

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 29th November, 2022

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. S. Murtagh, Programme Manager;
Mr. F. Grant, Operations Development Manager; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd November were approved by the Working Group.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Request to Present: Department for Infrastructure - York Street Interchange Review

The Working Group agreed to receive, at a future meeting, an update from the Department for Infrastructure on the York Street Interchange Review.

Expansion of Belfast Bike Scheme

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Members on the status of the Belfast Bikes expansion scheme, and to agree final locations for next phase of expansion.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- note the current status of the Belfast Bikes expansion scheme;
- to agree final locations for the next phase of expansion.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

The Belfast Bikes scheme was launched in 2015 as part Belfast City Council's physical investment programme. The Department for Regional Development provided initial capital funding for the scheme as part of their Active Travel Demonstration Projects budget. The scheme launched with a network of 30 docking stations and 300 bikes. The scheme has been operated by NSL continually since inception using bikes and supporting infrastructure from 'Nextbike by TIER'. The scheme currently operates with 573 bikes (including those in reserve for new stands) and 50 docking stations.

3.2 Current expansion status

At CG&R on 12 May 2021 it was agreed that an additional four Belfast Bikes docking stations would be deployed using DFI Active Travel funding. Installation began in Q1 2022/23 and the current status is as follows:

- Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre was installed on 7 July 2022 and is operational;
- Olympia Leisure Centre was installed on 25 October 2022 and is operational;
- Kennedy Centre installation has been postponed due to delays by supplier; it is expected to be operational by late November;
- Waterworks installation has been postponed due to delays by the supplier; it is expected to be operational by late November;

An additional station at Titanic Quarter was completed in May 2022, funded by developer contribution.

3.3 Future expansion 2022/23

At CG&R on 9 June 2021 it was agreed to proceed with 15 docking stations outlined in the expansion proposal. An investment of approximately £525,000 is required, based on cost estimates from previous network expansions. At SP&R on 18 June 2021 members agreed for £500,000 to be invested in the expansion proposal.

3.4 Eight stations will be installed in the upcoming phase, which should be completed by 31 March 2023. Seven stations will follow in the next phase the following year (2023/24).

3.5 The following areas were agreed previously by SP&R Committee, with the final locations of each docking station to be agreed through Area Working Groups:

- North: Yorkgate and Shore Road
- West: St Mary’s College and Shankill Road
- South: Lisburn Road and Malone Road
- East: Castlereagh Road, Upper Newtownards Road.

3.6 Options and recommendations for each location will be presented during the meeting, for discussion and agreement by Members.

3.7 The options for Shore Road area are:

- Grove Leisure Centre (South)
- Grove Leisure Centre (North)
- Grove Park / North Queen Street

3.8 The options for Yorkgate area are:

- Temporary station at Council car park near Yorkgate station.
- Permanent station to be confirmed by Translink, who are permitting the station to be placed on their land following Yorkgate station refurbishment. This will be placed in close vicinity to the new station entrance.

3.9 A site expansion matrix was previously agreed by SP&R for future expansion. Although it is not required for determining the final locations in this phase, it has been used to help demonstrate the application of this matrix.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Finance

There are no specific financial or resource implications contained within this report.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Working Group agreed to note the status of the Belfast Bikes expansion scheme and agreed to the following docking station locations for the next phase of the expansion:

- Grove Wellbeing Centre (North); and
- A Permanent station in close proximity to the new station entrance, to be initially located at the Council car park adjacent to Yorkgate Station, with the final location to be confirmed by Translink, following the refurbishment of the station.

Update on Physical Programme

The Working Group considered the following 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,
- note the project movement for Midland Boxing Club project to *BIF Stage 3- Committed*,
- note the projects highlighted under LIF and BIF where little or no progress has been made, and;
- recommend that the following Groups are issued with a letter seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process, by mid-January 2023, with update to be brought to next AWG: Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership, Mercy Primary School, Crumlin Road; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove).

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 35 have been completed; 2 are at delivery stage; 1 are at pre- construction stage and 5 remain at due diligence / initial stages. In total, 80% of all LIF North projects have now been completed.

LIF Breakdown North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/Description	Projects	Amount/Value (£)	Projects	Amount/Value (£)

Number of Projects Completed	23 (92%)	£996,500	12 (67%)	£566,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			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	LIF Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	On Ground Electrical works complete. Art piece has been installed. Quotation from supplier for playground equipment received. Waiting for final certificate from other works before order can be made	Continued engagement with the group
NLIF2-22	Sailortown, St Joseph's Church Refurbishment	£75,000	On Ground	On Ground. Heaters procured and installed. Contractor on site. Works on Gallery paused pending HED consent. Architectural option drawings for HED	Continued engagement with group and HED
NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender Preparation	Ongoing work with Legal Services in order to get the funding agreement. The procurement exercise for works was initiated last	Continued engagement with group. Requirement for street works licence to be resolved, work in progress with Dfl.

				month and is ongoing.	
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new building	£65,00	Due Diligence stage	Project originally agreed for LIF in January 2013. 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	Continued engagement with group and the Executive Office.
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club (Link to UV project – ABC Trust H&L Hub)	£66,000	Due Diligence stage	This project is part of the UV development of St. Gemma’s School-ABC Trust. Construction works on ABC Trust (Phase 1) ongoing Boxing Club LIF project will be part of Phase 2.	Continued agreement with Group and with UV
NLIF2-19	Women’s Tec	£46,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017. Lease renewal is signed by group for the former Skegoneill Primary School and awaiting Education Authority signature. The quotation for works exceeds the budget. The team are working with the group and EA to bring the project back within budget.	Continued engagement with 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. Officer attempting to make contact with group to seek	Propose that a letter is sent seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process by mid-January 2023, with an update to be seek

				clarification whether the project is to proceed or not. No response as yet. Group contact not available and will return to work on 29th Nov.	brought to next AWG.
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed June 2016. Group governance documents being assembled. Attempting to make contact with group (Mercy Primary School Principal). No response as yet.	Proposed that a letter be sent seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process by mid-January 2023, with an update to be brought to next AWG.

4. Belfast Investment Fund

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—£575k; Grace Family Centre —£1.3m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland -£900k</p> <p>Stage 2- Malgrove- £950k, Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £550k</p> <p>Stage 1 - Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment</p>
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BIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
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BIF41	Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>(Link to UV Project)</i>	£750,000	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing. Estimated completion date is Autumn 2023.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
BIF45	Midland Boxing Club	BIF £550,000; GWF £30,000	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing well. Due Diligence process is now complete.	Move to Stage 3- Committed. Continue engagement with the group.
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)	BIF £900,000; DoE £500,000	Design stage	Information requested from Basement Youth Club to complete an updated Economic Appraisal (requested by the Department of Education) has not been received following a number of requests. A lease is required to allow the redevelopment of the Gainsborough Drive site. No update has been provided by Elim Church or the Department of Education in relation to the possibility of this lease being created between Elim and Basement YC.	Propose that a letter is sent seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process, by mid-January 2023, with an update to be brought to next AWG.

BIF15	Malgrove	£950,000	Design stage	Business case completed - preferred pavilion option (2017) is for a 4-team changing. Detailed design progressing. Aim to submit a planning application for the whole sporting complex within the next few months.	Continue engagement with the group and the team to agree the design and submit the planning application.
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 – this work is continuing since last update.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
BIF49	Cavehill Tennis Club	£71,413	Initial stage	Agreed at October Council. Officer is liaising with group to scope the project. Meeting organised with group in late November 2022.	Continue engagement with the group.

5. 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. On 2 November 2022, Members have considered the feedback on Stage 1- Applications in the North Belfast area and made recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications they wish to move forward to Stage 2 – Development Stage. In line with the agreed process, the outcome of special AWGs have been taken through Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and are now subject to Council ratification on 1 December 2022.

6. 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 updates on the Physical Programme.

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. On ground. Sea Lion works complete, H&S works complete. Picnic area has been constructed. Work on new lion enclosure has started and aim to complete by Easter 2023.
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed. On ground. Storm Drainage Infrastructure Installation contractor appointed and due to start in January 2023. The Landfill Gas Ring Main tender being reviewed in light of material price increases.
Reservoir Safety Programme	Stage 3- Committed. 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 and planning application to be submitted in 2023. PAD meeting held. Additional survey and investigative works required.
Cathedral Gardens (including Belfast Blitz)	Stage 3 – Committed. Approved for movement to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> at SP&R Committee in October 2022. Design team is continuing to develop the project and are appointed up to Planning stage. Aim to submit planning application in Spring 2023.
Playground Improvement Programme - Westland	Stage 3 – Committed. Works programmed for completion within 2022/23 financial year.

Alleygating Phase 5	Stage 3 – Committed. Approved at SP&R Committee in September 2022 with the list of alleygates to be taken forward subject to costs.
LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility	Stage 2 – Uncommitted. DfC partnership 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. Public consultation open until late November 2022. Information sessions held at Girdwood and adjacent community centres.
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted. OBC being worked up. Possible alternative sites being explored with C&NS in light of current operational requirements and potential route optimisation.
Glencairn Park/ Ligoniel Park Greenway	Stage 2- Uncommitted. Will be considered within the wider study as below.
Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain	Stage 2- Uncommitted. Business case procurement underway. Will also be considered within the wider study as below.
Connectivity - Access to Hills Programme (city wide)	Stage 1- Emerging. Secured DAERA funding for the Access to the Belfast Hills Feasibility Study. Contractor has been appointed and study is underway.
Belfast Bikes Expansion	Further expansion - there is a separate report being presented to Members at this AWG on Belfast Bikes preferred location.

7. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office, Peace IV 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).

Project	Status Update
<p>Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>(links to BIF programme)</i></p>	<p>On ground. As above BIF41. Contractor has been appointed and work progressing well and completion date is estimated as early 2024.</p>
<p>ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub <i>(links to LIF programme)</i></p>	<p>On ground. Partnership project with UV DfC, DfI and Flax Trust. Contractor has been appointed and works is progressing. Estimated completion of phase 1 is early 2024 with phase 2 to follow.</p>
<p>Ballysillan Playing Fields</p>	<p>Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI Living with Water Programme. At design stage and the planning application is progressing. Land transfer issues are also progressing. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed and on-site in late 2023 pending planning approval.</p>
<p>Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project</p>	<p>Council is acting as delivery agent. The Letter of Offer is expected early 2023. 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. Planning application approval pending. Design Team appointed. Contractor expected on site in December 2022.</p>
<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 and the Letter of Offer is awaited. . The group has been incorporated as a community interest company. Sustainability issues that had previously been highlighted have been explored and Council is satisfied these have been resolved. Land transfer arrangements are progressing. The Design Team has been appointed. Planning application to be submitted. Contractor expected to start on site by spring 2024.</p>
<p>Westland Community Centre <i>(links to LIF programme)</i></p>	<p>Partnership project with UV. This is an emerging project. A governance model is being explored and the Business Case is expected to complete by March 2023 with the LoO being issued thereafter.</p>

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	On ground. <i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> – Works complete and handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services. Signage package to be installed to include feature panels, narrative panels and beacon lights. <i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road</i> – Works commenced in October 2022 with the date for completion of June 2023. <i>Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock</i> – Works now complete however, there is a delay with hand-over to Council due to issues with NIE connections for lighting columns. This to be resolved by the end of November 2022. <i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> – Phase 1 complete, Phase 4 underway, anticipated completion late 2022. <i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre</i> – currently at detailed design stage. Members will note that work on the flagship piece is progressing with installation and a public unveiling planned for January 2023.

DfC funded projects

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

Project	Status and update
Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth	Project recently completed. Council is acting as delivery agent. Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space.

At the request of a Member, the Programme Manager agreed that a detailed report would be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group on the Reservoir Safety Programme.

The Working Group agreed:

- To note the Physical Programme update for north Belfast;
- To note the project movement for Midland Boxing Club project to *BIF Stage 3 – Committed*;
- To note the projects highlighted under LIF and BIF where little or no progress had been made; and
- That letters are issued to the undernoted groups to request written confirmation of whether the groups wish to withdraw or engage in the process, with a response deadline of mid-January, with the letters to also state that the Area Working Group may consider options around these allocations of funding:

- Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership;
- Mercy Primary School; and
- Crumlin Road Basement Youth Club/Elim Church (Old Grove).

Chairperson