



Subject:	Zoo update
Date:	12 th September 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager CNS Department

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the key findings from the recent exercise carried out to assess the options for the future operating model for the Zoo. The Committee requested this process in October 2017 to allow operational understanding of the impact of each model and details of savings and/or costs. The CNS Department was also aware that a Development Brief process was underway during this time for the North Foreshore and engaged with the Property and Projects Department to ensure any impact on the zoo was reflected in the information returned to Committee.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to party briefings on the report findings during October 2018 with an aim to coming back into City Growth and Regeneration Committee thereafter. • Consider whether they would wish to avail of a visit, either as individual members or as committee, to the zoo in the intervening period.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>In November 2017 consultants were commissioned to carry out a strategic review of the operational model for the Zoo based on the options agreed by City Growth and Regeneration Committee.</p>
3.2	<p>They reviewed the operator models for Belfast Zoo based upon international best practice and carried out an initial market testing (expression of interest) to validate the findings on the relevant operating models, This also provided a critical path in terms of delivery of each model and critically appraised the underpinning rationale, strategic fit and operational design.</p>
3.3	<p>The aim of the early market engagement was to ascertain how potential operators and developers viewed the opportunity to work with BCC on the operational delivery of Belfast Zoo. What is learned from the early market engagement can be used to shape our procurement strategy. Of the 7 companies who responded to the questionnaire, 4 have experience or capabilities which are relevant to the operation of a world class zoo.</p>
3.4	<p>Details of these expressions of interest will be provided through party briefings.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The consultant's view, based on the market feedback, is that an investment of around £10m capital investment is required to improve the Zoo attraction including the Floral Hall. With this level of investment, the income should grow by between £600k and £1.2m per annum. This is not considered to be overly optimistic and would be sufficient to fund the cost of borrowing and also reduce the Council's annual revenue subsidy.</p>

3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> A consultation and engagement process will be required for consideration of any equality and good relations/rural needs implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None