

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 15 November 2018

Attendance

Members:

Alderman Jim Rodgers
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Councillor Peter Johnston (for Alderman Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne

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)
Eimear Henry (for item 2)

1. Finance

a. Financial Reporting Quarter 2 2018/19

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the half-year financial position which would be presented to November SP&R Committee. There will be no half-year re-allocations recommended in the report.

b. Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019 / 20

Members of the panel were updated on the current position with revenue estimates for 2019/20 including departmental growth proposals, efficiency savings and uncontrollable costs. Party Group Briefings will now be held to discuss these proposals in more detail. Work will also continue on identifying additional savings.

2. Cultural Strategy Presentation

Eimear Henry took the panel through a presentation outlining the proposals for the development of a ten year cultural strategy including a planned year of specific activities in 2023. A report on this will be taken to December Committee.

3. Bank Buildings Update

The Chief Executive outlined the ongoing work in response to the recent fire at the Bank Buildings including the animation of the various spaces which will be rolled out over the coming weeks and the proposals for the pedestrian walkway which should be open in early December.

4. Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

The Panel were given an update on the recent announcement of a city deal for the Belfast City Region including the need to develop appropriate resources and structures to support the further development and implementation of the Investment Programme.

5. Planning Update

The Chief Executive update the panel on the consultation process for the LDP which was about to close. The panel discussed the recent application to extend the retail provision at Sprucefield and asked the City Solicitor to take a report to SP&R outlining the issues.

6. AOB

a. Language Action Plan

The City Solicitor updated the panel on the development of the Language Action Plan which would be presented to November SP&R

b. Public Policy Forum NI Reference Group

The Chief Executive informed the panel that a public policy think tank is currently being developed in NI and the council has been approached to gauge interest in being a founding partner of the think tank and to have the Chief Executive sit on the Reference Group. A report on this would be presented to the November SP&R Committee.