

## **Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 10 May 2012**

### **1. Attendance**

Members:

Cllr Tim Attwood  
Cllr Deirdre Hargey (Chair)  
Cllr Mervyn Jones  
Cllr Jim McVeigh  
Alderman Hugh Smyth  
Alderman Robin Newton

Officers:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources  
John McGrillen, Director of Development  
Eamon Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications  
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

### **2. Waterfront Hall Exhibition Centre**

The Director of Development provided an update on the economic appraisal which had been completed for the proposed Waterfront Hall Exhibition Centre. He advised that as the appraisal would be used to support the application for £12m of EDRF and NITB funding support, it had to conform to the "Green Book" appraisal requirements and therefore required consideration of future operating options for the Waterfront Hall.

It was noted that the preferred option for the construction of the exhibition centre, was to build a two storey extension over the existing service yard. It was also noted that the appraisal considered an internal and external operating model for Waterfront as part of the project.

It was agreed that a paper should be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking approval to continue to develop the proposal and to undertake further work on the robustness of the income and costing figures within the appraisal and the human resources and other implications of the options.

### **3. Investment Programme**

The Head of Corporate Communications distributed copies of the draft communications plan for the Investment Programme, together with examples of branding images and mock-ups of potential branding of an investment site. He advised that a separate section of council's website had been developed which was dedicated to the investment programme and as the council had over 10,000 followers on Twitter, "social media" would play a key role in the communications plan.

Members noted that the branding was still at draft stage, but agreed that the options produced were very good and should be developed further. Members also commented that as soon as we are in a position to announce the creation of jobs and the superfast broadband then this should commence, so as to demonstrate actual output from the

investment programme. In relation development site branding, Members stressed that the timing of the branding of development activities was extremely important and asked that suitable materials be used for branding purposes which can be replaced at low cost if required.

It was noted that the Vice Chancellor of Queens University had requested a meeting with the Party Group Leaders and that this was being arranged.

#### **4. Area Working Groups**

It was noted that the first meeting of all the area Working Groups had taken place and that a brief update would be reported to SP&R on the 18 May 2012. It was also noted that the dedicated 9 officer team would continue to support the area working groups and that a full report on the further meetings of the working groups and the initial prioritisation of projects would be presented to 22 June meeting of SP&R.

#### **5. Urban Broadband Fund**

It was noted that the application deadline had been extended to the 2 July 2012 to the 3 August 2012 and that Party Group Leaders would be invited to a launch of the Broadband Fund in June 2012 at which the Minister for DETI and representatives of IOD, CBI and small business would be present.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel would be on Thursday 14 June 2012 at a time to be confirmed.