

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 8 February 2018

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Brain Heading (for Cllr Attwood)
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman D Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Cllr Hutchinson, Cllr Attwood

Officers:

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

1. Quarter 3 Finance

The Director of Finance and Resources updated the panel on quarter 3 financial position and year end forecast. Given the financial position he would be recommending to SP&R no re-allocation of underspend at this time.

2. Events and Festivals

The Panel discussed the emerging recommendations from the recent review of Events and Festivals and outlined a number of limitations in relation to the comparison with other cities and the practicality of implementing some of the recommendations. The Chief Executive also outlined the need to include actions resulting from the decision relating to the ECOC 2023 bid and the potential to incorporate the previously agreed funding strategy within the longer term events and festivals strategy. A report including an implementation plan would be brought back to members for consideration.

3. Holiday Resort Designation

The Town Solicitor advised the panel that a report on designating Belfast as a holiday resort would be brought to February's SP&R meeting. Members discussed some of the issues that were discussed when this was previously considered and requested that as far as possible these could be addressed through the report.

4. Attendance at Audit and Risk Panel

The Director of Finance and Resources highlighted the need to ensure that members attended the meetings of the Audit and Risk Panel to ensure it can discharge its responsibilities.

5. Customer Focus

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the proposed way forward to progress the implementation of the customer focus review which would be presented for agreement to SP&R.

6. ICT Infrastructure

It was highlighted to the Panel that the council's ICT systems were being relocated and that the IT system would not be available over the weekend period that this would be happening.

7. Planning Updates

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

8. AOB

Leisure Transformation Review

This report would be presented to the SP&R committee at its meeting in February.

Conduct

The Town Solicitor reminded the Members about the code of conduct and in particular their personal responsibility for what they individually say.

Freedom of the City

Councillor Attwood has proposed a freedom of the city request and individual parties are asked to respond to this before a report could be brought to SP&R.

Bonfire Review

A special meeting of the group has been arranged for 1.00 pm on Monday 12th February to discuss the outcomes of the review.