

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 17th November 2017

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Deirdre Hargey (Chair),
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Jim McVeigh
Councillor Adam Newton (for Cllr Lee Reynolds)
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman D Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Cllr McVeigh

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. Finance

a) Quarter 2 Finance Report

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the half year financial position including the year end forecast and the rates forecasting finalisation from LPS. He outlined a number of requests for funding which would be presented to SP&R as part of the quarter 2 re-allocation of non-recurrent spend. The panel discussed the process for identifying projects for possible re-allocation of underspend and that this should be included as an agenda item for the party group leaders meeting. In relation to events it was highlighted that the emerging Events Strategy would include a framework for prioritisation.

b) District Rate and Revenue Estimates 2018/19

The Chief Executive outlined the current position in relation to the rate setting process for 2018/19 including the identification of efficiency savings and the increase in rates due to investment in the City. The Director of Finance and Resources provided the detail on the proposed budgets for 2018 /19 which would be presented to November SP&R for information and discussed at party group briefings in early December. Members discussed the importance of the Employability and Skills programme and in particular the need for an apprenticeship programme for traditional manufacturing jobs. The Chief Executive outlined the three year programme which the Council

has developed as well as the commitment to secure additional funding for this priority through the City Deal proposition.

2. European Capital of Culture 2023

The financial commitment for stage 2 of the ECOC 2023 bid was outlined as part of the quarter 2 and revenue estimates reports. The Chief Executive also reminded the panel about the arrangements for the pitch for the bid and that an announcement was due on 30th November 2017.

3. City Region Deal

A paper providing an update on the City Deal was circulated and the Chief Executive outlined progress to date including the upcoming visit by the SoS for the department for communities and local government on the 7th December 2017.

4. Customer OBC

This was considered as part of the quarter 2 finance report.

5. MAC Update

This was considered as part of the quarter 2 finance report.

6. Cashflow for Events

An updated proposal in relation to a cashflow fund for events would be raised by Councillor McVeigh at November SP&R for discussion.

7. Waterfront & Ulster Hall

The Chief Executive updated the members on the HR support being provided to the Waterfront and Ulster Halls.

8. Notice of Motion – Tourism Offer

The City Solicitor circulated a paper in relation to a notice motion which would be presented to November SP&R.

9. Council Meeting Dates in January and April 2018

The panel agreed to the proposed changes to the Council meetings in January and April which would be presented for approval to SP&R.

10. Planning Updates

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month and performance issues relating to the Planning Service.