Topics
12 March 2020	Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) / Priorities / Process within LDP / Policy Relationships / Future Status
16 March 2020	Transportation Issues / Highways / Access / Transport (subject to attendance by DFI Roads to be confirmed)
April 2020	Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) / Detailed approach to guidance and Policy relationships
May 2020	Performance (2019/2020 Year End) / Improvement
June 2020	Local Development Plan Examination Process
July 2020	No Workshop Meeting
August 2020	Reviewing the Planning Committee Protocol
September 2020	Urban Design and Conservation / SPG Review
October 2020	No Workshop Meeting
November 2020	Development Management / Process / Decision Making / Appeals / Performance (2020/2021 Q1 + Q2) / Improvement
December 2020	No Workshop Meeting
January 2021	No Workshop Meeting
February 2021	Developer Contributions
March 2021	No Workshop Meeting
April 2021	Planning Conditions and Legal Agreements
May 2021	Performance (2020/2021 Year End) / Improvement

He explained that Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Workshops were included which were important in supporting the implementation of the operational policies in the draft Local Development Plan, Plan Strategy. The SPG topics included affordable housing, the evening economy, viability, sensitive uses, householder (design guidance), waste, residential design, flooding, urban design, sustainable drainage systems and employment land supply.

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The Members were advised that the updated training programme proposed that performance and improvement workshops be undertaken bi-annually rather than quarterly, with quarterly performance reports circulated by email.

The Committee was advised that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had confirmed its attendance at a Special Transport Workshop, which would take place on Monday, 16th March at 5 p.m. The Members were asked to provide officers with any specific areas which they would like the DfI representatives to cover at the Workshop.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Planning Applications

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

**LA04/2018/0471/F - Upgrading of playing fields to include
2 new 3G pitch surfaces and 1 grass pitch, floodlights, fencing,
dug outs, 1No. 200 seater stand, toilet blocks, turnstiles,
additional car parking and associated ground at the Boys
Brigade Recreation Centre, 108 Belvoir Drive**

(Alderman Rodgers and Councillor Brooks declared an interest and left the room at this point.)

The Principal Planning Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the details of the major application for the upgrading of facilities within an existing playing field off Belvoir Drive in the south of the City.

He outlined the key issues which were considered during the assessment of the application, including the principle of the development, the visual impacts of the proposal, the impact on the amenity and character of the area, impact on the natural environment and heritage and flood risk.

He explained to the Members that, while the proposal would result in the reduction of playing pitches from 5 to 3 within the site, there would be no net loss of open/recreational space, as larger full-size pitches were proposed. He advised the Committee that, should the applicant wish to reduce the number of pitches available, they could so do without planning permission as it did not involve a material change of use of the land.

The Committee was advised that the proposal would not adversely impact on amenity, traffic, heritage assets or flooding and that the proposed scale, form and massing were acceptable and would not impact on the local character of the area. The Planning officer explained that access to the park would be unaffected by the proposals.

He reported that DfI Roads, HED, NI Water and Rivers Agency had no objections to the proposal.

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He drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items Pack, where the Natural Environment Division (NED) had submitted its consultation response on 7th February. NED had expressed concerns regarding the designated Belvoir Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), the proposed felling of ancient oak trees, the potential use of herbicides, parking and bats. He explained to the Committee that the applicant had agreed that all ancient oak trees would now be retained, that herbicide would be precluded within the Root Protection Zone (RPZ), by condition, that DfL Roads were content with the parking provision and that floodlighting would only be used between October and April, and that no impact on bats was likely. The officers advised that they would provide NED with clarification that the ancient oak trees were being retained and that works within the RPZ would be conditioned to prevent damage to the tree roots.

In response to a Member's question regarding the proposed works within the Root Protection Zones, the Principal Planning officer explained that officers felt that the minor works which were required to be carried out could be dealt with through conditions or a through a construction method statement.

The Committee was advised that the Tree Officer had recommended that canopy works be carried out to reduce the weight of the older trees.

The Members were provided with a detailed light spill analysis diagram which illustrated that no residential properties would be affected by the proposed floodlighting.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to officers dealing with the outstanding issues which had been raised by NED, 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.

(Alderman Rodgers and Councillor Brooks returned to the meeting at this point.)

LA04/2019/2951/F - Vary condition 11 (b) of approval LA04/2016/2385/F to amend the number of sound events exceeded as follows:
(b) not exceed the 45dB LAmax for more than 15 sound events between 23:00 and 07:00 hrs within any proposed bedrooms with windows closed and alternative means of ventilation provided in accordance with current building control requirements at 81-107 York Street

The Principal Planning officer outlined the details of the application to vary a technical condition, 11 (b) of a previous approval, namely, LA04/2016/2385/F, for purpose built student accommodation comprising 717 beds.

He explained that the variation of the condition related to a technical point regarding the sound levels within the building, where the 45dB LAmax should not be exceeded for more than 15 sound events between 23:00 and 07:00 hrs.

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He outlined to the Committee that Environmental Health had no objections to the revision and that no other objections had been received.

The Committee was reminded that, as the original approval had been granted with a Section 76 Legal Agreement, if the variation was granted, an updated Agreement would have to be agreed to reflect the change.

The Chairperson advised the Members that Ms. E. Walker, agent, was in attendance to answer any questions from Members.

In response to a Member's query as to why up to 15 sound events would be permitted, Ms. Walker explained that they had a noise consultant on their team and they had examined other similar properties. She advised the Members that the current condition did not take account the reality of passing ambulances or fire engines which would pass the building and register a sound above 45dB. She emphasised that Environmental Health was content with the proposed variation.

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, noting that an updated Section 76 Legal Agreement would be drawn up.

LA04/2018/2903/F - Change of use of warehouse and offices to event space including internal and external alterations at Arnott's, 16-20 Dunbar Street

The Principal Planning Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the details of the application for the change of use from a warehouse and office to an event space.

She advised the Members that the application was in front of Members as it included a right of way, as an emergency exit, through a Council-owned car park to the west of the site. She explained that a temporary licence had been granted to accommodate the escape route but that it was only on a temporary basis given the long term redevelopment opportunity of the land.

She outlined the key issues in the assessment of the development were the principle of an event space at that location and the impact on amenity, traffic flow, parking and on the Conservation Area.

The Committee was advised that the proposed change of use was compliant with relevant policy and was therefore acceptable, subject to conditions.

The Principal Planning Officer advised the Members that NI Water, DfI Roads, BCC Estates and Environmental Health had all been consulted and had no objections subject to conditions.

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One objection had been received, raising issues with noise and outdoor smoking and she explained that the issues had been covered within the Case officer's report.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Late Items Pack, where the agent had requested that the temporary approval be granted for three years. The Principal Planning Officer advised the Members that the agent had advised that three years, instead of two, would allow the operator sufficient time to carry out the internal set up works as well as a realistic timeframe to book future events and would also ensure the marketability of the site which required a calendar of events.

The Committee was advised that an Event Management Plan (EMP) had not yet been provided and it was therefore recommended that a condition be attached requiring that an EMP be submitted and agreed in writing, prior to the approved use becoming operational.

The Committee granted a temporary approval of three years to the application, subject to the conditions in the Case officer's report, and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2019/2928/F - Realigned fence and vehicle & pedestrian gates to replace existing. Widened pedestrian gates with additional landscaping, widened footpaths and the resurfacing of an existing road entrance on lands at the existing Invest NI Forthriver Industrial Estate, Woodvale Avenue

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the details of a Belfast City Council application for an amended access to the Forthriver Industrial Estate from Woodvale Avenue.

She explained that the proposed gates measured 2.5metres high with new paladin fencing on either side of the entrance gates at the same height.

The Committee was advised that the proposed access would help create and enhance shared space by providing greater connectivity to the Estate for residents from the Woodvale area. She reported that the proposed access was considered to support the good design paragraphs within the SPPS, as it would make a positive use of the assets of the site.

In response to a Member's question, the Principal Planning Officer advised that the access would be a secondary access to the site.

The Members were advised that no third party representations had been received and that DfI Roads had been consulted and had offered no objection to the proposal.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions, with Delegated Authority given to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 11th February, 2020**

LA04/2019/2343/F - Demolition/removal of existing temporary building and erection of new two-storey Community Centre and Crèche at Walkway Community Association 1-9 Finvoy Street and lands between 31 Upper Newtownards Road and Bloomfield Baptist Church

(Councillor McKeown left the meeting at this point)

The Committee was provided with the key aspects of the application from Belfast City Council.

The Principal Planning Officer outlined that the key issues in the assessment of the development included the proposed crèche use, height, scale, massing, layout and design, impact on the proposed Area of Townscape Character, impact on the residential amenity of neighbours and parking provision.

She advised the Committee that the applicant had engaged in a Pre-Application Discussion (PAD) in 2019 and that feedback had been provided to the agent and applicant.

The Members were advised that the principle of a new community centre was acceptable and that a new crèche would enable the relocation of an existing crèche on the Newtownards Road. The Principal Planning Officer outlined that the contemporary design was considered to be sympathetic and complementary to the area and sat comfortably with the surrounding properties. It was considered that the proposal would not detrimentally impact on the character or appearance of the proposed Area of Townscape Character.

The Committee was advised that Rivers Agency and NIEA had offered no objection to the proposals.

The Principal Planning Officer drew the Members' attention to the Late Items Pack. She explained that Environmental Health had requested the submission of a Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment and details of proposed odour extraction and ventilation systems. She explained that, following receipt of this information, Environmental Health had since responded to the consultation with no objection to the proposal subject to conditions.

The Committee was advised that, while the site was considered to be in a highly accessible location, a Travel Plan had been requested by DfI Roads. The Planning officer explained that, upon receipt of the information, DfI Roads would be consulted again and that additional conditions would be imposed if necessary.

The Members noted that no 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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Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 17th February, 2020

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Mulholland (Chairperson); and
Aldermen Haire and Sandford; and
Councillors Canavan, Cobain, Flynn,
Kelly, Magee and McAteer.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Ms. C. Toolan, Chief Executive, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd.;
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd.;
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd February.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. E. Graham, Chairman of BWUH Ltd., and Mr. P. McClughan, Mr. R. Holt, Mr. A. Dixon and Mr. S. Daniels who were Board Members.

Ms. Catherine Toolan

The Chairperson informed the Committee that this would be the last Shareholders' Committee meeting at which the Chief Executive of BWUH Ltd. would be in attendance as she would be leaving the company to take up the position of Managing Director of the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson thanked Ms. Toolan for her hard work with BWUH Ltd., and in particular with the Shareholders' Committee, and wished her well in her future role.

RESTRICTED ITEM

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

Performance Report – Q3

The Chief Executive of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during October, November and December 2019, and of the year to date performance by providing an analysis of actual performance against the budget for the financial year 2019/2020.

She outlined to the Members that it was the third quarter of the fourth year of operation for the company, with the new Belfast Waterfront/ICC Belfast having been operational since the end of April, 2016.

The Business Support Director provided the Committee with an overview of the financial aspects of the report, including the overall income, the expenditure and the management fee in comparison with the plan. He advised the Members that the company expected to meet its financial targets by year end. He also provided the Committee with the occupancy rates for both the Belfast Waterfront and the Ulster Hall, both of which were higher than the targeted figures.

The Chief Executive provided detailed analysis of the company's performance against the Letter of Offer targets, including the number of out-of-state delegate days and the estimated economic impact. She reminded the Members that the company had already exceeded its economic impact target, of £100million, one year earlier than planned. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the BWUH Ltd. team for their efforts in working towards the ambitious targets which had been set for the business.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee of a number of risks which the business was facing, including continued uncertainty around Brexit, and that the recent Coronavirus outbreak was another issue to be mindful of in terms of business tourism.

She highlighted the importance of Business Tourism to the venue, in both the national and international markets, and reminded the Members of the two C&IT Awards which the company had recently won. The Committee was shown a promotional video which illustrated the success of a client's conference which had taken place in the ICC Belfast over a number of days in January 2020. The Chief Executive explained that the ICC had hosted a successful Gala Dinner for the client on its opening night and that 20 restaurants across the city had been booked out for the second night of the conference.

The Members were provided with an update on the recent Conditions Survey which had been completed and were advised that the Council and BWUH Ltd were working together to identify the priority actions.

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The Committee was advised of a number of schemes which the company had been involved in as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, including a Team Engagement survey.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that she was seeking authority from the Shareholders' Committee to extend the contracts of three Non-Executive Directors to July 2020.

During discussion a number of the Board Members stated that it was positive for all businesses in Northern Ireland that the N.I. Assembly had been reinstated and that linking in with the Executive on key issues for the business was important.

In response to comments from Members relating to the promotion of the City for business tourism, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy provided the Committee with information relating to Council funding streams. He advised the Committee that he would engage with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in respect of an issue relating to taxis which had raised.

The Chief Executive thanked the Members of the Shareholders' Committee for its continued work and support.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that the contracts of three Non-Executive Directors be extended to July 2020; and
2. noted the Performance Report Update for Quarter 3 of 2019/2020.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 20th February, 2020

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor de Faoite (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Brooks, Collins, Flynn, Hanvey,
Long, Magee, McAteer, McKeown,
McLaughlin, McMullan and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development
Officer; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

(The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor McLaughlin, in the Chair.)

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Haire and Councillors Canavan Dorrian, Hutchinson and Magennis.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd February.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

(Councillor de Faoite, in the Chair.)

Presentations

David Phinnemore - Professor of European Politics, Queen's University Belfast

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. Phinnemore, Professor of European Politics, Queen's University Belfast.

Prof. D. Phinnemore provided an overview of the impact of The Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland. He explained the objectives of the Northern Ireland Protocol, under Article 1, were as follows:

- This Protocol was without prejudice to the provisions of the 1998 Agreement in respect of the constitutional status of Northern

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Ireland and the principle of consent, which provided that any change in that status could only be made with the consent of a majority of its people;

- This Protocol respected the essential State functions and territorial integrity of the United Kingdom; and
- This Protocol sets out arrangements necessary to address the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland, to maintain the necessary conditions for continued North-South cooperation, to avoid a hard border and to protect the 1998 Agreement in all its dimensions.

He advised that the Transition Period would be extendable up until 2022 providing that a decision was made on the extension by the end of June 2020. He suggested that the purpose of the government negotiations for the year ahead was to determine the trade agreement and the future UK relationship with the EU.

He explained the potential impact of the Northern Ireland Protocol across a range of issues such as the rights of individuals, Common travel area, customs and movement of goods, VAT and excise, state aid, common provisions and safeguarding.

He outlined perceptions of the implementation of the protocol and raised concerns in relation to Services, the flow of trade and further regulatory checks.

He pointed out that there were four sets of decisions for the UK-EU Joint Committee to consider, as follows:

1. Goods: which goods were to be exempted from tariffs on entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK – which goods were not ‘at risk’ of onward movement into the EU?;
2. Fish: conditions under which fish and ‘other aquaculture products’ could enter the EU’s customs territory;
3. Agriculture: level of permissible agricultural subsidies the UK could make available to producers in Northern Ireland; and
4. Practical working arrangements for EU officials involved in the implementation of the Protocol.

He described the governance structure of the UK-EU Joint Committee and the institutional arrangements and mechanisms, which would feed into that Committee. He illustrated how the democratic consent mechanisms, which the UK government had secured as part of the revised terms of withdrawal agreed in October, 2019, might be applied and informed the Committee of the potential outcomes.

During discussion, Prof. Phinnemore answered a range of questions in relation to tariff agreements, transition time periods, fishing trade, the impact on the services industry and democratic consent arrangements and timeframes.

The Chairperson thanked Prof. Phinnemore for attending and he retired from the meeting.

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The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Brexit Preparedness (Verbal Update)

The City Solicitor provided an update on the Council's Brexit preparedness and arrangements.

He advised that Officers would continue to monitor developments over the coming months and key services would continue to engage with central government departments. He highlighted that, as the potential impact on Council services became clearer, the Business Continuity Management Template process would be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Noted.

Update on the EU Settlement Scheme

The Policy and Business Development Officer provided an overview of the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the latest information from the Home Office in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) enables EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK, and their family members, to obtain the UK immigration status they will require to live, work and study in the UK after 30 June 2021. Irish Citizens are not required to apply to the EUSS but may choose to do so.

Members are reminded that this Committee received a report in January 2020 updating them on a session that was being held in City Hall on 12th February. This session was run by Advice NI and specialist advisors were in attendance to assist people with the application process. A total of 22 people with a range of nationalities attended the session.

Members are also advised that the Home Office has held a series of teleconference calls for local authority staff from

across the UK. The most recent call took place in mid-January and key messages from it included:

- EUSS application figures by local authority now published quarterly on <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2019>
- An update was provided on the communications that had been undertaken to promote the scheme and the marketing materials that are available for Councils.
- In 2020, there will be a move away from large-scale campaigns to more targeted marketing at the hard to reach groups.
- To be eligible to apply to the EUSS you must be in the UK on or before 31st December 2020 and the application process closes on 30th June 2021.
- Under the Withdrawal Agreement there is an indefinite right for close family members to join a relative in the UK, if the relationship existed prior to the end of the transition period.
- Funding for the organisations who are supporting people to apply to the EUSS ends on 31st March 2020 – the Home Office are currently reviewing the funding and will make a decision on additional funding in due course.

Number of applications

The statistics covering the period up to 31st December 2019 were released in early February and a breakdown of the applications for Northern Ireland by local council area are included as appendix 1. Some key facts are:

- As of 31 December 2019, over 2.7 million (2,756,130) applications had been received, with 92% received in England, 5% in Scotland, 2% in Northern Ireland and 2% in Wales.
- 44,580 applications have been made in Northern Ireland and 8,400 of these have been made in Belfast.
- Northern Ireland had a noticeably higher proportion (17%) of applications from applicants under 18 compared to the rest of the UK.
- In Belfast, the highest number of applications were from Polish (2,490) and Romanian (1,460) nationals.
- Of the applications submitted in Belfast, 86% have been concluded and of these 61% were awarded settled status and 38% pre settled statusⁱ.

Members are advised that the UK government are currently developing their immigration policy post EU exit. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published a report on 28th January 2020, which responds to the request from the Home Secretary to the MAC to consider how a points-based system immigration system could be introduced in the UK to strengthen the UK labour market. A copy of this report is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-report-points-based-system-and-salary-thresholds>

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications relating to this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.”

The Policy and Business Development Officer highlighted that, since the report had been published, the Government, on 19th February, had published its new Immigration Policy which included its proposed immigration plan (copy available [here](#)).

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the impact of the new immigration policy. The City Solicitor advised that work was already being undertaken by the Economic Development Unit in this regard and that a report would be submitted to a future meeting with details of how the new Immigration Policy might impact Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that representatives from the Retail NI/Trade Sector Groups and Trade Unions be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the impact of the new Immigration Policy.

Chairperson

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