

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting  
14 March 2013**

**1. Attendance**

Members:

Cllr Deirdre Hargey

Cllr Tim Attwood

Cllr Maire Hendron

Cllr John Kyle

Cllr Lee Reynolds

Officers:

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive

Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources

Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects

John McGrillen, Director of Development

Eamon Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications (Item 4 only)

Trevor Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager.

Apologies

Cllr Jim McVeigh

Alderman William Humphrey

Alderman David Browne

**2. £250 Payment to Staff**

Members were advised a report would be going to SP&R advising of a proposal to make a one off payment to staff of £250. This will be a payment to all staff up to Scale 6 who sign up to sign up to a register to be available to assist the Council in emergency situations. It is a one-off payment for additional flexibility and has been agreed with the Trade Unions.

**3. Capital Programme 2013-14**

The Directors of Property & Projects and Finance and Resources spoke to the report to provide an update to members on the 2012/13 planned capital expenditure highlighting the preparatory work that had been undertaken, the projects that had finished and an explanation for the variance in expenditure against plan.

An update was then provided on the rolling Capital Programme for 2013/14 onwards. The Director of Property and Projects outlined the staged approval process for capital projects and the need to regularise the projects on the programme in this context.

The Director also highlighted issues in relation to the increased costs for the Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre and the Pitches Strategy.

Members expressed their concerns re cost control. They also asked for information to be presented on the different funding streams available, i.e. Capital Programme, Local Investment Fund, Belfast Investment Fund and Social Investment Fund. It was also proposed that a workshop is held for members to facilitate their understanding of capital expenditure and financing.

The Director of Finance and Resources then spoke to the Capital Financing section of the Report highlighting the overall Financing budget of £10.14m, and recommended £500k of this be set aside for feasibility fund of Capital Programme Schemes and/or Belfast Investment Fund Schemes. He also requested that £944k be allocated to completing the non-recurring maintenance projects approved by SP&R in June 2012.

He highlighted that the overall capital expenditure to 2015/16 would be just over £75m, and the at the financing costs used to repay loans was set to increase from £3m in 2013/14 to almost £6m in 2015/16, resulting in the council having just over £3.1m available to finance future borrowing to the amount of £33m.

Members requested that the report be updated to include recommendations for a member workshop on the different funding streams and how the process can be aligned with the area working groups.

#### **4. Investment Programme Communications**

The Head of Corporate Communications spoke to the report identifying proposals for communicating progress on Investment Programme over the last year and timescales involved.

Members indicated they would like the report to also recommend staging 4/5 events in the community as per the initial launch.

#### **5. AOB**

The Chief Executive advised the members that he had written to OFMDFM re dates for a City Conference.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed