Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Request for Special Meeting - Cave Hill Country Park/North Foreshore Development Proposals**
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, ext. 3260
Contact Officer:	Brian Carr, Project Sponsor, ext. 3279

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?   Yes [ ]   No [x]

   If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

      After Committee Decision   [ ]
      After Council Decision   [ ]
      Some time in the future   [ ]
      Never   [ ]

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?   Yes [x]   No [ ]

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the commissioning of a strategic study to identify and assess potential development initiatives with respect to Cave Hill Country Park and associated assets, highlighting synergies with development proposals currently being progressed at the North Foreshore.
2.0	**Recommendation**
1.2	The Committee is requested to agree that a special meeting be held at 5.15 p.m. on Monday 8th April 2019 to receive a detailed update from the consultancy team undertaking the strategic study for Cave Hill Country Park and representatives from Giants Park Ltd, who are developing proposals for the North Foreshore.

3.0	**Main Report**
	Key Issues
3.1	Rooney Smith Associates were appointed in February 2019 to undertake a strategic review and viability assessment of current and any newly identified development initiatives with respect to Cave Hill Country Park and associated assets, namely: Belfast Castle, Belfast Zoo and Floral Hall.
3.2	The consultancy team has been tasked to complete the following within their scope of work: 1. Gain an understanding of current development initiatives under consideration and assess viability; 2. Identify new development opportunities; 3. Assess enabling actions to unlock/facilitate new and existing development opportunities; 4. Identify stakeholder roles and responsibilities required to facilitate development and identify potential stakeholder issues and constraints; 5. Identify any planning issues/considerations that may arise from development proposals; 6. Identify any infrastructure projects required to maximise development gain; 7. Identify the potential for private sector investment and other commercial opportunities; 8. Identify any public sector investment required to support agreed recommendations; and 9. Assess community impacts of any recommended proposals/actions and outline the community benefits associated with recommendations; and 10. Recommend a critical path and mitigating actions for emerging preferred option/s
3.3	The consultancy team has also been tasked to identify synergies with development proposals being progressed at the North Foreshore.
3.4	Members will be aware that Council has agreed initial proposals to regenerate 250 acres of the North Foreshore site into a major visitor attraction for the city. The proposed £93 million investment by Giant's Park Belfast Ltd, will create four distinct zones or hubs: • a welcome hub • a leisure and sports innovation hub • an adventure hub • a theme part hub.

3.5	The project, which is due to complete by 2026, will bring jobs to the local and wider area, both through the development phase and upon completion.
3.6	The Committee is asked to convene a special Committee meeting on 8th April 2019 so that Members can receive a detailed update and provide feedback on the key findings and recommendations of the Cave Hill study and receive a presentation from representatives from Giant's Park Ltd with respect to development proposals for the North Foreshore.
3.7	The Committee is asked to agree that Members of the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group attend this meeting given the over-arching aspects of these presentations.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	None