

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 30th August, 2022

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Bradley, Cobain, Magee, Maskey, McCullough, Murphy, O'Hara, Pankhurst and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;
Ms. E. McCullough, Neighbourhood Services
Integration Manager; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Maskey,
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved – that Councillor Bradley be elected to serve as Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until the date of the Local Government Elections in May, 2023.

Apologies

No apologies for an inability to attend the meeting were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th May, 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were reported.

City and Neighbourhood Services – Neighbourhood Services Portfolios Update

The Neighbourhood Services Integration Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the recent changes to the Neighbourhood Services Managers' portfolios.

She reported that a review had been carried out with regard to the areas of responsibility and operational alignment, managed by each of the four Neighbourhood Services Managers, to support and improve coordination going forward. The outcome of the review, agreed by both the Departmental and Corporate Management Teams, was that the

Neighbourhood Services Managers would be responsible and accountable for specific service/portfolio areas rather than geographical areas.

She outlined the portfolios of each of the Neighbourhood Services Managers and the Lead Officers who supported them. She also referred the Working Group to the key contacts within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department for Open Space and Street Scene and Neighbourhood Integration.

She concluded by stating that it was hoped that the new alignment of Neighbourhood Service Managers, with clear accountability and reporting lines, would result in greater clarity, improved communication, reduced duplication and better coordination going forward.

The Working Group noted the update.

Physical Programmes Update

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1. Introduction

The Council’s Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the physical programme update for North Belfast

Members are asked to note the remaining allocation of £71,412.61 which is now available from the underspends within the Grace Family Centre and Cancer Lifeline projects.

3. Local Investment Fund

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 43 projects in total have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 34 have been completed; 2 are at delivery stage; 2 are at pre- construction stage and 5 remain at due diligence / initial

stages. In total, 79% of all LIF North projects have now been completed.

LIF breakdown – North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	22(88%)	£956,500	12 (67%)	£566,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery	1(4%)	£40,000	2(11%)	£133,467
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1(6%)	£21,667
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2(8%)	£131,000	3 (17%)	£76,667
Total Number of Approved Projects	25*	£1,127,500	18**	£798,201

*This includes additional funding for a LIF 2 project, Ballysillan Youth for Christ.

** This includes additional funding for two LIF 1 projects, Marrowbone Parochial Hall and Jennymount Church.

The table below provide an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects. Members are asked to note the status of the current LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / recommendation
NLIF066	Wishing Well Project	£40,000	Complete	Project completed.	Continue engagement with group re final account and monitoring and evaluation.

NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	<p>Project on site. Electrical works complete. Art piece has been installed.</p> <p>Quotations from supplier for playground equipment received.</p>	Continue engagement with the group.
NLIF2-22	Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment	£75,000	On Ground	<p>Project is progressing on site. Heaters procured and installed. Structural Engineer surveyed the internal roof structure and identified necessary works. Contractor for roof work has been appointed and work started 7February 2022. Work scope has increased on work on gallery and group is applying for additional funding from others.</p>	<p>Continued engagement with group. Ongoing discussion with HED about scope of the works.</p>

NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender preparation	<p>Funding agreement and maintenance agreement in final stage of preparation for signature by Group.</p> <p>Tender/quotation to be issued for works, on award of tender street</p> <p>works licence can be prepared as dates for works are required to be included</p>	Continued engagement with group meeting late August.
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new buildings (Link to UV Project)	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	<p>Project originally agreed for LIF January 2013. Since SIF support was withdrawn in 2019 Westland Community Group are being supported by partners, including UV, NIHE and BCC to build capacity, and provide programming</p> <p>funding support. A revised community centre scheme has been agreed as an emerging UV capital project. A governance model is being explored and the Business Case is progressing.</p>	Continued engagement with group and the Executive Office in regarding to UV business case process and Due Diligence information.

NLIF2-19	Women's Tec	£46,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017. Group is renewing their lease at the former Skegoniell Primary School. They have now signed the lease and it is with the Education Authority for signature.	Continued engagement with the Group
NLIF2-03	Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage – lease issues to be resolved.	Propose letter sent to Group seeking confirmation of continued involvement in the programme
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club (Link to uv project – ABC Trust H&W Hub)	£66,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed April 2014 - This project is within the overall UV development of St Gemma's School - ABC Trust. Construction has commenced on ABC Trust (Phase 1). Further information required to complete the LIF DD as the Boxing Club will be part of Phase 2.	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed June 2016 -. Group's governance documents being assembled.	Continued engagement with Group.

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum

£250k investment from Council BIF – North Belfast was allocated £5.5m. In North Belfast, 7 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects are on the longer BIF list. Each of the ‘In Principle’ projects are taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

Members are asked to note the status update of these projects provided below. The table provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and funding allocated.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

North	<p>Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland -£1.5m</p> <p>Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k, Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £400k</p> <p>Stage 1 - Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment</p>
--------------	---

BIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)	900,000 £500,000 Department of Education	Design stage	<p>The updated Economic Appraisal and Business Plan has been sent to the Department of Education. This new proposal would see the demolition and rebuild of the building previously used by Basement Youth Club and owned by Elim Church on Gainsborough Drive.</p> <p>Engagement is ongoing between BCC Officers and central government’s Economic Branch regarding the updated EA. Engagement is also ongoing</p>	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.

				between Basement/Elim and the Department Solicitor's Office regarding the viability of a leave between the parties.	
BIF15	Malgrove	£950,000	Design stage	Business case completed - preferred pavilion option (2017) is for a 4-team changing at estimated cost of £1million. AWG allocated an additional £450,000 to this project in March 2022, bringing total to £950,000. Aim to submit a planning application for the whole sporting complex by early Autumn 2022.	Continue engagement with the group and Belfast City Council estates team, to get design signed off and planning application submitted in Autumn 2022
BIF45	Midland Boxing Club	£580,000	Uncommitted - Tender Stage	Planning permission obtained Dec 2021. Land transfer from Northern Ireland Housing Executive was approved by council in Feb 2022. Additional funding was secured in March 2022: An additional £150,000 of BIF funding and an additional £30,000 from Garfield Weston Trust. All tenders returned in April 2022 were high and	Continue engagement with the group, design team and funders.

				<p>resulted in a funding deficit. Value engineering was carried out alongside the contractor who came in with the most competitive bid. This contractor subsequently withdrew in June 2022. The project was retendered, and a value engineering exercise has been competed with a new contractor. PMU are currently working with the group to agree a phased approach, to enable works to commence in Autumn 2022.</p>	
BIF41	<p>Marrowbone Millennium Park (Link to UV Project)</p>	£750,000	On ground	<p>Partnership project with UV and DfC. A Letter of Offer was approved in November 2021 and a subsequent addendum has been agreed. Project governance structures are now in place with regular project meetings occurring. A contractor has been appointed and commenced on site on 08-08-22. Anticipated completion date is Autumn 2023. Official PR and sod cutting date</p>	<p>Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.</p>

				to be agreed with funders, with anticipated date to be mid-September. The NIHE/ Council lease agreement regarding land transfer is awaiting final signoff. Registration of the Deed of Dedication for Council land completed.	
BIF43	Cultural Community Hub	£350,000	Uncommitted – Due Diligence stage	Proposed new cultural hub community facility. Project will comprise of a 130sqm permanent brick facility on derelict Orange Lodge owned site. DD information being assembled.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.

Members are asked to note the remaining allocation of £71,412.61 which is now available from the underspends within the Grace Family Centre and Cancer Lifeline projects.

5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Members are reminded of the 3-stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. Table below provides an update on current live projects North Belfast area. Members are asked to note the status and updates.

North Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)	Stage 3 - Committed Project. On ground. Sea Lion works complete, H&S works have been completed. Picnic area has been constructed. Work on new lion enclosure will start in autumn.
Boodles Dam – Abandonment of the Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Works complete.

Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Cavehill Adventurous playground. Works completed.
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. On Ground. Storm Drainage Infrastructure Installation and Landfill Gas Ring Main tenders being reviewed.
Reservoir Safety Programme	Stage 3- Committed Project. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Consultants appointed and undertaking investigative work to assess the existing condition of the reservoirs and associated structures. Public consultation expected end 2022 and planning application submitted 2023.
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to future AWG
LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Continued development of OBC for new leisure facility. Continued liaison with key stakeholders around options for new facility and overall development of the Girdwood site.
Cathedral Gardens (including Belfast Blitz)	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up
Glencairn Park/ Ligoniel Park Greenway	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.
Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up. Funding has been received from DAERA Environmental Challenge Fund for wider feasibility study for the whole area of the Belfast Hills.

6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long term difference in their communities. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund has attracted significant interest and an exceptionally high volume of applications was received. The Fund encompasses a three-stage process as approved by Council. Stage 1 is the application phase; Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The fund closed to applicants in May 2022. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the Stage 1 – Application stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. An intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been

completed with final checks now underway. Reports will be brought to Members shortly via the AWGs as per the agreed process. Activity remains in line with the timeframe previously presented to Members.

7. Externally Funded Programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office as well as a number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

The table below shows the status on UV projects in North Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined North

Belfast geography (Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan).

<u>Project</u>	<u>Status and Update</u>
Marrowbone Millennium Park (links to BIF programme)	As Above
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI Living with Water Programme. A Letter of Offer was agreed in November 2021 and governance structure are now in place. At design stage and the planning application was submitted in January 2022 with expected approval in Autumn 2022. Land transfers issues are progressing. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in late 2022 pending planning approval.
Beann Mhadagain Family Centre	TEO has advised that this project has been withdrawn from the UV Programme.

<p>Sunningdale Community Centre</p>	<p>Council is acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. The project is being fully funded by TEO UV Programme. The Business Case has been approved however no letter has yet been issued. Sunningdale is being incorporated as a community interest company. This is a legal process and is taking some time to establish. TEO has advised that it is unable to issue a letter of offer until the community interest company has been incorporated. Sustainability issues that had previously been highlighted have been explored and Council is satisfied these have been resolved. Land transfer legals are progressing and Council is considering an in-principle agreement to transfer lands. The Design Team has been appointed.</p>
<p>Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project</p>	<p>Council is acting as delivery agent. The Business Case has been approved and a draft Letter of Offer has been issued to Council by TEO for consideration. TEO has identified a funding gap in the sum of £500,000. TEO and the Project Promoter are exploring additional funding opportunities to support this project. Design Team to be appointed and works to be commenced by January 2023 prior to expiry of planning approval.</p>
<p>ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub (links to LIF programme)</p>	<p>Partnership project with UV DfC, Dfl and Flax Trust. A Letter of Offer has been approved. Project governance structures are now in place with regular project meetings occurring. Complex legal matters have been resolved and a tripartite MOU has been developed with the project promoter. A contractor has been appointed and is on site. Anticipated completion date October 2024.</p>

Westland Community Centre (links to LIF programme)	Partnership project with UV. This is an emerging project. A governance model is being explored and the Business Case is progressing.
---	--

Peace IV

Members are asked to note the update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.

Project	Status and update
Forth Meadow Community Greenway project	<p>Section 1 – Glencairn – Works complete and handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services.</p> <p>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road – Anticipated start date of September 2022. Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock – Works partially completed due to complete within next few weeks. .</p> <p>Section 4 – Bog Meadows – Phase 1 complete, Phase 4 underway, anticipated completion mid November 2022.</p> <p>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre - currently at detailed design stage. Members will be aware that the Council has now gained planning permission for Section 2 at August planning committee.</p>

DfC funded projects

Members are asked to note the update on projects funded by Department for Communities.

Project	Status and update
Girdwood Indoor Sports Site—ICT	Continued development of OBC for new leisure facility. Continued liaison with key stakeholders around options for new facility and overall development of the Girdwood site.
Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth	Council is acting as delivery agent. On Ground. Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space. Contractor started on site in January 2022. Funded by DfC and the group.

Ballysillan 3G Pitch (Carpet Replacement)	Project completed. Replacement of 3G carpet. Match funded by DfC.”
--	---

Moved by Councillor Whyte,
Seconded by Councillor Maskey and

Resolved – that the remaining allocation of £71,412.61 which had become available from the underspends within the Grace Family Centre and Cancer Lifeline projects, be allocated to Cavehill Tennis Club for capital works relating to floodlighting and pitches..

Chairperson