



Subject:	Working Groups
Date:	21st June, 2019
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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	To provide the Committee with an update on the roles and remits of the various Working Groups and agree the membership of each of the Groups.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups;• note that the Terms of Reference and names of the Budget and Transformation Panel/Party Leaders' Forum are being reviewed;• agree the membership of each the Working Groups; and• note that the Terms of Reference of the Area Working Group are also being reviewed.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 421 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 327 544 356"><u>Committee Structure</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 427 1453 607">3.1 The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting on 12th April, it had considered a report on the new Council term commencing in May, 2019 and agreed to continue with the existing governances arrangements, that is, a traditional committee system, with 7 standing Committees.</p> <p data-bbox="272 678 488 707"><u>Working Groups</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 779 1445 913">3.2 Since 2007, the Council has agreed also to appoint Working Groups to focus on issues of particular concern. In addition, the Council had agreed previously the following principles associated with appointment of Working Groups:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 981 1461 1727" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="323 981 1430 1066">• Working Groups should be established only if they are considered to be essential for the achievement of effective and efficient decision-making; <li data-bbox="323 1133 1366 1218">• such Working Groups should be appointed for a fixed-term and for a specific purpose; <li data-bbox="323 1285 1406 1420">• the Groups would not have decision-making powers but rather would produce a report with recommendations (usually in the form of minutes of the meeting) for consideration by the parent Committee; <li data-bbox="323 1487 1461 1572">• after the Working Group has concluded the business for which it was established, it would cease to exist; and <li data-bbox="323 1639 1398 1727">• Working Groups should be formed on the basis of All-Party representation with nominees sought from the Party Group Leaders. <p data-bbox="165 1787 1362 1877">3.3 At the meeting on 12th April, the Committee agreed to the reconstitute the following Working Groups:</p>

Audit and Risk Panel
Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders' Forum
North Foreshore Members' Steering Group
Reference Group on Older People
Shared City Partnership
Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group

Terms of Reference

- 3.4 A copy of the current Terms of Reference for each of the Working Groups is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Council has already agreed to review the individual Terms of Reference and name of both the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Leaders Forum.

Membership

- 3.6 The normal practice/convention for the Council in establishing Working Groups is to appoint one representative from each Political Party which has two or more representatives on the Council. If the Committee was minded to retain this convention, none of the current political parties would be adversely affected since all eight Parties have two or more Elected Members on the Council.
- 3.7 The Membership of both the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Leaders' Forum is the Political Party Leader on the Council (or his/her nominee), with the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also a Member of the Budget and Transformation Panel.
- 3.8 It should be pointed out that the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group previously had two representatives from each Party. The Committee might wish to give consideration to this as that would result in a membership of 16 (which would actually be larger than two of the Standing Committees).

Area Working Groups

- 3.9 The Committee has also agreed to retain the Area working Groups but that these move to a more area-based framework approach based on local needs encompassing:

- council service and facility provision;
- external or multi-agency and facility provision;
- agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people; and
- longer term local regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources).

The Area Working Groups are to be reviewed within that context and, following a series of workshops with each Group, a revised Terms of Reference will be drawn up which will be submitted to the Committee for approval in late summer/autumn.

Membership

The Membership of the four Area Working Groups is based on geographical areas and the associated District Electoral Areas:

North Belfast	Castle and Oldpark	12 Members
South Belfast	Balmoral and Botanic	10 Members
East Belfast	Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic	19 Members
West Belfast	Black Mountain, Colin and Court	19 Members

Financial & Resource Implications

3.10 None.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.11 None.

4.0 Appendices – Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference - Working Groups