

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st October, 2016

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers);  
Aldermen Browne and Convery;  
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Corr, Haire,  
Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long, McCabe,  
McVeigh and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr .G. Miller, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. J. Walsh, Town Solicitor;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Kennedy, McAllister, Reynolds and Walsh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd September were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd October.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Restricted Items**

**The Information contained in the following four reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Acts (Northern Ireland) 2014**

### **Maysfield Developments**

The Committee considered a report in relation to proposals regarding the development of the former Maysfield site by Allstate and Concentrix.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) Agreed not to accede to the request from Allstate to contribute towards the cost of removing and the disposing of the contaminated silt at the Maysfield Water Inlet; and
- (ii) Agreed to endorse the proposal from Concentrix to provide a riverside staff/public café at Maysfield as part of its refurbishment scheme of the former leisure centre, subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and Town Solicitor.

### **Transfer of Assets / Liabilities to Belfast City Council**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd September, it had considered a report in relation to capital projects under the remit of the Department for Communities and a request from that department seeking a commitment from the Council to take ownership and the associated maintenance and liability of those assets upon completion of the capital projects.

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Members that the Committee had been asked to agree, in principle, to the transfer of the upgraded assets, subject to a number of caveats and to agreed revenue budgets being in place at the time of transfer. The Committee, while noting its support for the capital investment proposed, had agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable him to hold discussions with the Department for Communities and the Executive Office on the ongoing revenue implications and the conditions under which the Council would accept the transfer of assets.

The Director reported that further discussions had since taken place with officers from the Department from Communities and the Strategic Investment Board (Urban Villages) regarding the terms of any such transfers and he submitted a report outlining the proposed conditions.

After discussion, the Committee agreed in principle to the transfer of land and property assets from the Department for Communities, or other central government bodies as appropriate, upon completion of identified capital projects, subject to the conditions of transfer as set out in the report and specifically on agreement on revenue budgets at the time of transfer, with up to three years agreed maintenance costs being provided as a minimum, depending on the nature of the asset.

### **Civic Headquarters Unit – Structural Changes**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed structural changes to the Civic Headquarters Unit which would be required following the opening of the new Exhibition Area in the City Hall and the transfer of the responsibility for the development and application of revised criteria for access to the City Halls function areas.

After discussion, the Committee:

- Delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects and the Director of Organisational Development to change the staffing

structure of the Civic HQ Unit of the Facilities Management Section as proposed and in accordance with agreed HR policies and procedures, with the context of the overall organisational development programme; and

- Agreed that the Director of Property and Projects report back to the Committee should there be any material changes to the proposals following staff and TU consultations and the application of agreed HR and OD processes.

### **Update on Operational Issues with Waste Collection**

(Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the issues and actions relating to waste collection problems linked to the new waste collection routes which had went live on 17th October, 2016.

The Committee noted also the use of delegated authority for emergency procurement, of letter delivery services, by the Director of Finance and Resources in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Committee.

### **Governance**

### **Declarations of Interest at Meetings and Register of Members' Interests**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 To remind Members of the Council’s policies on conflicts of interests at meetings and the Register of Members’ Interests.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the contents of the report.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

##### **Background**

- 3.1 A report on this matter was last presented to the Committee in May this year.
- 3.2 The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014, at Part 9, included powers for the Department of the Environment to issue a code of conduct for councillors and all councillors upon their election were required to sign an acceptance of office which stated that they would abide by the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- 3.3 The Code, at sections 5 and 6, includes rules for the registration and disclosure and declaration of interests and any alleged breaches of the Code were required to be reported to and investigated by the Northern Ireland Ombudsman, in his/her capacity as the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints.
- 3.4 In December, 2011 the former Belfast City Council adopted a policy on conflicts of interests for councillors.
- 3.5 This policy covered three main areas – general principles for dealing with conflicts of interest; formal registration of interests by councillors; and procedures for declaring and managing conflicts of interest. Although this policy has to some degree been superseded by the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014, the principles established within it still apply and it offers very sound advice to members in relation to declarations of interest.

#### Current Position

- 3.6 Section 28 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, in relation to the conduct of meetings, requires a Councillor who has a pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter which is under consideration, to disclose that interest to the meeting, the nature of the interest and not to preside over or take any part in the consideration of that matter. Any Councillor who contravenes this obligation commits an offence which may attract a penalty of imprisonment and/or a fine. A person's pecuniary interests are their business interests (for example their employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which they are associated) and wider financial interests they might have (for example trust funds, investments and assets including land and property).
- 3.7 Accordingly, a failure to make a declaration of interest at a meeting may constitute an offence. Moreover, the participation of any Member in any matters for which they ought to have disclosed an interest, if that participation has

resulted or is likely to have resulted in a different outcome, could result in that Member being liable to surcharge if the decision in question were to be the subject of legal proceedings by a third party.

- 3.8** In terms of interest, there is a distinction to be made between those which are personal and those which arise in respect of a Member's role in constituency work or appointments in respect of external bodies. Generally the latter will not give rise to an interest that is required to be declared if that Member's sole interest arises out of the fact that they have been appointed to an external body to represent the Council. If a Member's interest arises due to the fact that they are associated with or hold a position of membership or authority on an external body (including cultural and sporting clubs and associations) to which they belong and their appointment has not been by the Council then that interest should be declared, subject to the exemptions set out in the following paragraph. Association with a body or organisation that does not constitute membership may not give rise to a declarable interest, subject to the member being satisfied that the relationship does not compromise their ability to be objective.
- 3.9** An examination of cases demonstrates that two categories of case exist-
- (A)** Direct financial or personal gain (direct pecuniary interests) - these are straightforward and determined on the facts
  - (B)** Private or personal non pecuniary interest-in these cases a breach of the Code is determined by reference to the interest being so significant as to be prejudicial (to the decision being taken)
- 3.10** Participation at a meeting in relation to an interest that arises because of membership of a public body or in respect of being a member or supporter of a charity, voluntary body or other organisation formed for a public purpose (not for the benefit of its members) is permissible subject to the interest being declared. However members should not vote in relation to any matter relating to finance or property if the position they hold relates to the management committee or governing body of that organisation.
- 3.11** Members may speak and vote in relation to interests that arise as a result of an appointment to a body on behalf of the Council.
- 3.12** The rules apply to all meetings of Council and therefore to Area Working Groups.

- 3.13 As there can be some level of complexity in determining if an interest is declarable and whether the member should or should not participate, members should consult the Town Solicitor to determine the appropriate course of action in any case in which there is a doubt.
- 3.14 There appears to be some confusion as to what action a Member needs to take if they have a declarable interest in a matter. The clear position is that a Member must declare their interest either at the start of the meeting when the Chairperson asks for any declarations of interest or when the matter itself comes up for debate. In making the declaration, the Member must state the nature of the interest so that this can be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Having declared an interest that prevents participation, the Member must leave the meeting for the duration of the debate and must not take part in any discussions. Again, this action will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. It is a personal responsibility of each individual Member to ensure that they make clear declarations of any interests at meetings
- 3.15 Attached at Appendix 3 is a check list to assist members when deciding if they have an interest which ought properly to be declared at a meeting. It is hoped that his will prove useful for Members.
- 3.16 Financial & Resource Implications  
None associated with this report.
- 3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications  
There are no equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

### Schedule of Meetings 2017

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee during 2017, commencing at 9.30am:

Friday, 6th January  
Friday, 20th January  
Friday, 17th February  
Friday, 24th March  
Friday, 21st April  
Friday, 19th May  
Friday, 23rd June

No meeting in July – summer recess  
Friday, 18th August  
Friday, 22nd September  
Friday, 20th October  
Friday, 17th November  
Friday, 15th December

### **Belfast Agenda**

#### **Belfast Agenda Update**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the progress towards the production of the Belfast Agenda (Belfast's Community Plan) and that the document would be discussed further at a special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee workshop, to which all Members of the Council would be invited, to be held at 9.30am on 28th October. The Committee agreed also to the proposed consultation plan which would include a twelve week public consultation on the Belfast Agenda in order to provide the opportunity for stakeholders and communities to provide feedback, with initial consultation/information events commencing before the end of November, 2016.

#### **Extension of Sunday Trading Hours**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the powers contained within the Shops (Sunday Trading & c) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and to seek Committee approval to consult on a proposal to designate the entire Belfast City Council area (or specific parts of the area) as a ‘holiday resort’.**

**1.2 The effect of this designation would be to extend the Sunday trading hours for large shops on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year.**

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- note the contents of the report and the key issues outlined within**
- provide approval for the Council to consult (by way of a public notice) on designating the entire area of Belfast City Council or specific part(s) of the area as a holiday resort under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading & c) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

- 3.1** During a recent meeting with the Minister for Communities, Members and Chief Officers indicated that there is a strong lobby within the city (e.g. Belfast Chamber of Commerce) for a review of the current Sunday trading laws which have been in place since 1997. Such a review would be in the context of boosting the local economy, benefiting the tourism industry and supporting the regeneration of towns and city centres.
- 3.2** The Minister had to leave the meeting before this item was raised but Departmental officials indicated that there may not be any appetite amongst politicians to amend existing legislation on Sunday trading.
- 3.3** Members will wish to note however that a provision exists under Article 6 of the current legislation which allows District Councils to designate any area within the district as a 'holiday resort' and that large shops in designated holiday resort areas may open at any time on Sunday on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September.
- 3.4** The following towns - Portrush, Portstewart, Ballycastle, Newry and Kilkeel - and the entire former Derry City Council area have all been designated as 'holiday resorts' for this purpose over the past number of years.

**Key Issues**

**Legislation**

- 3.5** The Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 replaced the Shops Act (NI) 1946 and brought the Northern Ireland shops law broadly into line with the corresponding law in England and Wales (the Sunday Trading Act 1994).

The 1997 Order (copy attached at Appendix 1):

- removes the 1946 Acts restrictions on the goods which may be sold in shops on Sunday
- allows small shops (floor area not more than 280 sq m) to open at any time on a Sunday
- allows most large shops (floor area greater than 280 sq m) to open between the hours of 1pm and 6pm on a Sunday (except for Easter Sunday or when a Christmas Day falls on a Sunday)
- allows District Councils to designate any areas as holiday resorts; large shops in designated holiday



resorts may open at any time on Sunday on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year.

- allows certain large shops to trade without restrictions on Sunday
- gives District Councils powers to prevent undue annoyance to local residents from deliveries to certain large shops early on Sunday mornings; and
- provides employment protection measures for shop employees in relation to Sunday working

**3.6** The provision to allow District Councils to designate any areas as holiday resorts is outlined in Article 6 – Additional permitted Sunday opening hours for large shops in holiday resorts.

- Large shops within a designated holiday resort may open for retail trade at any time on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year.
- Any designation as a ‘holiday resort’ must be done by resolution of the Council.
- Before making a designation the Council must first consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed designation.
- The Council must publish notice of any such designation in such manner as it deems appropriate.
- To make use of the exemption, the occupier or proposed occupier of a large shop must notify the local District Council of the dates of the Sundays involved. The notification does not take effect until 14 days from the date it is given, unless the Council agrees that it should come into effect earlier.
- A Council must maintain a register of shops in its district making use of this exemption and make the register available to the public at all reasonable times.

#### **Use by other Councils**

**3.7** A number of Councils have already designated areas within their district as ‘holiday resorts’ for the purpose of extending Sunday trading hours. Notably, Causeway Coast and Glens have designated Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle and Newry Mourne and Down have designated Newry and Kilkeel as ‘holiday resorts’ for this purpose. The former Derry City Council designated the entire Derry district area as a ‘holiday resort’ back in 1998. Whilst no applications for additional opening were received until 2013, during that year some

17 notifications were received coinciding with a city of culture event. It appears that Derry City and Strabane have received four notifications this year for additional permitted opening hours, three from the same business which has two shops in Derry City and one large store in Strabane town centre. In light of these applications Derry City and Strabane Council are considering whether to designate the entire council area as a holiday resort and have agreed to go out to consultation in the form of a public notice. There is no indication as to whether this has taken place.

#### **Next steps – Belfast City Council**

- 3.8 The Council may wish to examine in more detail the impact and benefits of designating the Belfast district area as a ‘holiday resort’ and extending Sunday trading hours during the months of March to October.
- 3.9 The baseline tourist / visitor figures show that Belfast is by far the most visited district of the 11 local government districts in Northern Ireland. It may be difficult to argue against such a designation given that a number of other councils have already designated their own areas as holiday resorts and others are looking into doing so.
- 3.10 Any proposal to designate the Belfast district as a ‘holiday resort’ in order to extend Sunday trading hours would be subject to consultation with such persons as may be affected by the designation. It is proposed that Members grant permission for officers to proceed to an initial consultation (by public notice) before a formal proposal is brought back to Committee for resolution or otherwise.
- 3.11 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- There are no Financial and Human Resource implications attached to this report.
- 3.12 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- As with any other policy development, any such proposal to designate the district as a holiday resort will require formal Equality Screening. Any good relations issues will need to be addressed following the consultation on any such proposal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Smart Cities - Project to Pilot New Technology**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on June 2016, it had received an update on the Council's Smart City programme which aimed to: foster a collaborative environment between public and commercial partners for the better collection and exploitation of city data; enhance the existing digital infrastructure; present the city as a test bed for innovation; and build capabilities in using data and smart technologies in the Council. It was reported that the local SME "See.Sense" had developed an award winning innovative smart sensor which it proposed to fit to the "Belfast Bikes" as part of the project. The sensors, which used leading edge technology, would allow the Council and its city partners to collect real-time information about such things as road quality, for example, location of pot-holes, commuter behaviour, traffic congestion, sudden stops, near misses and accident hotspots. Over time, the data would paint a sophisticated picture of the city's road infrastructure and, in particular, the experience of the city's thousands of cyclists.

If successful, it would be an international demonstrator that could be exported to other cities across the world. It would help showcase Belfast's potential as a test-bed for smart city investment whilst at the same time support local entrepreneurship and provide valuable insights into important issues regarding urban transport.

See.Sense had already been exploring the practicalities of the pilot project with partners including Next Bike. Cisco and BT had agreed to put in place the infrastructure required to capture the sensor data using a citywide radio system which would test out the foundations required for future smart projects. BT would provide the data platform in the cloud to hold the data and Queen's University's data scientists had agreed to provide the complex data analytics to interpret the real-time data for the Council and its partners, including the Department for Infrastructure which had also agreed to contribute.

The Committee approved a contribution of £10,000 research and development funding for the development of innovative sensor technology across the city to support ongoing analysis of the city's transport system and to help test technology required to set in place the foundations of a smart Belfast.

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

#### **Capital Programme Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted 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 existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report outlines highlights of current status of projects under the Programme and projects recommended to be moved on the Capital Programme**

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 Members are asked to –

#### General

- Note the update in relation to the Capital Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital programme project.

#### Proposed movements on the Capital Programme

- agree that the Secure Web Architecture Firewall Technology Refresh IT project is moved to ‘Stage 3 – Committed Projects – Schemes at Tender Preparation Stage’ on the Capital Programme and agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that the project is required to ensure business continuity and service provision. (Section 3.3)
- Fleet Programme – note that in 2014 it was agreed to lease 10 temporary additional assets (2 RCVs and 8 medium mechanical sweepers) to ensure service continuity for Cleansing Services. The assets were leased from Riverside Ltd on a three year basis with the costs being funded from the standard capital replacement budget. Cleansing Services have confirmed that they will continue to require these assets and there is an opportunity to purchase these at a reduced cost at the end of the lease period. Members are asked to agree that discussions are undertaken with Riverside Ltd to agree a reduced purchase price on the basis of the 3 years of depreciation which have occurred and that subject to a satisfactory price being agreed that the assets are purchased. Members are asked to note that the costs will be funded from the 2017/2018 Fleet Replacement Budget which has already been ringfenced (£2.1m) and the Director of Finance & Resources has agreed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that this proposal will not increase the current size of the BCC fleet

### Leisure Programme

- Templemore - note that the Council has been successful in its Round 1 application for the restoration and extension of Templemore Baths under the Heritage Lottery Fund's Enterprise scheme and will now receive a development grant of £380,000 to work up detailed proposal for the project
- Church Lane - agree to the grant of a sublease between the Council and GLL, who will operate the new gym at Church Lane
- Note that a detailed report on the leisure programme, including the outcomes from the current consultation exercise, will be brought to Committee next month

### 3.0 Main report

#### Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council's rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme with over £185m of projects recently completed or currently underway. Members are asked to note the updates under the Capital Programme. Members will be aware that when projects are completed they transfer from the Property & Projects Department to the relevant client Department (City & Neighbourhoods or Development) under the stewardship of the People and Communities and City & Growth Committees as appropriate. It is the role of the client department and the relevant standing Committee to manage the assets

#### *Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion*

- a new MUGA at Springfield Avenue - due to be handed over to the City & Neighbourhoods Department w/c 17th October
- the new Boxer sculpture in Woodvale Park which is being unveiled on Saturday 22nd October – the Boxer sculpture will be handed over to the City & Neighbourhoods Department w/c 17th October
- Connswater Community Greenway - the section from Beersbridge Rd to Grand Parade which is being opened on Saturday 22nd October and will be handed over to the City & Neighbourhoods Department
- Phase 1 - Whiterock Community Corridor which is due to be handed over to the city & Neighbourhoods Department w/c 24th October - a launch event is currently being planned for the end of October

***Projects currently on the ground***

- new pitch and pavilion at Musgrave (due for completion end of the year) and new pavilion at Victoria under the Pitches Strategy
- the new £21.7m leisure facility at Olympia which is due to open in January 2017
- new Council accommodation which will be complete in early 2017
- the £3.7million upgrade of the Tropical Ravine

**Projects at tender preparation stage**

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the remaining sites under the pitches strategy (Cherryvale and Falls),

**Proposed movements on the Capital Programme**

**3.2 Members are asked to agree the following movements on the Capital Programme.**

Project	Project overview	Proposed Stage	Cost
Secure Web Architecture Firewall Technology Refresh	The procurement and commissioning of modern cyber security firewall devices to replace current aging estate. Required to ensure business continuity and ensure ongoing IT service provision.	Move to Stage 3 – Committed	Up to a maximum of £90k
Creative Hub	The proposed development of a Hub to support the city's creative and	Drop to Stage 1- Emerging (currently Stage 3 – Scheme at risk)	N/A

**3.3 IT projects - *Secure Web Architecture Firewall Technology Refresh* – The Council's server and storage ICT infrastructure is connected to the Internet and like all ICT infrastructures is subject to a wide range of cyber security threats. A key part of the controls put in place to manage the associated risks is the creation of secure parts of the BCC infrastructure that interface with the corporate network and the interne (Demilitarized Zones or DMZs). The boundaries of DMZs are enforced by devices called firewalls. Members will be aware that the Council is moving to more cloud based IT services and Digital Services are currently carrying out the necessary infrastructure preparation works which will improve internet throughput. This has involved**

replacing some of the Council's core network switches. This has had a knock on effect on one layer of the Council's firewall protection (which was due for replacement in January) which is now having difficulty in working in a resilient configuration. This is putting the Council at significant additional risk and the firewalls need to be replaced in order to provide the required resiliency and to ensure ongoing continuity of service.

The Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that a maximum of £90,000 be allocated to the Firewall Technology Refresh project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Committee is asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

- 3.4 Fleet Update – In 2014 the Cleansing Services Section was experiencing a difficult period in terms of service delivery caused by an ageing fleet asset base and increased responsibilities via LGR etc and it was agreed to lease a number of temporary additional assets. Following a competitive procurement exercise, 2 x 26-tonne RCVs and 8 medium mechanical sweepers were leased from Riverside Ltd with the costs being funded from the standard capital replacement budget. The assets are in good condition and have been well-maintained throughout their use. The lease period for these assets is due to end on 30th September 2017. Discussions with Cleansing Services have highlighted that they will still require these (or similar) assets to provide their current levels of service. Two options are therefore available

- seek to agree a reduced purchase price for these assets from Riverside on the basis of the 3 years of depreciation which have occurred, or
- return the assets at the end of the lease period and instead purchase brand new assets of the same type.

- 3.5 Following an analysis of the options and on the basis that the assets are required to ensure service continuity going forward it is recommended that the Council seeks to agree a reduced purchase price for the assets with the monies to be secured from the 2017/2018 Fleet Replacement Budget which has already been ringfenced (£2.1m). Members are asked to note that this proposal will not increase the current size of the BCC fleet - the proposal set out above would allow procure used instead of brand-new assets when replacing existing vehicles and will therefore free up some of the agreed capital funding for additional purchases in 2017/18. This represents better value for money as it maximises the use of the 2017/2018 Fleet budget. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability

limits of the Council. Committee is also asked to agree that the necessary negotiations' be initiated with Riverside Ltd to secure a reduced purchase price

**Leisure Programme – Update**

*Templemore – HLF Update*

- 3.6 Members will be aware that in June 2016, the Council submitted a round 1 application through the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) Enterprise scheme for the restoration and extension of Templemore Baths. The Council was notified last week that it had successfully passed through this assessment stage and as part of this will now receive a development grant of £380,000 to help work up detailed proposals for the project, which is estimated to cost £16.8m (£5m to come from HLF).
- 3.7 A large number of organisations from across all sectors had been competing for funding within this UK wide competition and the fact that the Templemore Baths proposal emerged successful is a testament to its significance and the real opportunities that this investment presents to restore the baths to their former glory and meet the aspirations of the Leisure Transformation Programme. The proposed project will not only restore the original features of the Baths but will also provide a new 25m pool and state-of-the-art gym. A press release was issued by HLF last week that was well picked up by the local press and the news of the investment has been very positively received.

*Church Lane*

- 3.8 At its meeting on 23 October 2015, Committee agreed to authorise officers to negotiate the lease terms for the acquisition of the City Centre gym. Planning permission for change of use to a gym was obtained in August this year for a property on Church Lane and the lease between the landlord and the Council is due to be executed shortly. Committee is now asked to agree to the grant of a sublease between the Council and GLL, who will operate the facility.
- 3.9 Members are asked to note that a detailed update on the Leisure Programme, which will include the outcomes of the current consultation on the concept designs for Robinson, Andersonstown and Brook, will be brought to committee next month.



### **3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

*IT projects* – up to a maximum of £90,000 for the Firewall Technology Refresh

*Resources* – Ongoing resources in terms of project operation

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **'Investing in your Areas Event Proposal**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

1.1 Members are aware that the Council has invested significantly over the past 4 years in the city in physical projects with plans for further investment. While there is often good publicity around individual projects once they are completed it has been highlighted by Members on a number of occasions that the full extent of the Council’s investment, both citywide and in individual areas, is not being recognised. It is also important that the Council’s physical programme is not seen as simply the building of buildings but that it is fundamentally about the benefits and outcomes of this investment.

1.2 It has therefore been suggested at several of the AWGs that an event(s) is held to showcase the Council’s physical investment including the latest round of BIF commitments. It is envisaged that this will be similar to the previous LIF event that was held in 2013 at the start of the LIF programme and will be opportunity for both Members/community groups to showcase their projects and the investment in local areas. Importantly such an event would also be an opportunity to highlight the programming of physical projects and how the Council’s capital investment in projects is actively transforming lives and changing and regenerating local areas.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

- agree that a series of events are held to showcase physical investments and how they have already benefited/will benefit local areas to include
  - a citywide event in the City Hall in mid/late November (date currently being agreed – Members

will be verbally updated on this at Committee) to coincided with the half year corporate plan updates and the half year finance review . It is proposed that all Groups who have received in principle commitments for funding under BIF together with a range of LIF2 projects and all Members are invited to this event.

- As part of this Members are asked to agree to the commissioning of a video for LIF and BIF projects using the community groups who have benefited from the investment and allowing them the opportunity to highlight the real difference this has made to their work. The video will then be a resource which can be used on the Council's website, through social media etc.
- a series of focused area events in the North/South/East and West to be held in the New Year – these events will provide an opportunity to go into detail on local projects and other investments in local areas including both revenue initiatives and other capital investments by partner agencies including BRT/DfC/Urban Villages/SIF etc. These sessions will be a mechanism for Members to start to connect physical investments to the work which is being taken forward on area planning and ensuring that the investment in capital projects helps to deliver on the outcomes under the Belfast Agenda. Members will be kept up to date on the arrangements for these sessions
- agree that a one-off area based 'City Matters' is produced showcasing the physical investment programme and the projects recently completed, underway and/or planned and their impact in local areas

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **KEY ISSUES**

### **3.1 Members will be aware that the Council has invested significantly in physical projects over the past four years including**

- over £150m of capital programme projects either completed/planned or currently underway – including the major EU funded projects /the £15m pitches

programme and other pitches at Hammer/Marrowbone and Sally Gardens/ refurbishment of over 20 playgrounds across the city/ the new Tropical Ravine/ the Connswater Community Greenway/Whiterock Community Corridor etc.

- a £105m investment in leisure with the works nearing completion at Olympia, detailed designs being worked up for Andersonstown/Brook and Robinson, concept designs moving forward for Avoneil and the award of monies from HLF for Templemore
- £9m of LIF projects which has seen over 110 local community regeneration projects either completed/currently underway or planned
- in principle investment of over £16million in BIF projects across the city (10 projects committed in principle to date with the Strand due to go to Committee this week) and monies ringfenced for a number of other additional projects in the Shankill area, North and the South
- A £2m programme of investment in the areas that transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh (Twinbrook Wildlife Park/new playground at Mount Eagles etc.)
- A rolling £6m maintenance programme which has seen significant upgrades to assets including those that transferred in (Henry Jones Pavilion etc.)

**3.2** In addition the Council has also become the delivery agent for a range of projects under externally funded initiatives including SIF, Urban Villages and BSC.

**3.3** The Physical Programme is therefore a key strategic programme for the Council as it

- helps to lever in additional monies into the city through other investment – e.g. external funding, private sector investment
- helps to cement the growing reputation of the Council as a ‘can-do’ organisation within the city with a proven track record of delivery
- helps to support jobs not just internally but also in the construction and the wider supplier sector. It is estimated that over 8,500 construction jobs have been supported through our physical projects while over 220 job opportunities have been created through social and community benefit clauses within the physical contracts

**3.4** Members are aware that the while there is often good publicity and launch events around individual projects it has

been highlighted by Members on a number of occasions that full picture of the Council's investment both citywide and in individual areas is not being recognised. However it is also important that the Council's physical programme is not seen as simply the building of buildings but that it is fundamentally about the benefits and outcomes of this investment. One of the key issues is that this massive investment into the city's physical infrastructure is inconsequential if physical projects are simply seen as the stand-alone development of a facility/asset. The physical programme is therefore intrinsically linked to the other corporate programmes of the Council and requires associated programming and input from the Council and other partners/ agencies in order to make this work

- 3.5 In addition Members will be aware that other organisations and partners across the city are investing in areas (SIF/BRT/DfC/Urban Villages etc.) and there is a need to ensure to these investments are aligned to ensure maximum benefit for local areas and to enable Members to be able to connect them

Proposal re events to celebrate physical investments showcasing how they have benefited the city and local areas

- 3.6 Members will recall that an event was held in 2013 at the start of the LIF programme and it has been proposed at several of the AWGs that a similar event(s) is organised to showcase the Council's physical investment including the latest round of BIF commitments. It is however proposed that the event is also used to highlight the programming of physical projects and how the Council's capital investment in projects is actively transforming lives and changing and regenerating local areas.

- 3.7 Members are therefore asked to agree that a series of events are held to showcase physical investments and how they have already benefited/will benefit local areas to include

- a citywide event in the City Hall in mid/late November (date currently being agreed – Members will be verbally updated on this at Committee) – it is proposed that all the Groups who have received in principle commitments for funding under BIF together with a range of LIF2 projects and all Members are invited to this event. An outcomes framework for BIF is also currently under development and this will be launched at the event. This event is being timed to coincide with the half year corporate plan updates and the half year finance review

- a series of focused area events in the North/South/East and West to be held in the New Year – these events will provide an opportunity to go into detail on local projects and other investments in local areas (BRT/DfC/Urban Villages/SIF etc) and will be a mechanism for Members to start to connect physical investments to the work which is being taken forward on area planning and ensuring that the investment in capital projects helps to deliver on the outcomes under the Belfast Agenda.

Members will be kept up to date on the arrangements for these sessions

### 3.8 Proposal re a special one-off ‘City Matters’

Members are also asked to agree that a one-off special ‘City Matters’ is produced which showcases physical investment programme and the projects recently completed, underway and/or planned and the benefit of this for local areas. The timescales for this are currently being looked at and Members will be kept up to date

### 3.9 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- Financial – Any costs associated with the events will be secured from existing resources
- Resource - Project sponsors in the Property & projects Department have worked on the capital programme/ BIF/LIF projects and will play a key role in helping to pull together the narratives/testimonials etc however maximising the benefit of the event will require a cross departmental team including input from client departments to highlight the programming and corporate communications

### 3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### Area Working Update

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Members on a number of area related issues for Members consideration.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to –**

**AWG minutes**

- **approve the most recent round AWG Minutes (South – 19th September; West – 29th September, North – 5th October and East – 6th October).**

**Local Investment Fund**

- **agree the recommendations from the North AWG in relation to LIF funding (Section 3.2)**
- **note the additional projects which have been scored (Section 3.3) which have met the minimum threshold and agree that these are progressed to due-diligence**
- **note that the LIF programme has been shortlisted for the Independent Property Excellence Awards 2016 under the category of ‘Community Benefit Project of the Year’**

**Belfast Investment Fund**

- **agree the recommendations from the West, North and East AWGs in relation to BIF as below**

PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>WEST</b>		
Glencairn Community project	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Agree to ringfence £700k for this project out of the £1.2m agreed allocation for projects in the Court DEA
Royal British Legion	N/A	Add as Stage 1- Emerging to allow feasibility to be worked up and to ringfence £500k for this project out of the £1.2m agreed allocation for projects in the Court DEA
<b>NORTH</b>		
Former LIDL site	N/A	Add as Stage 1- Emerging to allow feasibility to be worked up
Sunningdale Community Centre	N/A	Add as Stage 1- Emerging to allow feasibility to be worked up

Old Grove - Shared Community Hub Basement Youth Club /Midland Boxing Club		Add as Stage 1- Emerging to allow feasibility to be worked up
<b>EAST</b>		
Strand Cinema	Stage 2 – Uncommitted	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,800,000</b> to be ring-fenced for a period of two years, with an option to extend by a further year on the basis that it received additional funding from other sources which would enable the project to proceed.
Remaining allocation - £330k		The East AWG also recommended that of its remaining £330k allocation that £130k of this is ringfenced for pre-contract work on projects and the remaining £200k is ringfenced for contingency

- **East - Members are asked to note that there is no remaining capacity to fund additional projects in the East (with the exception of the £2m ringfenced for the Outer East) and it recommended that no further projects are considered for funding by the East AWG under its BIF.**
- **note that an outcomes framework for all the BIF projects is currently under development and will be launched at the proposed event to mark physical investments and their benefits (see separate paper on the agenda for discussion today)**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **KEY ISSUES**

### **3.1 AREA WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

**Members agreed in June that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistency in approach to the other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*South – 19th September; West – 29th***

*September; North – 5th October and East – 6th October*) which are attached at Appendix 1.

#### LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

- 3.2 NORTH AWG - The North AWG at its meeting on 5 October, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF.

Ref No	Project	£ Amount
NLIF2-09	Greencastle Orange Hall	£35,000
NLIF2-17 NLIF072	Ballysillan Youth for Christ	£47,000 £20k LIF2 and £27k LIF1
NLIF2-06	Church of the Nazarene	£10,000 (Additional allocation of £10k making a total allocation of £50,000)

#### Projects recommended to proceed to due-diligence

- 3.3 Members are asked to note in addition to the North projects as above that 4 LIF2 projects which had previously been agreed for in principle funding (*ELIF2-14 – The Dock Titanic Quarter; NLIF-16 – Workforce Training Services; NLIF2-04 – John Paul Youth Club and NLIF2-05–Mercy Primary School*) have now been scored by officers (see Appendix 2) and have successfully met the minimum threshold. It is recommended that these projects now proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process

#### LIF Awards

- 3.4 Members are asked to note that the Council's LIF Programme has been shortlisted for Independent Property Excellence Awards 2016 under the category of '*Community Benefit Project of the Year*'. The winners are due to be announced on Thursday 10th November and Members will be updated if the Council is successful.

#### BELFAST INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

- 3.5 Members will recall that a detailed update paper on BIF was brought to Committee last month. In the latest round of AWGs the North, West and East AWGs made further recommendations in relation to their BIF allocations. These are set out below and a summary of the proposed position in relation is attached at Appendix 3.



- 3.6 WEST AWG - Members will recall that last month as part of the BIF update report it was agreed that £1.2million would be ringfenced for projects within the Shankill area on the basis that the previous Shankill AWG was amalgamated into the West AWG following the LGR Reform and that by this time the previous West AWG had already considered and recommended a range of BIF projects which had meant that the previous Shankill AWG (now part of the Court DEA) had not had an opportunity for projects to be considered within the West context. The West AWG at its meeting on 29th September, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to this ringfenced BIF allocation**

<b>Project</b>	<b>£ Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Glencairn Community Project	£700,000	Agree to ringfence £700k for this project out of the £1.2m agreed allocation for projects in the Court DEA
Royal British Legion	£500,000	Add as Stage 1- Emerging to allow feasibility to be worked up and to ringfence £500k for this project out of the £1.2m agreed allocation for projects in the Court DEA

- 3.7 NORTH AWG – The North AWG at its meeting on 5th October made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their remaining BIF allocation**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Former LIDL premises	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging – feasibility to be worked up and brought back to a future North AWG
Sunningdale Community Centre	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging – feasibility to be worked up and brought back to a future North AWG
Old Grove - Shared Community Hub Basement Youth Club /Midland Boxing Club	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging – feasibility to be worked up and brought back to a future North AWG

- 3.8 EAST AWG - Members will recall that last month as part of the BIF update report it was noted that the East AWG had requested that a report be brought back to a future AWG in relation to the costs for the Strand Arts Facility project. This**

report was brought to the East AWG for consideration at its meeting on the 6th October and the East AWG made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their remaining BIF allocation

Project	£ Amount	Comments
Strand Cinema	£1,800,000	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,800,000</b> to be ring-fenced for a period of two years, with an option to extend by a further year on the basis that it received additional funding from other sources which would enable the project to proceed.

- 3.9 The East AWG also agreed that of its remaining £330,000 allocation that £130,000 would be ring-fenced for pre-contract work on projects with the remaining £200,000 to be designated for contingency. Members are asked to note that there is no remaining capacity to fund additional projects in the East (with the exception of the £2m ringfenced for the Outer East) and it recommended that no further projects are considered for funding by the East AWG under its BIF. A special meeting to consider BIF projects for the Outer East area is taking place on 24th October.

#### Outcomes Framework for all BIF projects

- 3.10 Members are asked to note that an outcomes framework for all the BIF projects is currently under development and will be launched at the proposed event to mark physical investments and their benefits (see separate paper on the agenda for discussion today).

#### 3.11 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial – £5m has been allocated to LIF 1 and £4m has been allocated to LIF2.

##### LIF1

AREA WORKING GROUP	TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED	AMOUNT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE	AMOUNT REMAINING
North	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	£0
South	£1,127,500	£1,083,600	£43,900
East	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	£0
West	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	£0
Shankill	£490,000	£490,000	£0

**LIF 2**

AREA WORKING GROUP	TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED	AMOUNT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE	AMOUNT REMAINING
North	£800,000	£636,400	£163,600*
South	£800,000	£796,000	£4,000
East	£1,200,000	£1,200,000	£0
West	£1,200,000	£1,196,000	£4,000

**BIF - £23,200,000 has been allocated to BIF**

PROJECTS	AMOUNTS
<p><b>Stage 3 - Already committed</b> (Stranmillis Gateway- £2.15m, Raidio Failte - £950k, Davitts - £1m and Willowfield - £560k Cancer Lifeline - £650k; Grace Family Centre - £1.6m; Lanyon Tunnels - £1.3m; Bredagh GAC - £700k; H&amp;W Welders- £2.37m; Bloomfield - £440k* and St. Comgall's - £3.5m)</p> <p><i>* subject to outcome of EA</i></p>	£15,220,000
<p><b>Stage 3 – Proposed commitments</b> (Strand Cinema -£1.8m)</p>	£1,800,000
<p><b>Ringfenced commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shankill –Glencairn Community project - £700k and Royal British Legion - £500k;</li> <li>• Gilpins/Sandy Row UV area - £1.35m</li> <li>• Old Grove/Ballysillan Masterplan - £2.25m</li> <li>• East - £330k for pre-contract work and contingency and</li> <li>• West- £50k for contingency</li> </ul>	£5,180,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>£22,200,000</b>
<b>Remaining allocation</b>	<b>£1,000,000</b> <i>(North only)</i>

- **Resource - Officers time to deliver projects.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**LIF has been equality screened.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations contained in the report.

## **Assets Report**

### **Lands at Church Road, Castlereagh**

The Committee granted approval to the disposal of 0.68 acres of land at Church Road, Castlereagh to the Department for Infrastructure to facilitate a new footpath at that location in the sum of £8,000, plus reasonable legal costs, which would exclude compensation for any disturbance that might be caused by and during the works which would be assessed on completion.

### **Illumination of “Origin”, a New Art Work in Cavehill Country Park**

The Committee granted a licence and easement to Cultúrlann McAdam ÓFiaich to install a mains powered illumination at the recently unveiled “Origin” sculpture in the Cavehill Country Park in Belfast, with An Cultúrlann accepting responsibility for the installation, maintenance and operational costs associated with the Illumination project and to the maintenance of the “Origin” sculpture being retained by the Council.

### **Proposed Disposal of Primrose Street Former Civic Amenity Site**

The Committee approved the disposal of the former Civic Amenity Site at 27 Primrose Street at a cost of £30,000.

### **Proposed Surrender of Lease from The Royal British Legion at Bapaume Avenue Cenotaph and Title Rectification**

The Committee approved the surrender of the lease from The Royal British Legion at Bapaume Avenue Cenotaph and the transfer of a small portion of land from adjoining land owners for the purpose of regularising the title in order to reflect the physical boundaries of the lands on the ground.

### **Proposed Acquisition of Land at Colin Valley Football Club, Poleglass**

The Committee approved the acquisition of an 0.14 acre plot of land from the Collin Valley Football Club to facilitate a new children’s playground, with the land being transferred for a nominal consideration and the Council accepting a 50% maintenance liability on the access road and shared car parking facilities.

## **City Hall Update - Creation of New Exhibition/Memorabilia Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

#### **1.1 Members will be aware that work on the creation of the new Exhibition/Memorabilia Area in the East side of the City Hall**

building has commenced and is on schedule, with the facility due to open to the public in May 2017.

- 1.2 Members will also be aware from previous reports that the placement of the facility presents problems of access and control for those seeking to manage it, because of the number of points of entry and egress (front door, courtyard/back door, East entrance, Bobbin corridor and East staircase).
- 1.3 This report therefore seeks the Committee's approval to close the East entrance (while still permitting exit) on the basis that, on balance, it improves the operating environment for the exhibition facility and minimises the associated control difficulties.

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree to close the East entrance of the City Hall once the Exhibition Area is fully operational, and to review the out-workings of this approach at a later date (not later than 31st October 2017) before any final decision is taken on the matter.
- Agree to make an offer to LOAF Ltd to provide the franchised catering service in the refurbished Bobbin area for a period not to exceed 6 months on the rates prevailing at the termination of the previous contract, and not to require the invitation of quotations for this work on the basis of the very temporary nature of the service, the goodwill created by LOAF and their previous experience in operating the facility.

## 3.0 Main report

- 3.1 It is clear that, as a dedicated Tours & Exhibitions Reception area will be provided at the front of the building and as the full route commences from that point, it is preferable to have most/all visitors arrive at that point if possible. Here they can be greeted by dedicated exhibition staff, pay for headset hire, merchandising and printed souvenir building guides etc and commence the full exhibition from the intended start point. This approach is strongly advocated by Redhead, the council's consultants on the project.
- 3.2 If the East entrance were to remain open, it raises the possibility that either individuals or groups of visitors – or indeed the larger organized groups – may enter via the East despite whatever signage and marketing messages are used. Where this happens it would create obvious difficulties as

these individuals would then start to move the ‘wrong’ way around the tour route to find Reception and hire headsets etc, thus causing un-necessary bottlenecks and over-crowding. It would also make it more difficult to accurately assess the numbers of visitors in the facility if we have flows of visitors going in both directions. Some of the other principal advantages and disadvantages are set out below for the Committee’s consideration:-

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Offers best customer experience if most/all customers arrive through the front doors rather than in East area - also aids sales of headsets, souvenir material & merchandising thus maximising potential income to BCC	Inconvenient, in that it would require many Bobbin customers to enter via the front doors and then work their way through the exhibition customers/area to reach the Bobbin
Would allow better control of organised (charged) groups rather than have them enter by the East in the middle of the exhibition and potentially begin moving to Reception against the flow of other visitors	Makes the overall building less accessible to the general public and adds to any perceived ‘chill factor’
Would better enable BCC to design bespoke commercial packages for commercial bookings to maximise ability to cater to this growing market (possibly separate tours point at front doors)	May encourage more people to enter Bobbin via the back gate which is undesirable and not wheelchair-accessible etc
May make it easier to ensure adherence to overall facility capacity numbers imposed by Building Control/Fire Regulations etc (350)	Wouldn’t solve all of the access & control problems as the other entrance/exit points are still open
Can better control the potential loss of technology (headsets) from customers forgetting to return these after their visit	May adversely impact the throughput and turnover of the new Bobbin franchise operator
Area currently used as a car park for contractors and overspill from court yard and disability access not up to standard. Would avoid significant upgrading costs if East is an exit only	Special arrangements may be needed for a small number of external events traditionally taking place in East area e.g. Stromberg, Titanic
	May cause bottle-necks at the main Reception area at the front door

- 3.3 In the light of the fact that Building Control and Health & Safety have agreed an overall maximum usage figure of 350 visitors at any point in time, it is clear that opportunities exist to market paid tours of the facility to large commercial groups (e.g. cruise ship tour operators etc) while still offering plenty of capacity for walk-in visitors. This may well involve a separate group-bookings area at the front of the building opposite the new Reception, which again would benefit from the closure of the East entrance in order to provide a single focal point for group bookings.
- 3.4 From a purely practical, financial point of view we do also need to ensure so far as possible that visitors paying for the hire of the multi-lingual headsets do return these to Reception after use (as the cost of each headset is many times greater than its rental value or any deposit paid) rather than simply leaving without returning their headset, and having the East entrance completely open would probably not assist in this.
- 3.5 In terms of the modalities of closure it would be the intention that the relevant doors would be fitted with the appropriate 'panic-bar' & closer fittings to allow visitors to leave easily and also allow effective evacuation in an emergency. The area immediately outside the East entrance is used as a car-park and the temporary disabled ramp is not fully fit for purpose in circumstances where numbers are large, so that consequently an upgrade of the area would probably be necessary if it were to remain open as a main entrance once the Exhibition Area is operational.
- 3.6 It is hopefully clear from all of the above that the decision as to whether or not to close the East entrance is neither an obvious nor easy one; there are advantages and disadvantages to doing so as set out herein. On balance however, it is the view of the Civic HQ Unit - which will be responsible for managing the Exhibitions & Tours operations - that there are somewhat greater benefits to closure of the East than to the retention of the *status quo*.
- 3.7 The Committee may wish to agree to the East entrance closure on a trial basis, to be reviewed after 6 months of full operation of the Exhibition Area.
- 3.8 Bobbin issues
- The exhibition infrastructure works will also impact on the Bobbin Coffee Shop. The current franchisee contract was due to expire on the 4th September 2016 but was extended to 2nd October 2016 on the basis of a reduced franchise fee to reflect the disruption caused. Part of the overall Exhibition

project includes the installation of a new air-handling system into the Bobbin area and also to form an opening in the wall of the area currently used by the telephonist staff in order to provide enhanced Bobbin facilities to cater for large parties. This work is, of course, both disruptive and dirty, and thus necessitated the closure of the complete facility with effect from Sunday 2nd October 2016 to permit the necessary works to take place.

- 3.9 Members will be aware that the current franchisee is a social enterprise organization and that the facility has proven very popular with staff, users and visitors. The franchisee did generate a significant and mutually beneficial increase in throughput in the Bobbin facility and added significantly to the existing goodwill.
- 3.10 Members may also be aware that the broad area of catering within the council's principal civic buildings is currently the subject of an external consultancy review being carried out by APSE Consultancy Services. This review will address the operation of the Atrium staff restaurant and the Bobbin franchise, together with the potential opportunities arising from function catering in the 3 prestige rooms on foot of nearly 500 functions per year, with a view to making recommendations around an optimal business model going forward.
- 3.11 While this consultancy review process is due to be completed by late November 2016, the out-workings and implementation of any recommended changes may take some additional time. There is therefore the likelihood that there will be a period starting approx. late February 2017 (when the work in the Bobbin is complete) during which there could be several months in which there will be no contracted supplier for the Bobbin.
- 3.12 In recognition of the work of the franchisees in terms of generating goodwill for the Bobbin facility the Committee may therefore wish to offer the outgoing franchisee the opportunity to provide the specified services until formal contracts can be put in place, on foot of the recommendations of the catering review. Any such offer would be made on a purely temporary basis only, and on the basis of the same schedule of charges previously applied under the contract. This would require the Committee to dispense with the requirement to invite quotations for this work for the interim period and make the offer direct to LOAF Ltd.



### **3.13 Finance and Resource Implications**

**The costs associated with the physical alterations to the East doors and new signage etc can be borne from the existing City Hall administration of buildings revenue budget. Additional staffing will be required in order to operate and manage the Exhibition facility, and these will be set out in more detail in a separate report. Making an offer to the outgoing franchisee in respect of the temporary operation of the Bobbin from February/March 2017 for a period not to exceed 6 months would generate income to the council of up to £12,500 while the broader approach to council catering is being finalised.**

#### **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that the consultants to the Memorabilia Project, Redhead, provide a briefing on the content of the exhibition to the Party Group Leaders.

### **Solar Powered Charging Points in the City Hall Grounds**

The Committee was advised that, following the implementation of Belfast Wi-Fi in the City Hall and with the impending extension of the Belfast Wi-Fi service into the grounds of the City Hall and throughout the city centre, the number of mobile devices being used in and around the City Hall was growing rapidly. In its first year the City Hall had been the most popular of the Belfast Wi-Fi sites, with approximately 240,000 unique users connecting to the free Wi-Fi service, with those figures continuing to grow.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that there was a growing trend, particularly in the United States, to locate mobile device charging stations in areas where the use of public Wi-Fi was very popular. The Council had been approached by a company called, Environmental Street Furniture (ESF), in partnership with the media advertising company Bravo, with a proposal to locate solar powered charging stations as a pilot in the grounds of the City Hall. The pilot would allow the Council to review the popularity of charging stations and the added value that they would bring for visitors to the City Hall.

The Committee agreed to:

- Install 2 solar powered charging stations in the Grounds of the City Hall as a pilot for 6 months, at a cost of £2,000 which would be covered by the existing Smart City revenue budget, to determine their suitability and popularity; and
- Authorise investigation of longer-term funding for the roll-out of charging stations across the city through sponsorship opportunities should the pilot prove to be successful

## Finance, Procurement and Performance

### Finance and Efficiency Programme Update

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

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

##### **1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- Provide an update on the key financial factors to be considered when setting the district rate for 2017/18
- Outline the next steps in the rate setting process.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

- Progress on the 2017/18 estimates and the key issues being considered
- The impact of uncontrollable costs and the contracting rate base
- Further updates will be provided to Committee as part of the 2017/18 rate setting process.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 The development of the revenue estimates for 2017/18 commenced in August 2016 when Committee considered key drivers to the rate setting process and agreed the £2m efficiency programme. Five key areas require consideration for 2017/18:**

1. Uncontrollable Costs
2. Other Costs / Income
3. The Efficiency Programme
4. The Rate Base, and
5. The Level of Reserves

##### **3.2 Pay Bill Costs**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources advised Committee in August that uncontrollable pay bill costs of £2,194,908 could be anticipated in 2017/18. This figure has reduced to £1,356,192 as a consequence of NILGOSC's decision to hold the employers pension contribution at 2016/17 levels of 20%.

**Other Increased Costs / Loss of Income**

**3.3 As part of the estimating process work will continue between Departments and Central Finance to assess the impact of other financial pressures on the District Rate. These include:**

- 1. Central Government Grants**
- 2. Waste Disposal Costs**
- 3. Belfast Agenda**
- 4. Capital Investment / Financing / Whole Life Costs**
- 5. Accommodation**
- 6. Departmental Growth**
- 7. Non Recurring Expenditure**

**Efficiency Programme**

**The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19th August 2016 agreed the following work strands and targeted savings for 2017/18 which amount to £2.0m:**

- 1. Voluntary Redundancy - £1m**
- 2. Procurement and Spend Management -£500k**
- 3. Rates Maximisation -£100k**
- 4. Planning Advertising -£150k**
- 5. Marketing / Spend Management -£50k**
- 6. Budgetary Challenge -£200k**

**It is anticipated that the efficiency target of £2.0m will be achieved for 2017/18. Details of the savings will be brought to Committee in November.**

**3.5 The Rate Base**

**Members will recall that the Quarter 1 budget monitoring report presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August advised of a £1m forecast shortfall in district rate income. At the beginning of October the Director of Finance and senior finance officers met with the Chief Executive of LPS and his senior staff to discuss an updated forecast for this financial year and to consider the impact of the tax base on the district rate for 2017/18.**

**LPS have now confirmed that the non-domestic rate base is contracting whilst the domestic rate base is showing slight growth of less than one per cent. It is therefore anticipated that there could be a potential claw back of up to £2m for 2016/17 and that a district rate of 1 penny will yield less in 2017/18 than it did in 2016/17.**

There are two main reasons for the adverse forecast outturn at the year end and the reduction in the estimated penny product for 2017/18 – appeals against the valuation list and demolition and refurbishment of major sites in the city centre.

#### **Appeals against the valuation list**

We are now in year two post non-domestic revaluation. The level of appeals whilst modest have an increased impact on income as they are backdated to April 2015. Successful appeals not only result in a loss of income in the current year but they also reduce the value of the valuation list for future years.

#### **Demolitions and Refurbishments**

There are a number of non-domestic properties in the city which are no longer yielding rates because of either demolition or major refurbishment. While in the medium to longer term these properties will provide a rates income, in the shorter term they represent a major loss of rates income to the city.

To assess the full impact of these adjustments to the Valuation List Building Control and Planning staff are looking at the level of demolitions and refurbishments anticipated over the remainder of 2016/17 and 2017/18. We are also looking for any additions to the valuation list over this period. This information together with information on appeals will inform both the in-year forecast and the EPP for 2017/18. An update on this work will be provided in the half year budget monitoring report and the Revenue Estimates report to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in November.

### **3.6 Reserves**

As part of the mid-year budget monitoring exercise the adequacy of our reserves will be reviewed in the context of the potential impact of the adverse rate income forecast and departmental year end forecasts. The outcome of this exercise will be considered when setting the district rate.

### **3.7 Next Steps**

Central Finance staff are currently reviewing departmental submissions. Directors will then go through a challenge process with the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance in the week beginning 24th October to consider all aspects of their budget submission.

BCC staff will continue to work closely with LPS to refine the data on the valuation list. Other areas such as bad debt will

also be scrutinised. The first draft of the EPP is due from LPS by 21st October. BCC will work with LPS to consider adjustments to this draft with a final agreed EPP planned for mid-November.

A detailed report will be submitted to the November Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**3.8 Finance and Resource Implications**

Members are asked to note that the half year monitoring report presented to Committee in November each year is when Members would normally re-allocate any forecast year end revenue under spend or surplus income for non-recurrent purposes for the following year. An example of this is the £635k supplement to community grants provided in 2015/16 and 2016/17. The scale of the rates claw back may mean that there will be no capacity to re-allocate money for non-recurrent purposes for 2017/18.

**3.9 Equality Implications**

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Contracts for Award**

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow extensions for contracts under review as per Table 2; and
- Approved the award of the contract outlined in Appendix 1 that had been carried out by arc21 on behalf of the Council.

**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 - New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Provision of mobile phones	Ronan Cregan	3 years
Advertising of planning applications	Phil Williams	2 years plus 2
MTC for mechanical services	Gerry Millar	1 year plus option to renew for a further 2 years
MTC for installation of new metal fencing	Gerry Millar	1 year plus option to renew for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of trees	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year plus option to renew for a further 2 years
Masterplanning Expertise	Nuala Gallagher	1 year

**Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period**

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Provision of animal healthcare service for the Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year

**Table 3 – Tenders awarded by Arc21 on behalf of the Council**

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Supply and delivery of wheeled refuse collection containers, bottle banks and other supplies contracts	Nigel Grimshaw	12 months with the option to renew for up to a further 12 months

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations of the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 10th October, 2016, including :

- That the proposed retention of funding as outlined in the minutes be endorsed and allocated to the listed organisations which had took part in the 2016 Bonfire Programme;

- The allocation of £29,286.50 to 46 organisations through the St Patrick's Day Celebration grant programme;
- Funding of £4,920 being allocated to the 22nd Old Boys Football Club for funding to transform a mural on the Woodvale Road; and
- A one off payment to the West Belfast Athletic and Cultural Society of £2,900.00 towards the repair costs of the Northumberland Street art piece.

**American Troops - Request to Mark 75th Anniversary  
of Arrival in Belfast**

The Committee was advised that, following receipt of correspondence from Councillor Craig requesting the Council to consider marking the aforementioned event on January, 2017, officers had been asked to bring forward options on how the event could be commemorated.

Information had been presented at the Diversity Working Group meeting in August and Members had then agreed to consider the 75th anniversary as part of the wider discussions around future commemorations. However, in the interim, given the timeframe involved, the Members had requested that the item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the working group for consideration. As the working group did not meet in October, the request was being submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

The Members were reminded that officers had been in discussion with a senior official from the US Consulate in Belfast regarding the anniversary who had indicated that the consulate did not have any plans to initiate specific events marking the anniversary. It was pointed out also that the presence of American troops was already commemorated by a memorial in the grounds of the City Hall which was originally erected on 26th January 1943 and placed at the gateway of the City Hall. It had been rededicated at its present location by President Clinton in 1995. In addition, a memorial garden at Lisnabreeny had also been acquired through the Local Government Reform process.

The Committee agreed to:

- A small-scale event at the Docksides which would need to take place in consultation with the Harbour Commission;
- A letter being sent from the Lord Mayor to the family of Milburn Henke, the first US soldier to set foot off the boat in Belfast;
- A small dance programme in the Ulster Hall (if available); and
- A small lunch to be held by the Lord Mayor.

**Operational Issues**

**Minutes of the Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th October, 2016.

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

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 13th October, 2016.

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations for the requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality as set out below:

Appendix 1

<b>Organisation / Body</b>	<b>Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports and Exercise Medicine	Conference Reception Event 5th October, 2017 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the Congress will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception  Approximate cost £500
British Dermatological Nursing Group	Annual Conference Dinner Dance and Awards 14th June, 2017 (Provisional) Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the Congress will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception  Approximate cost £500
Girlguiding Belfast	Belfast County Girlguiding Awards Ceremony 26th April, 2017 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event seeks to recognise the achievements of Guides and their Leaders. Awards being presented include Queen's Guide, Duke of Edinburgh, Baden Powell Award for Guides and Long Service Awards for Leaders.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits  Approximate cost £625



			and Together' and 'Better opportunities for success' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
Young Enterprise Northern Ireland	Young Enterprise Northern Ireland Innovation Awards 4th May, 2017 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will celebrate the achievements of a cross-section of young people from the community, many of whom have learning and physical disabilities. The programme provides the opportunity to showcase the unique talents of the participants while clearly communicating that a lack of academic success does not equate to failure.  This event would contribute to the Council's key themes 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and of 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception  Approximate cost of £500
Rosario YFC	50th Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance 27th May, 2017 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Rosario Youth Football Club. It will highlight the work undertaken by the Club with all sections of the community of all ages, genders and abilities. It will also promote the many partnerships the club has undertaken with various local charities, agencies and organisations to promote diversity and good relations programmes.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Support for People and Communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception  Approximate cost of £500
Women's Forum N.I.	50th Anniversary Friendship Lunch 21st April, 2018 Approximately 100	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks	This event will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Women's Forum Northern Ireland. It will highlight the work undertaken by the Forum to enhance the role	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks

	attending	reception	and influence of women in the life of our society.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Support for People and Communities'.	reception  Approximate cost of £500
Helplines Network NI	Helpline Network NI Information Day  6th February, 2017  Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event will highlight the work undertaken by the various helplines operating throughout the City for those sections of the community seeking help or advice in their time of most need.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Services – Listening and Delivering'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits  Approximate cost £375
Wave Trauma Centre	Trauma Training Learning Pathway Awards 2017  16th February, 2017  Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event seeks to promote the success of those who, due to their experiences during the troubles have returned to education and training through the support of WAVE Trauma Centre.  Accredited certificates will be awarded on the night to individuals who have successfully completed Open College Network courses through WAVE.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'Better opportunities for success across the city', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits  Approximate Cost £500
National Deaf Children's Society	Young Authors and Artists Prize Day 2017  7th March, 2017  Approximately 160 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event seeks to celebrate and recognise the artistic achievements of deaf children and young people in the areas of creative writing and visual art.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better support for people and communities'	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits  Approximate Cost £400

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**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 21st October, 2016**

			and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
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Chairperson