

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

Monday, 15th June, 2026

## **MEETING OF THE BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE**

Members present: Councillor McAteer (Chairperson);  
Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors Bower, Brennan, R. Brooks,  
Canavan, Collins, Ferguson, Flynn,  
McCabe, McCann, McCormick, McDowell,  
McKay, Ó Néill and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. K. Forster, Director of Economic Development;  
Mr. R. McConnell, Chief Executive, Belfast Waterfront  
and Ulster Hall Ltd.;  
Mr. I. Bell, Director of Finance, Risk, and Corporate  
Services, Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.;  
Ms. A. Fox, Assets Development Officer;  
Mr. F. Grant, Operations Development Manager; and  
Mr. C. Mealey, Committee Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 16th March and 29th April, 2026, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meetings on 1st April and 5th May, 2026.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following five 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 meeting during discussion of the item as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information

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as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Members were also reminded that the content of 'restricted' reports and any discussion which took place during closed session must be treated as 'confidential information' and that no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

**Presentation - MCI**

The Committee agreed to reschedule the presentation from MCI to its next meeting on 10th August, 2026.

**Performance Update - Q4 2025/26**

The Chief Executive of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd. provided the Committee with an overview of BWUH Ltd.'s performance for Quarter 4 (Q4) Year to Date (YTD) for 2025/26 including occupancy levels, events and delegate days.

BWUH Ltd.'s Director of Finance, Risk, and Corporate Services outlined the financial performance for Q4 YTD which included a breakdown of BWUH Ltd.'s overall actual income and expenditure against targets.

The Committee was presented with an update in relation to:

- Business events;
- Supporting the UNESCO City of Music and European City of Sport status for the city;
- Customer satisfaction;
- Ticket sales;
- Grassroots and legacy initiatives;
- Local community engagement and community events;
- Employment; and
- Event curation and creation.

During discussion, the Chief Executive answered a range of Members' questions in relation to the financial and business performance, BWUH Ltd.'s corporate social responsibility in respect of diversity and inclusion, and employee engagement.

After discussion, the Committee noted the update provided on BWUH Ltd.'s performance for Q4, 2025/26.

**Neurodiversity and Accessibility Update**

The Committee was provided with an update on BWUH Ltd.'s work in respect of neurodiversity and accessibility.

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BWUH Ltd.'s Chief Executive provided an overview of the work which had been undertaken to date and the progress made in relation to:

- Staff training and development;
- Visitors to the venues;
- Physical enhancements to the venues;
- Accessible communication; and
- Recruitment.

He highlighted some of the awards and accreditations which the venues had received including the Autism NI Impact Award, Diversity Mark and the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers award for 'Best Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at a Conference'.

The Chief Executive also provided the Committee with further information in relation to outreach work, supported partners, and the planned future initiatives to broaden the approach to neurodiversity and improve accessibility across the venues.

During discussion, several Members welcomed the work which had been undertaken in respect of neurodiversity and accessibility. A Member highlighted the importance of communicating and raising awareness of the continued work to improve accessibility within the venues.

After discussion, the Committee noted the progress which BWUH Ltd. had made in respect of neurodiversity and accessibility within its venues and its planned future initiatives.

**Collective Partnerships Targets**

The Director of Economic Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 16th March, 2026, it had approved the commencement of a five-year contract extension from 3rd August, 2026, for BWUH Ltd. to operate the ICC Belfast, Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall. The Committee was reminded also that, at its special meeting on 29th April, 2026, it had agreed new Collective Partnership Targets and noted that proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) would be submitted to its next meeting.

Accordingly, the Director submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which outlined proposed KPIs which would be set within each of the Collective Partnership Targets and would be reflected in the BWUH Business Plan. The Committee was advised that the KPIs would be used to report progress against the strategic objectives on a quarterly and annual basis.

During discussion, the Director of Economic Development and BWUH Ltd.'s Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Risk, and Corporate Services answered questions from the Members in relation to the alignment of the agreed Collective Partnership Targets and proposed KPIs to BWUH's Business Plan.

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A number of Members highlighted the need for further information to be provided in relation to measurable targets which would be set against the KPIs and aligned to the BWUH Business Plan.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor McCabe,  
Seconded by Councillor Ó Néill and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the proposed KPIs to enable further information to be submitted to its next meeting in August, 2026.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the proposed KPIs for BWUH Ltd. until its next meeting on 10th August, 2026, to enable further information to be provided.

**Reserved Matters**

The Committee noted that there were no reserved matters which required approval.

Chairperson