

Subject:	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
Date:	1:00 pm, 23 rd October 2019
Councillors in attendance:	<p>Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council (Chair) Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Glenn Finlay – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Robert Adair – Ards & North Down Borough Council Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Richard Smart – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Stephen Dunlop – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Deirdre Hargey – Belfast City Council Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council Alderman Allan Ewart – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Amanda Grehan – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Robert Logan – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Willie Clarke – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Charlie Casey – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Robert Burgess – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Pete Byrne – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Eric Hanvey -Belfast City Council Councillor Ciaran Beattie -Belfast City Council Alderman Audrey Wales MBE -Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p>

1.0	Welcome and Introductions
1.1	Alderman Kingston welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to its first meeting, outlined the agenda and invited Councillors to introduce themselves.
2.0	Apologies
2.1	Apologies were received from Councillor Eric Hanvey (Belfast City Council), Councillor Ciaran Beattie (Belfast City Council) and Alderman Audrey Wales (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council).
3.0	Declarations of Interest
3.1	Alderman Kingston asked Councillors to declare if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.

4.0	Terms of Reference
4.1	<p>Alderman Kingston outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for the BRCD Council Panel and explained that, during Phase 1 of the Belfast Region City Deal, the larger nature of the Joint Council Forum made detailed engagement difficult. The reduced membership of the BRCD Council Panel would allow it to operate through structured meetings and should enhance political engagement. It was explained that investment decisions would be retained by individual Councils and Universities and that the BRCD Council Panel would provide oversight.</p> <p>Following discussion, Councillors requested that acronyms in the Terms of Reference should be fully explained when first used within the document, the regularity of meetings be specified within the Terms of Reference and that papers issue for future sessions in line with the normal requirements for advance notice for committee papers. Alderman Kingston proposed that the minutes of panel should go to the relevant committee in each Council.</p> <p><i>The panel agreed the Terms of Reference subject to the proposed amendments and also agreed that the minutes of the meeting should be presented to each individual Council.</i></p>
5.0	Overview of BRCD
5.1	<p>Suzanne Wylie and Ronan Cregan (Belfast City Council) led a presentation providing an overview of the Belfast Region City Deal, including a detailed summary of the current governance structures and financing arrangements.</p> <p>The importance of signing Heads of Terms in March 2019 was explained and the opportunities relating to further collaboration beyond Belfast Region City Deal were discussed.</p> <p>Following questions from members of the Panel, Councillors discussed the roles and responsibilities of the various boards making up the governance structure for phase 2 of the BRCD. The complexity of the arrangements arising from the number of partners and the scale of the programme was noted alongside the need for timely delivery of Outline Business Cases.</p> <p>Councillors discussed methods by which private sector could invest alongside the public sector to support the delivery of the Belfast Region City Deal.</p> <p><i>It was agreed that the Programme Office would circulate the presentation to the BRCD Council Panel.</i></p>
6.0	Programme Report
6.1	<p>BRCD Programme Director Damien Martin provided an update on the BRCD programme across the investment priorities, including employability & skills, digital, innovation, tourism & regeneration and infrastructure and their associated advisory boards. An update was also provided in relation to engagement with NI Civil Service. Councillors discussed the need for continued integration between the different pillars of BRCD.</p>

7.0	Enhancing local political engagement
7.1	<p>Councillors discussed ways in which local political engagement could be enhanced, including through holding joint sessions or workshops/roadshows with the private sector in relation to BRCD projects. In addition, Councillors encouraged continued learning from other City Deals and requested that such learning be shared with the partners.</p> <p><i>It was agreed that proposals would be developed for the next meeting of the Panel in relation to regional and local business engagement.</i></p>
8.0	Workplan and schedule of meetings
8.1	<p>Councillors discussed their preference for future sessions to focus more on the BRCD projects themselves. It was suggested that future sessions of the BRCD Council Panel could focus on specific pillars of investment.</p> <p><i>The Panel agreed that Wednesdays from 1-2.30pm was a suitable time for future sessions and that Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council would host the January meeting, with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council hosting the April session.</i></p> <p>A full schedule of the BRCD Council Panel meetings will be organised by the Programme Office.</p>
9.0	Press Release
9.1	<i>Subject to minor amendments, the BRCD Council Panel agreed a press release in relation to its first meeting.</i>