

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 27th October, 2016

MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);
The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston);
Alderman McCoubrey; and
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell,
Carson, Collins, Corr, Garrett,
O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;
Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City
and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Hutchinson, McConville and McVeigh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 29th September were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Corr, Collins and Garrett declared an interest in respect of agenda item 4, viz., West Belfast Partnership Board, as Members of the Board; and
- The Lord Mayor declared an interest in respect of agenda item 7, viz., Local Investment Fund, in that he was associated with the North Belfast Working Men's Club.

Consultation Update – Brook and Andersonstown Leisure Centres

The Chairperson welcomed the architect, Mr. K. Ashton to the meeting, representing AFL.

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with a brief update in respect of the concept of the proposed leisure transformation programme and reported that this update would specifically focus on the Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the proposed post-consultation developments.

Mr. Ashton provided the Working Group with a brief update on the consultation process and responses and highlighted the following:

- 57 responses had been received from the public sessions;
- 79 online responses had been returned;
- 96.5% had expressed support for the redevelopment;
- 610 written responses had expressed support for the project and a desire for larger leisure waters;
- leisure waters, a swimming pool, a fitness suite and a café had been identified as the most popular facilities; and
- the most common comments had been around increasing the size of leisure waters, delivering the project as soon as possible and making the outdoor space multi-use.

He advised the Working Group that if it was minded to increase the amount of leisure water at the facility that a compromise would be required and in order to make the required economies the Members could consider dropping off the proposed dome over the pitch, the BMX track and the provision of the sports hall. He then proceeded to take the Members through two post-consultation options (options A and B) and outlined the pros and cons for each as follows:

PROS	
Option A	Option B (no moveable flooring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flexible space/water depths for a variety of activities; - larger lane swimming area; and - single plant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional programmable space for peak leisure use; - continue to run lessons at all times; - increased revenue from lessons; - less complex construction programme because no moving booms or floors.

CONS	
Option A	Option B (no moveable flooring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not in consultation process; - complex programming; - environment compromised with leisure water; - pool temperature and noise would compromise lessons – particularly for younger children; - increased servicing costs of floors; and - compromised leisure water planning because of width. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - essentially the same as what is there now ; and - dual pool heating/treatment system.

The Members considered and discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of the two options and specifically referred to the pool configuration. Several Members stated that they felt that the inclusion of a learning pool would still be an important feature that should remain. Following a query, the architect confirmed that, with a moveable floor and boom system, a learning pool could still be achieved in the 25m 8 lane pool whilst also retaining lane swimming provision. He explained that, by altering the geometry of the pool, multiple swimming activities could also take place at the same time as varying the depth of the pool would broaden the scope of activities meaning that it could incorporate activities such as swimming lessons, mother-and-baby classes and water-aerobics into the programme. However, he added that, whilst this was possible,

the leisure area could often be very noisy, therefore it often proved difficult for children to hear their instructor during lessons. In addition the temperature of the pool would have to be the same throughout which could cause difficulties as lane swimmers prefer cooler water, whereas warmer water was preferable for lessons and activities such as mother and toddlers.

Following detailed discussion, several Members stated that they felt they did not have adequate information in order to make an informed recommendation in terms of the two options and requested that the matter be deferred for two weeks to enable the architect to prepare more detailed plans.

The Director of Property and Projects cautioned that both the Members and general public were keen to see this proposal progressed as quickly as possible and that any deferral could result in a delay with the Planning Application process.

The Working Group agreed:

- to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that, in order to make the required economies to provide additional leisure waters, the proposed dome over the pitch, the BMX track and the provision of the sports hall would all be removed from the development proposals (applicable to both options A and B); and
- to defer consideration of the decision on the post-consultation proposals (options A and B) for a two week period, to enable the architect to prepare more detailed plans which would be considered at a special meeting of the West Area Working Group.

Local Investment Fund Update – Verbal Update

(The Lord Mayor declared an interest in this Item in that he was associated with the North Belfast Working Men's Club).

The Working Group were reminded that there was still funding available from the Highfield Soft Play Mothers and Toddlers Group project which had not progressed.

It was,

Proposed by Alderman McCoubrey,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

And agreed that, £4,000 be directed towards listed building works at the North Belfast Working Men's Club, in addition to the £20,000 which it had already been allocated.

The Working Group were also advised that the Welcome Centre Project was nearing completion and that there was approximately £5,000 - £9,000 of funding remaining from the original budget. Following consideration, it was agreed that this would be reallocated to the Berlin Swifts Football Club, which was an existing project.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that the Members of the West Area Working Group had been invited by Cumann Chluain Ard, to a celebratory lunch to mark the end of the refurbishment programme.

Following a request, it was agreed that LIF 3 would be added to the Agenda for a future meeting to enable consideration of this to commence.

Presentation – Feile an Phobail

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Kevin Gamble representing Féile an Phobail and Mr. Harry Connolly representing Féilte Feirste Thiar to the meeting.

Mr Gamble provided the Members with background information on the organisation and outlined its vision and aims for the future. He then referred the Members to Féile an Phobail's proposal for the development of the Gate Lodge at Falls Park, which was as follows:

- request that Belfast City Council agree to refurbish the original building, demolish the existing extension and construct a new extension and events space that would be fit for purpose and would meet the emerging needs of the park and community (current estimate of costs in the region of £650,000);
- given that the Gate Lodge was a focus point and anchor for the park, its road frontage would be optimised to attract people to the park and inform them of facilities, activities and events in the park and the local area, act as tourism attraction centre and genealogical centre;
- the Gate Lodge would not be limited to single purpose but would be flexible to respond to the changing local needs and demands in the area;
- Feile and Phobail would be based at the Gate Lodge, providing a fulltime presence in the park. Having such a presence would also help to combat/alleviate the incidents of anti-social behaviour;
- the Gate Lodge and surrounding areas would be developed and used as an outdoors activity hub for the 'Falls Park', maximising the current physical environment in the park; and
- the Gate Lodge would be used to provide a café and other public amenities which it was felt were lacking in the park.

Following a query, the representative confirmed that Féile an Phobail expected to be in a position to contribute £100,000 towards the capital development.

The representatives left the meeting.

The Director of Property and Projects undertook to submit a report to a future meeting regarding the proposal and it was agreed that this report would also go through the Falls Park Masterplan Group.

Presentation - Urban Villages

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 29th September, it had agreed that representatives from Urban Villages be invited to attend the Working Group.

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director, and Ms. J. Hadden, West Belfast Co-Ordinator, representing Urban Villages. With the permission of the Chairperson, Ms. Farrell tabled copies of the presentation.

Ms. Farrell outlined the purpose of the Urban Villages initiative, and highlighted that it was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy. She advised that the initiative had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension.

She advised that delivery of the initiative would be focussed on five 'core' areas, four of these being located in Belfast, which included the Colin area. She highlighted that the concept of a wider area of influence, which was not sharply defined, acknowledged that thriving places required wider connections to both physical and social assets.

Ms. Hadden provided an overview of the methodology and strategic actions relating to the Colin initiative. She explained the various capital and pipeline projects planned for 2016-17 and provided examples of some of the community-led programmes available across the four strands: Education and Learning; Women as Community/Peace Builders; Working with Young People; Developing Community Capacity and Infrastructure.

Ms. Hadden also advised that its strategic projects worked collaboratively with the Council and other partners and the initiative encouraged collaborative working alongside local communities to shape specific actions.

During discussion, it was acknowledged that further discussion around the timescale of projects was needed between the council and Urban Villages. It was also recognised that employment was a significant issue in the Colin Area and projects aimed at improving employability in the area were vital.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representative from Urban Villages for attending and the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Presentation from the West Belfast Partnership Board

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor McAteer, Dr M Satish Kumar (Queen's University Belfast), Mr. Ciaran Mackel and Mr. Jim McGivern to the meeting.

Councillor McAteer outlined the purpose of the presentation, which included a detailed background on the Local Development Plan 2035.

The Working Group noted that the Local Development Plan approach included the following:

- a review of existing Policy/Strategies;
- the need to develop evidence base and baseline data;
- the need to highlight areas of change and a new policy;
- the need to ensure that evidence/research was available;
- to develop a Preferred Options Paper (POP); and
- to undertake consultation during January – March 2017.

The Working Group were provided with an overview of the various preferred option scenarios, which included Growth Scenarios and City Centre Scenarios. Councillor McAteer concluded her presentation by outlining to the Working Group the key stages during the 12 week consultation process.

Following discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers should explore the potential for the provision of independent technical support and capacity for community organisations and residents, to enable them to effectively engage and input into major physical regeneration and key capital projects in the city. The Director of Property and Projects undertook to bring a report to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Physical Developments and Wider Opportunities – Verbal Update

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update regarding the Physical Developments and Wider Opportunities.

Noted.

Rural Development Programme, Village Renewal Scheme (Hannahstown) – Verbal Update)

(The European Officer attended in connection with this item)

The European Officer circulated a copy of the Hannahstown Village Renewal Plan which was currently out for public consultation. She highlighted the main aspects of the plan and reviewed the opportunities which it presented.

Noted.

Notification of Future Agenda Items

The Working Group agreed that the Department of Justice would address the next meeting to discuss the interface removal project and they also agreed to receive feedback on the recent workshop.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the December meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 22nd December and agreed to look at identifying an alternative date at the November meeting.

It was also agreed that a special meeting in relation to the Anderstown Leisure Centre would be held at 12.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th November and that the next meeting would be held at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday 24th November.

Chairperson

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 31st October, 2016

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Boyle, Craig, Dudgeon, Hargey, McAteer, Nicholl and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; and Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairman

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Dudgeon be appointed as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2017.

(Councillor Dudgeon in the Chair.)

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th September were approved.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in that he owned a number of properties within the Botanic District Electoral Area, which he represented on the Council.

Update on Urban Villages Initiative

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director, and Ms. E. Donnelly, Programme Co-ordinator, who were in attendance in order to provide details on the Executive Office's South Belfast Urban Villages initiative.

The Programme Director informed the Working Group that the Urban Villages Initiative was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy, which had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She confirmed that the three primary aims of the initiative was to foster positive community identities, to build community capacity and to improve the physical environment and outlined the objectives and outcomes associated with each of those. Five 'core' areas had been selected by the Executive Office to participate in the initiative, one of which comprised the Donegall Pass, Markets and Sandy Row areas of South Belfast.

The Programme Co-ordinator then provided details around the strategic actions which had been developed under the South Belfast initiative and provided examples of the various projects and programmes which were planned for 2016/2017, in terms of Capital and Pipeline Projects, Community-Led Programmes, Cross Cutting Collaborative Partnerships and Strategic Projects.

The Programme Director concluded by highlighting the various partners and stakeholders, including the Council, who would be working with the Executive Office over the course of the South Belfast Urban Villages initiative and by stressing that collaboration was essential in order to ensure its success.

In response to a question from a Member, she explained that the Executive Office had allocated £45 million to the Urban Villages initiative over the Programme for Government period, although the level of funding would be likely to differ across each of the five 'core' areas. In response to a further question, she confirmed that she would be willing to provide the Working Group with regular updates as the initiative progressed.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Farrell and Ms. Donnelly for their presentation and they left the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and endorsed a suggestion by the Director of Property and Projects that a workshop be held early in 2017, to which relevant stakeholders would be invited, to discuss issues of relevance to South Belfast, in the context of the Urban Villages and other initiatives.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Working Group was reminded that the Council had, earlier in the year, agreed to make available an additional £5million of BIF funding for projects in those areas which had been transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh under Local Government Reform, £500,000 of which had been allocated to South Belfast.

Community Sports Hub

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Working Group that, at its meeting on 19th September, it had received a presentation on a proposal by Linfield FC, the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade and Belvoir FC to develop a community sports hub within the Belvoir Park. Following that presentation, the Working Group had requested from those organisations a detailed breakdown of their funding requirements for the upgrading of Belvoir FC's pitch and for delivering the first phase of the Community Sports Hub.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that that information had since been received, which had indicated that the cost of upgrading Belvoir FC's pitch would be approximately £160,000 and that the estimated cost of the construction of a 3G training/competition pitch, as part of the first phase of the Community Sports Hub, would be £548,000.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to add this as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project, under the Belfast Investment Fund, and to ring-fence £250,000 from its additional BIF allocation to the two projects, with the cost of upgrading Belvoir FC's pitch to be met in full and the remaining amount to be allocated towards the construction of the 3G pitch, subject to Council officers confirming that the proposed projects complied with all BIF requirements.

Edenderry Village Renewal Scheme

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. S. J. Smith, the Council's European Officer, who had been invited to provide an update on the status of the Edenderry Village Renewal Scheme, which might qualify for funding under the additional BIF allocation.

The European Officer informed the Members that the Village Renewal Scheme formed part of the Rural Development Programme, which was being managed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. The purpose of the scheme was to provide funding to assist local communities, councils and that Department to draft integrated village renewal plans.

She explained that, since Edenderry and Hannahstown were the only villages within the Belfast City Council boundary which could be classified as being rural areas, it had been agreed that they should be included within the Lagan Rural Partnership, which was being managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and which included representation from the Council. The Partnership had, earlier this year, appointed Arup Consultants, which specialised primarily in design and planning, to facilitate the delivery of the village renewal plans within its area. Arup had since formulated a draft plan for Edenderry Village, based upon background research, visits to the area and a stakeholder workshop, which set out a range of projects and initiatives which it felt could have a real impact upon the village. She provided a brief overview of the draft plan and pointed out that Arup would be developing a five-year action plan, once it had collated the responses arising from the public consultation exercise which had concluded on 10th October. Details of that action plan, together with the associated costings which had been requested by Council officers, would be presented in due course to the Working Group for consideration.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that representatives of the Edenderry Village Renewal Scheme be invited to attend its meeting in January in order to obtain their views on the initiative.

Knockbreda Parish Church Hall

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the Working Group agreed to receive at its next meeting a presentation from representatives of Knockbreda Parish on proposals for the upgrading of their church hall.

Update on Local Investment Fund Projects

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1 Local Investment Fund

Through the Local Investment Fund (LIF), Members committed their allocation of £1,127,500 initially to 12 projects. Of those, seven projects have been completed (Stage 5). These projects include:

- **(SLIF002) Belfast Harlequins – New sports pitch;**
- **(SLIF007) May Street Presbyterian Church - refurbishments for community use;**
- **(SLIF038) Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Building for TREE Project;**
- **(SLIF040) Windsor Women's Centre - office refurbishment;**
- **(SLIF052) Mornington Community Association - office refurbishment;**
- **(SLIF054) St. Malachy's Youth Centre - new facility;**
- **(SLIF061) Donegall Pass Community Forum - community garden.**

Of the remaining five projects, two (Taughmonagh Community Forum and Finaghy Bridge) are at stage 1, a further two projects (Belfast South Community Resources and Annadale/Haywood Residents Association) are at stage 3 and one project (Women's Aid) is at stage 4.

A more detailed progress update on all projects is available on modern.gov.

TOTAL LIF ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£1,127,500	£1,083,600	£43,900

2 Local Investment Fund 2

Given the success of the original LIF it was agreed in March 2015 that a £4m LIF2 would be established and allocated to Area Working Groups (AWGs) on a proportional basis. The South Belfast AWG, consisting of two District Electoral Areas (Balmoral and Botanic) was allocated a total of £0.8m. The table below shows the total allocation to date and the remaining balance.

TOTAL LIF2 ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£800,000	£796,000	£4,000

Members have committed their allocation thus far to 11 projects. Since the last meeting, the Greater Village Regeneration Trust's redevelopment of Blythefield pitch has passed Due Diligence and is now at stage 2. A more detailed progress update on all projects is available on modern.gov.

Remaining Balance

At the last meeting, the Working Group agreed to make no further LIF investment decisions until the exact prices for the additional alley-gates are known in the New Year and, therefore, how much of the remaining balance would need to be decommitted.

3 Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to note the update on all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast."

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendation.

Moonstone Street/Mowhan Street

The Working Group agreed that the Council's Safer City Co-ordinator should convene a meeting involving residents of Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street, Elected

Members and other relevant organisations to identify measures which could be put in place to address ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour in and around those streets.

Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 28th November.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 3rd November, 2016

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Rodgers,
Aldermen McGimpsey and Sandford; and
Councillors Armitage, Copeland, Dorrian,
Graham, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Newton,
O'Donnell and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mrs R. Crozier, Assistant Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr D. Logan, Project Manager, Property and Projects; and
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Mullan.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 6th October, 2016, were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in Item 2b, namely, Mountpottinger Methodist Church, in that he was a Member of the congregation.

Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Copeland, Kyle and Newton declared an interest in the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group, in that they were Board members.

Local Investment Fund – Update

The Project Manager, Mr. D. Logan, provided the Members with an update on how work had progressed on each of the Local Investment Fund projects to date. He highlighted to the Members that the Tullycarnet Community Support Services proposal had failed to pass the due diligence process and that the group had been unable to secure the necessary ten year lease with the Department of Education.

At the request of a Member, the Working Group agreed that Officers would work with St. Christopher's Church in order to assist the group in getting their proposal 'project-ready', in the event that other funding became available.

Mountpottinger Methodist Church

The Working Group noted an invitation from the Mountpottinger Methodist Church to attend a Service of Dedication on Sunday, 13th November, 2016 at 7pm, for the newly built youth room and renovated roof. The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhoods reminded the Members that the Church had received LIF funding from the East Belfast Area Working Group for this work.

Cregagh Play Proposal

The Working Group considered a proposal from Mr. Adrian Green, Church of the Pentecost at Cregagh Green. Mr. Green was proposing the development of an outdoor gym area within Belfast City Council's Cregagh Green, around the existing football pitch.

The Working Group was advised that the Project Sponsor had met Mr. Green to discuss the project and explained to the applicant that the proposal fell outside of the criteria for LIF as it was the development of a Council facility, for which the Council would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. The Assistant Director advised the Members that the project would also have implications for the City and Neighbourhood Services department, in terms of the costs, and as such it would need to be considered in conjunction with any future capital plans which the Department might have.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to defer consideration of the project to the next meeting, to allow the Members which represented the Lisnasharragh DEA to discuss the project.

Lisnasharragh and Ormiston Members - Briefing Session

The Chairperson reminded the Working Group that the Members which represented the Ormiston and Lisnasharragh District Electoral Areas had met for a briefing session on Monday, 24th October, to discuss the additional £2 million through the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) which had been ring-fenced for projects in the newly transferred areas of outer east.

The Working Group was advised that the Members in attendance at the Briefing Session had advocated that officers would continue to engage with the three stage 1 projects, namely the Hanwood Centre, Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT) and Braniel Church, to obtain further information on each proposal and report back to a future AWG meeting.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the additional £2million of BIF which had been ring-fenced for projects in the newly transferred areas of outer east should be advertised, with a deadline of 31st December 2016, subject to satisfactory legal advice.

On a vote by show of hands four Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was declared lost.

The Assistant Director advised the Members that, to advertise the Belfast Investment Fund for the newly transferred areas of East Belfast, would be contrary to

what the other three areas had done and that there would need to be clear criteria by which to rate each application.

After further discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers would continue to engage with the three projects as outlined and would submit a report to a future meeting.

Connswater Community Greenway (tabled)

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services tabled an update in relation to the Connswater Community Greenway, including elements of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Members noted that, in May 2016, the cycle and pedestrian link connecting Orangefield Park and Clarawood to the Braniel had been opened to the public and, in October 2016, a new Greenway link had opened between Grand Parade and the Beersbridge Road. The Working Group noted that the new CS Lewis Square would open on 22nd November, 2016, with completion of the overall project scheduled for March 2017.

A Member reminded the Working Group that voting was now active for the names of a number of new bridges within the scheme. A further Member paid tribute to the hard work of the Connswater Community Association, particularly with all the work which had been carried out along the Cregagh Road.

Noted.

Any Other Business

At the request of a Member, it was agreed that an update on the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group project would be submitted to the next meeting.

In response to a Member's question, the Working Group agreed that a report from the Town Solicitor would be submitted to the next meeting to provide clarification on Declarations of Interest. Specifically, it was agreed that the report would address the position of Members who sat on the Board of a group which was asking for funding through LIF or BIF, and the potential conflicts of interest which might arise as a result of a Member speaking on behalf of a project to receive funding through the Area Working Group meeting, given that most Members were on at least one Board of a community group or project in their District Electoral Area.

Chairperson