

Appendix 2 - SIF Programme

Physical projects completed on behalf of The Executive Office in June 2023

Background

In 2014, OFMDFM established an £86m Social Investment Fund (SIF) to deliver social change, split between capital and revenue. The Programme's aim was to make life better for people living in targeted areas, by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration, through strategic area based interventions of significant scale.

In 2016 the Council entered into an agreement with the Executive Office, to act as the lead partner / delivery agent for a number of SIF capital projects in South, East and North Belfast. The request from the Executive Office recognised the Council's success in delivering capital projects, whilst also acknowledging the Council's uniquely placed role as civic leader in the city. The project teams involved in the Programme worked to successfully complete this series of complex projects right through the Covid pandemic to deliver considerable benefits to local communities. **The Council has now successfully delivered the SIF Programme as part of the wider Physical Programme comprising 10 projects worth £8million in investment.**

Glenburn Methodist Church

The project delivered refurbishment works to enhance existing facilities, which has enabled the provision of community outreach programmes and supported the establishment of the church as a community hub. As a result, the project has supported the group to increase services in the community, increase employment opportunities and tackle mental and physical health issues.

Mount Merrion Parish Development

The capital project delivered an upgrade of internal facilities together with the development of an external play area, which has increased community use. The project provided an enhanced community facility which is now more easily accessible and allows the provision of a holistic approach to local people's health and wellbeing, whatever age, whilst addressing multiple issues associated with deprivation. As a result, the group aims to improve the health and wellbeing of local children by providing breakfast clubs, reduced social isolation for the elderly by providing regular events and through the provision of skills and training programmes supported greater employment opportunities for local people.

Joanmount Methodist Church

The capital refurbishments enabled the premises to increase capacity by bringing the church hall and upper room up to current fire and rescue services legislation standards. The increased capacity has enabled the group to provide a range of activities for targeted groups including young people and

those who are socially disadvantaged to reduce antisocial behaviour in the area and provide young people with opportunities to improve their employment skills.

PIPs

The project provided a capital refurbishment of the existing property together with an extension, to improve capacity and upgrade the facilities to conform with regulations and disability access. The restoration works have enabled increased capacity through additional counselling, family and meeting rooms, an expanded training programme and enhanced access and availability to a valuable community advice and support service. The project has specifically increased capacity to respond to walk-ins which has had a positive impact on service provision.

South City Resource Centre (St Simon's Hall)

The refurbishment project delivered one large multi-function room, with the main focus of the modernised St Simon's Hall providing a dividable space allowing different groups to use the hall simultaneously. The refurbishments have enabled the group to sustain and increase its community services and also improve training and employability opportunities in the area.

Greenway Women's Centre

The capital project was for the expansion and refurbishment of the Centre. The Greenway Women's Centre has provided services within the Cregagh and surrounding community area to women and their families for almost forty years. The project has provided sustainability for the Centre and increased its capacity, thereby supporting some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in an area of high deprivation.

North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Programme (NBWISP)

The capital renovation project refurbished WISP's premises, modernising the existing building, ensuring compliance with health and safety and fire legislation as well as installing disability access. By addressing the accommodation issues the project has enabled the group to increase the range and scope of its training delivery and through this increase, the capacity and employability of residents through enhanced training and development opportunities.

Mornington Community Project

The capital project successfully delivered the refurbishment of first floor accommodation to provide multi-purpose meeting rooms, training rooms, office space and toilets whilst also improving first floor access, though Installation of a lift for disability and mobility access. The refurbishments have allowed the project promoter to sustain and increase its community services and also improve training and employability opportunities in the area.

Walkway Community Centre

The project provided a new build, integrated community facility, which addressed the deficiencies and disjointed arrangements arising from service provision over various adjacent sites. The new facility has allowed the community group to consolidate its role in addressing economic and social needs in the local community. More specifically, the new facility has enabled the promotion of investment in the physical regeneration of an area of deprivation, provided sustainable community development space, which has maximised community services in the area and provided increased space and capacity which has resulted in the provision of additional community service delivery and use.

St Comgall's

The project provided a sympathetic restoration and re-purpose of the Grade B1-listed building on behalf of Falls Community Council to include new offices, conference and exhibition facilities, event spaces and a café. The building is alive with high end fashion manufacturers, weddings, creative start-ups and home to Féile an Phobail. The restoration of St Comgall's sets an example of how an important piece of the city's built heritage should be preserved and enhanced, delivering on the vision of Falls Community Council and the organisations and individuals who supported it along the way. The completion of St Comgall's is a striking example of excellent conservation and the product of many years of hard work by all parties involved.

Some completed images of two of the larger scale projects are overleaf.

St Comgall's



Walkway Community Centre

