

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 18th September, 2018

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Convery (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne and Spence;
Councillors Campbell, Clarke, Corr Johnston,
Magee, McCusker, Murphy and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhoods;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Patterson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th August were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Decision Tracker

The Working Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting which provided Members with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 20th August.

In relation to the Ligoniel Heritage Trail and the development of the Belfast Hills, the Policy Analyst advised that a People and Communities Workshop, open to all Members, had been scheduled on 14th November to discuss the issue, together with potential Greenway Projects.

Urban Villages Update - Marrowbone and Ballysillan

The Working Group was provided with an update on the proposed approach to public consultation on the capital projects at Ballysillan Playing Fields and Marrowbone Millennium Park in partnership with the Urban Villages Initiative.

It was reported that Urban Villages and Council officers were continuing to work in partnership to develop and progress proposals for capital investment in both projects and designs had now been prepared which would be taken forward to public consultation in November.

The Director of Property and Projects highlighted that the proposals for both projects (initial estimates of approximately £3m per project) included improvements to outdoor leisure facilities, enhanced accessibility and new play provision. He suggested that works were projected to begin in 2019/20, subject to funding and planning approvals.

The Working group noted the contents of the report and that both proposals had been agreed by the respective Urban Villages reference groups (Ballysillan Urban Villages Reference Group and the Ardoyne/Marrowbone Urban Villages Reference Group).

Westland Community Centre

The Director of Property and Projects provided an update on the Westland Community Centre project. He explained that £410,000 of public funding had been allocated to the project (£345K SIF and £65K LIF), in principle, however, there were concerns in relation to the financial management and governance of the centre. He advised that re-structuring of the centre management, running costs, core funding and sustainability needed to be addressed before the project could be taken forward.

During discussion, Members advised that a new management committee and Board of Trustees would be established soon, together with a new programme of events and training opportunities for management of the Centre. They highlighted that the Centre would provide a response to the issues raised by the Council for consideration and thanked the Council staff for their assistance in resolving the matters raised.

Noted.

Future Agenda Items

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

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;
- Quarterly updates from Ulster University regarding its community engagement and programme of building work; and
- Special Meeting – Mountain Biking on Cavehill Country Park.

The Working Group also noted that the Ulster University, the Harbour Commissioners (City Quays development) and Department for Infrastructure (York Street Interchange) had been invited to attend the next meeting.

Dates of Future Meetings

The Working Group agreed to the following meeting dates for the period from October to December, 2018:

- Tuesday, 30th October at 4.30pm;
- Tuesday, 27th November at 4.30pm; and
- Tuesday, 18th December at 4.30pm.

Chairperson