

BRCD Council Panel

Subject:	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
Date:	1:00 pm, 29 January 2020
Councillors in attendance:	<p>Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council (Chair) Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Stephen Ross – 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 Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council Councillor Eric Hanvey -Belfast City Council Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Councillor Sorche Eastwood – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Alderman Audrey Wales MBE -Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Robert Logan – Mid & East Antrim Borough 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 Glenn Finlay – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Ciaran Beattie – Belfast City Council Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council Alderman Allan Ewart MBE – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Amanda Grehan – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Willie Clarke – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p>
Officers:	<p>Marie-Thérèse McGivern – Chief Executive Belfast Met Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Majella McAlister – Director of Economic Development and Planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards and North Down Borough Council Suzanne Wylie – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council Damien Martin – BRCD Programme Director, Belfast City Council Padraic Murphy – Programme Co-ordinator, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Marie Ward – Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Emer Husbands – BRCD Programme Office Ruth Rea – BRCD Programme Office Theresa Slevin – BRCD Programme Office Lorraine Beggs – BRCD Programme Office</p>

1.0	Welcome and Introductions
1.1	Alderman Cosgrove welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting and outlined the agenda.
2.0	Apologies
2.1	Apologies were received from: Councillor Glenn Finlay (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council), Councillors Ciaran Beattie & Carl Whyte (Belfast City Council), Aldermen Allan Ewart MBE, Amanda Grehan & Michael Henderson (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council), Councillor Robin Stewart (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) and Councillor Willie Clarke (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council).
3.0	Declarations of Interest
3.1	Alderman Cosgrove asked Councillors to declare if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.
4.0	Minutes of Previous Meeting
4.1	Alderman Cosgrove noted that Cllr Gaston had requested that the minutes were updated to reflect that Cllr Gaston had raised a concern in relation to the representation of councillors on the Executive Board. Proposed – Cllr Burgess Seconded – Ald Brian Kingston Members agreed to this amendment to the minutes.
5.0	BRCD Programme Update
5.1	Damien Martin (BRCD Programme Director) provided an update on the progress to date across the BRCD programme namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Boards for all pillars now in place. • Outline Business Cases (OBCs) being progressed by all projects. • Innovation projects most advanced and first draft of OBCs expected in February or March. • Engagement ongoing with UK Government and DfE regarding the Digital pillar. • Integration across the pillars within the programme remains challenging, however pillar integration workshops are seeking to address this. <p>No questions were raised.</p>

6.0	NI City & Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement
6.1	<p>Jacqui Dixon (Chief Executive Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council) outlined the NI City & Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement document provided by the NI Civil Service. This document will apply to all NI Deals and is based on other City Deals across the UK and associated lessons learned. It is recognised that further engagement is required to determine how the funding will flow and that the document was drafted prior to the re-establishment of the Executive, and clarity on the potential impact of the restored Executive will be required. The establishment of a Working Group to determine the processes required at implementation stage is proposed. The Board have drafted a response which recognises the positive collaboration with NI Civil servants to date and seeks clarification on a number of points, for Members to consider.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the requirement for all OBCs to be approved before the Deal document can be signed and the potential impact on the more advanced projects; • the need for a clear decision making process and ensuring the BRCD targets around jobs and GVA are met and considered in the decision making process; • visibility of the decisions made at the Executive Board; • ensuring that a programme approach is adopted despite the different rates of progress on OBC development and • potential issues if the departments priorities don't reflect those of City Deal. <p>Officers noted that clarity is requested in the draft response around the OBC approval requirement given the 10 year nature of the programme. OBCs will be required to develop the Financial Plan and an indicative budget for each project will be required for the Deal Document, but the OBCs do not necessarily need to be approved for these requirements to be fulfilled. It was acknowledged that the decision making process is challenging given the range of factors which need to be considered, but this is being progressed by the Executive Board, and the previously agreed principles for decision making are being followed. Engagement with government departments has been ongoing, however engagement with Ministers following the Executive return, will be a key focus in the current period in order to secure buy in for City Deal.</p> <p>Alderman Cosgrove suggested that the minutes of the Executive Board are shared to ensure visibility of decisions. Members agreed to this recommendation.</p>
7.0	Employability and Skills
7.1	Marie-Thérèse McGivern (Chief Executive Belfast Met) led a presentation on the Employability and Skills (E&S) pillar and the work that the Employability and Skills Advisory Board have been undertaking to date. City Deal

	<p>provides an opportunity to collaborate with Partners to develop new ways of working and aligning programmes to create a skills ecosystem with clear pathways to the employment opportunities created, particularly for the most deprived communities, with the aim of achieving real inclusive growth.</p> <p>Members discussed in detail the positive work to date on E&S; the importance of inclusive growth and the challenges in reaching the economically inactive; the requirement to understand how the impact and outcomes will be measured; consideration of a publicity campaign around the economically inactive; the requirement to provide a pipeline of skills; to take a targeted approach to careers guidance, promoting vocational pathways such as apprenticeships and the key role of parents in supporting young people in making career choices.</p>
8.0	Stakeholder Engagement
8.1	<p>Stephen Reid (Chief Executive Ards and North Down Borough Council) outlined the Stakeholder Engagement that has taken place to date. It was acknowledged that engagement during the first phase of the programme was focused on securing the deal and required local and national engagement at a political and government department level. For this phase, the focus is now on developing the individual projects and significant engagement with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders is now ongoing through projects and Advisory Boards. At programme level, specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement and with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with political representatives from across the Belfast Region.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed approach to political engagement and following a vote, agreed that an engagement session to be held at Stormont with MLAs from the Belfast region should be organised.</p>
9.0	Workplan and Schedule of Meetings
	The Workplan and schedule of meetings was agreed.
10.0	Press Release
10.1	<p>The BRCD Council Panel agreed the press release in relation to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposer – Cllr Smart Seconder – Ald Kingston</p>
11.0	<p>Date, time and location of next meeting Wednesday 29 April at 1 pm Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council</p>