

## **Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 10 November 2016**

### **Attendance**

#### Members:

Councillor Michael Long  
Alderman Pat Convery  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Matt Garrett (for Cllr J. McVeigh)  
Alderman David Browne

Apologies: Cllr J Hussey, Cllr J McVeigh, Cllr L Reynolds

#### Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources  
Mark McBride, Head of Finance & Performance  
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager  
Ed Baker, Planning (for item 6 only)

### **1. Programme for Government and Belfast Agenda**

The Chief Executive outlined to the panel the consultation schedule for the next stage of the Programme for Government including the council's process for engagement to help shape the 32 delivery plans in particular those that were important for Belfast and the delivery of the priorities in the Belfast Agenda. A formal response would be presented to the December SP&R Committee for consideration.

The Belfast Agenda has been finalised following the recent workshop with Members and engagement with partners and the Community Planning Board. Once approved by Council the document will go out to consultation for 12 weeks. During this time there will be significant engagement including a formal launch in December and area based workshops in January. A schedule of area based events including timeframes and locations will be presented to the December meeting of the Budget Panel.

### **2. Ministerial Meetings**

The panel were provided with an updated summary of the key outcomes from the ministerial meetings which had already been held and were informed that letters had been sent to all the ministers confirming the outcomes and next steps. Two meetings were still outstanding and the Chief Executive was liaising with party group leaders to help in getting these set up.

### **3. Meeting with the Infrastructure Committee**

The Chief Executive circulated a draft agenda for the meeting with the Infrastructure Committee in December. A briefing note would be circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

### **4. Westminster Visit**

The programme for the visit to Westminster was circulated and the Chief Executive outlined the objectives for the visit and in particular what the key asks were for Belfast. Members commented that the agenda was very comprehensive and congratulated officers on the work they had undertaken to organise such an event.

### **5. Finance**

#### **Quarter 2 Update**

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an update on the half year finance position of the Council which would be considered by the November SP&R Committee. Given the reassessment from LPS on the APP the Director would be recommending no in year reallocations for 16/17 financial year.

#### **Rate Setting 2017/18**

The Panel were also updated on this year's rate setting process including the LPS EPP forecast, increases in uncontrollable expenditure and proposed efficiency savings. The Director of Finance and Resources said that an initial report would be brought to November SP&R with Party Group Briefings scheduled for December and possible additional committee meetings planned for January to discuss further the revenue estimates for 2017/18. Member asked for specific details on the proposed efficiency programme and the income the Council receives from services such as Planning.

### **6. Planning**

#### **Local Development Plan**

The Chief Executive reminded members that the LDP Preferred Options Paper would be presented to SP&R in November before going out to public consultation.

#### **Planning Improvement Plan**

Ed Baker from the Planning Service outlined to Members the Improvement Programme which involved all parts of the service but in particular simplifying the planning application process to make it quicker and more customer friendly. He also outlined some work that was being undertaken in relation to Section 76 and the development of a clear framework relating to

developer contributions. The Members welcomed the improvement plan and also suggested that consideration be given to the development of Design Principles and how we support the community in contributing to the planning process within their areas.

### **Planning Applications**

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in November.

### **AOB**

#### **(i) 100 RC Workshop**

The Chief Executive reminded the members that the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities workshop would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00 pm

#### **(ii) Media Protocol**

The Chief Executive told the panel that the media protocol was being updated in line with the code of conduct and would be brought back to members in December.

#### **(iii) Employability Outreach Programme**

A paper had been previously circulated to Party Group Leaders on proposals for the areas to participate in the Employability Outreach Programme and members were asked to respond directly to Ruth Rea on this.