

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 23rd January, 2017

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and
Councillors Boyle, Craig, Hargey, McAteer, Nicholl
and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Minutes

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

Declarations 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.

Deputation – Moonstone Street / Mowhan Street

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, attended in connection with this item and the subsequent item.)

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th December, it had agreed that representatives of the residents of Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street be invited to attend its meeting in January to discuss their concerns around antisocial behaviour in that area and the potential for alleygates to be installed.

Accordingly, Mr. C. Carser, Ms. C. Holywood and Ms. C. McAreavey, all of whom were residents of Moonstone Street, were welcomed by the Chairperson.

The representatives informed the Working Group that the residents of Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street experienced significant levels of anti-social behaviour, including fly tipping, dog fouling, graffiti, burglary and drugs-related issues. Those problems had increased noticeably over the years as alleygates had been erected in other streets nearby. They pointed out that some sections of the fencing leading to the adjacent railway line had been damaged or were missing, which often provided those seeking to engage in anti-social activities with easy access to the unsecured entries located to the rear of properties. They urged the Working Group to consider erecting alleygates in Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street, which had proven to be effective elsewhere, and to bring to Translink's attention the need to secure the fencing between the railway line and residents' properties. The representatives concluded by thanking those Members of the Working Group who had assisted them to date.

During discussion, the Safer City Manager confirmed that, whilst Transport NI had confirmed that the entries to which the representatives had referred were unadopted, the Council could, if it was able to demonstrate clear evidence of need, initiate the process for the erection of alleygates.

The Assistant Director pointed out that it was possible for residents, over a period of time, to assume control of an entry which had been proven to be unadopted and highlighted the work which had been undertaken by local residents to enhance Wildflower alley in the Holylands area of the City, once it had been secured by alleygates. She suggested that, should the Working Group agree to erect alleygates in Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street, officers from the Council's Parks Outreach Service could work with local residents to deliver a similar project and involve in that process some participants in the Wildflower alley initiative.

The Working Group agreed that the Safer City Manager should raise with Translink the issue around the defective fencing and the representatives were informed that their request for alleygates to be installed in Moonstone Street and Mowhan Street would be discussed later in the meeting, whilst a report on Phase IV of the Council's alleygating scheme was being considered.

The representatives thanked the Working Group for receiving them and left the meeting.

Update on Phase IV of the Council's Alleygating Scheme

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **provide the Area Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates**
- **highlight any technical and legal issues associated with Phase 4 Alleygates**
- **provide up to date information on spend against allocated budget**
- **agree a way forward on a list of reserve gates**
- **highlight any remaining issues and**
- **provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps.**

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme), South Belfast was allocated a budget of £140,000 (60 gates approximately)

2.2 South Belfast Area Working Group also allocated £47,900 from its Local Investment Fund Budget (LIF2) to install additional gates (20 Gates approximately)

2.3 Therefore, the total available budget for the installation of alleygates, as part of Phase 4 in South Belfast is £187,900.

3.0 **Key Issues**

Update on Progress to Date

3.1 The required statutory consultation is complete (particularly Transport NI) and no issues were identified)

3.2 Site surveys (including detailed measurements) have been undertaken

3.3 Pre-consultation with affected properties has been completed and all consultation responses have been scrutinised by Legal Services

3.4 Draft Road Traffic Orders have been prepared ready for advertising for 30 days from 27 January 2017 (as required by the Clean Neighbourhoods Act). This stage is classed as the formal consultation stage.

Technical and Legal Issues

3.4 As a result of the site surveys and pre-consultation with affected properties, a number of technical and legal issues have been identified (detailed below). These issues only affect a small number of proposed alleygates for South Belfast and will not be included in the initial Road Traffic Order (based on legal advice).

- Disability Discrimination Legislation: A small number of proposed gate locations are very narrow and the minimum gate size produced to date by Council's contractor will not meet the legal minimum opening in the gate of 800mm (835mm is recommended as best practice. Officers are working with the contractor to ascertain if a bespoke gating solution can be provided for these locations ensuring Council meets its legal obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Community Gates: A small number of proposed gate locations are replacements for existing gates erected by the Community. There are number of due diligence issues (focussing primarily on Council's liability) which required resolution. Resolution of these issues will require further professional technical input and consultation with the affected properties.
- Site Suitability: One proposed gate location requires additional work by NIHE to be able to fully secure the affected alleyway. Officers are working

to secure commitment from NIHE to carry out this work asap. A further number of gates at Wellesley Park and Wellesley Avenue require further investigation to establish if the proposed gates will actually secure the alleyway as access to the alleyway can also be made through gaps in a number of individual private property's back boundaries (semi-detached).

- **Consultation:** The pre consultation stage identified a legal objection regarding land ownership affecting a small number of proposed gate locations at Ulsterville Avenue, Mount Prospect Park, Ulsterville Place and Ulsterville Drive

Gate Location	No. of Gates Affected	Issue	Potential for Resolution
To the rear of 9-129 Wellesley Avenue and to the side of 27, 29, 35, 37, 87, 113 and 115 Wellesley Avenue	8	Proposed gate locations very narrow and current gate specification will not meet legal minimum (DDA)	Officers working with manufacturers to ascertain if a bespoke gating solution can be found.
To the rear of 206 – 216 Tate's Avenue and to the rear of 2-78 Olympia Drive	3	Existing community gates in place and Council due diligence is required before gates can proceed	Further technical input and consultation with affected properties to take place to enable resolution
To the rear of 9-31 Upper Stanfield St and 8-26 Eliza St Close and to the rear of 41-61 Upper Stanfield St and 34-54 Eliza St Close	5	Additional work is required by NIHE to make these proposed gate location suitable	Officers working to secure commitment from NIHE to progress additional works required to enable gate installation
To the rear of 40-64 Ulsterville Avenue, 2-40 Mount Prospect Park and 1-11 Ulsterville Place and to the side of 12 Ulsterville Drive and 1 and 11 Ulsterville Place	3	Objection received as part of pre consultation highlighting potential land ownership dispute	Legal Services to resolve before gate can proceed
To the rear of 19-83 Wellington Park, 18-104 Wellesley Avenue	2	The alleyway cannot be secured (by alleygates) in its	Further investigation is required to ascertain if the alleyway can be

and to the side of 18, 104 and 106 Wellesley Avenue		current form due to alternative access along the alleyway from private properties	secured in co-operation with property owners.
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Updated spend against available Budget

- 3.5 As detailed above, South Belfast has a total available budget of £187,900 for the installation of alleygates as part of Phase 4.**
- 3.6 If all proposed alleygates proceed South Belfast will spend £170,000 (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)**
- 3.7 If all proposed alleygates proceed apart from the gate locations where issues remain to be resolved (as detailed above), South Belfast will spend £128,900**
- 3.8 Therefore £17,900 remains of South Belfast’s overall budget allocation if all proposed gates are installed (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)**

Reserve Gates

- 3.9 As South Belfast has an underspend in its overall budget allocation, Members may wish to consider the installation of further gates.**
- 3.10 A number of Members will be aware that high levels of representation have been received from residents of Moonstone St and Mowhan St suggesting they should be included in Phase 4 Alleygates.**
- 3.11 To assist Members, Officers have established no land ownership issues with gates in Moonstone St and Mowhan St and have provided approximate costs for installation of alleygates at these locations.**

Gate Group	No. of Gates	Street Name	Total Price
A	3	Mowhan St	£8,648.40
B	4	Moonstone St	£11,531.20
C	2	Moonstone St	£5,765.60
D	1	Moonstone St	£2,882.80
E	1	Moonstone St	£2,882.80
TOTAL	11		£31,710.81

3.12 Members may wish to consider the inclusion of some alleygates in Mowhan St and Moonstone St from their remaining budget of £17,900

3.13 Members may also wish to consider that should any further savings be available or should any of the issues associated with alleygate locations identified at point 3.4 remain unresolvable, the associated budget could be allocated to installing further alleygates in Mowhan St and Moonstone St as detailed above.

Remaining Issues

3.14 Members should be aware that the pre-consultation responses have generally been at a low level for Phase 4 and Officers will be working in the background to supplement this with additional evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour around the proposed gate locations.

3.15 Members should be further aware that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.

Next Steps

3.16 Members are advised that the key next steps are:

- Advertisement of the draft Road Traffic Order for South Belfast (30 days from 27 January 2017) as the formal consultation stage**
- Legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses**
- Subject to legal approval, submission of the final Road Traffic Order for South Belfast to SP&R end March 2017. This provides the legal basis for alleygates to be installed at the named locations**
- April 2017 onwards: manufacture and installation of alleygates. Further details on the manufacture and installation stages will be provided to Members at a future Area Working Group.**

4.0 Resource Implication

4.1 £700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.

4.2 £140,000 of this capital funding was allocated to South Belfast

4.3 South Belfast Area Working Group further allocated £47,900 from LIF2 giving a total available budget of £187,900.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Working Group is requested to:

- **consider the contents of the report;**
- **consider the installation of some alleygates at Mowhan Street and Moonstone Street with the remaining budget of £17,900; and**
- **consider creating a reserve list from the remaining gates at Mowhan Street and Moonstone Street, should further budget become available from efficiencies.”**

The Working Group gave consideration firstly to the list of eighty alleygates which it had agreed to progress at its special meeting on 25th May, 2016 and agreed that:

- i. the three proposed alleygates to the rear of 40-46 Ulsterville Avenue, 2-40 Mount Prospect Park and 1-11 Ulsterville Place and to the side of 12 Ulsterville Drive and 1-11 Ulsterville Place, as set out within the table under 3.4 of the report, be removed, on the basis that a significant legal issue had been identified; and
- ii. the two proposed alleygates to the rear of 19-83 Wellington Park, 18-104 Wellesley Avenue and to the side of 18, 104 and 106 Wellesley Avenue, as set out within the table under 3.4 of the report, be removed, on the basis that the site survey had revealed significant site suitability issues.

The Working Group then considered locations which had been identified since the special meeting by Members and through other sources and agreed to create a reserve list, with priority being afforded as follows:

1. Gate Groups A (3) and B (4), as set out within paragraph 3.11 of the report;
2. Jameson Street/Raby Street/St. Jude's Crescent (4), on the basis that the discussions with other parties in that area, which had been raised initially at the special meeting, had yet to secure match funding, although efforts would continue;
3. Gate Groups C (2), D (1) and E (1), as set out within paragraph 3.11 of the report; and
4. University Street (2), as requested by Councillor Boyle.

The Working Group agreed that the seventy-five gates on the initial list should be funded using both the £140,000 which had been allocated to South Belfast under Phase IV of the Council's Alleygating Scheme and the £47,900 which was still available under the Local Investment Fund and that officers should utilise any of that funding which remained to work through the reserve list in the order of priority set out above.

The Working Group noted that the aforementioned decisions would require approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 17th February and that it would receive regular updates as the scheme progressed. It endorsed also the suggestion which had been made earlier in the meeting by the Assistant Director that officers should, if required, assist the residents of Moonstone Street/Mowhan Street in delivering an initiative similar to that in Wildflower Alley.

Update on TBUC Funding Bid

(Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager, and Ms. M. Hand, Good Relations Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Working Group that the Department of Justice was responsible for overseeing the interface headline action, as set out within the Executive Office's Together: Building a United Community strategy. That action was being overseen by a Programme Board, which included representation from key Executive departments, councils and statutory agencies. She explained that the Department of Justice had allocated funding towards the physical removal of barriers at interface sites and that the Council's Good Relations Unit had received £28,000 to undertake small pieces of work across the City. Funding was allocated currently only on a yearly cycle and officers were examining a small number of priority sites across the City which could potentially be included within a bid for funding for 2017/2018.

She reported that there were only two interface sites in the South of the City, both of which were owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and could not, therefore, be included within the Council's bid. Good Relations officers had now provided each of the working groups with an update on interface working and with information on potential sites which could be included within a funding bid for 2017/2018.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

River Terrace Land Licence Agreement

(Mr. R. Rice, City Parks Manager, and Ms. S. Barkley, Community Parks Outreach Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group was reminded that, in 2011, each of the four areas of the City had been allocated capital funding of £50,000 to deliver a programme of community initiatives, including community gardens. The Council had, subsequently, entered into an agreement with the Department for Communities to obtain a licence for a plot of land at River Terrace, to be developed as a community garden, with the remaining £20,000 from South Belfast's fund having been allocated to the project.

The City Parks Manager reported that the land at River Terrace had been found to be contaminated and that the Department for Communities had indicated that it was unable to fund the works required to decontaminate the site. Accordingly, the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 13th September, 2016, had recommended

that the licence be surrendered and that the South Belfast Area Working Group consider other projects which might benefit from the £20,000 funding which was once again available.

He informed the Members that residents of River Terrace and the surrounding streets had been invited to complete a survey, with a view to determining if they were still interested in developing a community garden and, if so, to choose between two potential new sites, one being beside River Terrace and the other facing onto Kinallen Street. 86% of those residents who had responded had indicated a willingness to participate in the initiative and had been in favour of developing the land beside River Terrace.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the decision of the People and Communities Committee, recommending that the original site at River Terrace be surrendered to the Department for Communities, and agreed that the £20,000 which had been allocated for a community garden there be used for a similar project at a new location beside River Terrace.

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 this total, seven projects have been completed (Stage 5). Of the remaining five projects, two (Taughmonagh Community Forum and Finaghy Bridge) remain at stage 1; Annadale/Haywood Residents Association) are at stage 3; Belfast South Community Resources have progressed to stage 4 and is currently being delivered. The Women’s Aid project is also at stage 4 but there are some minor works yet to be finished. A more detailed progress update on all projects has been circulated to the Working Group.

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
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£800,000	£796,000	£4,000*
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Members have committed their allocation thus far to 11 projects. Two of the projects currently remain at stage 1; one project is at stage 2, five projects are at stage 3, two projects are at stage 4 and one project has completed and is at stage 5.

Since the last meeting the project at Sandy Row Community Forum has progressed to stage 4 and the purchase of the building is underway. A more detailed progress update on all projects has been circulated to the Working Group.

*** Members agreed to make no further LIF decisions until the exact prices for the additional alley-gates are known. The Safer City Manager is due to present final costings at the January meeting which will enable the group to make a decision on the remaining LIF and LIF2 balance.**

3. Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to:

- **note the update to all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast; and**
- **confirm the amount of LIF and LIF2 budget to be decommitted in order to cover the cost of alleygates.”**

The Working Group noted the update on the LIF1 and LIF2 projects and, as had been suggested earlier in the meeting, agreed to decommit the remaining £43,900 from LIF1 and the remaining £4,000 from LIF2 and allocate both amounts towards the erection of alleygates in South Belfast, to be taken forward under the Capital Programme.

Olympia Leisure Centre

The Working Group noted that the official opening of the new Olympia Leisure Centre would take place on the following morning and congratulated all those officers from across the Council on the success of the project.

Urban Villages Initiative

The Head of Contracts provided a brief update on the progress of the Urban Villages Initiative and undertook to circulate to the Working Group details of the proposed approach to the public consultation exercise to be undertaken in February on those projects being funded under the initiative.

Noted.

Social Innovation – Challenge Programme

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

To provide members with an update on Social Innovation Challenge Programme to be delivered in the locality planning areas.

2.0 Recommendation

To seek approval on the funding process for successful innovative projects within locality planning areas.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows:

1. Whiterock
2. Inner East
3. Belvoir and Milltown
4. New Lodge

As approved by Council in October 2016, further locality planning will be developed in the Duncairn Area of Belfast once resources become available.

‘Belfast Social Innovation’ Model

In exploring how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both city and local level, we are seeking to test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques. We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in how we can work with residents, members and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions to issues and to explore how potential innovative projects could be scaled across other areas of the city.

To support this work, in August 2016, the Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a ‘social innovation model’ for working at the local level to test this approach in the locality planning areas. The term ‘social innovation’ refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. The unique selling point of this work is that these

ideas are developed by local people in partnership with others to improve the lives of people in their community.

By working in partnership with the Young Foundation, we are hoping to develop collaborative working between local people, groups and organisations in the private, voluntary, community and public sectors to create innovative projects to try to address those problems that have been identified as part of the work within the locality planning areas.

It is envisaged that a 'Belfast Social Innovation model' would:

- Test new ways for the Council to work directly with residents and partners to co-design and deliver innovation projects at a local level in a new and different way to address issues;
- Build skills and capabilities within local communities;
- Provide learning with regards to how we deliver services in partnership with residents, members and partners at a local area.

Social Innovation Challenge Programme Process

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme will be implemented with the proposal that in each locality planning area up to four projects will be recommended for funding so they can be delivered within the area to start to address issues identified through the locality planning process.

Successful projects will receive a small amount of financial support (maximum £15,000) from the Challenge Programme to allow them to be delivered / scaled to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the high level process being undertaken to work with residents to develop projects, and to seek approval on members' involvement in recommending funding is awarded to the successful projects.

Stages

Prior to the start of the Challenge Programme process, officers will have already undertaken significant engagement in the local areas with residents, community organisations and other stakeholders to identify the key priorities that they want to focus on.

Whilst each area will be unique and this programme will be flexible in the approach we take, it is proposed that the following stage process will be followed:

1. **Ethnographic research**
2. **Generation of potential innovations**
3. **Initial Project Proposal**
4. **Accelerator Programme Enrolment**
5. **Completion of Accelerator Programme / Application for funding**
6. **Decision Panel Recommendation (two stage)**
7. **Due diligence**
8. **Council approval**
9. **Funding awarded (Letter of Offer)**
10. **Implementation**
11. **Ongoing impact assessment**

The above represents a high level summary of the process from initial generating of ideas until innovative projects are being implemented.

Decision Panels

An important aspect of the above process is choosing which projects will be recommended for funding. In each area, it is anticipated that a number of innovative ideas generated by local residents and partners will participate in the Accelerator Programme.

This programme, through a series of tailored workshops, will offer social innovation support and assistance to develop initial ideas to the stage where they each have a business model and plan for how they can become sustainable.

On completion of the Accelerator Programme we are proposing that a maximum of four projects will be funded in each area up to £15,000. However, as there may be more than four projects which are eligible to apply for funding, i.e. have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme, it is recommended that decision panels are established to make recommendations on which projects receive funding.

To ensure local elected members are involved in the decision-making process we are proposing that there is a two-stage localised 'Dragon's Den'-type process to score potential projects. It is proposed that each group will be required to pitch their project idea in two stages, as follows:

1. Independent Panel

Final members are to be agreed but suggested members could include experts in the field of innovation such as:

- i. **Building Change Trust (Social Innovation Team)**
- ii. **Innovate UK**
- iii. **Private Sector**
- iv. **NIHE (Social Enterprise Team)**

**2. Local DEA Elected members Panel
Chaired by BCC Officer(s)**

We are proposing that there will be an overall % score awarded to each project with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

- 1. Independent panel – 75%**
- 2. Local DEA elected members panel – 25%**

Final recommendations on projects to be funded will be brought back to the Area Working Groups, seeking approval to proceed to SP&R and Council for ratification.

It should be noted that this funding will not be awarded through an open call, it will be restricted to those projects that involve local residents and are developed by those who have been involved in the locality planning process and have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme.

Furthermore, those projects that are not successful will receive ongoing support in relation to availing of other opportunities for funding and further capacity-building support to enable them to scale ideas.

Financial and Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”

During discussion, a Member referred to the proposed membership of the independent panel and stated that it should include more local people and organisations with expertise in social innovation.

In response, the Programme Manager pointed out that elements of the programme had yet to be finalised, including the membership of the independent panel, and confirmed that the views of the Member would be taken into account during that process.

The Working Group endorsed the process for the selection and funding of projects, as set out within the report, and agreed to undertake a tour of the Belvoir and Milltown areas to view relevant assets and to meet with key stakeholders.

Other Business

Shaftesbury Square

At the request of the Chairperson, the Working Group agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department for Infrastructure requesting improvements to the lighting in Shaftesbury Square, including for pedestrians, and that officers contact the owners of the former public toilets on Shaftesbury Square/Dublin Road, with a view to having the fencing/hoardings around them removed.

Request to Address the Working Group

The Working Group was informed that a request had been received from Mr. R. Feeney, Head of Public Engagement, Queen's University, to provide it with details of the University's contribution to the Belfast agenda.

The Working Group agreed that Mr. Feeney be invited to attend a future meeting.

Local Area Briefing Events

The Working Group was informed that a twelve week consultation exercise would commence on 26th January on a Preferred Options Paper, which had been formulated as part of the Local Development Plan process. Area-based events would be held in each of the four areas of the City, as part of that consultation, with the event for South Belfast commencing at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd February in the Olympia Leisure Centre.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 27th February.

Chairperson

North Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th January, 2017

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery and Spence;
Councillors Corr-Johnston, McAllister, McCusker,
and Magee.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Miss E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell, Aldermen L. Patterson and McKee, and Councillor Clarke.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th December were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Corr Johnston declared an interest in so far as her employment was linked to North Belfast Alternatives, who are part funded by Urban Villages.

Decision Tracker

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 8th December.

Noted.

Local Investment Fund Update

The Director of Property and Projects provided an overview of the report which included an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under the Local Investment Funds (LIF phase 1 and LIF phase 2).

He advised that there were three projects remaining which required further information to be provided by the project organisations so that feasibility assessments could be completed.

During discussion, it was noted that the proposed Seaview Primary School project was unviable due to an issue with the lease, therefore the Working Group agreed that the £40,000 for that project be reallocated to the existing proposal at Jennymount Church.

The Working Group agreed also that the following proposals be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval:-

LIF 2 Proposal	Originally Proposed By	Up to £
Holy Family Parish Church Hall	Cllr McAllister	£15,000
Women's Tec	Cllr McAllister	£31,667

The Working Group also agreed that it would receive LIF funding updates every 2 months.

Urban Villages Consultation - Update

With permission of the Chairperson, the Assistant Director welcomed to the meeting Ms. K. McCarthy representing Urban Villages and tabled a report on the proposed approach to the public consultation on a number of projects funded by the Urban Villages Initiative.

The Assistant Director provided an overview of the continued partnership with Urban Villages to develop and progress the projects with the Council acting as client and delivery partner. She advised that design teams had been commissioned to develop proposals for four public/playgrounds under the Urban Villages Initiative throughout Northern Ireland: Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Playground; Colin Urban Park and Play Park, Ballysillan Park and Marrowbone Millennium Park. She highlighted that Urban Villages had also funded initial site investigations at a Northern Ireland Housing Executive site in Sandy Row with a view to future design development.

She advised that the design work for the projects was due to be completed by 31st March and outlined the proposed approach to the public consultation on the aforementioned projects and that a consultation framework had been established to ensure that the Council's draft public engagement policies and toolkit were implemented fully into the consultation process.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report and that there were no current plans for a project in the Castle District Electoral Area.

Phase IV Alleygating Scheme - Update

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates
- highlight any technical and legal issues associated with Phase 4 Alleygates
- provide up to date information on spend against allocated budget
- to agree a way forward on a list of reserve gates
- highlight any remaining issues
- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme) North Belfast was allocated a budget of £140,000 (60 gates approximately)

3.0 Key Issues

Update on Progress to Date

- 3.1 The required statutory consultation is complete (particularly Transport NI) and no issues were identified aside from those detailed below.**
- 3.2 Site surveys (including detailed measurements) have been undertaken**
- 3.3 Pre-consultation with affected properties has been completed and all consultation responses have been scrutinised by Legal Services**
- 3.4 Draft Road Traffic Orders have been prepared ready for advertising for 30 days from 27 January 2017 (as required by**

the Clean Neighbourhoods Act). This stage is classed as the formal consultation stage.

Technical and Legal Issues

3.5 As a result of the site surveys and pre-consultation with affected properties, a number of technical and legal issues have been identified (detailed below). These issues only affect a small number of proposed alleygates for North Belfast and will not be included in the initial Road Traffic Order (based on legal advice).

- **Community Gates:** A small number of proposed gate locations are replacements for existing gates erected by the Community. There are number of due diligence issues (focussing primarily on Council’s liability) which required resolution. Resolution of these issues will require further professional technical input and consultation with the affected properties.
- **Walkways:** Gate locations at Jamaica Road and Havana Gardens are classed as ‘walkways’ and not ‘alleyways’ by Transport NI. They will not give permission for gating these locations until the land owner NIHE goes through the formal process of abandoning these locations at ‘walkways’.
- **Consultation:** The pre consultation stage identified high levels of objections to gates at 115-201 Alexander Park Avenue and no consultation response for gates at Brookvale Drive.

Gate Location	No. of Gates Affected	Issue	Potential for Resolution
To the side and rear of 2-40 Clifton Crescent, 1-45 Manor Street, 1-3 Harcourt Drive and 68-78 Cliftonville Road	4	Existing community gates in place and Council due diligence is required before gates can proceed	Further technical input and consultation with affected properties to take place to enable resolution
To the side and rear of 4-54 Manor Street	2		
To the rear of 1-17 Cliftonville Street and 119-123 Cliftonville Road and to the side of 1 Cliftonville Street	1		
To the rear of 24-54 Glantane Drive, 3 and 5 Skegoniel Avenue, 535-549 Antrim Road and 2-6 Glandore Gardens and to the side of 2 Glandore Gardens and 52 Glantane Drive	2		
To the rear of 2-18 Jamaica Way and to the side of 18 Jamaica Way	2		

To the rear of 276-292 Limestone Road and to the side of 34 Oceanic Avenue	1		
To the rear of 2-40 Victoria Gardens, 183-205 Cavehill Road, 2 and 4 Charnwood Avenue and 5-11 Inver Avenue and to the side of 2 and 40 Victoria Gardens	4		
To the side of 16 and 18 Jamaica Road	2	These locations are legally classed as 'walkways'. Transport NI will not give permission at present to proceed with gates	Formal request has already been sent to NIHE who own this land to commence formal abandonment of the 'walkways' to allow alleygating to proceed. These gates cannot proceed until this process is complete
To the side of 2 Jamaica Road and 25 Havana Gardens	2		
To the rear of 26-38 Pinkerton Walk and 2-14 Bruslee Way and to the side of 32 and 34 Pinkerton Walk and 6 and 8 Bruslee Way	2		
To the rear of 31-51 Brookhill Avenue and to the side of 2 Brookvale Avenue	2	No consultation responses received	Further consultation work required before these gates can proceed
To the rear of 115-201 Alexandra Park Avenue	2	High numbers of objections received	Detail of objections need to be worked through to try and find solution before these gates can proceed

Updated spend against available budget

- 3.6 As detailed above, North Belfast has a total available budget of £140,000 for the installation of alleygates as part of Phase 4.**
- 3.7 If all proposed alleygates proceed North Belfast will spend £129,000 (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)**
- 3.8 Therefore £11,000 remains of North Belfast's overall budget allocation if all proposed gates are installed (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)**

Reserve Gates

- 3.9 North Belfast Area Working Group has not previously agreed a reserve list of gates and Members may wish to consider the creation of a reserve list.**

- 3.10 The current approximate budget available for reserve gates is £11,000 (5 gates approximately)
- 3.11 Members may wish to create a reserve list (in order of priority) of proposed gate locations that Officers can work through (in order of priority) from the current available underspends and any further efficiencies achieved.

Remaining Issues

- 3.12 Members should be aware that the pre-consultation responses have generally been at a low level for Phase 4 and Officers will be working in the background to supplement this with additional evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour around the proposed gate locations
- 3.13 Members should be further aware that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.

Next Steps

- 3.14 Members are advised that the key next steps are:
- Advertisement of the draft Road Traffic Order for North Belfast (30 days from 27 January 2017) as the formal consultation stage
 - Legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses
 - Subject to legal approval, submission of the final Road Traffic Order for North Belfast to SP&R end March 2017. This provides the legal basis for alleygates to be installed at the named locations
 - April 2017 onwards: manufacture and installation of alleygates. Further details on the manufacture and installation stages will be provided to Members at a future Area Working Group.

4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 £700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.
- 4.2 £140,000 of this capital funding was allocated to North Belfast

5.0 Equality and good Relations Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Councillors are requested to:

- **Consider the contents of the report**
- **Consider the creation of a North Belfast reserve list (in order of priority) and delegate Officers the authority to work through this reserve list from top to bottom using available underspends.”**

During discussion, Members questioned the potential for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to raise a license that might supersede the need for the formal abandonment of the ‘walkways’ to implement alleygates and suggested that a meeting with representatives from NIHE and Transport NI would be helpful to resolve this.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Safer City Manager would email the Members of the Working Group with sites for potential gates to put on the reserve list and that a list of adopted alleyways would be provided to the Working Group, so that the potential for alley clean ups could be established.

Alexandra Park Consultation

(Mr. J. McVey, Consultant, representing Blueprint, and Ms. E. Black, Policy and Business Development Officer, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Assistant Director provided an update on the Alexandra Park Consultation and Community Engagement Process. She advised that the consultants had held a number of activities such as:

- Individual meetings with a range of key stakeholders on the general development of the park, emerging priorities and the relevant community engagement/ representation to complete the task;
- A City and Neighbourhood Services staff team meeting onsite to consider a one council approach to the management of the park, its maintenance, community use and outreach, safety and good relations; and
- A combined facilitation workshop, which took place on 11th January, 2017 in Grove Bowling pavilion, for all stakeholders to consider the development of the park together.

Mr. McVey highlighted that the facilitated workshop had identified a shared vision for a safe and welcoming, well used and maintained park. He advised that there was a consensus to continue to work together with the Council on a plan for the park.

The Assistant Director suggested that the independent consultant continue to facilitate such Workshops, and meetings would continue internally to develop the approach to the park management and related services and monitor the progress of workshops. During discussion, one Member suggested that invitation to the Workshops be extended to representatives from Tigers’ Bay.

In regards to potential actions and initiatives to include in the park, it was reported that New Lodge Arts, which was applying for Alpha Funding for an Arts Sculpture Trail in Alexandra Park, had requested a letter of support to submit with its application by 23rd February.

During discussion, some Members highlighted their disappointment of being notified of this request at short notice by the group, and the importance of being kept up to date with such proposals.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed that a letter of support, in principle, be sent to New Lodge Arts Centre, by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to further information being provided on the proposal and further consideration at the appropriate Committee.

Locality Planning and Social Innovation Fund - Update

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide members with an update on Social Innovation Challenge Programme to be delivered in the locality planning areas.

2.0 Recommendations

- **To seek approval on the funding process for successful innovative projects within locality planning areas**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows;

- 1. Whiterock**
- 2. Inner East**
- 3. Belvoir & Milltown**
- 4. New Lodge**

As approved by Council in October 2016 further locality planning will be developed in the Duncairn Area of Belfast once resources become available.

'Belfast Social Innovation' model

In exploring how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both city and local level, we are seeking to test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques. We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in how we can work with residents, members and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions to issues and to explore how potential innovative projects could be scaled across other areas of the city.

To support this work, in August 2016, Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model' for working at the local level to test this approach in the locality planning areas. The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. The unique selling point of this work is that these ideas are developed by local people in partnership with others to improve the lives of people in their community.

By working in partnership with the Young Foundation we are hoping to develop collaborative working between local people, groups and organisations in the private, voluntary, community and public sectors to create innovative projects to try to address those problems that have been identified as part of the work within the locality planning areas.

It is envisaged that a 'Belfast Social Innovation model' would:

- Test new ways for the Council to work directly with residents and partners to co-design and deliver innovation projects at a local level in a new and different way to address issues;
- Build skills and capabilities within local communities;
- Provide learning with regards to how we deliver services in partnership with residents, members and partners at a local area.

Social Innovation Challenge Programme Process

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme will be implemented with the proposal that in each locality planning area up to four projects will be recommended for funding so they can be delivered within the area to start to address issues identified through the locality planning process.

Successful projects will receive a small amount of financial support (maximum £15,000) from the Challenge Programme to allow them to be delivered / scaled to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the high level process being undertaken to work with residents to develop projects, and to seek approval on members' involvement in recommending funding is awarded to the successful projects.

Stages

Prior to the start of the Challenge Programme process, officers will have already undertaken significant engagement in the local areas with residents, community organisations and other stakeholders to identify the key priorities that they want to focus on.

While each area will be unique and this programme will be flexible in the approach we take it is proposed that the following stage process will be followed:

1. Ethnographic research
2. Generation of potential innovations
3. Initial Project Proposal
4. Accelerator Programme Enrolment
5. Completion of Accelerator Programme / Application for funding
6. Decision Panel Recommendation (two stage)
7. Due diligence
8. Council approval
9. Funding awarded (Letter of Offer)
10. Implementation
11. Ongoing impact assessment

The above represents a high level summary of the process from initial generating of ideas until innovative projects are being implemented.

Decision Panels

An important aspect of the above process is choosing which projects will be recommended for funding. In each area, it is anticipated that a number of innovative ideas generated by local residents and partners will participate in the Accelerator Programme.

This programme, through a series of tailored workshops, will offer social innovation support and assistance to develop initial ideas to the stage where they each have a business model and plan for how they can become sustainable.

On completion of the Accelerator Programme we are proposing that a maximum of four projects will be funded in each area up to £15,000. However, as there may be more than four projects which are eligible to apply for funding, i.e. have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme, it is recommended that decision panels are established to make recommendations on which projects receive funding.

To ensure local elected members are involved in the decision-making process we are proposing that there is a two-stage localised 'Dragon's Den'-type process to score potential projects. It is proposed that each group will be required to pitch their project idea in two stages, as follows:

1. Independent Panel – Final members are to be agreed but suggested members could include experts in the field of innovation such as;
 - i. Building Change Trust (Social Innovation Team)
 - ii. Innovate UK
 - iii. Private Sector
 - iv. NIHE (Social Enterprise Team)
2. Local DEA Elected members Panel
Chaired by BCC Officer(s)

We are proposing that there will be an overall % score awarded to each project with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

1. Independent panel – 75%
2. Local DEA elected members panel – 25%

Final recommendations on projects to be funded will be brought back to the Area Working Groups, seeking approval to proceed to SP&R and Council for ratification.

It should be noted that this funding will not be awarded through an open call, it will be restricted to those projects that involve local residents and are developed by those who have been involved in the locality planning process and have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme.

Furthermore, those projects that are not successful will receive ongoing support in relation to availing of other opportunities for funding and further capacity-building support to enable them to scale ideas.

Financial & Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”

During discussion, the Programme Manager highlighted that the potential to include Sailortown in the area, for the purpose of the project, had been raised by residents.

After discussion, the Working Group endorsed the process for the selection and funding of the innovation projects, as set out within the report.

The Working Group also agreed that a time line be provided to the Group regarding when the locality planning would be developed in the Duncairn area and Tigers Bay area, once resources became available.

Discussion on Future Actions and Progress of the Area Working Group

(Ms. C. Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Neighbourhood and Development Manager advised that, following on from the Working Group Workshop held in September, 2016, further work plans for the Group would be submitted for consideration, together with an outline of the Committee Work Plans and how they were linked to the North area of the City.

She also advised that feedback would be provided on the Belfast Agenda event locations in the North of the City.

Noted.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group also noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- BIF Update;
- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Belfast Hills;
- Zoo Update ;
- Harbour Commissioner Update; and
- Yorkgate Interchange Update.

Chairperson

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th January, 2017

MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson); and Councillors, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Collins, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson, McConville, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;
Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;
Mrs A Allen, Safer City Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;
Mr. C. McCabrey, Economic Development Manager;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was received on behalf of Councillor McVeigh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 24th November.

Following a query from a Member in regard to the Minister for Infrastructure having instructed the department's officials to call in the planning application in respect of the new development at Casement Park, it was agreed that the Development Planning and Policy Manager would be invited to a future meeting of the Working Group to take the Members through the planning process that would be applied in this instance.

Update on Phase IV Alleygating Scheme

(Mrs. A. Allen, Safer City Manager attended in connection with this item.)

The Members considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates
- highlight any technical and legal issues associated with Phase 4 Alleygates
- provide up to date information on spend against allocated budget
- to agree a way forward on a list of reserve gates
- highlight any remaining issues
- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme) West Belfast was allocated a budget of £210,000 (89 gates approximately)

3.0 Key issues

Update on Progress to Date

3.1 The required statutory consultation is complete (particularly Transport NI) and issues arising from this are detailed below.

3.2 Site surveys (including detailed measurements) have been undertaken

3.3 Pre-consultation with affected properties has been completed and all consultation responses have been scrutinised by Legal Services

3.4 Draft Road Traffic Orders have been prepared ready for advertising for 30 days from 27 January 2017 (as required by the Clean Neighbourhoods Act). This stage is classed as the formal consultation stage.

Technical and Legal Issues

3.4 As a result of the site surveys and pre-consultation with affected properties, a number of technical and legal issues have been identified (detailed below). These issues affect a

significant number of proposed alleygates for West Belfast and will not be included in the initial Road Traffic Order (based on legal advice).

- **Community Gates:** A large number of proposed gate locations are replacements for existing gates erected by the Community. There are number of due diligence issues (focussing primarily on Council's liability and legal responsibilities) which require resolution. Resolution of these issues will require further professional technical input and consultation with the affected properties.
- **Disability Discrimination Legislation:** A small number of proposed gate locations are very narrow and the minimum gate size produced to date by Council's contractor will not meet the legal minimum opening in the gate of 800mm (835mm is recommended as best practice. Officers are working with the contractor to ascertain if a bespoke gating solution can be provided for these locations ensuring Council meets its legal obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- **Walkways/Roads:** The proposed gate location at Westrock Gardens/Westrock Park is classed a 'walkway' and not an 'alleyway' by Transport NI. There is also no reasonable alternative access in that area. Transport NI are therefore unwilling to give permission to install alleygates at this stage. Additionally, the proposed gate location at 51 Beechview Park is classed by Transport NI as a 'road' and they are therefore also unwilling to give permission to install alleygates.

- 3.5 Members should be aware that due to the significant number of 'community gates' being placed in West Belfast as part of Phase 4 Alleygates, and the associated issues which are delaying progression, only 11 of the 89 proposed alleygates are proceeding in the first Road Traffic Order. Subject to resolution of the associated issues with replacement of the 'community gates' a mop up Road Traffic Order is planned later in the year.

Updated spend against available budget

- 3.6 As detailed above, West Belfast has a total available budget of £210,000 for the installation of alleygates as part of Phase 4
- 3.7 If all proposed alleygates proceed West Belfast will spend £182,000 (including proposed gate locations where issues detailed above remain to be resolved)

- 3.8 Therefore £28,000 remains of West Belfast's overall budget allocation if all proposed gates are installed (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)

Reserve Gates

- 3.9 West Belfast Area Working Group previously agreed that the reserve list of gates should be comprised of gate locations in the Collin area
- 3.10 The current approximate budget available for reserve gates is £28,000 (13 gates approximately)
- 3.11 Officers will therefore work with Members from the Collin area to finalise the reserve list locations that can be gated from the available underspend (£28,000) and any further efficiencies achieved.
- 3.12 West Belfast Area Working Group will be advised at a future date when this list is finalised.

Remaining Issues

- 3.13 Members should be aware that the pre-consultation responses have generally been at a low level for Phase 4 and Officers will be working in the background to supplement this with additional evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour around the proposed gate locations
- 3.14 Members should be further aware that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Members are advised that the key next steps are:
- Advertisement of the draft Road Traffic Order for West Belfast (30 days from 27 January 2017) as the formal consultation stage
 - Legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses
 - Subject to legal approval, submission of the final Road Traffic Order for West Belfast to SP&R end March 2017. This provides the legal basis for alleygates to be installed at the named locations
 - April 2017 onwards: manufacture and installation of alleygates. Further details on the manufacture and installation stages will be provided to Members at a future Area Working Group.

4.0 Resources Implications

4.1 £700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.

4.2 £210,000 of this capital funding was allocated to West Belfast

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Councillors are requested to:

- Consider the contents of the report**
- Agree to receive an update on the final list of gates to be installed as part of the reserve list at a future meeting.”**

Following a query the Safer City Manager advised that, whilst a significant number of the proposed alleygates would not be progressed at this stage, officers were committed to resolving the requests where technical and legal issues had been identified and she agreed to discuss the outstanding issues with the Council’s legal services section.

The Working Group requested that the Safer City Manager would raise with Urban Villages the possibility of them assisting with additional/replacement alleygates in the Colin area should they have any funding remaining.

A Member requested that officers consider undertaking consultation in the St James area and agreed that Elected Members would, where possible, assist with this process.

The Working Group:

- agreed that officers would liaise with the Elected Members from the Colin area in order to establish a list of proposed gates which could be selected from the reserve list in order to spend the estimated remaining budget of £28,000;
- noted that the Draft Road Traffic Orders would be advertised for 30 days from 27th January 2017 (as required by the Clean Neighbourhoods Act); and
- noted that an update report on the final list of gates to be progressed/installed would be submitted to a future meeting.

Urban Villages Consultation - Update

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. J. McCarthy representing Urban Villages. With permission of the Chairperson, the Assistant Director tabled a report on the proposed approach to the public consultation on a number of projects funded by the Urban Villages Initiative.

The Assistant Director provided an overview of the continued partnership with Urban Villages to develop and progress the projects with the Council acting as client and delivery partner. She advised that design teams had been commissioned to develop proposals for four public/playgrounds under the Urban Villages Initiative including the Colin Urban Park and Play Park in West Belfast.

She advised that the design work for the projects was due to be completed by 31st March and outlined the proposed approach to the public consultation on the five aforementioned projects and that a consultation framework had been established to ensure that the Council's draft public engagement policies and toolkit were implemented fully into the consultation process.

The Working Group welcomed the update report and advised Ms. McCarthy that the Council would be keen to work with Urban Villages to progress a number of outstanding alleyways in the Colin area should there be any funding remaining.

Innovation Factory Update

The Economic Development Manager provide the Working Group with a status update on the Innovation Factory since it had opened in October 2016. This included detailed performance updates in respect of the occupancy rates at the new facility, details regarding the sectors from which the tenants originated, the tenants employability and skills, an update in respect of business growth and innovation services which were provided for occupants of the facility, foreign direct investment to the facility, marketing promotions, social regeneration and details regarding the overall management of the facility.

The Members noted the following facts:

Occupancy:

- 62 enquiries, 49 qualified, 34 viewings, 14 licenses;
- 11.1% occupancy (3,890 sq ft of Net lettable area of 35,000 sq ft);
- that Belfast City Council's first funding occupancy related target was to achieve 55% occupancy by 31st December 2018; and
- no customers had left the centre.

The Economic Development Manager concluded his presentation by advising that an annual performance review would be completed by the Council in April 2017 to assess performance in the 2016/17 financial year and an annual service plan would also be developed for delivery April 2017 – March 2018.

The Director for Property and Projects reported that, at a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held earlier in the day, the Committee had approved the redrafting of the Shared Space element of the PEACE IV local action plan which included progressing the Springfield Road interface.

Following a query, the Economic Development Manager confirmed that he would continue to liaise with Invest NI in respect of securing Foreign Direct Investment.

Noted.

Locality Planning and Young Foundation Social Innovation Fund

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide members with an update on Social Innovation Challenge Programme to be delivered in the locality planning areas.

2.0 Recommendations

- To seek approval on the funding process for successful innovative projects within locality planning areas

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows;

1. Whiterock
2. Inner East
3. Belvoir & Milltown
4. New Lodge

As approved by Council in October 2016 further locality planning will be developed in the Duncairn Area of Belfast once resources become available.

‘Belfast Social Innovation’ model

In exploring how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both city and local level, we are seeking to test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques. We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in how we can work with residents, members and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions to issues and to explore how potential innovative projects could be scaled across other areas of the city.

To support this work, in August 2016, Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a ‘social innovation model’ for working at the local level to test this approach in the locality planning areas. The

term ‘social innovation’ refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. The unique selling point of this work is that these ideas are developed by local people in partnership with others to improve the lives of people in their community.

By working in partnership with the Young Foundation we are hoping to develop collaborative working between local people, groups and organisations in the private, voluntary, community and public sectors to create innovative projects to try to address those problems that have been identified as part of the work within the locality planning areas.

It is envisaged that a ‘Belfast Social Innovation model’ would:

- Test new ways for the Council to work directly with residents and partners to co-design and deliver innovation projects at a local level in a new and different way to address issues;**
- Build skills and capabilities within local communities;**
- Provide learning with regards to how we deliver services in partnership with residents, members and partners at a local area.**

Social Innovation Challenge Programme Process

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme will be implemented with the proposal that in each locality planning area up to four projects will be recommended for funding so they can be delivered within the area to start to address issues identified through the locality planning process.

Successful projects will receive a small amount of financial support (maximum £15,000) from the Challenge Programme to allow them to be delivered / scaled to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the high level process being undertaken to work with residents to develop projects, and to seek approval on members’ involvement in recommending funding is awarded to the successful projects.

Stages

Prior to the start of the Challenge Programme process, officers will have already undertaken significant engagement in the local areas with residents, community organisations and other stakeholders to identify the key priorities that they want to focus on.

While each area will be unique and this programme will be flexible in the approach we take it is proposed that the following stage process will be followed:

1. Ethnographic research
2. Generation of potential innovations
3. Initial Project Proposal
4. Accelerator Programme Enrolment
5. Completion of Accelerator Programme / Application for funding
6. Decision Panel Recommendation (two stage)
7. Due diligence
8. Council approval
9. Funding awarded (Letter of Offer)
10. Implementation
11. Ongoing impact assessment

The above represents a high level summary of the process from initial generating of ideas until innovative projects are being implemented.

Decision Panels

An important aspect of the above process is choosing which projects will be recommended for funding. In each area, it is anticipated that a number of innovative ideas generated by local residents and partners will participate in the Accelerator Programme.

This programme, through a series of tailored workshops, will offer social innovation support and assistance to develop initial ideas to the stage where they each have a business model and plan for how they can become sustainable.

On completion of the Accelerator Programme we are proposing that a maximum of four projects will be funded in each area up to £15,000. However, as there may be more than four projects which are eligible to apply for funding, i.e. have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme, it is recommended that decision panels are established to make recommendations on which projects receive funding.

To ensure local elected members are involved in the decision-making process we are proposing that there is a two-stage localised 'Dragon's Den'-type process to score potential projects. It is proposed that each group will be required to pitch their project idea in two stages, as follows:

1. Independent Panel – Final members are to be agreed but suggested members could include experts in the field of innovation such as;

- i. Building Change Trust (Social Innovation Team)
- ii. Innovate UK
- iii. Private Sector
- iv. NIHE (Social Enterprise Team)

2. Local DEA Elected members Panel

Chaired by BCC Officer(s)

We are proposing that there will be an overall % score awarded to each project with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

- 1. Independent panel – 75%**
- 2. Local DEA elected members panel – 25%**

Final recommendations on projects to be funded will be brought back to the Area Working Groups, seeking approval to proceed to SP&R and Council for ratification.

It should be noted that this funding will not be awarded through an open call, it will be restricted to those projects that involve local residents and are developed by those who have been involved in the locality planning process and have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme.

Furthermore, those projects that are not successful will receive ongoing support in relation to availing of other opportunities for funding and further capacity-building support to enable them to scale ideas.

Financial & Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”

The Working Group endorsed the process for the selection and funding of projects, as set out within the report.

Update in respect of Falls Park Gate Lodge

The Director of Property and Projects advised that a refurbishment of the Gate Lodge building was a proposal within the Falls Park Masterplan, however, the proposed project currently had no Council resources allocated to it.

The Director reported that the allocation of resources needed to be identified in terms of whether the Council wished to refurbish just the Gate Lodge or also to relocate

the service yard at the same time. He also added that consideration needed to be given to the long term liability and running costs.

The Working Group was advised that an alternative option existed which was to place the building on the open market, in either an unrefurbished state, or as a refurbished building.

Following consideration the Working Group agreed that the refurbishment of the Gate Lodge, in conjunction with the relocation of the Service Yard, would be considered as a priority project for advancing on the list of emerging capital projects and agreed also that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee for its consideration.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Members with a brief overview on the current status of the BIF projects and highlighted the projects that had been recommended to be moved through the stage approval process/added to the BIF list.

Noted.

Leisure Transformation Programme

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that, subject to a positive planning decision, it was envisaged that construction of the new leisure facility at Andersonstown would commence at the start of August 2017. In order to allow sufficient time to demolish the existing centre and prepare the site for construction it was proposed that it would close on 28th May. The officer advised that it was anticipated that the construction of the new centre would take around 24 months to complete, with the new facility opening in late summer 2019.

The Assistant Director then provided the Working Group with a comprehensive update on the proposed measures that would be put in place to provide continuity of provision which included the relocation of the various users to their nearest suitable alternative venue/centre. She stressed that a full communications and engagement plan was being drawn up around the business continuity arrangements and that officers would ensure that it was well publicised in the centre, surrounding area and via Facebook/social media etc.

The Working Group noted the proposed timetable for the closure of the existing Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the proposed measures that would be put in place to ensure continuity of provision for the current centre users.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group was advised that local area information sessions had been arranged during January and February to brief the local communities on the Belfast Agenda, the Local Development Plan, City Centre Investment and local investments through LIF and BIF. The Members were asked to note that the West event would be held on 13th February from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. in the Innovation Factory and they were encouraged to attend.

It was suggested that a joint meeting of the North Area Working Group and the West Area Working Group could be convened to discuss the Belfast Hills and that the Belfast Hills Partnership would be invited to present to this meeting.

At the request of a Member it was agreed that the Colin Glen Forest Park would be added as a future agenda item.

Date of Next Meetings

The Working Group noted the following schedule of meetings and that it would meet at 4.30 p.m. on those dates:

Thursday, 23rd February;
Thursday, 23rd March; and
Thursday, 27th April.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 2nd February, 2017

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Armitage, Copeland, Dorrian,
Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Milne,
Newton and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Howard, Long and O'Neill.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 5th January, 2017, were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Local Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an overview of the current projects under Phases 1 and 2 of the Local Investment Fund (LIF). Under Phase 1, he advised the Members that they had committed their allocation of £1,127,500 to eight projects, of which seven had been completed. The Members were advised that the Walkway Community Association project was now at final account stage and that there was an underspend of £15,598, which was available for re-allocation by the Area Working Group.

Under Phase 2 of LIF, through which the East AWG had been allocated £1.2million, the Director provided the Working Group with an overview of how the Working Group had proposed to allocate funding under LIF2 as follows:

- 3 projects were at Stage 1 and had received an initial letter of offer in principle;
- 2 projects were at Stage 2 and were working towards due diligence;
- 5 projects were at Stage 3, having passed due diligence and were preparing for construction; and
- 2 projects were currently being delivered;

He advised the Working Group that it had allocated £1,141,589 of the £1.2million through LIF2 to date, with £58,411 still to be allocated. The Members were also advised that the tender for the Towell House project had been completed and that the revised estimates for the work was £91,178 whereas the Working Group had allocated £75,000 towards it. A number of Members stated that they felt the Towell House project was a valuable community project

After discussion, the Working Group:

1. agreed to allocate an additional £20,000 towards Towell House, giving it a total allocation of £95,000;
2. agreed that discussions would continue with St. Christopher's Church and that an update on the project would be submitted to a future meeting; and
3. noted that the project promoter had changed from St. Matthew's Football Club to St. Matthew's Sports and Social Club.

Belfast Investment Fund (Outer East)

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the Stage 1 – Emerging projects for the ringfenced £2million for the Outer East area, namely TAGIT Boxing Club, the Hanwood Trust and Braniel Church.

The Director also outlined that there were two other emerging projects for the outer east area, including a schools community project and a proposal from Castlereagh Presbyterian Church.

The Working Group agreed that the outdoor gym proposal from Our Lady and St. Patrick's College Knock be considered in conjunction with the schools community project for the Lisnasharragh and Ormiston areas.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to allocate £15,000-20,000 towards an options appraisal to determine the most feasible projects. The Director confirmed that an update on the study would be submitted to a future meeting.

Leisure Transformation Programme – Templemore Baths

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item).

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the next steps in progressing the Templemore Baths Restoration project, including:

- A proposed approach for developing long term management arrangements for the new facility with Templemore Users Trust;
- Governance arrangements and the role of Templemore Users Trust in developing the project – including consideration of funding technical assistance for the Users Trust;
- An update on the critical dates for progressing the Project;

2.0 Background

In June 2016, Council submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's enterprise scheme to secure £5m funding towards the restoration of Templemore Baths as part of an estimated £16.8m project. HLF advised the Council in September 2016 that the project successfully passed through their round 1 assessment and allocated £380,000 funding to contribute towards developing the project further in advance of submitting a round 2 application, which is currently programmed to be submitted in April 2018.

Our proposal is to restore the existing building to its former glory and develop an extension on the adjacent former hospital site. In summary our plans include the following:

1. Retain the original entrances to ensure the historic legibility of the building retains its importance and provide roughly 30% of the building for interpretation;
2. Develop a spa facility within the existing building and retain the existing pool;
3. Develop a new 25m, 6 lane pool and an 80 station gym on the adjacent hospital site;
4. Develop a café which will operate from the courtyard in the middle of the existing building and offer other enterprise opportunities from the former caretakers house;
5. Retain as much as possible of the original fabric and features of the existing building.

Templemore Users Trust has managed the baths, with a Council subsidy, since 1983 with their lease due to expire in June 2019. New management arrangements will be agreed during the project development phase and implemented in the months leading up to the opening of the new facility. During construction, which is programmed to commence in August 2019, the building contractor will take ownership of the building and wider site.

3.0 Proposed approach for developing long term management arrangements for the new facility

One of the critical requirements during the development phase will be to develop a robust management model for the new facility, ensuring that it is sustainable and achieves the community and economic benefits outlined in the application to HLF.

Templemore Users Trust are recognised as having played a crucial role in keeping the building open over the last 30 years and are important to its future. Therefore, subject to Members approval, it is envisaged that a service delivery contract approach is taken forward with the Users Trust for the long term management and operation of Templemore Baths. A new contractual relationship with the Users Trust will set out the Council's requirements and performance measures for the Users' Trust to deliver outcomes in line with the objectives of the Leisure Transformation Programme.

During the development phase the Council are required by HLF to complete a Development Appraisal, Economic Appraisal and Business Plan with the costs to be met from the Development Grant. These will be used to help inform Members decisions for developing the project and to support capacity building by establishing clear guidance for the Users Trust. The Business Plan will outline specific measures for the Users Trust that will be needed to ensure the long term sustainability of the new facility. A draft Terms of Reference for the Business Plan is attached at Appendix 1 and will be completed in advance of submitting a round 2 application to HLF, which is programmed to be submitted in April 2018.

The Users Trust will be expected to follow the recommendations outlined in the business plan and a range of organisational, legal and financial health checks will be carried out, prior to entering a new contractual relationship, to ensure that a robust and sustainable management model is in place for the new facility.

4.0 Project governance and the role of Templemore Users Trust

A proposed governance structure for delivering the project is attached at Appendix 2. This includes the establishment of a Project Board to oversee the delivery of the project, which is a key requirement of the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition, the project will report through the Leisure Transformation Programme Board to the SP&R Committee and Council, which is consistent with the governance arrangements already in place for the Robinson Centre, Andersonstown and Brook Activity Centre developments.

Templemore Users Trust, as the proposed service delivery partner, will have representation on the Project Board and Project Delivery Group. However, the Council will have ultimate decision making authority. In summary the Users Trust's role in progressing the project is envisaged to include:

- Supporting the development of physical and interpretive designs;
- Supporting consultation and engagement;
- Supporting the development and implementation of a Management and Maintenance Plan;
- Carrying out a range of activities outlined in the Activity Plan;
- Capacity building and implementing the recommendations outlined in the Business Plan;
- Recruitment, training & development of staff and volunteers.

Further work will be undertaken to clearly set out roles, responsibilities and accountability for the governance arrangements.

The Users Trust have identified the need for additional leisure and technical expertise to feed into the design development process and it is proposed that the Council fund technical assistance to act on the Users Trust's behalf in this respect. The costs for this post will be met from the Leisure Mobilisation Budget.

5.0 Timeline and critical dates for progressing the project

Date	Milestone
January 2017	Permission to start received from HLF
January -May 2017	Procurement of capital and interpretive design teams
March 2017	Long-term management approach is agreed by Council (as outlined above)
July 2017 – February 2018	Estates/Legal/TUT prepare new management agreement
July 2017	Acquire adjacent former hospital site from DfC
April 2017- March 2018	Development Phase Activities & HLF Engagement *
April 2018	Submit round 2 application

August 2018 – March 2019	Planning approval process
June 2019	TUT's existing lease expires
August 2019 – August 2021	Construction
July – September 2021	Implementation of new management arrangements
October 2021	Opening of new facility

***Development phase activities include – delivering a consultation & engagement plan; preparing physical designs; developing interpretive designs; Development Appraisal to include EA and Business Plan; Conservation Management Plan; Interpretive Plan; Activity Statement; Management & Maintenance Plan; Develop round 2 application.**

6.0 Recommendation

Members of the East Area Working Group are asked to:

- 1. Consider the proposed approach to developing long term management arrangements as outlined above;**
- 2. Note the governance arrangements for the project, the role of TUT and consider funding technical assistance for the Users Trust;**
- 3. Note the critical dates for progressing the project.”**

The Working Group adopted the recommendations and agreed that a report on the progress with the Robinson Centre would be submitted to a future meeting.

Alleygates Phase IV Update

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates**
- highlight any technical and legal issues associated with Phase 4 Alleygates**
- provide up to date information on spend against allocated budget**

- to agree a way forward on a list of reserve gates
- highlight any remaining issues
- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps

2.0 Background

2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme) East Belfast was allocated a budget of £210,000 (89 gates approximately)

3.0 Key Issues

Update on Progress to Date

3.1 The required statutory consultation is complete (particularly Transport NI) and no issues were identified aside from those detailed below.

3.2 Site surveys (including detailed measurements) have been undertaken

3.3 Pre-consultation with affected properties has been completed and all consultation responses have been scrutinised by Legal Services

3.4 Draft Road Traffic Orders have been prepared ready for advertising for 30 days from 27 January 2017 (as required by the Clean Neighbourhoods Act). This stage is classed as the formal consultation stage.

Technical and Legal Issues

3.4 As a result of the site surveys and pre-consultation with affected properties, a number of technical and legal issues have been identified (detailed below). These issues only affect a small number of proposed alleygates for East Belfast and will not be included in the initial Road Traffic Order (based on legal advice).

- **Walkways: Proposed gate locations at Merok Crescent and Carnamena Avenue are classed as ‘walkways’ and not ‘alleyways’ by Transport NI. They will not give permission for gating these locations.**
- **Consultation: The pre consultation stage identified a significant objection in relation to the alleygates proposed at Park Avenue.**
- **Disability Discrimination Legislation: Proposed gate locations at Thorndyke Street and Albertbridge Road are very narrow and the minimum gate size produced**

to date by Council's contractor will not meet the legal minimum opening in the gate of 800mm (835mm is recommended as best practice). Officers are working with the contractor to ascertain if a bespoke gating solution can be provided for these locations ensuring Council meets its legal obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Gate Location	No. of Gates Affected	Issue	Potential for Resolution
To the rear of 10-36 Thorndyke Street and 189-223 Albertbridge Road	2	Proposed gate locations narrow and current gate spec. will not meet legal minimum (DDA)	Officers working with manufacturers to ascertain if a bespoke gating solution can be found.
To the side of 34-36 Merok Crescent	2	These locations are legally classed as 'walkways'. Transport NI will not give permission for these gates	No further action can be taken. These gates cannot proceed.
To the side of 49 Carnamena Avenue and Glenburn Gospel Hall	2		
To the rear of 9 - 39 Park Avenue and to the side of 9, 23, 25 and 39 Park Avenue	3	Significant objection received	Officers working through details of objection to see if resolution can be achieved

Updated spend against available budget

- 3.5 As detailed above, East Belfast has a total available budget of £210,000 for the installation of alleygates as part of Phase 4.**
- 3.6 If all proposed alleygates proceed (aside from Merok Crescent and Carnamena Avenue) East Belfast AWG will spend £155,000 (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved).**
- 3.7 Therefore £55,000 remains of East Belfast's overall budget allocation if all proposed gates are installed (including proposed gate locations where issues remain to be resolved)**

Reserve Gates

- 3.9 East Belfast Area Working Group previously agreed (June 2016) that its reserve list of gates would be comprised of the streets identified using PSNI crime and anti-social behaviour statistics. The gate locations (identified using PSNI statistics)**

highlighted below have already been included in Phase 4. Those gate locations not highlighted now comprise the reserve list.

High count ASB Y/N	High count Burglary Y/N	High Incident Y/N	Street	Number of gates required	Gating requests
N	N	Y	Ravensdale Court	2	1
N	N	Y	Lord Street	6	3
N	N	Y	Templemore Street	4	1
N	N	Y	Avoniel Road	2	2
N	N	Y	Hyndford Street	12	0
N	N	Y	Greenville Road	6	2
N	N	Y	Clara Avenue	4	2
N	N	Y	Hollycroft Avenue	4	3
N	N	Y	Melrose Avenue	2	3
N	N	Y	Woodcot Avenue	4	2
N	N	Y	Bramcote Street	4	2
N	N	Y	Kensington Avenue	4	1
N	N	Y	Glenbrook Avenue	4	1
N	N	Y	Lichfield Avenue	4	1
N	N	Y	Dunraven Avenue	12	0
N	N	Y	Moorgate Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Moorfield Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Crystal Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Beechwood Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Chobham Street	3	0

3.10 The current approximate budget available for reserve gates is £55,000 (25 gates approximately)

- 3.11 Members may recall that it was agreed by East Belfast Area Working Group in September 2016, that four gates in Short Strand would be added to the reserve list (Harper St and Madrid St).
- 3.12 Further requests have been received from Elected Members in recent months to add Rosebery Road to the reserve list.
- 3.13 Members are asked to delegate authority to Officers to work through (in order of priority as identified below) the East Belfast reserve list up to budget remaining of £55,000 (including any further efficiencies achieved).
- Harper St
 - Madrid St
 - Rosebery Road
 - High Need List above based on PSNI statistics

Remaining Issues

- 3.14 Members should be aware that the pre-consultation responses have generally been at a low level for Phase 4 and Officers will be working in the background to supplement this with additional evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour around the proposed gate locations
- 3.15 Members should be further aware that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.

Next Steps

- 3.16 Members are advised that the key next steps are:
- Advertisement of the draft Road Traffic Order for East Belfast (30 days from 27 January 2017) as the formal consultation stage
 - Legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses
 - Subject to legal approval, submission of the final Road Traffic Order for East Belfast to SP&R end March 2017. This provides the legal basis for alleygates to be installed at the named locations
 - April 2017 onwards: manufacture and installation of alleygates. Further details on the manufacture and installation stages will be provided to Members at a future Area Working Group.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 **£700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.**

4.2 **£210,000 of this capital funding was allocated to East Belfast**

5.0 **Equality and good Relations Implications**

5.1 **There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.**

6.0 **Recommendations**

6.1 **Councillors are requested to:**

- **Consider the contents of the report**
- **Finalise the East Belfast reserve list (in order of priority) and delegate Officers the authority to work through this reserve list from top to bottom using available underspends.”**

After discussion, during which a number of Members made further suggestions of potential locations for alleygates, it was agreed that Members should provide the specific locations to the Safer City Manager over the next two weeks and agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting detailing the final reserve list of streets.

In response to a Member's question, the Safer City Manager advised the Members that the gates would likely begin to be manufactured from April 2017, pending approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Locality Planning – Social Innovation Challenge Programme

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 **Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

To provide members with an update on Social Innovation Challenge Programme to be delivered in the locality planning areas.

2.0 **Recommendation**

To seek approval on the funding process for successful innovative projects within locality planning areas.

3.0 **Main Report**

Key Issues

Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows:

- 5. Whiterock**
- 6. Inner East**
- 7. Belvoir & Milltown**
- 8. New Lodge**

As approved by Council in October 2016, further locality planning will be developed in the Duncairn Area of Belfast once resources become available.

'Belfast Social Innovation' Model

In exploring how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both city and local level, we are seeking to test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques. We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in how we can work with residents, members and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions to issues and to explore how potential innovative projects could be scaled across other areas of the city.

To support this work, in August 2016, the Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model' for working at the local level to test this approach in the locality planning areas. The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. The unique selling point of this work is that these ideas are developed by local people in partnership with others to improve the lives of people in their community.

By working in partnership with the Young Foundation, we are hoping to develop collaborative working between local people, groups and organisations in the private, voluntary, community and public sectors to create innovative projects to try to address those problems that have been identified as part of the work within the locality planning areas.

It is envisaged that a 'Belfast Social Innovation model' would:

- Test new ways for the Council to work directly with residents and partners to co-design and deliver innovation projects at a local level in a new and different way to address issues;**
- Build skills and capabilities within local communities;**

- Provide learning with regards to how we deliver services in partnership with residents, members and partners at a local area.

Social Innovation Challenge Programme Process

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme will be implemented with the proposal that in each locality planning area up to four projects will be recommended for funding so they can be delivered within the area to start to address issues identified through the locality planning process.

Successful projects will receive a small amount of financial support (maximum £15,000) from the Challenge Programme to allow them to be delivered / scaled to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the high level process being undertaken to work with residents to develop projects, and to seek approval on members' involvement in recommending funding is awarded to the successful projects.

Stages

Prior to the start of the Challenge Programme process, officers will have already undertaken significant engagement in the local areas with residents, community organisations and other stakeholders to identify the key priorities that they want to focus on.

Whilst each area will be unique and this programme will be flexible in the approach we take, it is proposed that the following stage process will be followed:

12. Ethnographic research
13. Generation of potential innovations
14. Initial Project Proposal
15. Accelerator Programme Enrolment
16. Completion of Accelerator Programme / Application for funding
17. Decision Panel Recommendation (two stage)
18. Due diligence
19. Council approval
20. Funding awarded (Letter of Offer)
21. Implementation
22. Ongoing impact assessment

The above represents a high level summary of the process from initial generating of ideas until innovative projects are being implemented.

Decision Panels

An important aspect of the above process is choosing which projects will be recommended for funding. In each area, it is anticipated that a number of innovative ideas generated by local residents and partners will participate in the Accelerator Programme.

This programme, through a series of tailored workshops, will offer social innovation support and assistance to develop initial ideas to the stage where they each have a business model and plan for how they can become sustainable.

On completion of the Accelerator Programme we are proposing that a maximum of four projects will be funded in each area up to £15,000. However, as there may be more than four projects which are eligible to apply for funding, i.e. have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme, it is recommended that decision panels are established to make recommendations on which projects receive funding.

To ensure local elected members are involved in the decision-making process we are proposing that there is a two-stage localised 'Dragon's Den'-type process to score potential projects. It is proposed that each group will be required to pitch their project idea in two stages, as follows:

3. Independent Panel

Final members are to be agreed but suggested members could include experts in the field of innovation such as:

- v. Building Change Trust (Social Innovation Team)**
- vi. Innovate UK**
- vii. Private Sector**
- viii. NIHE (Social Enterprise Team)**

4. Local DEA Elected members Panel Chaired by BCC Officer(s)

We are proposing that there will be an overall % score awarded to each project with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

- 3. Independent panel – 75%**
- 4. Local DEA elected members panel – 25%**

Final recommendations on projects to be funded will be brought back to the Area Working Groups, seeking approval to proceed to SP&R and Council for ratification.

It should be noted that this funding will not be awarded through an open call, it will be restricted to those projects that

involve local residents and are developed by those who have been involved in the locality planning process and have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme.

Furthermore, those projects that are not successful will receive ongoing support in relation to availing of other opportunities for funding and further capacity-building support to enable them to scale ideas.

Financial and Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”

In response to a Member’s question, the Programme Manager agreed to provide updates on the work to the Working Group at a future meeting.

The Working Group adopted the recommendations.

Correspondence

The Working Group noted correspondence from Willowfield Bowling Club and agreed that officers should engage with the Club to ascertain what assistance it was requesting from the Area Working Group.

At the request of a Member, the Group also agreed that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services should consider whether the Support for Sport scheme would be able to assist the Club.

Date of Next meeting

The Working Group noted that the next scheduled meeting would coincide with Polling Day, 2nd March, 2017, and agreed to reschedule the meeting to Monday, 13th March, at 4.00 pm.

Chairperson