

# Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**

20th April, 2018

## **MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 20th April, 2018.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

- (d) Area Working Update (Pages 1 - 20)

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# North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 20th March, 2018

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Campbell (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Convery and L. Patterson;  
Councillors Clarke, Corr Johnston,  
Magee, Murphy and Pankhurst.

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

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and Alderman Browne.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th February 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 27th February.

### **Presentation –The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. R. Griffen, representing The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts.

Mr. Griffen provided an overview of the Duncairn Centre, which comprised 3 art studios, exhibition galleries, community meeting rooms, 190 capacity theatre/concert hall and rehearsal space, café and conference rooms. He advised that the Centre provided a platform for artists and musicians to showcase their work, as well as give the local community access to an arts and cultural programme of the highest quality.

He explained that it was a shared space arts facility and their programme of work included a young artist programme, which supported four local artist residencies, and a music programme with regularly sold out shows. He reported that the Centre had also hosted 'Other Voices' the music television series and arts festival, over three days in October, 2017.

Mr. Griffin invited Members to visit the Centre and highlighted The Bigger Breakfast Super Sunday Sessions which included free arts and music event with workshops and performances.

He advised that they offered up to 70 arts workshops and classes per month and attracted world renowned artists, and they had welcomed more than 120,000 visitors and participants to the centre and had established a great reputation in Belfast and beyond.

He explained that, since opening, in 2014, The Duncairn had had a major and positive impact on the landscape of North Belfast and they would like to engage new audiences and raise the profile of the Centre further. He informed the Group that, in order to accommodate demand and extend their services, the Centre wished to extend the facility in a two-tier approach: Firstly, to develop a mobile unit for an arts hub, and secondly, a refurbishment of the mezzanine of the 'old school hall' to increase capacity.

During discussion, Members welcomed the work of The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts for North Belfast and its goals and aspirations for the future.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Griffen for his attendance and he retired from the meeting.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Presentation – Department for Communities, Girdwood Development**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. C. Ellis, representing the Department for Communities.

Mr. Ellis provided an update on the next phase of the Girdwood Park Development. He advised that the development of the mixed use site could include an indoor sports facility with a unique leisure provision of regional or international impact.

He suggested that the following mix of facilities were options for consideration:

- A large indoor court (basketball/netball/ futsal), wet facility and changing facilities;
- Indoor climbing facilities, wet facility and changing facilities;
- High performance boxing facility; and
- Boxing/climbing/futsal facility.

He informed the Working Group that a number of options would be considered as part of the viability study and appraisals process and a business case would then be commissioned once the capital budget had been confirmed. He highlighted that there was also the potential for a joint business case with the Council.

During discussion, Mr. Ellis advised Members that the aforementioned options were based on the key draft sports framework and that consultation with stakeholders would take place in the future.

In answer to a Members question, he pointed out that the grounds were too small for an outdoor athletics facility.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Ellis for attending and he left the meeting.

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Community Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the ongoing engagement in relation to the future governance of the Youth Space at Girdwood. She advised that meetings had continued with the community groups involved and the Working Group would be kept up to date with the progress of the discussions.

Noted.

### **LIF Update - Verbal Update**

The Director of Property and Projects provided an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under the Local Investment Funds (LIF phase 1 and LIF phase 2).

He advised that the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership project scope had been estimated at £15,000 for new play equipment which was above the threshold of available funding and Councillor McCusker would be advised of this.

During discussion, the Working Group agreed that North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast project (estimated at £20,000) be progressed to Stage two, Due Diligence, of the LIF process and the following new proposal be put forward by the Group for viability:

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Up to £</b>
Somme Group – cross community memorial	Cllr Corr Johnston	£16,000 approx.

### **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;
- Grove United FC and Malachians FC (Shore Road Playing Fields);
- Belfast Castle Mountain Biking – Stakeholders;
- VOYPIC – Update on Corporation St;
- Iontaobhas Bheann Mhadagáin; and
- Tidal Project 2019/2020.

Chairperson

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# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 22nd March, 2018

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

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

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. R Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Estates Manager;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Carson, Collins, and Nic Biorna.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Declarations 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 them with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 22nd February.

The Director of Property and Projects informed the Working Group that the MMA Regional Centre of Excellence (Whiterock) (WLIF-14) - £70,000 had requested that the project promoter be transferred to Corpus Christie Youth Club. Following discussion, the West Area Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the £70,000 funding be transferred from the MMA Regional Centre of Excellence to Corpus Christi Youth Club. He stated further that the overall project remained unchanged.

Noted.

### **Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site**

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the proposal to develop land at the site of the former Beechmount Leisure Centre. He reminded the Members that, previously, the Blackie Group had lodged a request with the Council to develop the land. He referred to the planning restrictions which had been put in place in that, B.M.A.P. had designated the land under PPS8 as open space and that this planning restriction would require to be removed, prior to any development proposal being undertaken. He informed the Working Group that, because the land referred to was owned by the Council, it would be appropriate for the Council to progress any future development proposals for the site. He reminded the Working Group that a previous decision by the Council had resulted in the appointment of Forbairt Feirste as the preferred developer, subject to certain conditions being put in place. The Director advised the Working Group that the Council would be required to rescind its previous decision prior to progressing any further development proposals for the site.

The Director referred to the statutory obligation on the Council to dispose of the land at best price and stated that any proposal to dispose of the land at less than its market value would require Department approval. He stated that, to date, no proposal had been forthcoming from Forbairt Feirste to develop the site and recommended that, in order to develop the site, that the Council rescind the previous decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee appointing Forbairt Feirste as the preferred developer and instead, use its own in-house Estates Management team to explore the potential development options with all interested parties for the site, after which, the Council would be in a position to enter into a development agreement with potential developers for the land, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Following discussion, the Area Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the previous decision to appoint Forbairt Feirste as the preferred developer be rescinded, enabling a full options appraisal to be undertaken in respect of the site.

Noted.

### **Springfield Charitable Association**

Mr. T. McNeill (Springfield Charitable Association) attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson.

The Working Group was provided with a presentation outlining plans to construct a new state of the art Community Hub for older people at Lower Cupar Street, West Belfast. Mr. McNeill outlined the range of facilities which it was intended would be provided at the proposed centre including, amongst other things, a hydrotherapy pool and gym. He provided the Members with a range of financial information in respect of the construction and fitting out of the new proposed facility, stating that there was a shortfall of approximately £250,000 in funding to complete the project. He requested further that the Working Group might consider making a financial contribution towards the shortfall which would allow the project to be completed.

The Working Group considered the proposal and acknowledged the community benefits which the development proposal could bring to West Belfast. The Members expressed the view that it might be more beneficial to complete the project on a phased basis, which would allow time for additional funds to become available. In response to a question from a Member in respect of finances being provided by the Health Trust to



address the shortfall in funding, Mr. McFall stated that, to date, no progress had been made in respect of securing funding from that source.

The Working Group suggested that the option of securing funding from the health sector should be explored and that officers investigate the availability of other funding streams from the health sector.

Noted.

### **Folktown Regeneration Initiative**

Ms. S. Rasmussen and Mr. J. Fox (Folktown Regeneration Initiative) attended in connection with this Item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Rasmussen provided the Members with an update on the work of the Folktown Regeneration Initiative. She outlined a number of developments which had taken place during the ten year period since the regeneration initiative had commenced. She referred to the important contribution which the market had made in providing a catalyst for change, including the promotion of investment in the Bank Square area. She outlined also the work which had been undertaken in regard to the provision of animating space and connecting streets, including the development of that area as a cultural quarter.

In response to a question from a Member in regard to engagement with the Inner North West Masterplan, the Working Group was informed that they would be submitting a formal response to the consultation. Ms. Rasmussen referred to the work which had been undertaken in conjunction with the Department for Communities to develop a permanent event space and community hub in the area, as identified in the Council's Regeneration and Investment Strategy. To achieve its objectives, Ms. Rasmussen stated that the project required up to £20,000 of investment and requested that the Working Group consider providing the necessary additional funds.

The Working Group advised the representatives from the Folktown Regeneration Initiative that, whilst it did not have the necessary resources to fund the project, it would refer the funding request to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for its consideration.

Noted.

### **Belfast Islamic Centre**

Mr. R. Al-Wazzan, Mrs. N. Green (Belfast Islamic Centre) and Ms N. Lane (Good Relations Manager) attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mrs. Green reported that the Centre was located currently in a Victorian house in Wellington Park. However, the building was no longer fit-for purpose, in that it was in constant need of repair had limited access and lacked adequate space to meet the requirements of a growing Muslim community. In order to address the issue, it was reported that in 2015, the Belfast Islamic Centre had purchased, at a cost of £700,000, Aldersgate House on University Road, a short distance from its current location. It was reported further, that Planning and Building Control approval had since been granted, permitting the project to proceed to its next phase.

She explained that the new building could accommodate 700 worshippers and include an Islamic library and information centre, a multi-function room classrooms include a café. Mrs Green stated that the second floor would cost approximately £274,500 to develop and would be designated primarily for community and educational use and would be used to host events, seminars and various social activities.

The Working Group recognised the extensive community work which had been undertaken by the centre and suggested that officers help the Islamic Centre explore other funding streams. The Assistant Director stated that funding for the new Islamic Centre had been identified as an emerging project as part of the Belfast Investment Fund by the South Belfast Working Group.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided, and thanked the representatives from the Belfast Islamic Centre for their informative presentation.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

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

- Good Shepherd Primary School;
- St Galls G.A.C.; and
- The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 26th April 2018.

Chairperson

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 26th March, 2018

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Boyle, Hargey,  
Lyons and McAteer.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director, City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager, Property and  
Projects; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Nicholl.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th February were approved.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Presentations

#### Arellian Nursery School

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Ms. J. Pogue, Principal of Arellian Nursery, and Mr. C. Stalford MLA were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Principal advised the Working Group that Arellian Nursery School was the oldest Nursery in the island of Ireland, having been founded in 1928. The Working Group was advised that it was within the top ten percent of areas with multiple deprivation in Northern Ireland.

She provided the Members with an overview of the school and explained that it was heavily oversubscribed each year and that, as a result, the Education Authority permitted the nursery to operate temporary variance, allowing it to offer 60 preschool places instead of the prescribed 52 places.

She pointed out to the Members that the extensive outdoor space, which had once been the pride and joy of the Nursery, was now dilapidated and not fit for purpose. She

explained that over the last eight years, there had been a severe lack of funding to maintain the outdoor space and that the Education Authority was unable to fund any works which were required outside.

The Members were advised that a recent Health and Safety inspection had resulted in the removal of a large wooden boat and train as well as the swings. She highlighted to the Working Group that the outside area was extremely important for the pupils as numerous children attending did not have a garden or a park to play in. She advised the Members that numerous community groups and other schools used the grounds outside.

The Principal outlined that, despite the Nursery's best efforts to fundraise, it was asking for help with funding towards renovating the outdoor area. She invited the Working Group to visit the Nursery, in order to see the current state of the space and the potential that it had.

Mr. Stalford MLA stated that approximately £100,000 had been estimated for the works.

A Member suggested that, while there was no LIF funding available, the Nursery could investigate assistance through the Alpha Fund, which provided funding up to £50,000 for outdoor works.

A further Member suggested that the Council had expertise in applications for funding and that this support could be provided to the Nursery. The Member also suggested that Developer Contributions could be considered, as part of the nearby Transport Hub/Weaver's Cross project, and that contact also be made with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to investigate any potential assistance which they could provide, given that numerous tenants attended the school.

The Member further suggested that a site visit could take place at the Nursery, along with the relevant statutory agencies, in order to commence discussions on what assistance could be given to the Nursery.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that an officer from Property and Projects would be assigned to look at the proposals for the Nursery and liaise with Ms. Pogue to assist the school in applying for funding, including an application to the Alpha Programme. The Assistant Director also agreed to liaise with Ms. Pogue and to investigate Community Development support options.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Pogue for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

### **Belfast Women's Aid**

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Ms. N. Collins, Team Leader at South Belfast Belfast Women's Aid, was in attendance and she was welcomed to the meeting.

She explained that Belfast Women's Aid had purchased the property in Adelaide Park in 1983 and, in 1986, they bought the property next door. She advised the Working Group that, in 2005, after consultation with the women who had used the refuge in the past, they had replaced the two dwellings with one purpose-built property. She outlined

that the current property had 20 en suite bedrooms with a mixture of single and family rooms, catering for women with up to seven children.

She explained that there were six shared, open-plan kitchens in the refuge, which were essential for the women to interact and for co-counselling. She outlined that each kitchen had undergone significant wear and tear over the past twelve years, with the refuge having catered for over 3,000 women and children since opening. She added that the adapted kitchen for wheelchair users was also no longer fit for use.

The Working Group was advised that Women's Aid had received a quote of £50,000 in order to fit six new kitchens at the property.

She advised the Working Group that they were welcome to undertake a visit to see the refuge in south Belfast.

In response to questions from Members, Ms. Collins reported that Women's Aid received most of its funding through the Supporting People programme, which was administered by the Housing Executive.

The Members advised Ms. Collins that, while they had no LIF funding to allocate, they would like to help.

A Member stated that the Council's Environmental Health unit had a scheme for the replacement of unsuitable kitchens in rented domestic properties.

A further Member suggested contacting companies which sold kitchens, including IKEA, as they often undertook corporate social responsibility projects.

The Project Manager and the Assistant Director advised the Working Group that they would liaise with Ms. Collins and could look into various funding options for the replacement kitchens, including the kitchen replacement scheme through the Environmental Health section.

The Working Group agreed to this course of action.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Collins for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

**“1. Introduction**

**The Council's Physical Programme covers over 200 live projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, SOF and the projects which the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update to South AWG on the Physical Programme.**

**2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to

- Note the contents of this report and the updates on LIF attached (See Appendix 1 on modern.gov)

### 3. Local Investment Fund

Through the Local Investment Fund members committed their initial allocation of £1,127,500 to 13 projects and the Phase 2 funding allocation of £800,000 to a further 9 projects. From the initial allocation of funding, the projects at Finaghy Bridge and Taughmonagh Community Forum are yet to pass due diligence, meaning 11 of the 13 projects are either practically complete or complete. Of the phase 2 allocation, LORAG – John Murray Lock house (SLIF2-13) is at initial stage and the rest of the project works are either ongoing or complete for eight of the ten projects.

A full progress report of all projects is attached to this report at Appendix 1. The table below outlines the status and the financial allocations.

Stage/ Description	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	9 (69%)	£829,641	6 (55%)	£463,000
Number of Projects in Delivery	2 (15%)	153,959	3 (27%)	£213,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction		£0	1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2 (15%)	100,000	1 (9%)	£40,000
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>£1,083,600</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£796,000</b>

**Holylands Area Improvement Initiative (SLIF2-07) –** The project went through Due Diligence on 1st March 2018 subject to satisfactory agreements put in place with the Department for Infrastructure regarding maintenance for the trees. The officer is continuing to work with Legal Services to finalise the funding agreement and with the community group/ Dfl to progress the project.

### 4. Belfast Investment Fund

**£5.5m was allocated to South under BIF with a further £500k ringfenced for projects in the Balmoral DEA following LGR. 7 projects were identified and 6 of these projects have received funding allocation.**

<b>West</b>	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Gilpins— £1.3m Stage 1— <i>Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
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<b>Balmoral DEA</b>	Stage 1— <i>Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</i>
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**Below are the brief updates on the projects that have received in-principle funding.**

Project	Status and update
Lagan Gateway	Project works on site has been stopped as the contractor went into administration. Discussion with contractor, administrator and legal is ongoing to resolve the situation.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been delayed due to legal proceedings regarding the adjacent development. Officer is now looking at the feasibility for an alternative solution with a single access from the Lanyon side.
Bredagh GAC	Design team has been appointed. The club is working with the Residents Committee from the adjacent Belltowers apartment complex to agree appropriate access arrangements.
Gilpins	Meetings took place with Department for Communities and community stakeholders. DfC to formally confirm commitment as Lead Partner. There is a requirement to fully scope out project in terms of community and political requirements for the scheme.
Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC *	BIF support to focus on Phase 1A of the sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FCs grass football with associated widen of adjacent road access and resurface of existing car park. (estimated cost £258,143). Officer engagement ongoing and initial assessment of project underway.
Knockbreda Parish Church	Project at initial stage. Planning to take through Due Diligence on the 12th April 2018.

Hall *	
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\* *Outer South projects*

**5. Capital Programme**

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Below are the updates on the projects under the programme in South.

Project	Status and update
LTP- Olympia	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Project opening scheduled for May 2018
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2017/2018 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Pitches Programme- Ulidia Playing Fields	Stage 3 – Committed.
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

**6. Externally- funded programmes**

**Social Investment Fund-** The Council is acting as a delivery agent on behalf of the Executive Office to deliver capital projects under the Social Investment Fund. Members are asked to note that approval to proceed to appointment of Integrated Design Teams has been received from the Executive Office for 6 projects, 2 of which are in the South Belfast –

- Mornington Community Project (£214,879)
- South City Resource and Dev't Centre (St. Simon's) (£486,905)

**Urban Villages** - Members are asked to note that officers are continuing to work with UV on the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Playground project and other emerging UV projects.”



In response to a Member's question regarding the design and costings of the new Finaghy Bridge, the Project Manager agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Working Group for its consideration.

### **Provision of Grit in Ice/Snow Conditions**

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that the People and Communities Committee had deferred consideration of a report on the provision of grit by the Council in ice/snow conditions at its last meeting. She advised the Members that she was awaiting legal advice on the Council's liability and that a report would be submitted to the next Working Group meeting to consider the locations of grit boxes within South Belfast.

### **The Palm House, Botanic Gardens**

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that, since the recent renovation of the Tropical Ravine had now been completed, talks were ongoing with the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the potential renovation of the Palm House.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Kelvin statue within Botanic Gardens, she confirmed that options were being considered in relation to the necessary repairs.

### **Olympia Regeneration Project – "Name the Road"**

The Assistant Director advised the Members that over 500 submissions had been made by members of the public, in response to the Council's "name the road" call, for the new road between the Boucher Road and the Olympia Leisure Centre.

She advised the Working Group that the suggestions had been sorted into four themes, namely, football, the local environment, local people and Greek/Olympia names.

A number of Members expressed some disappointment at the shortlist of names which had been selected by a Panel officers from City and Neighbourhood Services, Property and Projects and Building Control.

A number of Members made additional suggestions for the name of the road.

The Assistant Director advised the Working Group that the Panel had to ensure that the proposed new name did not duplicate an existing street name in the City, and that there would be support for the proposed street name from local representatives and both of the adjoining communities.

The Working Group noted the shortlist of names and requested that the Assistant Director considered whether some of the additional names could be added to the shortlist before going out for consultation.

### **Strangford Avenue Playing Fields**

A Member advised the Working Group that Glenveagh School had recently worked with Belfast Healthy Cities to create an adapted cycle route in Strangford Avenue Playing Fields.

A further Member added that a number of special schools used the Playing Fields and that, perhaps, officers could look at the amenity of the site and ways in which it could be made more user-friendly for the needs of the pupils at those schools.

The Working Group agreed that officers would look at the amenity of the site at Strangford Avenue Playing Fields in terms of ensuring it was suitable for all local stakeholders and that a report would be submitted to the Area Working Group in due course.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group agreed to receive an update from Urban Villages on the Gilpin's site at its meeting on 23rd April.

The Working Group also agreed to receive an update from the project consultants and the Rivers Agency on the Flood Alleviation Measures at Stranmillis at its meeting in May.

Chairperson

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 10th April, 2018

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland;  
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Dorrian, Graham, Kyle,  
McReynolds and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Howard, and Councillors Armitage, Johnston, Long, Mullan, Newton and O'Neill.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 8th March were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were recorded.

### **Presentation**

#### **Belfast Rapid Transit - Glider Update (DfI)**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr C. de Burca and Mr. P. McParland, Department for Infrastructure, who were in attendance to provide the Working Group with an update on the works which were being carried out in preparation for the launch of Belfast Rapid Transit in September, 2018.

The Working Group was provided with an overview of a number of temporary weekend road closures which were necessary for works to be undertaken along the Belfast Rapid Transit route throughout the east of the city, as well as some overnight closures which were required in the city centre.

Mr. McParland advised the Members that there would be 50 halts along the east and CITI route corridor, all of which would be installed by July. He advised the Working Group that ticket machines and validators would be installed this month, with real time passenger information installed at each halt before August.

The Working Group noted that a list of upcoming events where the public could see the new glider vehicle and speak to Translink staff about BRT would be circulated.

In response to a Member's question, the representatives outlined to the Working Group that a number of pedestrian enhancement measures had been installed along the route, which included entrance bollards on the pavements close to the halts to prevent cars from mounting the pavement and a number of ramps installed on the roads close to the halts, in order to slow vehicles down.

In response to a further Member's question regarding how the BRT buses would impact upon the metro buses and cyclists, Mr. de Burca outlined that the current number 4 metro would no longer be necessary and would be completely replaced by the BRT line in the east of the city. He also outlined that the Department was investing a significant amount of money into the Comber Greenway, with a hope to greatly improve it as a cycling route in and out of the city for residents of east Belfast.

A Member raised an issue regarding the paving which had been laid at the new halts. Mr. McParland explained that they had ordered paving of a certain slip resistance, but that anecdotal evidence in the recent icy conditions had shown that a higher level of slip resistance would be preferable. He advised the Members, therefore, that they had sought to flatten the gradient of the original paving stones which had already been laid and that they had ordered new paving with a higher slip resistance for the remaining halts.

During discussion, Mr. de Burca outlined that, after public consultation, a four-hour loading window for deliveries would operate between 10am and 2pm.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

### **Templemore Baths Update - Leisure Transformation**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. S. Morrow and Mr. J. Gilchrist, Morrow Gilchrist Associates, to the meeting. He explained that they were in attendance to provide the Working Group with an update on the Management Options Appraisal which had been undertaken on the Templemore Baths.

Ms. Morrow provided the Working Group with an overview of the range of Management options which had been considered for the Templemore Baths.

Mr. Gilchrist advised the Members that, having worked in conjunction with the Council's Legal Services Section, an appraisal had been carried out to determine the feasibility of each option. He explained that four of the options were either not legally viable or would not be possible within the required timeframe which was required to secure the Heritage Lottery Funding.

Ms. Morrow outlined to the Members the criteria for shortlisting the remaining options, which considered each option in terms of acceptability in the context of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application, the likely efficiency it would bring and in relation to consistency with the principles of the Council's Leisure Transformation Programme.

Mr. Gilchrist advised the Working Group that the HLF had expressed a desire for the Templemore Users Trust (TUT) to be involved in the future management, in some form, given their historical links with the building. He explained that, on the basis of the feasibility exercise, outsourcing the entire Templemore Baths to a single operator ('Option 6') had been deemed to be the most efficient model. However, he explained that this option would ignore the TUT's historic and heritage connections with the Baths and that, on balance, they were therefore recommending 'Option 4', namely, that the Council would enter into a contractual relationship with the TUT for the original building only, that being

the interpretative area and the existing pool, with the new build being outsourced for management by the Council's strategic partner.

The Director of Finance and Resources clarified to the Working Group that, in addition to final legal confirmation that Option 4 was possible, a number of essential Heads of Terms would need to be agreed by the TUT, including an agreement to apply Council policies in relation to pricing, a commitment to the Council's monitoring arrangements and full co-operation with both the HLF and the Council in relation to the design, funding application and maintenance.

The Working Group noted that the issue would be submitted for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's consideration at its meeting on 18th May. The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that Option 4 be adopted as the future management option for the Templemore Baths. The Working Group, however, also noted the tight timescale and the potential impact that a loss of HLF funding would have on the overall leisure provision in East Belfast, and further agreed that Option 6 would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 could not satisfactorily be reached. It was further agreed that the Council would continue to use Morrow Gilchrist Associates, as an independent body, to agree the Heads of Terms between the Council and the Templemore Users Trust.

**Request to Address the Working Group:**  
**Short Strand Community Forum**

The Working Group agreed to receive a presentation from the Short Strand Community Forum at its next meeting, on Thursday, 3rd May at 5pm.

Chairperson

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