

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall on Tuesday 28 June 2016 at 4.00pm.

Present:- Alderman Thompson (in the Chair); Aldermen Kerrigan, and Ramsey; Councillors Boyle, Cooper, Donnelly, C Kelly, M McHugh, McKeever, McMahan, and O'Reilly.

Non-Members of Committee:- Alderman Hussey, Councillors P Kelly and Carr.

In Attendance:- Chief Executive (Mr J Kelpie), Director of Business & Culture (Mr S Gillespie), Lead Finance Officer (Mr A Dallas), Lead Legal Services Officer (Mr P Kingston), Business Support and Change Manager (Ms R Craig), Lead Democratic and Improvement Services Officer (Ms E Cavanagh), Head of Capital Development and Building Control (Mr F Morrison), Director of Legacy (Mrs O McGillion) and Administrative Assistant (Ms N Meehan).

GSP162/16 Notice and Summons for Meeting

The Chief Executive read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

GSP163/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fleming, Gallagher and Tierney.

GSP164/16 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of Members interest.

Open for Decision

GSP165/16 Deputations

There were no deputations.

GSP166/16 Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's Business.

GSP167/16 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 June 2016

The open Minutes of Meeting held on 7 June 2016 (GSP138/16 – GSP159/16) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

GSP168/16 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

GSP169/16 Year-End Financial Out-Turn

The Lead Finance Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. He stated that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve the financial outturn of Derry City and Strabane District Council, including proposed transfers to reserves, for the year ended 31 March 2016.

An Independent Member of Council who was a non-Member of the Committee enquired, given the recent Brexit vote, if Officers envisaged any reductions in terms of European funding.

The Chief Executive stated that it was extremely early to predict the impact of the Referendum vote on Council in terms of funding grants and discussions were currently taking place throughout Europe regarding this matter. He stated that Officers had met on Monday morning to discuss the immediate implications and it was felt there were no immediate repercussions in terms of funding applications and in this regard normal practice would continue. He stated that, at this stage, there were no indications to suggest that any funding applications were under threat and Council would continue to endeavour to access all funding opportunities available. He stated that Officers would continue to monitor the situation as more information became available.

A Member of the UUP grouping who was a non-Member of the Committee suggested that the situation would remain unchanged until Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty had been triggered. The European Union would continue to negotiate with the United Kingdom the terms of their exit from Europe. He said that until a new Prime Minister had been appointed it would be difficult to predict the final outcome. He

referred to the need for assurances to be given by the new government regarding the equal redistribution of any monies to Northern Ireland in accordance with current practice and the need for necessary discussions to take place with the Executive in this regard.

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping whilst acknowledging the Brexit vote; referred to the need to congratulate all those Officers involved on the excellent task they had performed in terms of the financial out-turn and the impressive savings which had been achieved. He commended the prudent approach which had been adopted in endeavouring to equalise rates payments and to insure that rates were maintained at the lowest possible level.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council approves the financial outturn as detailed in the report, including the transfer to reserves of £1,251k and £889k as identified with the remaining surplus of £639k to be carried as a surplus into Council's District Fund.**

GSP170/16 Capital Projects Approval

The Lead Finance Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. He advised that the purpose of the report was for Members to approve allocation of capital funding towards a number of projects following consideration by the Capital Projects and Corporate Programme Planning Group held on 2 June 2016.

Members from all Parties commended the Lead Finance Officer and his team on their hard work and efforts in realising this extensive and ambitious capital plan and the action taken in terms of loan refunds.

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping welcomed the Chief Executive's reassuring comments regarding European funding applications in respect of major projects.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council notes the updates in respect of Council's capital projects and approves**

the funding to the projects as detailed in the report.

GSP171/16 Council Constitution

The Lead Legal Services Officer presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. He stated that the purpose of the report was to present the Council Constitution for Members' consideration and ratification.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the draft Constitution.

GSP172/16 Draft Programme for Government Framework

The Business Support and Change Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to provide Members with a draft corporate consultation response on the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021 for consideration.

An Independent non-Member of the Committee referred to Transport NI's aim to achieve an increase in public transport use and the likelihood of this being achieved given Translink's proposed cuts to its timetable in the rural area. He suggested that Council's response should reflect such concerns.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the draft corporate consultation response to the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021.

Open For Information

GSP173/16 European Youth Capital Bid 2019

The Director of Legacy presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the

purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on stage two of the application for the European Youth Capital 2019.

Members commended the Director of Legacy on the work carried out in reaching stage two of the process.

In response to a query, the Director of Legacy confirmed that the process would not be affected by the Brexit vote as the opportunity to submit a bid was open to all countries within the continent of Europe and not the European Union.

A Member of the UUP grouping who was a non-Member of Committee referred to ongoing measures in respect of the European Youth Capital bid and enquired if consultation had taken place with the Marching Bands Forum in this regard. He urged that in going forward such consultation should take place.

GSP174/16 North West Regional Development Group Minutes

The Business Support and Change Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update on the meeting of the North West Regional Development held on 4 March 2016.

Members noted the above.

GSP175/16 Local Community Planning

The Business Support and Change Manager presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She stated that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the schedule of local community planning workshops proposed in late June.

A Member of the UUP grouping who was a non-Member of Committee expressed concern that a Meeting of the Local Community Planning – Transition Partnership had been arranged for Friday, 1 July given that this was the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and many participants would be otherwise engaged.

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping welcomed the Health and Wellbeing Programme and the Intervention for Young People Programme which he felt would prove extremely beneficial.

GSP176/17 LGTG Elected Member Development Steering Group

The Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer presented the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to provide an update in relation to the work of the Elected Member Development Steering Group.

Members noted the above information.

GSP177/16 Flood Re – Providing Better Access to Affordable Insurance for Those in High Flood Risk Areas

Members noted the contents of the above report, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members on the aim and objectives of the Flood Re Initiative.

A Member of the Sinn Fein grouping in welcoming this Initiative referred to the need to ensure that this was made available to those who were most vulnerable and in greatest need and had previously experienced difficulty in securing house insurance cover. He referred particularly to residents of the Twin Valley and the Clady area who had suffered the greatest loss within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The Meeting terminated at 4.55pm