

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 9 August 2018

Attendance

Members:

Alderman Jim Rodgers (Chair)
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Brian Heading (for Councillor Attwood)
Councillor Nuala McAllister (for Councillor Long)
Councillor Lee Reynolds

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Councillor Long and Councillor Attwood, Chief Executive

Officers:

Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Aidan Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. Resilience

Grania Long attended to the meeting to introduce herself to Party Group Leaders and outline her role in developing a Resilience Strategy for the City, in consultation with local communities and all city partners across the public and private sector. Grania will be attending Party Group Briefings to discuss her role and the development of the Strategy in more detail.

2. Medium Term Financial Plan

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the financial considerations which will influence the development of the Council's medium term financial plan and rate setting process for 2019/20 which will be presented to the August SP&R meeting. He outlined some of the financial pressures and also the need to continue to identify £2.5m efficiency savings and £0.5m of additional income.

3. Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2018/19

The Director of Finance and Resources provided a summary of the quarter 1 financial position, highlighting that he would be recommending to committee that there should be no reallocations of underspend this quarter.

4. Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

The Panel were updated on the next stage of development of the City Deal and it was highlighted that the an intensive piece of work was continuing to meet the deadline of 21st September for submission of proposals to UK and regional government officials. Party group briefings are being planned for early September with a possible special SP&R also in September to consider the proposals which would inform the BRCD negotiating proposition.

5. Review of Bonfires De brief

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the proposals for a review of the bonfires programme which will take place over September and October. Members welcomed this review and highlighted the need to undertake this as quickly as possible.

6. Shared Societies Project

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined a request for the city to participate in a joint international shared societies project and members agreed to consider the request at SP&R.

7. Planning Update

The Director of Planning and Building Control updated the panel on the live planning applications and informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month.

8. AOB

Area Based Funding

A number of applications for area based festivals funding would be presented for consideration to the August SP&R committee.

North Foreshore

The Director of Property and Projects updated the Panel on proposed developments for the North Foreshore which will be presented to the August SP&R committee.