

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 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

- 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.

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.

**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 LBGTQ+ 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.”

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:

- 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.

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:

“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.

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:**

	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
2.2	We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council

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 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.

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

*Standard Care £8.72 per hour limited to £453.44 per month
Specialist Care £17.44 per hour limited to £906.88 per month”*

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 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 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, 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
Fleet strategy review	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year

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:

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

B
2863

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 <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality <i>(Public Body)</i>	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 <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve, Room charge No hospitality

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				
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 <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality <i>(Public Body)</i>	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

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