Belfast City Council

CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Subject:	'The Status Quo is not an Option': Building a Sustainable Belfast – Invitation to Speak
Date:	9th June, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Alistair Reid , Strategic Director of Place and Economy

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**	☐	**No**	✓
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**	☐	**No**	X

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To agree the participation of the Deputy Chairman of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at 'The status quo is not an option': Building a sustainable Belfast event to held on Thursday, June 24th 10.00 am -11.30am via Zoom.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

	1) Agree the participation of the Deputy Chairman of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in 'The status quo is not an option' event to be held on Thursday 24th June; and 2) Due to the time-frame of the event, agree, in accordance with Standing Order 47 (2) (b), that the decision would not be subject to call-in, on the basis that the decision was deemed to be a case of special urgency.
3.0	**Main report**
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Chief Executive has received an invitation to speak at the following event: 'The status quo is not an option': Building a sustainable Belfast on Thursday, 24th June at 10.00 am – 11.30 am via Zoom.
3.2	The event is hosted by The Town & Country Planning Association, Dr Rory Hearne, Queen's University Belfast's School of Natural and Built Environment and Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR).
3.3	The event aims to challenge the narrative around housing in contested spaces. The organisers state:
3.4	*'This event aims to challenge the narrative around housing in contested spaces: if we are to end homelessness and sectarianism we must create inclusive & equitable, socially-, ecologically- and financially-sustainable neighbourhoods in these spaces.* *We invite you to join this conversation and to outline your vision for a non-sectarian Belfast.'*
3.5	The opportunity has been offered to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. The Deputy Chairman has agreed to accept the opportunity.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents attached**
	Appendix 1 - Invitation to the Chief Executive, Belfast City Council