

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th April, 2018

MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston;
Councillors, Baker, Beattie, Canavan,
Collins, Corr, Heading, Hutchinson, Nic Biorna,
McConville, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Attwood, Carson and Garrett.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd March were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Heading declared an interest in agenda item 3. (b) Presentation from Good Shepherd Primary School V in that he was a member of the Board of Governors of the Good Shepherd Primary School; and
- Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in agenda item 2. (b) Presentation on the proposals for the new Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) V in that he was a Member of the Planning Committee and he took no part in the discussion.

Decision Tracker

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and he provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 22nd March.

Noted.

Presentations

Good Shepherd Primary School

The Area Working Group welcomed Mr. D. O'Neill, Principal of Good Shepherd Primary School, to the meeting.

Mr. O'Neill advised that the school was a Catholic Maintained, co-educated primary school located in the Poleglass area of Dunmurry on the outskirts of West Belfast that opened in 1982. The Principal provided an overview of the site, which included photographs of the area.

Mr. O'Neill outlined that the school's vision was to build a 21st Century Parents' Education Centre and Community Eco Garden and he proceeded to outline the benefits of this proposal as follows:

The 'indoor' benefits would include:

- a 'green' base developed from recycled materials for on-site Adult Education providing potential to build the capacity of parents and family members;
- development of adult literacy, numeracy and ICT skills;
- to reinvigorate a desire in the community to engage in the world of work;
- promotion of healthy eating and family cooking on a budget;
- development of important parenting skills; and
- an opportunity to engage with children, staff and parents of partner school, Blythefield PS, Sandy Row.

The 'outdoor' benefits would include:

- establishing an outdoor learning space, including a Nature Trail, an outdoor story telling corner and some raised beds where children and parents alike could connect with nature, care for the community and develop a desire to grow plants and vegetables; and
- a facility for parents and children with ASD to engage in a dedicated outdoor area aimed at meeting the sensory needs of children who were presented with challenging behaviours as soon as the structure of the school day was finished.

He advised that it was envisaged that the project would require a variety of funding streams and that it could be delivered on a phased basis. He stated that it was anticipated that the project would cost in the region of £270,000 for the Adult Learning Centre and a further £80,000 for the development of the outdoor space.

In response to a Member's question, Mr. O'Neill advised that the proposed scheme would complement the existing Colin allotments. He explained that the raised beds would only form a small part of the outdoor scheme, however, it was hoped that this would encourage children to explore gardening and encourage their parents to do the same.

The Working Group considered the proposal and acknowledged the community benefits which the development proposal could bring to West Belfast. The Working Group

suggested that it might be beneficial to also update the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and the Colin Valley Football Club to ensure that there was no duplication of provision in the area.

Given that the Council currently had no funding available, the Working Group suggested that officers from the Council would, if possible, provide assistance to the school in identifying other funding streams.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representative for his attendance and he retired from the meeting.

New Children's Hospital at Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH)

The Working Group heard from representatives from AECOM, Planning Consultants, regarding the proposed redevelopment of the RVH Children's Hospital.

The representatives advised the Members of the proposal to build a new state of the art children's hospital at the RVH and proceeded to highlight the following facts and figures:

- the existing facility had 97 beds and it was proposed that this number would increase to 155 beds;
- currently 3 theatres to increase to 10 theatres;
- 12 Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) beds increasing to 26 PICU/High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds;
- ED for 30,000 increasing to ED for 45,000
- currently children were treated up to their 13th birthday for routine appointments and their 14th birthday in an emergency situation, in the new facility all children would be treated up to their 16th birthday;
- 2 floors to increase to 10 floors;
- 15,000 m2 to increase to 55,000 m2; and
- 31 single rooms to increase to c124 single rooms (80%).

With the aid of PowerPoint, the representatives then provided the Working Group with a detailed overview of the proposed plans which included architects drawings and impressions for the new Children's Hospital.

The representatives then addressed a number of questions, during which, they advised the Members that, in line with planning protocol, a number of consultation events would be being held in the near future.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for the presentation and they left the meeting.

Ardmonagh Family Centre

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. R. May, Chief Executive of Ardmonagh Family Centre.

Mr. May commenced the presentation by advising that the Group had been established by local residents in the Turf Lodge in 1993, since then it had been delivering quality family and supported children's services to some of the most vulnerable children,

families and adults in Belfast and it was now one of the largest community employers in West Belfast.

The representative then provided a detailed overview of the many support services that it provided, which included, day care, family support, respite and support services for children and adults with complex medical needs and elderly support services.

Mr. May explained that the Group operated as a social enterprise scheme, which aimed to generate an annual income that would maintain services throughout West Belfast and enable the Group to provide Community Support programmes within the Upper Springfield/Whiterock area. The representative then proceeded to outline the financial position of the organisation over the last four-year period, along with details in respect of the number of people employed by the programme. He reiterated that the organisations aim was to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunities for the most deprived communities.

The representative then referred the Members to photographs of an area known locally as the 'Ardmonagh Hot Spot', he explained that this was a derelict piece of land located directly to the rear of the Ardmonagh Family Centre which was owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and attracted much anti-social behaviour.

Mr. May explained that the Family Centre wished to acquire this piece of land to enhance the centre and he advised that it was currently in negotiations with the NIHE to try and resolve outstanding boundary issues. Once these issues had been finalised, the Group wished to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study to identify options and recommendations for the future redevelopment of the site. The Group were seeking the Council's support in progressing the study, if funding should become available.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted that, in the first instance, the Director of Property and Projects undertook to liaise with the NIHE with a view to addressing the outstanding boundary issue.

St Galls GAC Community Sports Project

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. P. O'Neill, representing St. Galls GAC to the meeting.

Mr. O'Neill provided the Members with background information on St. Galls GAC and its work and involvement with the local community.

The representative proceeded to outline St. Gall's proposal for a Community Sports Programme. He reminded the Working Group that it had previously received a presentation from St. Galls approximately three years ago and detailed how the proposal had progressed during this time:

- land had been purchased;
- architect plans prepared ;
- full planning permission had been granted; and
- a business case/economic appraisal had been developed.

The representative advised the Working Group that it was envisaged that the finished project would result in a community space that would integrate sport and communities and help to tackle anti-social behaviour practically and effectively and he sought the Council's assistance in progressing the initiative.

The representative advised that St. Galls would be making an application through Sport NI's Community Sports Fund and that a maximum funding of £1 million was available. He detailed that the total projected cost for the project was £1.6 million, however, this might increase to £1.8 million should funding from Sport NI be awarded in order to meet its requirements.

The representative sought financial support to progress the proposal through the Council's Capital Programme.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and for the excellent work that St. Galls undertook with the local community and he retired from the room.

Following a query, the Director of Property and Project clarified the process around progressing projects through the Capital Programme.

A further Member sought clarification regarding the re-development of Lenadoon Park and requested that the People and Communities Committee be asked to include this within its review of Pitch Provision throughout the City.

Physical Programme Update

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, Social Outcome Fund (SOF), Peace IV and the projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the updates on LIF attached (Appendix 1)

3. Local Investment Fund

To date 44 projects have received in principle support under LIF1 and LIF2. A summary of the status of the LIF projects is outlined below and a full progress report is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

Stage/ Description	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Project Completed	25 (100%)	£1,567,500	10 (53%)	£809,788
Number of Project On-going Delivery			1 (5%)	£26,000
Number of Project in Pre-construction			3 (16%)	£90,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)			5 (26%)	£274,212
Total Number of Approved Project	25	£1,567,500	19	£1,200,000

Members are asked to note that the SP&R Committee, at its meeting on 20th April, agreed to the holding of a ceremony to mark the extent and success of LIF. The full details of this are still being worked up and Members will be kept up to date on proposals

4. Belfast Investment Fund

To date 6 projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under BIF. There are 4 projects on the longer BIF list.

West	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Stage 2— Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m; Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£500k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment
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Below are the brief updates on the projects that have received in-principle funding.

Project	Status and update
Davitts GAC	Construction of a full size GAA pitch, spectator stand, changing pavilion, 3G MUGA and community park, Work currently underway with the project due to complete in the coming month
Raidió Fáilte	Construction of 3 storey Irish language broadcast, recording, training and archive facility. Works underway with the project due to complete June 2018.
St Comgall's	The project has secured £3.5 million match funding from the Social Investment Fund. A design team has been appointed

Project	Status and update
	with detailed designs now being worked up
Colin Glen Trust	Masterplan projects include Alpine Toboggan, zipline, driving range improvements and 3G pitch dome. Match funding of £500k from Rural Tourism Fund for the Alpine Toboggan on progress.
Glencairn Community Project	EA complete. Work ongoing with group - business plan being completed with support from DTNI. Land transfer to be signed off by NIHE. Work progressing with group.
Royal British Legion	A number of meetings held with the group who have independently commissioned a consultant to complete an EA.

5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Below is the status of the projects in West under the programme.

Project	Status and update
Pitches Strategy - Falls Park - New pitch and pavilion	Stage 3 – Committed. Due for completion by end April/start of May
Falls Park Open Space	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground.
LTP - Andersonstown Regeneration	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Clarendon Playing Fields	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2017/2018 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
LTP- Brook	Stage 3 – Committed. On ground
City Cemetery - Baby Plot Memorial	Stage 3 – Committed. Tender preparation stage
City Cemetery - HLF	Stage 3 – Committed. Scheme at Risk. Decision on funding from HLF due in the coming weeks
Falls Park Service Yard (part of Falls Park Masterplan)	Stage 2 – Uncommitted. OBC being worked up
Falls Park Masterplan	Stage 1 – Emerging project. SOC to be worked up
Hammer Development Playground	Concept design worked up
Sally Gardens Pavilion (LGR)	Project completed
Old Golf Course Road (LGR)	Project at Tender preparation stage. To be onsite summer 2018 for Phase 1 works
White Rise MUGA (LGR)	Project at initial stage

Members will be aware the West AWG has recommended a number of projects are looked at in terms of the Capital Programme - Members are asked to note that these are required to go through the Council's governance processes, in keeping with all other proposed capital projects, before being taken into Committee as the Capital Programme is a city-wide programme

6. Social Outcome Fund

To date projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under SOF. Below are the brief updates on the projects. Projects sponsors have now been assigned to all these projects and are working with the groups

Project	Status and update
Roddy McCorley Museum	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. SOC being worked up. Work progressing with group
James Connolly Interpretative Centre	Development of a dedicated interactive exhibition, study area, library of Connolly's writing and tourist facilities. SOC being worked up
Shankill Mission	Development of a social economy training hotel. SOC being worked up. Work progressing with group
Rock Centre	Development of new tourism visitor centre. Initially discussed at Due Diligence Board on 19/4/18. Work progressing with group
Belfast Orange Hall Museum	Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor. Work progressing with group

7. Externally- funded programme

Urban Villages Initiatives

To date two of UV projects have been completed. One project remaining is the New Park at Colin, which is at the pre-application discussion stage with Planning Service. Also, procurement strategy for the New Park is being discussed with CPD. Officers are continuing to work with UV on the current and potential projects for Colin."

Following a query from a Member regarding the status of the Berlin Swifts Football Club project, the Director of Property and Projects advised that, since the report had been circulated, this project had now commenced.

In response to a query regarding antisocial behaviour and possible additional works in the form of additional lighting and fencing at Twinbrook Wildlife Garden, the Director agreed to discuss this with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Service and to update the Members accordingly at the next meeting.

The Working Group noted the update provided.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group agreed that representatives from the following organisations would be invited to present to a future meeting:

- Paisley Park Sportsplex (at the request of Alderman Kinston); and
- Upper Springfield Development Trust.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24th May.

Chairperson