

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 18th April, 2025

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Murphy (Chairperson); and
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Beattie, Black, Brennan, Bunting, Cobain,
de Faoite, R-M Donnelly, Duffy, Ferguson, Garrett,
Long, Maghie, McDonough-Brown, I. McLaughlin,
R. McLaughlin, Nelson and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;
Ms. S. McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Director
of Corporate Services;
Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services;
Ms. S. Murtagh, Portfolio Manager, Property and Projects;
Ms. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and
Development;
Mr. D. Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. T. Wallace, Director of Finance;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. J. Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. C. Sheridan, Director of Human Resources;
Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director, Belfast Stories; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance
Manager.

Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Groogan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 1st April.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors R-M Donnelly and Duffy declared an interest in item 7(a) Minutes of the Shared City Partnership in so far as it related to PEACEPLUS in that they worked for organisations which had applied for funding. As the item did not become the subject of debate, they were not required to leave the meeting.

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Councillor Groogan declared an interest in item 2(c) Update on Hardship Fund, in that she worked for or was associated with an organisation which had applied for funding and left the meeting while this item was under consideration.

Councillor Long declared an interest in item 2(b) Support for businesses affected by the August riots, in that his wife was Justice Minister, and he left the meeting while these items were under discussion.

Councillor Brennan declared an interest in items 2(c) Summer Community Diversionary Programme Assessments and 5(b) Asset Management – St. John Vianney Youth Club: Lease arrangement, in that she worked for or was associated with organisation which had applied for funding or involved in the lease and left the meeting while these items were under consideration.

Councillors Beattie and Councillor Duffy declared an interest in item 2(b) Social Supermarket Fund in that they were associated with organisations which applied for funding and left the meeting while this item was under discussion.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following ten items are restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Members were also reminded that the content of ‘restricted’ reports and any discussion which took place during closed session must be treated as ‘confidential information’ and that no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

Summer Community Diversionary Programme Assessments

The Committee considered a report which provided details of the assessments undertaken by officers and seeking approval to award funding for the 2025-27 Summer Community Diversionary Programme.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Bunting,
Seconded by Councillor Duffy,

That the Committee agrees that funding be awarded as follows:

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	Organisation Name	Amount Requested	Programme Title	Awarded
1	Féile an Phobail	£100,000.00	8th August Diversionary Dance Night	£126,277.00
2	Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	£75,000.00	Féile na hAbhann	£75,000.00
3	Ashton Community Trust	£98,723.00	Féile an Tuaiscirt 2025	£98,723.00
	Total	£273,723.00		£300,000.00

	Organisation Name	Amount Requested	Programme Title	Awarded
1	Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association	£100,000.00	Woodvale Festival	£98,383.89
2	Lower Oldpark Community Assoc (LOCA)	£26,957.00	Connected Communities: Together We Thrive	£20,433.41
3	EastSide Partnership	£73,676.80	EASTival	£55,847.01
4	C.H.A.R.T.E.R for Northern Ireland (Charter NI)	£65,684.00	Increasing Cultural Confidence and Tolerance Amongst Young People 2025- 2027	£49,788.47
5	Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)	£99,666.52	South Belfast Cultural Consortium	£75,547.22
	Total	£395,634.32		£300,000.00

On a vote, eleven Members voted for the proposal and none against, with five no votes and it was declared carried.

The Committee further:

- Noted that any funding awarded was subject to further engagement with groups and analysis of projects and associated budgets in line with Council due diligence procedures, this would include any outstanding financial and monitoring returns with regards to other Council funding; and that funding would not be awarded until approved contracts were issued and signed;
- Approved permission for those organisations which had been successful to use Belfast Parks for their event or activity and delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
 - Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor,

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including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to:

- The completion of an appropriate management plan;
- The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence.

It was agreed also:

1. That the delivery of the programme in 2025 would be for 1 year;
2. To review the criteria in November 2025 for delivery of future programmes; and
3. Engagement be undertaken with Dr Jonny Byrne for further review of the programme.

Social Supermarket Fund 2025/26

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the open call for applications and asked the Members to consider potential options for allocation funding awards to applicants.

Proposal

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Brennan,

That the Committee agrees:

- not to proceed with the current process but to reissue the applications for the social supermarket programme;
- to review the criteria beforehand and ensure that there was weighting added for organisations within areas of multiple deprivation;
- to add into the criteria that those organisations applying must be able to demonstrate that they have experience of managing a scheme of this nature providing support to those struggling financially as a result of the cost-of-living crisis;
- as best we can, we will seek to ensure there is not proliferation of services close together; and that the scoring criteria be presented to party group leaders in advance of the applications opening or a special meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee if needed.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Maghie,
Seconded by Councillor Nelson,

That the Committee agrees to adopt option 1, that is, to provide 100% of the required budget to fund the 18 top scoring projects.

On a vote, six Members voted for the amendment and ten against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Garrett was put to the meeting, with ten Members voting for and six against and it was declared carried.

In addition, it was agreed that, in the interim period, bridging funding be provided to those groups which had been in receipt of funding in the previous financial year.

**Support for businesses affected
by August disorder – update**

The Committee considered the information on options for direct support to the businesses set out in the report and agreed an approved approach as suggested at paragraph 3.9 as a basis for engagement with eligible businesses.

**Medium Term Financial Plan
Update 2025/26 – 2028/29**

The Director of Finance submitted a report which provided and update on the work underway to implement a robust approach to longer term financial planning in compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code.

The Committee noted the work required in three areas to support the implementation of a 4 year MTFP as part of the 2026/27 rate setting process:

Governance

- Update Scheme of Delegation
- Update Financial Regulations 2015
- Agree to a workshop in May to consider the following:
 - Consultancy Spend Analysis
 - Format of Meetings
 - Initial Workplan
 - Timetable for 2026/27 rate setting

Corporate and Financial Planning

- Review and integrate corporate and financial planning cycles
- Review existing and emerging priorities

Investment Planning

- Undertake capital thematic sessions with Members

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- Approve 8-10 year capital programme
- Establish funding models to deliver costed strategies

Organisational Reviews and Change Programme

The Committee noted:

- the progress on the work programme for the Organisational Reviews and Change portfolio and timescales going forward.

And approved:

- An increase to the City and Neighbourhood Services establishment headcount.

Update on Employees on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers

The Committee noted a report which provided information on the number of employees on temporary contracts, secondments and the number of agency assignees and which outlined the steps being undertaken to reduce the reliance on temporary contracts and agency assignees and approved the creation of 10 peripatetic General Operative posts.

Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition – Update

The Committee noted the update:

- on the Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition, including the emerging proposed asks from Government; and
- on forthcoming engagement with the UK Government in Westminster, Irish Government in Dublin, and the Northern Ireland Executive, as part of a comprehensive engagement plan aimed at securing additional funding and powers to unlock regeneration and development in Belfast.

Bonfire Update

The Committee considered a report in relation to proposals for interventions at a number of bonfire sites.

Moved by Councillor Bunting
Seconded by Councillor Duffy,

That the Committee agrees to the following interventions at 3 Council sites:

1. Inverary / Tommy Patton Park – Sand Base - **£350**
2. Flora Street – Request for Fencing - **£568 + VAT**
3. Benmore Drive - Request for Fencing - **£1850 + VAT**

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4. Pitt Park – Request for Sand and Fencing — **£1050** + VAT (Sand £500 + Fencing £550)

In a vote, sixteen Members voted for the proposal and two against and it was declared carried.

The Committee noted that, in accordance with Standing Order 37 (a), the Committee had delegated authority for decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme where the Chief Executive, or in her/his absence the Deputy Chief Executive, determine that a decision which would otherwise be taken under an officer's delegated authority requires political direction.

Belfast Stories Outline Business Case Update

The Committee considered a report, the purpose of which was to:

- Update the Committee on the Belfast Stories programme and progress 2025;
- Provide an overview of the Belfast Stories Outline Business Case (OBC);
- Provide the Committee with a timeline for the OBC submission and approval; and
- Seek approval to submit the OBC in May 2025 to the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) for £65m funding.

The Committee:

- noted the programme and design progress to April 2025;
- noted the overview of the Belfast Stories Outline Business Case (OBC), 5 case model as set out in this report and the timeline for the OBC submission and approval;
- agreed to submit the Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department for Economy (DfE) for £65m funding as part of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD); and
- agreed that a further report and presentation on the RIBA stage 2 concept designs and consultation findings will be brought to SPR in June 2025.

**Animation activity to support
the Open Championship 2025**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to enable further information to be provided.

Extended Cultural Support Programme

The Committee considered a report in relation to proposed arrangements for 2025/2026 in relation to the extended cultural programme which was established following a request from members in relation how they might address under representation of certain groups within previous rounds of funding.

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The Committee:

- noted that £100,000 was approved for events to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st February 2025. This incorporated a proposed programme of events to be organised by the Council for 8th May 2025, together with the associated costs of up to £30,000 and establishment of a small grant scheme up to the value of £70,000 for local communities to organise street parties to mark VE day.
- Approved up to £300,000 towards an Extended Cultural Programme and to develop and issue Funding Agreements for 2025/26 as detailed below in relation to:

The Committee also approved the retention of underspends from 2024/2025 for both Ulster Scots Agency and Pride due to operational challenges faced by those organisations and to extend the timeframes for the 2024/25 funding agreements.

It was further agreed that officers work with Belfast Pride and Visit Belfast to produce an assessment of the impact of Belfast Pride on the city, not limited to but including the economic impact in terms of spend in the arts, culture, hospitality and accommodation, and the promotion of the city as a safe, welcoming and inclusive place to live, work, study and visit.

IFA DCMS Grassroots Funding Applications

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to a special meeting.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Council Banking Arrangements/ Ethical procurement framework

The Committee considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members in relation to the work to date on the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy and, pursuant to the decision of SP&R meeting of 21st February 2025, provide details in relation to the Council's banking arrangements.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **note the update in relation to the work on the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy;**

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- consider the proposed policy approach;
- agree that an interim Ethical Procurement Policy is developed pending a review of the Social Value Policy to include wider ethical procurement considerations; and
- agree that the Council goes out to tender for a new banking provider pending adoption of the interim Ethical Procurement Policy.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Ethical Procurement Policy

At its meeting on 23rd February 2024, SP&R Committee agreed that a report would be brought to Committee on the following Notice of Motion:

“This Council deplores those corporations that profit from protracted armed conflict and systematic violations of human rights, particularly in the context of Israel’s continuing brutal assault on the people of Gaza and escalating settler terrorism in the West Bank, Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, and other conflicts around the world. With this motion, the Council encourages companies to meet their obligations to avoid contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and to prevent or mitigate human rights abuses linked to their operations.

The Council is aware of the crucial role of local authorities and their public procurement procedures in ensuring respect for human rights by companies, as well as their obligations under widely accepted business and human rights norms – as laid down in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the Global Sullivan Principles (1999) – to promote respect for human rights by companies with which they do business.

The Council affirms that every endeavour is made to ensure that councils tender processes are consistent with the above principles, including under the Fourth Geneva convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and under customary

international humanitarian law, prohibiting the importation or sale of goods or services originating in occupied territories.

This Council resolves to adopt a rights-based Ethical Procurement Policy (EPP) that takes fully into account existing obligations and standards. The EPP will incorporate widely accepted and precisely formulated international standards and explain clearly how the policy will be implemented. The primary aim of the EPP is to ensure that human rights obligations are properly acknowledged, observed and respected at all stages of the procurement process.”

- 3.2 Members will be aware that the phrase ‘ethical procurement’ covers a wide range of issues relating to the ethical and sustainability goals of an organisation. It is effectively a company’s Code of Conduct which sets out the principles which guide a company to proactively eliminate unethical practices throughout its supply chain.
- 3.3 The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights outlines the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, including due diligence in supply chains, ensuring ethical procurement by preventing human rights abuses and providing remedies when violations occur.
- 3.4 Therefore, whilst the Notice of Motion specifically refers to human rights abuses in conflict, ethical procurement is a much wider concept and its intrinsically linked to the Council’s existing procurement policies (procurement policy and social value procurement policy) and how suppliers are already tested in relation to organisational behaviours.
- 3.5 Members will also note that there are significant legal constraints in relation to matters which can be taken into account when undertaking procurement exercises. For example, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 precludes councils from taking into account what it defines as non-commercial matters. These include:
- a) the terms and conditions of employment by contractors;

- b) any involvement of the business activities or interests of contractors with irrelevant fields of Government policy;
- c) the country or territory of origin of supplies to, or the location in any country or territory of the business activities or interests of, contractors;
- d) any political, industrial or sectarian affiliations or interests of contractors or their directors, partners or employees;
- e) financial support or lack of financial support by contractors for any institution to or from which the council gives or withholds support.

3.6 The Procurement Act 2023 ‘the Act’ includes mandatory and discretionary exclusionary grounds for suppliers who have been convicted of a range of offences including money laundering, fraud, corporate homicide and human trafficking and other similar type dishonesty offences. The Council has procurement procedures in place to ensure these exclusion grounds are considered for all relevant procurements in accordance with our obligations under the Act.

Next Steps

- 3.7 Given the other broader matters which relate to ethical procurement are already included in existing procurement policies, it is proposed that a review of the social value procurement policy is undertaken to potentially expand on current ethical procurement provisions i.e. human rights. Such a review would be timely as it would also allow for the policy to be updated in light of the developing low carbon procurement policy.
- 3.8 This review would ensure an aligned ‘sustainable procurement policy’ is put in place setting out clear expectations of standards for suppliers regarding ethical, social value and environmental/ low carbon considerations, having regard to the international guidance set out in this report, and how this might be factored into tender evaluations.
- 3.9 A paper will be presented to the Social Policy Working Group in May 2025 setting out in more detail what this review will entail, potential timescales etc. Pending that overarching piece of work, officers will bring forward proposals for a potential interim policy in the coming months should it appear that this would address members concerns quicker than the

overall review. This will be considered by the Social Policy Working Group in the first instance, the minutes of which are reported to SP&R Committee.

Committee is asked to consider whether it is content for this approach.

Banking arrangements

- 3.10 Having banked with Northern Bank/Danske bank for numerous years, to achieve value for money, and in line with procurement guidance, the council issued a tender for its banking services in March 2011. However, due to the Minimum Financial Rating required, none of the tenderers were successful.
- 3.11 Having reviewed the specification, the tender was re-issued in June 2011. Following the conclusion of the tender process the contract was awarded to Barclays Bank with a contract start date of January 2012, a contract length of 3+1+1 and a go live date of 20th February 2012.
- 3.12 The contract was then retendered in 2016, again in line with procurement guidance, and was awarded to Barclays, with a start date of January 2017 and a contract length of 3+1+1.
- 3.13 During the financial year 2021/22 the council was in the process of tendering for a new financial system. Due to the potential impact of changing banks during the implementation of a new finance system, a 2-year extension of contract for banking services awarded to Barclays Bank was approved at SP&R in January 2022.
- 3.14 It was also noted at that time that Banking services were exempt under the Public Contracts Regulations and therefore not a procurement activity but continued use of Barclays Bank for banking services was required whilst the new financial system was being implemented. The Procurement Act 2023 has narrowed the exemption for banking services so the Council can no longer avail of this exemption.
- 3.15 Members approval will be sought in May SP&R contracts report to go out to tender for a new banking provider whilst the ethical procurement considerations are developed as described above As part of that tender process, officers will consider how Council can include additional appropriate

requirements in relation to ethical procurement, particularly around the international guidance discussed in this report and the issue of gross human rights violations.

4.0 Financial and Resource Implications

4.1 There are no implications associated with this report.

5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

5.1 There are no implications associated with this report. Any draft policy will be subject to equality and rural needs screening.

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that consideration be given to removing the ethical framework from the scoring matrix and applying it as essential criteria.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Consultation Domestic rating measures

The Committee approved the Council's response to the Department of Finance's consultation on the Domestic rating measures.

Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval to accept a Contract for Funding to deliver Phase 2 of Belfast 5G Innovation Regions programme; and to update on a number of inclusive innovation opportunities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1.** Approve that Belfast City Council's acceptance of a £1.3 million contract for funding from the Dept for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) to deliver Phase 2 of Belfast 5G Innovation Regions programme and to note the related work strands.

2. Note Belfast City Council's proposed contribution to a bid by Newcastle University's i30 team to the Economic and Social Research Council to deliver a £85,000 programme to inform approaches to inclusive innovation by City Deal and similar innovation investments.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The Smart Belfast Urban Innovation programme encourages collaboration between government, industry, SMEs, academia, and communities. The aim is to harness digital innovation to address public policy challenges, while at the same time encouraging greater investment in innovation to stimulate economic growth. The approach seeks to leverage significant third-party funding.

3.2 Contract for Funding to deliver Phase 2 of the Belfast 5G Innovation Regions programme

The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has offered a Contract for Funding to Belfast City Council for £1.3 million to deliver phase two of the Belfast 5G Innovation Regions programme.

- 3.3 Members will recall that under Phase 1, Belfast City Council was awarded £3.8m to deliver a twelve-month programme. The majority of this funding was issued by Belfast City Council as grants to third-party organisations to deliver a range of 5G projects which were showcased at City Hall on 5 March. In addition, £50,880 was contracted via the G-Cloud public procurement framework for grant design services, while a further £401,400 was procured via the NI Dept of Finance's Public Shared Services Network to deliver programme management and Enablement Services for Phase 1.

- 3.4 For Phase 2 a revised approach has been accepted by DSIT that will include:

- Funding for a Belfast City Council programme manager a 12 month period.
- £650,000 for 'Public Services innovation hub' based at Cecil Ward / 9 Adelaide which will deliver a small number of 5G-enabled projects focused on issues such as dynamic occupancy management, energy management, environmental monitoring, etc. Work is underway to identify those projects most likely to contribute to Council's efficiency programme.

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- A £300,000 grant scheme for Belfast region organisations (including SMEs and local councils) to deliver their own 5G-enabled use cases. The City Innovation Office are also engaging with Belfast Region City Deal partners to consider leveraging additional funding from the Digital pillar to increase this total.
- The DSIT funding will also fund ‘Solution Designer’ services for organisations and companies to identify project proposals for the grant scheme.

3.5 Members are asked to approve acceptance of the Contract for Funding. Following signing of the contract the programme will run through to 31 March 2026.

Towards an Inclusive Innovation approach

3.6 In January, in collaboration with the Innovation Commissioner, Adrian Johnston, the City Innovation Office hosted a workshop for Members and city stakeholders to consider approaches to inclusive innovation. Following that event CIO has continued to engage with local and national experts and practitioners in order to inform future Council, City Deal and ICB approaches to inclusion.

3.7 The Council has been approached by one of the participating organisations at the conference. ‘i30’ - a collaboration between Newcastle University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Oslo and EAFIT University. i30 has been particularly interested in how ‘City Deal’-type investments have supported inclusive innovation ambitions in cities in the UK and elsewhere. Their work is helping Newcastle City Council to shape its social inclusion strategy, while their work with Pittsburgh is ensuring that that their city’s innovation district is having wider social impact.

3.8 i30 has submitted a £85,000 proposal to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) that seeks to build on their existing work to deliver a range of tools, policy guidance and practice that can support cities in delivering their inclusive innovation outcomes. i30 is keen for Belfast to be part of this bid and has requested a £2,999 financial contribution to their bid plus officer time from both Belfast City Council and the Innovation Commissioner. Funding for this has been identified in the City Innovation Office budget. Members are asked to note that a decision from ESRC is expected in late April and, if successful, further information on the i30 programme will be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.9 Resources for the initiatives have been identified within the existing departmental budgets.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications /
Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.10 Not at this stage.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Planning Information

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on major planning applications and applications which had been determined by the Planning Committee.

Horizon Cities@Heart Project

The Committee was advised that the Council had been approached to work with QUB and Belfast Healthy City to bring forward a joint funding submission to the Horizon Europe and Innovative Health Initiative grant funding call. The intention of the overall €15million funding bid across seven cities (named Cities@Heart) would be to enable work to be undertaken with the WHO Health Cities Network and innovative technology to reduce recognised cardiovascular risk factors (Hypertension, High cholesterol, obesity and inactivity) in order to more effectively manage risk and prevent future cardiovascular events.

Cities@Heart would focus on obesity, hypertension, dyslipidaemia and diabetes as key drivers of cardiovascular disease and poor health. The intention would be to identify effective public health activities which offer potential to scale-up. It would also seek to develop and deploy as well as strategies to leverage engagement and citizen empowerment, raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, effective prevention, early detection and optimal management.

The emerging bid would involve representatives, including public sector, academia and industry experts, from across seven municipalities, including Izmir (TR), Belfast (NI), Łódź (PL), Cork (IE), Udine (IT), Birmingham (EN) and Utrecht (NL). Each have diverse communities and a commitment to deploy multi-disciplinary health strategies.

Together with citizen and industry co-creation, the cities would apply a structured, multi-sector methodology that includes:

- i. city-level approaches to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease;
- ii. a digital ecosystem that would power the development of European health technology and economic growth,
- iii. integration of health policy and health economics to deliver cost-effective city-level solutions; and

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- iv. sustainability at its core using an implementation framework that could apply across the 1800+ cities in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.

Cities@Heart would build connections and capacity across our broad array of stakeholders, including citizens, patients, municipalities, healthcare providers, policymakers and industry, and support the next generation of health technology to address critical barriers in cardiovascular disease across Europe. The Members were reminded that addressing health inequalities was a priority set out in the Belfast Agenda. The funding proposal might enable related work to be taken forward at a local level and officers were engaging with QUB, BHC, PHA and BHSC to explore opportunities for Belfast.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy advised the Members that the Council had been asked to be a partner in the submission and the emerging programme of work. Further clarity was being sought on the role of Council in the project, the level of officer involvement, the scale of project funding available to local government and the role of industry partners. Any future request for resources would be subject to the Committee's consideration and agreement.

The Committee noted the content of the report and agreed that the Council continue to engage with QUB and Belfast Healthy City (BHC) to explore a possible role for the Council in the Cities@Heart project; and noted that any future financial or other implications would be brought back to the Committee for consideration and approval.

Summer Schemes additional needs

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 **To provide information on promotion and assessment of the Summer Scheme for Additional Needs grant and seek approval to award funding to successful applicants.**
- 1.2 **The People and Communities committee on 2 February 2025 agreed to offer a grant to enhance provision within the sector and to support participation for those who cannot access any other summer scheme programmes or services during the summer months due to support needs. A fund of £80,000 was agreed with a total amount of £20,000 allocated per area, north, south, east and west Belfast. Strategic Policy and Resources committee of 21 February 2025 agreed an additional £40,000 with £10,000 allocated per area, north, south, east and west Belfast.**
- 1.3 **To advise members of the outcome of the open recruitment process and for members to agree upon an allocation model.**

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2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report and agree an allocation model for the additional needs summer scheme.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 A co-ordinated campaign to advertise and promote the grant was launched on 7 March 2025. The information was disseminated widely to community and voluntary contacts, Belfast Health and Social Care and Health Trust locality planning groups, Department of Education Special Educational Needs schools and was also promoted across Belfast City Council website and social media platforms.

3.2 53 application forms were issued. 16 were returned with two of the applications failing eligibility checks. Of the 14 applications passed for assessment and moderation, there were five from organisations whose facilities are in South Belfast, four from North Belfast, three from East Belfast and two from West Belfast, although the children which most applicant organisations reside are from across the city. The total amount requested by eligible applicants was £116,249.82 which is within the £120,000 financial limit. The amount requested by providers in some areas exceeds the £30,000 allocation, whilst the amount requested from other areas is less than the £30,000 allocation.

Applications received

3.3 Table 1 details the amount requested by each organisation and the area where their facility is located, table 2 summarises the amount requested based on where the providers' facilities are located, table 3 summarises the number of children which the funding will support based on where they reside.

Table 1.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Location</u>
Arts for all	£5,305	North
Cedar lodge	£11,753.5	North
174 Trust	£18,548.6	North
you 2 me	£2,700	North
Rumbles	£1,100	North

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Fleming Fulton	£19,950	South
Sólas	£9,622.25	South
Belvoir ASD	£2,245	South
Eager Belvoirs Special Olympics	£884	South
SEN space	£16,495.47	South
Mitchell House	£3,500	East
Hanwood Down Syndrome football club	£3,900	East
Kids Together Belfast	£9,896	West
Shine	£10,350	West
	£116,249.82	14

3.4 Table 2.

Location of provider's facility	Amount requested
North	£39,407.10
South	£49,196.72
East	£7,400.00
West	£20,246.00
	£116,249.82

3.5 Table 3.

Location of children's residence	Number of children supported
North	202
South	277
East	132
West	145
Outside Belfast	20
Total	776

Assessment

- 3.6 Officers scored each eligible application against the set criteria as outlined in the guidance notes. Each of the applications was then moderated by another member of staff to ensure that consistency and fair marking had been applied. Once staff were satisfied with the scoring and application of the criteria for the grants, the unit then made recommendations for awards as shown above in table 1.
- 3.7 It is important to note that the diverse range of applicants demonstrates the underlying diversity of needs within the sector. The nature of each proposed project is highly dependent on the specific support needs of their children. Delivery organisations often cite the challenge of accessing appropriately trained and qualified staff during the summer period. Accordingly, delivery is diverse, with differing supervision ratios, levels of specialist/voluntary supervision, numbers of children supported, nature of programming, duration of each session and number of days provided by the schemes evidenced within the applications.

Next Steps

- 3.8 Members will note that both North and South Belfast have been oversubscribed and West and East Belfast have been undersubscribed. Members are asked to consider two options for funding of the initiative which are:
1. The amount requested by providers in some areas exceeds the £30,000 allocation, whilst the amount requested from other areas is less than the £30,000 allocation. Members consider moving under-allocated amounts to support programming in over-subscribed areas which will maximise the impact for children with additional needs across the city within the budget envelope.
 2. Members give delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to work with the groups in North and South Belfast to reduce their budget to the maximum of £30,000 each. Members give authority for officers to engage across the area and with the groups who applied in the previous year to see if they have capacity to offer a summer scheme in 2025 to the maximum the area budget of £30,000.
- 3.9 Following approval of the grant awards by committee, organisations will be notified of decisions and sent a letter of offer. An introductory meeting will be held for organisations

which have not previously received funding from Belfast City Council. They will be informed of, and provided support with, the requirements of monitoring and evaluation.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 Delivery of this project is within existing financial estimates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.11 This report proposes funding a range of projects which are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, specifically children with additional needs living in Belfast.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agree an allocation model for the additional needs summer scheme as set out in option 1 at paragraph 3.8 of the report.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council’s Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents the Half Year Update, requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme along with updates on capital letters of offer and contracts awarded.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to –

- **Physical Programme Half Year Update** - Note the overall update on projects that have been completed recently and projects currently under construction at 3.1 to 3.4 below and in Appendix 1; and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.

- **Capital Programme Movements -**
 - Fleet Programme – Small Vehicles Service – Note that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that the project is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* with a maximum budget of £470,000.
 - EV Charging Network - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.
 - Belfast Zoo Health & Safety Works - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.
 - 35-39 Royal Ave Health & Safety Works - Agree that the project is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.
 - Victoria Park Basketball upgrade; Ormeau Park Basketball upgrade; West Basketball courts; Loughside Changing Facility; Mobile Changing Places; Makaton Boards; Strangford PF Enabling Works; Musgrave Park Sensory Garden; Woodvale Park Sensory Garden - Agree that the projects are added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow business cases and designs to be developed.
 - Belfast Bikes eBikes – Agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow a business case to be developed.
 - Under the Bridges – Agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow a business case to be developed.
 - Ulster Hall Lighting Scheme – Agree that the project is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow a business case to be developed.
- **Capital Letters of Offer** – to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer.
- **Contracts awarded in Q4 2024/25** – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded.

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

Physical Programme Half Year Update

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of

investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway.

The Half Year Update below at 3.2 to 3.4 is a brief summary of projects completed as well as a sample of projects currently underway. The reporting pattern is shifting to align with the financial year instead of the calendar year, so this update only covers three months namely January to March 2025 and will be on a six monthly basis again after that.

3.2 Recently completed projects:

- **Fleet Replacement Programme 24/25 – prioritised purchase and replacement of older and/ or poor condition vehicles with Resources and Fleet such as forklifts, medium size panel vans, beavertails, mowers, compact sweepers, dropside trucks and others.**
- **Sporting Pitches Investment 24/25 – completion of the improvements to pitches at Henry Jones Playing Fields - ball stops and spectator fencing at GAA pitch and Belvoir Activity Centre MUGA.**
- **Playground Improvement Programme 24/25 – improvements have been completed at Grampian Avenue playground by CNS.**
- **Covered Cycle Stands – completion of active travel projects bike stands at various locations across the city.**
- **Other enhancements to Council assets include – Customer Focus Programme- Customer Hub at CWB, Duncrue Eurobin Workshop facility, HWRC Service Bay works at Ormeau (Park Road), pitch carpet replacement at LORAG/ Shaftesbury centre.**
- **Rory Gallagher statue – commemorative statue of legendary composer and musician at the side of Ulster Hall.**
- **Bredagh GAC container (LIF) – delivery and installation of container providing storage facilities for East Belfast clubs.**
- **Hosford Community Homes Inclusive Hub (Urban Villages) – refurbishment of a building in ownership of East Belfast Mission at 240 Newtownards Road into a multi-purpose community and good relations space and accommodation units.**

3.3 **Physical projects underway:**

- **City Hall Stained Glass Windows** – the new LGBT stained glass window at City Hall is nearing completion and will be installed shortly, with an unveiling being planned for May.
- **Ballysillan Playing Fields (Urban Villages)** - Works are underway on site at this £8.4m partnership project with DfI's Living with Water Programme, DfC and Urban Villages. Completion anticipated by Autumn 2026.
- **Lagan Gateway Greenway (BIF)** – major investment of £5m in a new navigation lock, iconic foot and cycle bridge and new path connections. Phase 2 procurement exercise is nearing completion for works on the Belvoir side. Completion anticipated by Summer 2026.
- **North Foreshore Development Sites Infrastructure Works** – the landfill gas infrastructure contractor has been appointed. Procurement on the foul pumping station is almost complete. NIE works to upgrade the connections to begin this month.
- **Floral Hall Health & Safety Works** – Contractor appointed, and initial investigations complete on a series of immediate health and safety works to stabilise the building. Completion anticipated by Summer 2025.
- **Strand Arts Centre (BIF)** – works are underway on the £6.4m major refurbishment of the art deco cinema building. The centre will provide educational and skills development workshops, arts, and heritage tours. Completion anticipated by Summer 2026.
- **Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre (NRF)** - contractor has been appointed and works are due to begin in May for the new build community and heritage centre at Davitt's GAC.
- **ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub (Urban Villages)** – Phase 2 of the project is on site comprising a community café, boxing club, minor halls, community gym and office space. Phase 2 to be completed in Summer 2025.
- **Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub (BIF and Urban Villages)** – work is progressing on the new build development for creative and digital arts entrepreneurs.
- **Titanic People Exhibition (Urban Villages)** – redevelopment of the courtyard/frontage of the existing building at Westbourne Presbyterian Church. Planned completion anticipated in Summer 2025, and launch expected in September 2025.
- **Corporate projects** – a range of capital IT projects via Digital Services to ensure business continuity; Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Collection Scheme, HWRC

and Civic Amenity Sites Containers, and ongoing delivery of Fleet Replacement Programme 25/26 via City & Neighbourhoods Services.

- Developer Contributions – progressing open space projects via CNS.
- Playground Improvement Programme – Michelle Baird and Balfour Avenue playgrounds are due to be completed by May 2025.
- Alleygating Phase 5 – Progress made with the commencement of the installation of Phase 5a. Members agreed in February to proceed with the gating order for Phase 5b, with an estimated completion timeline following the enactment of four to six months.
- Sporting Pitches Investment – final works at Falls Park, Mallusk Playing Fields and Strangford Avenue Playing Fields are nearing completion.

3.4 Physical projects in development:

The remainder of the Physical Programme covers projects where activity is at earlier stages i.e. tender preparation or before. This includes schemes at the start of procurement at *Stage 3 – Committed* as well as those at *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* and *Stage 1 – Emerging* or equivalent:

Capital Programme: Cathedral Gardens, New Crematorium, Belfast Stories, Reservoir Safety Programme, LTP Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility, Waste Plan projects, St George's Market – New Stalls, Waterfront Hall – Chiller Units, Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot, New Cemetery, Access to the Hills – Black Mountain/Upper Whiterock Pathway, Glencairn Park/Ligoniel Park Greenway, City Hall – External Christmas Tree, Wilmont House, Historic Cemeteries and Historic Tiled Street Signs, and recently added schemes including City Hall Preservation, Bridges Improvement Programme, Beacon Programme and a range of health and safety projects.

A range of other schemes are also in development including the remaining LIF, BIF and SOF projects.

Capital Programme - Proposed Movements

- 3.5** As outlined above Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over

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another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
Fleet Programme – Small Vehicles Service	Smaller collection vehicles to improve collection performance in narrow and restricted streets	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum budget of £470,000
EV Charging Network	A publicly accessible electric vehicle charging point network on Council owned assets	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Belfast Zoo H&S Safety Works	Improvements to animal enclosures and boundary fencing	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
35-39 Royal Ave H&S Works	Urgent works to listed building.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Victoria Park Basketball upgrade	Upgrade to existing court	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Ormeau Park Basketball upgrade	Upgrade to existing court	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
West Basketball courts	New facilities at Blacks Road and Páirc Nua Chollan	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Loughside PF Changing Facility	Modular changing and flexible space facility	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Mobile Changing Places	Modular facility for citywide use	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Makaton Boards	Inclusive communications boards in playgrounds	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Strangford PF Enabling Works	Enabling works for active travel container and gate improvements	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Musgrave Park Sensory Garden	Upgrade to sensory garden	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Woodvale Park Sensory Garden	New sensory facility	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Belfast Bikes eBikes	Introduction of Belfast Bikes eBikes	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Under the Bridges	Connectivity, active travel and public realm enhancements under M3 bridges	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging
Ulster Hall Lighting Scheme	Feature lighting to exterior of Ulster Hall	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging

3.6 **Fleet Programme – Small Vehicles Service**

This project was moved to *Stage 2 - Uncommitted* in March 2025. It forms part of the Council's Waste Collection service and seeks to address issues around difficult to access streets via the introduction of smaller refuse collection vehicles. Following a successful trial utilising lease vehicles it is proposed to procure the small vehicles. The business case has now been completed. Members are asked to agree to move the project to *Stage 3 – Committed* with a maximum budget of £470,000.

3.7 **EV Charging Network**

This project was added to the Capital Programme in January 2025 in line with the LEV Strategy. It will deliver a publicly accessible electric vehicle charging point network on Council owned assets, working with a commercial partner. The Climate and City Resilience Committee noted in March that a cross departmental working group is progressing Step 1 of the LEV Strategy which involves assessing the suitability of land assets for this purpose. Options around the operating model, delivery timelines and cost estimates are being developed, with the timeline being heavily dependent on NIE processes. Members are asked to agree that 'EV Charging Network' is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.

3.8 **Belfast Zoo Health & Safety Works**

A range of health, safety and welfare works are required at the Zoo including improvements to animal enclosures and boundary fencing works. Members are asked to agree that 'Belfast Zoo – Health and Safety Works' is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.

3.9 **35-39 Royal Avenue Health & Safety Works**

The property at 35-39 Royal Avenue is listed as Grade B2 and the building requires physical intervention, as well as further consideration on the future model. Health and safety works to the roof are required to be brought forward at pace to secure the building's integrity. Members are asked to agree that '35-39 Royal Avenue Health & Safety Works' is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the options to be fully worked up.

3.10 ***Victoria Park Basketball upgrade; Ormeau Park Basketball upgrade; West Basketball courts; Loughside Changing***

Facility; Mobile Changing Places; Makaton Boards; Strangford PF Enabling Works; Musgrave Park Sensory Garden; Woodvale Park Sensory Garden

Members will recall that capital monies were received from UKSPF for existing schemes last financial year, which freed up resources for additional schemes. These schemes, as listed above, have been considered via the AWGs and will target a range of small scale capital schemes focusing on sporting provision and access and inclusion. A further project, 'Historic Cemeteries', is already on the programme and so the scope of that existing scheme will be widened accordingly. Members are asked to agree that these projects are added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow the business cases to be developed.

3.11 *Belfast Bikes eBikes*

Members will recall that in January 2025 it was reported that a satisfactory tender return has been received for a new Belfast Bikes operator and that capital costs can be met via an existing reserve along with either external funding or a growth proposal. Members will now note at Appendix 2 that the funding has been successfully secured from DfI. Members are asked to agree that the 'Belfast Bikes eBikes' project is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow the business case to be developed.

3.12 *Under the Bridges*

This project was noted by Members of the City Growth & Regeneration Committee in January 2025 and seeks to improve connectivity through high quality active and sustainable travel corridors, enhanced public realm and amenity space under the M3 bridges. Members are asked to agree that the 'Under the Bridges' project is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow the business case to be developed.

3.13 *Ulster Hall Lighting Scheme* Design and delivery will be fully funded by DfC and Linen Quarter BID. The project involves the installation of an LED lighting display on the façade of Ulster Hall capable of changing colour similar to City Hall's Illuminate scheme. Members are asked to agree that the 'Ulster Hall Lighting Scheme' is added to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* to allow the business case to be developed.

3.14 Capital Letters of Offer

Members are asked to note the update in relation to capital letters of offer in Q4 2024/25 at Appendix 2.

3.15 Contracts Awarded

Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works including services related to works in Q4 2024/25 at Appendix 3.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial Implications – Fleet Programme – Small Vehicles Service - a maximum of £470,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

Resource Implications – Officer time to deliver.

**3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Assets Report

(On the advice of the City Solicitor, the Members of the Planning Committee, that is, Councillors Murphy, Brennan, Ferguson, Garrett and Whyte, left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.)

(Councillor Nelson in the Chair.)

The Committee:

- i) Cromac Street Car Park – Licence Renewal**
 - Approved the renewal of a Licence agreement from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to Belfast City Council in relation to the council operated off-street car park at Cromac Street.

- ii) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal**
 - Approved the renewal of a Licence agreement from the Department for Communities (DfC) to Belfast City Council in relation to the Council operated off-street car park at Station Street.

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- iii) **The Lighthouse Building, The Gasworks Estate – Proposed change of use from office use to residential use**
 - Agreed to defer the matter to enable further information to be provided.
- iv) **St. John Vianney Youth Club, River Terrace - Lease assignment**
 - Agreed to defer the matter for further information to be provided on a possible licence to occupy.
- v) **Belfast City Centre Festive Lighting Fittings – Agreements with building owners**
 - Approved entering into agreements between Belfast City Council and building owners within the city centre for the purpose of erecting festive lighting fittings. Terms of the agreements are to be agreed by the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

(Councillor Murphy in the Chair.)

Contracts Update

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1);
- approved the award of Single Tender Actions (STAs) in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2);
- noted the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3);
- approved the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4);
- noted the non-procurement expenditure as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 5);
- approved the award of a project to the International Organization for Migration 'IOM' as per Standing Order 56a and as detailed in section 7 of the report; and
- noted the Quarter 4 24/25 update regarding STA and Contracts <£30k Reporting as detailed in section 8 of the report.

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Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Specialist vehicle body work repairs	Up to 3 years	£90,000	S Leonard	Specialist vehicle body work repairs that cannot be completed by Fleet Management workshop
Service and maintenance of Bergmann compactors	Up to 3 years	£60,000	S Leonard	Service and maintenance contract required for the 4 Bergmann waste compactors at recycling centres. Specialist service.
Provision of first aid training courses	Up to 3 years	£60,000	N Largey	Provision of first aid training courses for Council staff.
Development and delivery of the Belfast DPCSP's Older Adults Cyber Safety Project (Fully Funded)	Up to 3 years	£60,000	J Girvan	Belfast DPCSPs have identified the need for community-led, technically competent training to improve cyber safety amongst older adults across Belfast.
Implementation and delivery of West Belfast DPCSP's Community Safety Initiative (Fully Funded)	Up to 3 years 6 months	£166,000	D Sales	West Belfast DPCSP wishes to appoint a contractor to deliver a community led community safety initiative (CSI). The initiative must raise awareness of community safety remedies, support community-based organisation to work in partnership to address those issues and enable the resolution of cases.
AR exhibit and all associated equipment (Fully Funded)	Up to 12 months	£85,000	S McNicholl	Develop the Augment the City use case, utilising the existing small cell indoor public 5G connectivity in Belfast City Hall. This project will run for one year under the agreed trial terms and conditions and support model.
Supply of bottled and mains-fed water with dispensers across BCC offices and sites	Up to 2 years	£47,870	N Largey	This is a continuing requirement as kitchens throughout Council buildings need to be refurbished to provide safe

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				drinking water and public access areas need to have a supply of water.
Undertaking work to support the Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition	Up to 18 months	£79,240	D Martin	<p>This work covers a number of interrelated strands relating to the Belfast Place Based Growth Proposition which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of a full Five Part Business Case, Summary Proposition and supporting negotiating principles • Support a tri-pronged approach to engagement aimed at UK / Irish Government and NI Executive to unlock funding for regeneration / development activity (in line with similar funding received by other major cities).
Provision of coordination of services for delivery of Culture Night Belfast for 2025 with the cultural sector (Recommendation approved by Members at City Growth and Regeneration Committee 09/04/25)	Up to 9 months	£150,000	D Martin	<p>Large scale event management to deliver the 2025 Culture Night programme. This includes the event's delivery model, safety and marketing resources appropriate for an event of this scale. The successful appointee will be required to create an independent committee, as referred to in the Governance section of these recommendations and to lay the foundation for 2026.</p>
Supply of fuel cards for purchasing fuel across Greater Belfast Area	Up to 1 year	£250,000	D Sales	<p>Fuel cards are for vehicles that do not fuel up at Duncrue Complex due to the logistics of their daily working location. Fuel cards enable staff to re-fuel their vehicles at designated petrol stations</p>

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				across the greater Belfast area allowing them to fulfil their daily duties.
Public services hub project delivery (fully funded)	Up to 11 months	£650,000	S McNicholl	Belfast 5G Innovation Region is a DSIT-funded programme that requires Belfast City Council, on behalf of Belfast Region, to deliver economic benefits in key industries. A public services hub at Cecil Ward / 9 Adelaide to deliver two or three projects focused on issues dynamic occupancy management in support of hybrid working, energy and building management, environmental monitoring, etc
Technical support for Belfast 5G Innovation Region funding competition (fully funded)	Up to 11 months	£150,000	S McNicholl	Belfast 5G Innovation Region is a DSIT-funded programme that requires Belfast City Council, on behalf of Belfast Region, to deliver economic benefits in key industries. A funding competition and associated support will be delivered as part of this.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Provision of content management licensing, site hosting and support for all BCC websites	Up to 2 years	£150,000	S McNicholl	Recent upgrades, new site developments as well as integration with a content delivery network partner in the past 12 months, enhancing all aspects of the websites also	Simply Zesty	7

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				means moving at this stage of the website's lifecycles would be prohibitively expensive and come with significant risks associated. Note - Retrospective 2 month STA also required to cover spend (March/ April 25).		
Supply and delivery of frozen fish for Belfast Zoo	Up to 35 months	£35,000	D Martin	Tender advertised in February 2025 but no bids received. Current contract expired 31/01/25; retrospective spend for 3 months at £3,000 (Feb, March and April 2025).	Elmore Fish	1

Table 3: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Provision of content management licensing, site hosting and support for all BCC websites	Up to 2 months	£18,746	S McNicholl	Retrospective 2 month STA to cover spend (March/ April 25).	Simply Zesty	7
Supply and delivery of frozen fish to Belfast Zoo	Up to 3 months	£3,000	D Martin	Tender advertised in February 2025 but no bids received.	Elmore Fish	1

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				Note – Current contract expired 31/01/25; retrospective spend for 3 months at £3,000 (Feb, March and April 2025).		
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Table 4: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
Stock control and delivery of waste containers (T1799)	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months and £30,000	D Sales	An extension is required for up to 8 weeks to support the glass collection project rollout to be finished and the tender evaluation for the new contract to be completed and the contract awarded	Avenue Recycling Ltd

Table 5: Non-Procurement Expenditure

Title	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
NI agreement; proprietary for mapping requirements & planning	Up to 10 years	£804,000	S McNicholl	This is a license agreement with LPS for use of maps for planning etc. This is considered an exempted contract under the Act in line with Schedule 2, section 3 (1) - horizontal arrangement. Legal advice was for this to be approved through STA process and reported to SP&R	Land & Property Services (LPS) NI

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				as 'non procurement spend	
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Equality and Good Relations

**Minutes of Shared City Partnership
Meeting on 7th April 2025**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 7th April 2025 including:

**Discussion on the Refresh of the Good Relations Strategy
and Development of a 3-year Action Plan**

- The Partnership recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of presentation.

Asylum Dispersal Programme – Update

- The Partnership noted the contents of the report in relation to the Asylum Dispersal Fund and recommend that SP & R note the contents of the report.

PEACE IV – Secretariat Update

- The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.

**PEACEPLUS Belfast City Council Local Community Action Plan –
Update**

- The Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed that a six-month extension request (to 30 June 2028) be submitted to SEUPB and recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree the above recommendation.

AOB

- The Good Relations Manager updated the Partnership following receipt of an email detailing an increased level of funding which would enable full programme implementation of Council’s Good Relations Action Plan for 2025/2026

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Operational Issues

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum of 10th April 2025.

**Requests for use of the City Hall
and the provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED
IFA	2 October 2025	McDonalds IFA Grassroots Football Awards – Celebrating the volunteers who help deliver their programmes; reception, dinner, entertainment and awards. Numbers attending - 200	C	<i>Charge £1250</i>	
Federation for Ulster Local Studies	6 June 2025	50th year Anniversary Celebration – Reception, Dinner, Speeches, entertainment and dancing. Numbers attending - 320	C	None	Wine and Soft Drinks Reception as significant anniversary
Belfast MET Boxing Academy	14 June 2025	Boxing Reception and Weigh in	A & B	<i>Charge £175 plus private</i>	

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		<p>prior to Belfast MET v Sheffield University Boxing Event- speeches, photocall and tour.</p> <p>Numbers attending - 60</p>		<i>tour charge</i>	
The Corrymeela Community	16 June 2025	<p>Launch of PEACEPLUS Interfaith and Belief Project to build, improve and sustain relationships between and within communities of different faiths and beliefs. A reception with speeches, lunch and networking.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 60</p>	D	None	
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Family Nurse Partnership	26 June 2025	<p>Family Nurse Partnership Graduation Event – celebratory event to recognise achievements of local service users with the Family Nurse Partnership.</p>	C & D	<i>Charge £450</i>	

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		Numbers attending - 150			
Ulster Beekeepers Association	7 July 2026	International Young Beekeepers Closing Ceremony and Award Presentation to celebrate young beekeepers coming to Belfast from 40 different countries. Reception, dinner, entertainment and awards. Numbers attending – 400	C	<i>None</i>	

Use of the Cenotaph for the Irish Guards

The Committee authorised the Irish Guards 125th Anniversary remembrance service at the Cenotaph on 5th September, 2025, subject to the submission of appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed with the event organisers, to include resolving all operational issues and meeting all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Disability Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the Disability Working Group of 9th April 2025.

Minutes of the Meeting of the City Hall/ City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 14th April 2025.

Chairperson