

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 8 March 2018

Attendance

Members:

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

Apologies: Cllr Attwood

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)
Gareth Kirk and Catherine Sweeney (GLL) for item 2

1. Leisure Review

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the independent leisure review which was recently carried out. The report would be presented to the SP&R Committee at its meeting in March.

2. Leisure Update - GLL

Gareth Kirk from GLL updated the panel on the operations of the current leisure facilities and the preparations for the opening of the three new centres by end of 2019 / 20. The panel also discussed the recent discussions that had been taking place with the trade unions. Gareth highlighted to members that he was available to discuss any issues or concerns directly with them.

3. Bonfire Review

The Chief Executive update the panel on the emerging findings from the Bonfire Review which would be presented to a meeting of the SP&R committee in March 2018. She highlighted the need to develop an implementation plan and to prioritise key areas in year 1.

4. City Deal

The Chief Executive provided an update on the process for developing the next construct paper for the development of the Belfast Region City Deal, including the identification of projects, the development of both a digital and tourism product development strategy, an employability and skills programme and an overarching Industrial framework for the sub region. It was agreed that a future workshop would be held on the City Deal and this would include the links to the LDP and the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda.

5. Events and Festivals

The report on Events and Festivals that was agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at their March meeting was circulated to the panel for information.

6. Planning Updates

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month. The City Solicitor updated the panel that a special meeting of the Planning Committee was scheduled for 15th March 2018.

7. AOB

ECOC

Members to confirm who would be attending the meeting in Brussels as a follow up to the decision in relation to the application process for ECOC.

Freedom of the City

The Panel agreed to hold a special meeting of the SP&R Committee on Friday 23rd March to consider requests to confer the Freedom of the City.

Members' Allowances

Members agreed to respond directly to the Democratic Services Manager in relation to changes regarding members' allowances.