

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 25th August, 2021

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McCullough (Chairperson);
Councillors Bradley, Cobain, Magee, McAllister;
McCusker, Murphy, O'Hara and Pankhurst and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager;
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Cobain,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst and

Resolved – that Councillor McCullough be elected to serve as
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

Apologies

An apology for the inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Maskey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th May, 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pankhurst declared an interest in relation to item 4. Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of the Upper Crumlin Cultural Community Hub.

Presentations

McCracken Cultural Society

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. D. Mac Uait (McCracken Cultural Society), Mr. C. Mackel (ArdMackel Architects), and Ms. F. Carson (Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain -

Development Officer) to the meeting to provide an overview of their proposed development of the McCracken Cultural Society on the Antrim Road and their future plans.

The representatives provided a presentation on the community-led organisation and the facility which was founded in 2000 to promote the Irish language and indigenous arts. It was reported that the facility provided classes, workshops and events throughout the year.

Mr. Mac Uait described the different options for the development and highlighted that the initial focus would be to refurbish the ground floor of the building for the development of a Coffee Shop. He explained that the facility would be used to provide youth training and employment and intended to be a self-sustaining social enterprise, together with the community support for the development.

Mr. Mackel informed the Working Group of the long term plans for the building which included a Business Hub, a lift to all floors, refurbishment of existing stairwells and presented illustrations, floor plans and the associated costs of each stage.

During discussion, the representatives explained further the viability of the Coffee Shop and demand for the Business Hub, together with the considered timescales and energy efficiencies of the intended development.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He advised that the review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June 2021.

He stated that the aim was to build a society that valued and took care of people of all ages and created a city whereby everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential. He highlighted the importance of Elected Members and partners informing this work and shaping the focus of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years (2022-2026).

He advised that a co-design approach had been adopted for refreshing the Belfast Agenda. A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners and stakeholders to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place in Jan – Mar 2022.

The Director provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the Council's new 4-year priorities.

He described the proposed 8 priority themes from 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He also highlighted that there were four cross-cutting themes proposed, including Inclusive Growth; Children and Young People; Good Relations and Shared Future; and Older People.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which encompassed actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the level of engagement and feedback to date and outlined the forthcoming events scheduled for targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September and encouraged all Members to attend.

He encouraged the Working Group to get involved and help build momentum to continue the Belfast Conversation to help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the supporting survey was available online at yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk, and proactive promotion of the process was underway via the Council's Social Media Channels and within local community facilities (e.g. Libraries, community centres and leisure centres). He also advised that further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpin the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which would adopt a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs; and
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

During discussion, Members raised the following points for consideration:

- The importance of locality partnerships;
- The need for a consistent approach across regions; and
- The need to revamp and improve mental health service, especially in North Belfast and areas of deprivation.

The Co-Director confirmed that a framework was important to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation and encouraged the Working Group to respond to the consultation.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work which were underway in relation to the North Area Working Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being discussed so that ideas could be submitted to the Group for consideration and a timeline of the work plan would be submitted to the Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial

support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement, together with a timeline of the work plan.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing and further updates would be brought to the Working Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course to refine and agree the list of priorities. One Member highlighted the urgent need for an Alleygate at Alexandra Park Avenue and the Neighbourhood Integration Manager stated a timeline of work would also be submitted to the Group.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would be continued to be funded by the European Commission with funding being allocated to each Council area. She advised that the SEUPB were researching themes for development with a view to the Council developing a local action plan for consideration in June 22.

During discussion Members raised the importance of a locality focus, capacity building, physical provision in North Belfast for communities to call their own, resources for the BAME communities, timeframes of proposed work being undertaken in the north of the City,

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information and that the Working Group would be informed of the timelines for the Alleyway Transformation Programme and Pilot Projects in due course.

Physical Programme Update

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF).

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

He explained that LIF was a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches, with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

He highlighted that 43 projects in total had received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 34 had been completed; 2 were at delivery stage; 2 were at preconstruction stage and 5 remained at due diligence / initial stages.

He drew Members' attention to the table in the report which provided an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects, as follows:

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	Project on site. Electrical works complete. Work ongoing regarding procurement of contractor for outside space. Artist appointed for mural on exterior wall. Design agreed with group and art piece will be installed at the end of August.	Continue engagement with the group.
NLIF2-22	Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment	£75,000	On Ground	Project is progressing on site. Heaters procured and instalment ongoing. Structural Engineer surveyed the internal roof structure and identified necessary works.	Continued engagement with group.
NLIF066	Wishing Well Project	£40,000	Tender preparation	Project procurement exercise recently concluded. Contractor appointment imminent.	Continued engagement with group.

NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender preparation	Progressing through Due Diligence stage. Designs also completed and planning application approved. Ongoing work with Legal Services to get the funding agreement prepared. Some further information being sought.	To be presented again to Due Diligence for sign off. Funding agreement to be progressed once maintenance agreement signed off. Requirement for street works licence to be resolved, work in progress with Dfl.
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new buildings	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Project originally agreed for LIF January 2013. Since SIF support was withdrawn in 2019 Westland Community Group are being supported by partners, including UV, NIHE and BCC to build capacity, and provide programming funding support - a funded community worker is now in place. TEO have just confirmed the project has been agreed onto their UV capital pipeline.	Continued engagement with group and UV in regarding to re-scoping of proposal and the now commencing business case development process.
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec	£46,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017. Group will be renewing their lease at Skegoniell Primary School. Group still having issues with their lease however they are actively working to resolve this.	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease. Project will be taken back to Due Diligence for review.
NLIF2-03	Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage – lease issues to be resolved.	Continued engagement with Group
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Initial stage	Agreed June 2016 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming that information was received from the group and project is progressing. The title deeds for Mercy Primary School have now been received.	Continued engagement with Group. To be presented at the next Due Diligence meeting.
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club	£66,000	Initial stage	Agreed April 2014 - This project is within the overall UV Phase 2 development of St Gemma's school. The UV Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project.	Continued engagement with Group and with UV AWG has agreed that the Group will come in and present to a future AWG.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Project Manager provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and reminded the Working Group that North Belfast had been allocated £5.5m. He advised that, in North Belfast, 7 projects had received an 'In-Principle' funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects were on the longer BIF list:

North	Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k Stage 1 - Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £400k Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment
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He updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF06	Grace Family Centre	£1,600,000	Complete	Project completed and was launched in May. The Grace Family Centre café is due to open in September 2021. The project final account is not yet ready and final figure for reallocation will be available in the next quarterly update.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought back in the next AWG meeting.
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/	£1,500,000	Design stage	£1.5m BIF monies allocated to the project in January 2019 (SP&R Cttee) and work is ongoing with the Department of Education regarding	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.

	Elim Church (Old Grove)			their allocated of £500k funding (£2m in total committed at present). A revised Economic Appraisal and Business Planning is ongoing however progress is reliant on feedback from the group involved and to date queries around proposed programming of any new building have not been provided to the consultant team. Due to issues regarding ongoing revenue costs in the original proposal an alternative to the Old Grove site is now being considered and it is expected that the old Basement building (owned by Elim Church) would be the subject of the new project with a demolition and rebuild. If DE continue their support for the scheme (this will be subject to them consideration and sign-off of the new Economic Appraisal) the Council's commitment to the project would reduce. This could release monies for reallocation by the AWG. This is currently being quantified with an update to be brought back to a future AWG meeting.	
BIF15	Malgrove	£500,000	Uncommitted	Business case completed - preferred option accommodates 4 team changing and is estimated cost of £1million (£500k funding deficit remains – avenues to be explored incl. DfC). Design layout reflecting access and parking requirements to be finalised to allow for detailed design and planning application submission (still awaiting response from NIE on option of community transfer of parcel of land for element of parking).	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF45	Midland Boxing Club	£400,000	Emerging - Design Stage	Planning application submitted May 2021. Anticipate planning decision by Oct 2021. Officers are liaising with Northern Ireland Housing Executive to complete the acquisition of land adjacent to club for the extension (on track). Aim to complete tender exercise and appoint contractor by Nov 2021. Initial pre-tender estimates show the project may require further funding (approx. £60k) and project officers are working with group to address this by approaching other funders.	Continue engagement with the group and design team. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted.
BIF41	Marrowbone Millennium Park	£750,000	Emerging	Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved. DfC has confirmed additional funding of £200k. In Nov 2020, additional BIF funding of £250k was re-allocated. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV before progressing procurement.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted
BIF43	Cultural Community Hub	£350,000	Emerging	Proposed new cultural hub community facility. Feasibility study and business plan completed. Project will comprise of a 130sqm permanent brick facility on derelict Orange Lodge owned site. As Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Association is recently constituted it is proposed that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast will be project guarantor. Project proposal assessed. Discussed initially at Due Diligence in 19 th August 2021 with no major issues.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted

Capital Programme

The Project Manager reminded the Working Group of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on the Council's Capital Programme, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. He summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

Project	Status and update
Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)	Cavehill Adventurous playground works to start in January 2022.
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)	Stage 3 - Committed Project. On ground. Health and safety works and Sea Lion works underway. Tender preparation has also begun for the Large Cats Enclosure, with works anticipated to start by September.
Boodles Dam – Abandonment of the Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Contractor has been appointed and has submitted a Construction Environmental Management Plan to NIEA. Awaiting response from NIEA and hope to be mobilising to site in August/ early September 2021.
Reservoir Safety Programme	Stage 3- Committed Project. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Integrated Consultancy Team have been appointed. ICT working on designs and preparing planning application
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to next AWG
LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Design Team and Business Case consultant now engaged. Currently working through options in partnership with DfC for inclusion in Business Case.
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up

Externally- funded programme

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
Marrowbone Millennium Park	<i>As per update under BIF.</i> Partnership project with UV and DfC. The Business Case has been approved. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI LWWP. Public consultation closed on 1 August. A report on the consultation findings is in the process of being prepared with any final design changes to scheme to be confirmed. The UV Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is now imminent. The Council has received a request for funding from TEO in sum of £100k for contribution towards design fees. TEO have been advised that no funding is currently available at this time.
Beann Mhadagáin Family Centre	Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. UV has identified a potential funding deficit between £300k and £600k. The Project Promoter is exploring options regarding additional funding opportunities. The UV Letter of Offer is dependent upon confirmation of funding and Business Case approval.
Sunningdale Community Centre	Council acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. A final draft Business Case has been received and is under review. Council is considering an in-principle agreement to transfer lands. TEO identified a funding deficit in sum

	of £359,318 and following a request for match funding from Council, TEO were advised that no funding is currently available. TEO has indicated that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.
Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project:	Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.
St Gemma's ABC Trust	<i>As per update under LIF.</i> Partnership project with UV. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.

He highlighted that Members were asked to note that a request for funding in the sum of £100k had been received from TEO in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project, a copy of the letter received from TEO was attached at Appendix 1. The funding request was to support the funding profile of £5,758,616 (UV £3,958,616, Dfl £1,100,000, DfC £700,000).

Peace IV

The following update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project was provided:

Project	Status and update
Forth Meadow Community Greenway project	On Ground. Contractor on site at Section 1. Planning applications for remaining sections of the scheme with planners. Match funding received from Dfl (£750k) and DfC (£500k). Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.

Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in North Belfast:

Project	Status and update
Girdwood Indoor Sports Site— ICT	Business Case being developed.
Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth	Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space - BCC as delivery agent. Tender returned and currently being assessed.

Living with Water Programme (LWWP)

The Working Group were provided with an update on projects under LWWP:

Project	Status and update
Belfast Castle Estate – SuDS pilot project	Natural flood management scheme based on a sustainable drainage pilot project in the grounds of Belfast Castle. Designs are being finalised and it is anticipated work will commence on site in August 2021.

After discussion, the Working Group noted:

- the physical programme update for North Belfast;
- that the Midland Boxing Club, Marrowbone Millennium Park and Cultural Community Hub BIF projects would be recommended to be move to Stage 2- Uncommitted at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- the request for funding from TEO in the sum of £100k in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project; and
- that any underspend from the Grace Family Centre Project would be confirmed at the next meeting and any amount available for reallocation would be brought back to Members for consideration.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 24th November.

Chairperson