

Minutes of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum

Monday 17th April, 2023

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Michael Long

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran Beattie, Councillor Billy Hutchinson, Alderman George Dorrian, Alderman Sonia Copeland, Councillor Fiona Ferguson, Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown, Councillor Mal O'Hara.

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services (for Items 1 & 3)
Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources (for Item 2)
Siobhan Toland, Director City Services (for Item 3)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Planning Update

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months.

2. Members Induction Programme

The Chief Executive provided an update on the arrangements being made for the delivery of an Induction Programme for Members following the Local Government Elections in May. The Director of Human Resources outlined for Members the proposed programme and advised that induction training for new Members would commence imminently following the Elections. Further details will be communicated to all Members in the new Council term.

3. AOB

Illuminate Requests

The City Solicitor outlined for Members a number of illumination requests received namely:

- **International Nurses Day** - 12th May
- **National Deafblind Awareness Week** - 27th June
- **World Diabetes Day** – 14th November
- **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day** 16th November
- **Belfast giants - Grand Slam Treble Win** – date to be agreed in line with availability

Members noted the requests would be agreed under the City Solicitors delegated authority. A further request outlined to be brought to the next meeting of PGL's for consideration.

Portrait of His Majesty The King for UK Public Authorities

The Chief Executive referred to UK Government funding that had been announced for public organisations to apply for a portrait of his Majesty the King as part of a scheme to celebrate the new reign. Members noted the scheme, which is to open later this year following the Coronation and the proposal to apply for one free framed portrait once released.

Events

The Chief Executive provided an update for Members on some recent challenges in relation to insurance cover for the hosting of events, particularly in relation to cancellation cover.

Trees For Cities

The Director City Services provided an update for Members on a request received from Trees for Cities inviting Belfast City Council to take part in the planting of several young trees to mark the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, as part of a UK capital cities initiative. A report will be brought to April SP and R for Members' consideration.