

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

19th February, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copy of the report for the following items follow items 3f, 4c, 9c 9e and additional Items 2d, 2e, 3h, and 10a be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 21st February, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (d) NI Water (To Follow)
- (e) George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge Centenary Dinner (Pages 1 - 8)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (f) Motion - Belfast Zoo (Pages 9 - 12)
- (h) Motion: Lucy's Law - Response from Minister (Pages 13 - 16)

4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (c) Draft Improvement Objectives 2020/21 (Pages 17 - 28)

9. Operational Issues

- (c) Minutes of Area Working Groups (Pages 29 - 74)
- (e) Minutes of Meeting of Working Group on the Climate Crises (Pages 75 - 78)

10. **Issues raised in advance by Members**

- (a) Flying of the Flag on 19th February to mark the Birthday of the Duke of York -
Councillor

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Motion – Belfast Zoo
Date:	21 st February, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion on Belfast Zoo, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 rd February.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Refer matter for initial party group briefings, focusing on Zoo operations and management; (ii) Invite Members to participate in a site visit to Belfast Zoo; (iii) Bring a report back to the committee on how the motion could be facilitated, resourced and managed.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 rd February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Maskey and seconded by Councillor Murphy:
3.2	<i>“This Council agrees to an ambitious plan to transform Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures is wrong and unethical, it doesn’t mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.</i>
3.3	<i>The ratepayers of this City have to subsidise the zoo to the sum of £2.5 million per year. The savings from the Zoo site could provide substantial funding for the much-needed regeneration of the City, create jobs, opportunities and attract more visitors. The five-year transitional period will enable the Council to safely return animals to their natural habitats in a carefully crafted phased approach.</i>
3.4	<i>Furthermore, the Council will retain on-site an animal conservation programme for indigenous animals. The five years will also enable the Council to consult with trade unions, staff and residents of the City through direct engagement and consultation. The Council will commit to securing all jobs currently on the Zoo site, with the options of retraining and redeployment. This will create an opportunity for the Council to develop the site, create jobs and to promote the City ethically.”</i>
3.5	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The proposer of the motion has indicated that he wishes to amend the notice of motion into the following form:</p> <p><i>“The council agrees to undertake a feasibility study with a view to producing an ambitious plan to transform Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures doesn’t mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.</i></p> <p><i>The five year transitional period will enable the council to explore how best to facilitate the most ethical, safe and appropriate future environment for the animals which are currently housed at the zoo.</i></p> <p><i>The ratepayers of the city have to subsidise the zoo to the tune of £2.5 million annually. The feasibility study will consider if the savings could be re-invested in the site to create a world class visitor attraction. The study should include the feasibility of incorporating a conservation facility and programme for indigenous animals. In doing so the council will seek to commit to securing all jobs currently at the Zoo site with the options of retraining and redeployment if required. The feasibility study to inform the transformation plan would include consultation with staff, trade unions and the residents of the city.”</i></p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>

4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Motion : Lucy’s Law – Response from Minister
Date:	21st February, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to a motion on Lucy’s Law which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 6th January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 6th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Alderman Rodgers, was passed:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“This Council recognises the important work carried out by local animal charities, including the Dogs Trust, which recently suspended its adoption service over the holiday period to highlight the fact that dogs are for life and not just for Christmas.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Council notes with concern that unethical breeders and profit-driven third party commercial traders of young animals has led to an industry rife with serious neglect</p>

	<p>and abuse of animals across the United Kingdom and Ireland and has led to the unnecessary suffering of animals bred in dissolute puppy farms.</p> <p>The Council recognises the successful campaign for the introduction of Lucy’s Law in England, which will come into effect from April 2020. This new legislation will ban the sale of puppies and kittens from third parties, ensuring that buyers deal directly with registered breeders.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council resolves to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to express its concerns, affirm its support for Lucy’s Law and request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy’s Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland.”</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	The Minister explains that his Department is monitoring changes in the legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy’s Law. He points out that the new rules, which are due to come into effect in England in April, will mean that puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Anyone seeking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months old must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.
3.4	The Minister confirms that he intends to monitor the changes being implemented in England, with a view to considering the most appropriate way forward for Northern Ireland. He concludes by stressing his commitment to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and that the wellbeing of pets remains protected.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Mr Henry Downey
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Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: HD/MOH
Our reference: CORR/1022/2020
Date: 31 January 2020

Dear Mr Downey

Lucy's Law

Thank you for your letter of 16th January 2020, where you have set out Belfast City Council's support for Lucy's Law. The Council has made a request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy's Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland.

My Department is monitoring changes in legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy's Law. These new rules are due to come into effect in April 2020 and will mean that, in England, puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Instead, anyone looking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.

I intend to take cognisance of what is happening in England with a view to considering a way forward for Northern Ireland. I remain committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and the well-being of pets remains protected.

Yours sincerely

EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

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Subject:	Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020-21
Date:	21 February 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report					
1.1	To present the draft corporate improvement objectives for 2020 - 2021 and to seek Committee approval to issue these for public consultation in line with our statutory obligations.					
2.0	Recommendations					
2.1	Members are asked to consider the draft improvement objectives for 2020-21, and subject to any refinements, to authorise the public consultation required as part of the council's improvement duty. The proposed improvement objectives for 2020-21 are as follows: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Working & Learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>We will support people into employment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Growing the Economy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>We will support investment and business growth in the city</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Development</td> </tr> </table>	Working & Learning	We will support people into employment	Growing the Economy	We will support investment and business growth in the city	City Development
Working & Learning						
We will support people into employment						
Growing the Economy						
We will support investment and business growth in the city						
City Development						

<p>2.2</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">We will support the regeneration of the city centre</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #007090; color: white;"> <td style="padding: 5px;">Living Here</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #808080; color: white;"> <td style="padding: 5px;">Resilience and Sustainability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #ff8c00; color: white;"> <td style="padding: 5px;">Organisational Priorities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council</td> </tr> </table> <p>More information on the improvement objectives, including indicative actions, is contained in Appendix 1. Subject to feedback from the public consultation, detailed actions, performance targets and alignment to inclusive growth will be developed.</p>	We will support the regeneration of the city centre	Living Here	We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes	Resilience and Sustainability	We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses	We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill	Organisational Priorities	We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council
We will support the regeneration of the city centre									
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Organisational Priorities									
We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council									
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Key Issues</p>								
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p>Background</p> <p>Council has a statutory requirement to produce an annual improvement plan that sets out our improvement objectives for the year ahead. The Improvement objectives and plan does not include everything that council plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities, as informed by resident priorities and evidenced by need.</p> <p>Review and Development of our Improvement Objectives</p> <p>In 2017-18, we aligned our improvement objectives to the key priorities within the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda is the overarching strategic plan for the city. Developed following extensive engagement and analysis, it articulates the key priorities for the city and provides a robust basis for both our corporate plan and our improvement objectives. As a result of this alignment, our objectives are outcome based and strategic in nature, so although we update the improvement actions on an annual basis, the improvement objectives themselves are likely to remain valid to 2023 (i.e. aligned to the four yearly cycle of the Belfast Agenda planning).</p> <p>Each year however, the council's strategic hub reviews the improvement objectives to determine whether they are still valid and appropriate. For 2020-21, we are recommending that council retains last year's improvement objectives but includes a new improvement objective related to resilience and sustainability. This reflects the growing importance of this issue and the ongoing work in relation to the City Development priority. It also provides a</p>								

	<p>direct read across against the priorities in our new draft four-year corporate plan. As a result, the existing improvement objective relating to recycling and waste will move from City Development to Resilience and Sustainability. Members should also note that our 'inclusive growth' ambitions have been embedded within the improvement objective actions and associated planning and monitoring process.</p>
3.4	<p>The rationale for the proposed improvement objectives, along with indicative actions for 2020-21, is attached at appendix 1. In developing the improvement objectives and actions, we have taken account of previous and ongoing public and stakeholder consultations, updated performance data and Belfast Agenda programming to assess ongoing need. Feedback from the Local Government Auditor has also informed in terms of our review and development process.</p>
3.5	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Although the objectives are aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the extensive engagement that accompanied its development, we are obliged to consult with residents and key stakeholders regarding our annual improvement objectives. Subject to Committee approval, the draft improvement objectives will be issued for public consultation via our on-line platform for a period of 8 weeks with targeted outreach through existing council communication channels.</p>
3.6	<p>Council is legally required to publish its Improvement Plan by 30th June each year. A report will be brought to SP&R in May outlining the results of the consultation and any recommended changes; a draft Improvement Plan will also be presented for approval so that a final plan can be published on the council website before the end of June.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or rural need implications arising directly from this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020 - 21

Appendix 1
Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020-21

Working & Learning			
<i>Improvement Objective</i>	<i>Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)</i>	<i>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</i>	<i>Impact (performance measures)</i>
We will support people into employment	<p>When we were developing the Belfast Agenda, “jobs and employment” was the top priority for citizens. We therefore established this as an improvement objective in 2017-18. It remains a recurring theme and key priority in all our engagements with local people, and we propose to retain this improvement objective for 2020-21.</p> <p>Government departments (particularly DfC and DfE) retain statutory responsibility for employability and skills development activities. Our improvement objective and its related interventions, therefore, focus on enhancing the effectiveness of activity by aligning supply and demand, and delivery targeted initiatives relating to live job vacancies.</p> <p>Whilst council is delivering many innovative schemes aimed at helping people to access skills and jobs, to make the greatest impact we need to be more joined up to remove barriers to employment and to help realise the potential of Belfast’s people. Therefore, in addition to improving our own skills and employability programmes, we will continue to work with partners in an integrated and strategic way to ensure that, as a city, local people are able to access decent, secure jobs that pay well and provide opportunity for progression and development.</p>	<p>Support inclusive growth by helping residents access employability & skills through the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to employment package (Employment Academies) • Jobs fairs /careers events • ESF projects by providing match funding • Opportunities from the implementation of developer contributions and social clauses <p>Support inclusive growth by working with partners to remove barriers to employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • piloting new approaches, focusing on key target groups • Supporting young people at school to enhance attainment levels, particularly those at risk • Developing the City Deal Employability & Skills programme 	<p>Number of jobs promoted through BCC employment programmes</p> <p>Number of individuals attending job fairs supported by BCC</p> <p>Number of accreditations delivered</p>
Growing the Economy			
<i>Improvement Objective</i>	<i>Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)</i>	<i>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</i>	<i>Impact (performance measures)</i>
We will support investment and business growth in the city	<p>Attracting investment to Belfast and building a strong local economy that supports jobs and encourages entrepreneurs has been a key priority for local people, as evidenced by our 2017 resident survey, the Belfast Conversation and from other ongoing engagement.</p>	<p>Enable inclusive growth by enhancing how we support local business start-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing local awareness of enterprise, including with underrepresented groups - providing programmes to help local people start a business 	<p>Number of jobs promoted through the Go for It Programme (statutory)</p> <p>Number of jobs promoted through BCC business start-up</p>

	<p>A strong and prosperous economy with a healthy and vibrant business sector is vital to for the success and wellbeing of our city and for those who live here. This in turn supports local wealth creation and employment, which allows us to deliver our vision of inclusive growth, where all people share in the success of the city.</p> <p>The recent engagement on our draft Inclusive Growth Strategy has reinforced the importance of sustainable investment and business growth.</p> <p>For the past three years, our improvement objectives have reflected these issues. Therefore, given their continuing importance and the unique challenges and opportunities of the UK's exit from Europe, we are proposing to retain this objective for 2020-21. In addition to the continued focus on innovation and support for businesses, our improvement actions will focus on maximising investment opportunities by promoting Belfast internationally and lobbying on its behalf locally and regionally to secure sustainable investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing support to social enterprise and co-operative sectors - delivering the Belfast enterprise framework <p>Build inclusive growth by supporting existing local businesses to grow, become more competitive and ultimately employ more people; by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering capacity-building support in key areas • Engaging and supporting businesses in key growth sectors • Providing space for new businesses to start in the Innovation Factory • Identifying support for local businesses in relation to Brexit <p>Promote and market the city internationally by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivering our International Relations work - Participating in national and international initiatives to secure strategic and institutional investment and real estate investment such as MIPIM - Building relationships with key strategic partners in the City of London and along the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor 	<p>and growth activity (non-statutory activity)</p> <p>Number of participants / businesses supported through business start-up and growth programmes</p>
City Development			
Improvement Objective	Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
We will support the regeneration of the city centre	During the Belfast Conversation, local people highlighted the importance of a vibrant city centre and its role in rejuvenating Belfast, both socially and economically. Research also underlines the importance of core cities and their impact on regional economies and local wellbeing. As a result, work to regenerate and enhance the city centre, featured strongly in the Belfast Agenda and was included as one of council's improvement objectives. Last year, following the shock and impact of the Bank Buildings fire, we refocused our improvement efforts, focusing on supporting the recovery of the city centre, and using our civic leadership and	Continue to deliver the Local Development Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complying with the independent examination process - Developing supplementary and associated planning guidance Progress the City Centre Connectivity Study by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing an action plan to outline scenarios and delivery options 	Resident satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live <p>% residents who agree the city centre is vibrant and attractive, with lots going on</p> <p>See also statutory planning indicators</p>

	<p>planning roles to drive joined up and sustainable improvements to the city centre.</p> <p>Whilst significant work has been completed, including a city centre revitalisation programme, we are committed to creating a vibrant, enjoyable and well-connected city centre environment where people want to live and spend time. This is an ongoing improvement objective. We will therefore continue to advocate for our city and work to improve the vitality and liveability of the city centre by developing a fit for purpose and sustainable spatial planning framework and by taking forward various programmes and initiatives to achieve the city centre our residents, businesses and visitors demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertaking city-wide public consultation - Final agreed Vision <p>Improve the liveability of the city centre (focus on city centre living) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing the Residential Analysis - Progressing the Inner North West Cluster (Strategic Site Assessment) 	
Living Here			
Improvement Objective	Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
<p>We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by:</p> <p>a) improving the quality of our parks and open spaces</p> <p>b) increasing participation in sport and physical activity</p>	<p>In our 2017 resident survey, “improving health and wellbeing and addressing health inequalities” was the second highest ranked priority for our citizens. In 2017-18, we therefore set out a broad improvement objective aimed at addressing health inequalities. However, last year in response to public feedback, we refocused the improvement objective on those areas that council could directly influence and the contribution that our services could make.</p> <p>Access to good quality leisure facilities and parks and open spaces is essential to improving people’s health and wellbeing. By focusing our effort on ensuring that our parks and open spaces are attractive, high quality, safe and welcoming, and that our leisure centres, physical activity programmes and initiatives are fit for purpose, we can encourage and enable people to be more active and live healthier lives. Furthermore, by encouraging “active travel” we can also help reduce levels of pollution and help improve overall air quality.</p> <p>This more targeted focus reflects our residents desire to see improvements in local council services. However, statistical data highlights the ongoing and complex health and wellbeing challenges we face as a city. Therefore, through</p>	<p>Improve the quality of our parks and open spaces by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalising the open spaces strategy & development of action plan - Maintaining X Green Flag award status for council parks - Commence development of Colin Park <p>Increase participation in sport and physical activity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing actions from Every Body Active 2020 - Roll out the Support for Sport and Active Belfast grants - Develop and deliver the Stadia Community Benefits initiative - Commence development of a sports development strategy - To be confirmed - Belfast Bikes. Actions subject to party briefings and committee decision in April. <p>Improve the quality of leisure centres by continuing to deliver the Leisure Transformation Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Andersonstown Leisure Centre redevelopment 	<p>Number of parks and green spaces with Green Flag accreditation</p> <p>% residents who agree that their local area has good parks and green spaces</p> <p>% of residents using council parks on at least a monthly basis</p> <p>BCC leisure centre throughput</p> <p>% residents who spend at least 150 minutes per week being physical active</p> <p>Number of Belfast bike journeys</p>

	the Belfast Agenda, we will continue to work in collaboration to improve health and wellbeing and to help address health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commence Templemore redevelopment - Commence Avoniel Leisure Centre redevelopment - Commence design development for further leisure facility at Girdwood 	
Cross Cutting - Excellent Services			
Improvement Objective	Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council	<p>Whilst local people were supportive of our city level, strategic improvements, they also told us that they wanted our improvement objectives to relate more directly to improving council services. Last year, we added a new objective that focused specifically on improving council services and increasing satisfaction with council. To help us achieve this we focused on three core areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - neighbourhood working programme - customer care programme - continuous improvement programme <p>When we consulted local people about this new objective, it received high levels of support. It was clear and that the provision of high quality, customer focused and efficient services was very important. Therefore, we will continue to focus on these improvement areas for 2020-21. The actions within each of the programmes have now been updated to reflect progress made during 2019- 20. Collectively, these actions will help us deliver better services, enhanced customer care and value for money.</p>	<p>Continue to develop our new approach to neighbourhood working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design a new model of neighbourhood working with teams that are better integrated, flexible and responsive - Develop a new approach to local regeneration planning across North, South, East and West Belfast <p>Implement the customer focus programme: The customer focus programme will be implemented incrementally. Phase 1 will include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a new customer hub function including specific services for elected members; new telephony system and CRM - information available at first point of contact for all Council services with specific in depth value services for Resources and Fleet - a new council website <p>Continue to develop and implement the Community & Neighbourhood Services (CNS) Transition and Improvement Programme, focusing on the delivery of the following four priority projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Spaces and Streetscene - Regulatory and Enforcement Services - Resources and Fleet Services - Review of Community Provision 	<p>% of residents satisfied with Belfast City Council</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Council provides good customer service</p> <p>% of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live</p>

Resilience and Sustainability (new)			
Improvement Objective	Rationale for establishing as a new priority	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
<p>We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses</p>	<p>Climate change and resilience is a global concern, receiving worldwide attention. And it is a message that resounds with Belfast, our Elected Members and our residents. Our new Corporate Plan 2019 - 23, has responded to this challenge, drawing out resilience and sustainability into a targeted and bespoke corporate priority.</p> <p>In recognition of the growing importance and momentum, we are proposing to establish this as a new improvement objective for 2020-21.</p> <p>Through our membership of 100 Resilient Cities programme, which requires Belfast to produce a Resilience Strategy, we can help drive a shared approach and practical framework that helps achieve a resilient and sustainable Belfast.</p>	<p>Produce a Belfast Resilience Strategy that identifies the risks and levers for action that will help to future-proof Belfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the public consultation programme of area, public and themed engagement - Revise the draft strategy and launch the finalised Belfast Resilience Strategy <p>Develop and support joined up approaches to addressing resilience, climate change and sustainability within Belfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board - Coordinate a planning process to agree the Belfast Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan - Coordinate a planning process to agree the Belfast City Council Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan - Establish a Belfast City Council Programme Board to oversee the development and implementation of the Belfast City Council Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan 	<p>Number of organisations or individuals who contribute to strategy and climate plan development and implementation</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Belfast is environmentally friendly; it protects and values its natural resources</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Belfast is a well-connected city (easy to get about) with excellent infrastructure</p> <p>PIs to be developed through the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation planning process</p>
<p>We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</p>	<p>We established this as a new improvement objective for 2020-21 to reflect the importance of this core service. During 2018, we undertook extensive engagement with residents regarding our current recycling arrangements and it became very clear that this was an important issue for local people. Residents' growing concern about the impacts of waste and pollution on our environment, coupled with the significant investment required to enable positive practice and behaviours, compelled us to prioritise this an improvement objective.</p> <p>Our aim is to provide efficient and effective services, which enable us to meet national recycling targets and protect our environment for generations to come. This requires a strategic approach, focusing on implementing new and</p>	<p>Improve and extend recycling opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop new collection arrangement proposals for dry recyclables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Evaluation of wheelie box scheme o Development of OBC - Introduce carpet recycling at Household Recycling - Continue to work with contractors to identify additional opportunities for recycling schemes from waste streams <p>Change behaviours through policy development, engagement and awareness activity:</p>	<p>Amount of (tonnage) of biodegradable BCC collected waste that is landfilled</p> <p>% of household waste collected that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for re-use)</p> <p>Amount (tonnage) of BCC collected municipal waste arisings</p>

	<p>innovative approaches and embedding positive behaviours. We are proposing to retain this improvement objective for 2020-21 so that we can continue to meet resident expectations and build in the foundations that we have begun to put in place.</p> <p>Initially, sitting under the Belfast Agenda theme of City Development, this improvement objective now sits under our “new” corporate priority of Resilience and Sustainability. Whilst not strictly a new priority, it represents a refocus with our newly elected councillors drawing out the resilience and sustainability aspects of the City Development priority to improve its profile and enable more targeted attention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue to deliver Phase 2 of food waste campaign to improve brown bin tonnage in local areas – Gain approval and implement waste acceptance policy to increase efficiencies and maintain recycling rates at recycling centres. 	
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Strategic Alignment

<i>Improvement Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Alignment</i>	
Working & Learning	<i>Belfast Agenda Outcome:</i>	<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will support people into employment	Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
Growing the Economy	<i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i>	<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will support investment and business growth in the city	Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
City Development	<i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i>	<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will support the regeneration of the city centre	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city	Strategic Effectiveness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
Living Here	<i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i>	<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by: a) improving the quality of our parks and open spaces b) increasing participation in sport and physical activity, including walking and cycling	Everyone in Belfast experiences good health & wellbeing	Strategic Effectiveness, Service Quality, Service Availability, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
Resilience and Sustainability (new)	<i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i>	<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city	Strategic Effectiveness, Service Quality, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
Cross Cutting - Excellent Services		<i>Improvement Duty</i>
We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council	Corporate Plan and organisational priorities	Service Quality, Service Availability, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability

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Subject:	Area Working Update
Date:	21 st February 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To seek Members approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs and any additional recommendation to the SP&R Committee arising from the meetings.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWG minutes <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (<i>South – 27th January, North – 29th January, West – 30th January and East – 6th February</i>) as attached at Appendix 1.</p>

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="240 230 421 264"><u>KEY ISSUES</u></p> <p data-bbox="240 349 1511 591">3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council’s commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (<i>South – 27th January, North – 29th January, West – 30th January and East – 6th February</i>) as attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p data-bbox="240 674 1043 824">3.3 <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Financial – £28.2m has been allocated to the BIF programme Resources – Officer time in working with Groups</p> <p data-bbox="240 907 1099 996">3.4 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> No implications</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Area Working Groups

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 29th January, 2020

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Maskey (Chairperson);
Councillors Baker, Cobain, Ferguson,
Murphy, Magee, McAllister, O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; 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 Murphy,
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved – that Councillor Maskey be elected to serve as
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor McCusker.

Declaration of Interest

In relation to item 6) Physical Programme Update, Councillors Maskey and Baker declared an interest in that they worked for or were associated with organisations, which had applied for funding, and they retired from the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

Terms of Reference

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Group which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September and noted that quarterly meetings had been scheduled, with the option for additional meetings if required.

Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an introduction to Neighbourhood Regeneration and described the governance role of the North Area Working Group to support this. He explained the Department's intention to integrate services to solve problems and benefit neighbourhoods, through the use of joined up working and analysis of data.

He tabled a copy of the Belfast Agenda - Statement of Progress, together with North Belfast Area Profile data.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided a presentation on Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working which included a summary of the following key themes:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance;
- Integrated Service Delivery;
- Capital investment;
- Evidence based decision making;
- Local Development Plan;
- City Regeneration; and
- Economic Development.

He updated the Working Group on a new model of neighbourhood working, to improve services and create better integrated, flexible and responsive team working. He summarised such changes under Open Spaces and Streetscene; City Protection; Community Provision; and Resources and Fleet.

He provided a brief overview of the Physical Programme funding streams and highlighted a map of North Belfast which illustrated the physical project locations.

In relation to the Area Profile data, he stated that the document provided unique local characteristics by harnessing the latest data available. He summarised the data and analysis of crime, education, lone parents, and environmental factors effecting the area and advised that the analysis concluded that the main issues facing North Belfast included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Mental health;
- Educational underachievement;
- Benefit reliance;
- Unemployment;
- Burglary and theft;
- Pupil suspensions; and
- Physical health and long-term illness.

He informed the working group of how the Local Development Plan and Belfast Agenda were key strategic documents for the future development, economic growth and regeneration of the City and further explained their relevance to the Area Working Group considerations.

He advised that future meetings would incorporate a facilitated workshop, to identify key issues and the potential to explore and focus on particular geographical areas within North Belfast.

During discussion, Members highlighted the need to receive Area Data as soon as possible so that the Councillors could prepare for the planned Workshop.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the update on Neighbourhood Regeneration.

Area Specific Issues

Mountain Biking on Cave Hill

The Working Group was reminded of the work that had been undertaken and presented to the North Area Working Group during 2018 and 2019 in relation to mountain biking at Cave Hill.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the progress in relation to the actions which had been agreed by the North Area Working Group in March 2019, which included the completion of the Identification and mapping of mountain bike club proposed trails, externally facilitated discussions with residents group and an environmental impact assessment by a consultant.

It was reported that engagement with key stakeholders was ongoing and processes were in place to manage the ongoing use of the site by mountain bikers in the interim period.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that further work was being progressed in terms of developing a 'pilot' route and further updates would be provided in due course.

Noted.

Girdwood

The Working Group was reminded that, following on from an issue raised by Councillor Dorrian at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24th January, in relation to the potential to close of the gates at Girdwood Hub on a more permanent basis (when the Centre itself wasn't open) due to ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in and around the site, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the North Area Working Group for consideration.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised Members of the concerns which had been raised in relation to ASB since the Hub had opened in early January 2016. He explained that residents had experienced noise pollution and nuisance/abusive behaviour as well as acts of vandalism to their property and that ASB had also caused disruption to the centre programming and centre staff and users, together with physical damage to the building (for example, broken windows).

He provided an overview of the work which had been done over the past three years by the Site Management Sub-Group of the Forum to try to resolve the issues driving the ongoing ASB which included additional security measures such as additional CCTV and defensive planting. He confirmed that Community Safety-led Responses included Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and a Protocol with Education Authority and suggested that potential further developments included the piloting of an ASB Clinic and North Belfast PCSP funding for the deployment of 'on street' workers.

He explained the current process for considering gate closures at Girdwood and advised that the Council was currently drafting a protocol for gate closures at Girdwood which would be tabled at the next Site Management Group for consideration and comment.

He advised that continued engagement and follow up with ASB incidents would take place over the next few months, together with a special agenda youth-focussed meeting of the Forum for mid-February where the Department of Justice and Education Authority would also be invited to attend.

During discussion, Members raised concern in relation to the impact ASB was having on residents of the area and users and staff of Girdwood.

The Working Group noted the information provided and that a further update would be submitted to a future meeting.

Physical Programme Update

(Councillor Magee in the Chair during the LIF status update.)

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an update on the progress of those projects which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee under the following Funding Schemes:

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

She 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.

She outlined funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process:

Table 1. LIF breakdown - North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	22 (88%)	£956,500	11 (57.5%)	£546,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (5.5%)	£20,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction	2 (8%)	£106,000	2 (11%)	£80,134
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (4%)	£65,000	5 (26%)	£151,667
Total Number of Approved Projects	25*	£1,127,500	19**	£798,201

*This includes additional funding for a LIF 2 project, Ballysillan Youth for Christ.

** This includes additional funding for two LIF 1 projects, Marrowbone Parochial Hall and Jennymount Church.

She highlighted that Appendix 1 provided a detailed overview of progress and actions around the remaining 11 live projects. Of the 7 which were at due-diligence or initial stage, the Director of Physical Programmes suggested the following actions:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
Westland Community Centre - new buildings	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group
Women's Tec	£31,667	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease

Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group
Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club	£66,000	Initial stage	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
Intercomm, Antrim Road	£75,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in LIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG
Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group to clarify position, with update to be brought to next AWG
Holy Family Parish Church	£15,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in LIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline, with update to be brought to next AWG

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Director of Physical Programmes 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. She 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:

<i>Summary of BIF allocated projects</i>	
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 3—Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m • Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k; Old Grove/ Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m; • Stage 1—Marrowbone Park £500k; Ulster Scots Hub (Braeheid project)- £500k; Cultural Community Hub - £250k • Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment

She updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

<i>PROJECT</i>	<i>FUNDING</i>	<i>STAGE</i>	<i>ACTION/RECOMMENDATION</i>
Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)	£1,500,000	Design stage	Continue engagement with the group and DE. Project to be brought back to DD.
Malgrove	£500,000	Uncommitted	Continue engagement with the group. Options being looked at in terms of value engineering etc.
Marrowbone Millennium Park	£500,000	Emerging	Continue with stakeholder engagement, in particular around funding shortfall. Meeting being arranged with UV and DFC
Ulster Scots Hub	£500,000	Emerging	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in BIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG AWG is asked to note that a similar letter has been sent by UV before Christmas
Cultural Community Hub	£250,000	Emerging	Meeting to be held end of January Update on project to be brought to next AWG.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised she would provide feedback on the status of the Rainbow Project raised by Councillor McAllister.

Capital Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes 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. She summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

Project	Status and update
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. On Ground
Boodles Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Tender preparation stage
LTP - Girdwood Phase 2	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. DfC approved commencement of procurement for IDT.
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary)	Stage 2- Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised that, in relation to the North Foreshore, she would update Members on the cycling and electricity infrastructure.

Externally- funded programme

The Director of Physical Programmes 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. She provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

SIF – North Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Joanmount Methodist Church	Project completed 18 December 2019.
PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland	Currently on programme, anticipated completion 14 February 2020.
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project	Project at tender stage, contractor likely to be appointed in February 2020.
Arts for All	Funding withdrawn due to cost implications.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised she would provide further information on the Arts for All project to Councillor McAllister.

Urban Villages – North Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
John Paul II Youth Club MUGA and Amphitheatre	Project and handover completed. Also received LIF funding.
Sacred Heart Marrowbone	Project on ground. To be completed by end of March 2020. Link to LIF project.
Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>NB Linked to BCC BIF (as per Section 3 update above)</i>	Funding deficit - Letter of Offer pending. Project at consultation stage.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Letter of Offer pending. Project at consultation stage.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- noted the Physical Programmes update for North Belfast and that officers would arrange site visits to any projects as required;
- noted the LIF and BIF project updates - in particular projects to be written to, seeking confirmation if they wished to remain within the process and, if so, supply the information required within a 3 month deadline;
- noted the SIF update and programme closure on March 2020 and the impact (funding removal) on the Arts for All project; and
- noted that it had been agreed in principle by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in December that £8m was committed to a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund and work was being undertaken by officers on the matter to be considered at Party Group briefings in February or March.

Chairperson

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South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 27th January, 2020

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Graham, Groogan, T. Kelly and McKeown.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (South Belfast); and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group was reminded that, since this was the first meeting to have taken place since the Local Government Elections in 2019, it was required to elect a Chairperson.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor T. Kelly,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting and

Resolved – That Councillor Graham be elected to serve as Chairperson of the South Belfast Area Working Group for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in June, 2020.

(Councillor Graham in the Chair.)

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Terms of Reference

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September.

Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Working Group received a presentation on Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working which provided information on:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance;
- Integrated Service Delivery;
- Capital Investment;
- Evidence Based Decision-making;
- Local Development Plan;
- City Regeneration; and
- Economic Development.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhoods provided a brief introduction to the concept of Neighbourhood Regeneration and reviewed the role of the Area Working Groups within the Council's overall governance arrangements.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services drew the Working Group's attention to four initiatives, namely, Open Spaces and Streetscene, City Protection, Community Provision and Resources and Fleet, which were being progressed under the City and Neighbourhood Service's Transition and Improvement Programme, with the aim of integrating service delivery.

He provided a brief overview of the various funding streams associated with the Council's Physical Programme and drew the Members' attention to a map which outlined the location of projects relating specifically to South Belfast.

He provided details on the outcome of a statistical analysis which had been undertaken for South Belfast around crime, housing, education and the environment and confirmed that the main issues facing the area were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Mental health;
- Drugs and Alcohol Abuse;
- Social Housing
- Educational underachievement;
- Growing Elderly Population;
- Transient Population; and
- Ethnic Diversity.

He reviewed the relevance of the Local Development Plan and the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy to the work of the Working Group and, in terms of economic development, pointed out that, whilst the focus would be primarily upon city-wide service delivery, there would be opportunities for flexible approaches to take account of local needs.

In terms of next steps, he confirmed that a facilitated workshop would be held for each Working Group in April, to begin the process of identifying key issues at a wider area level, determining the key elements of neighbourhood regeneration and choosing two or three main priorities.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

“1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers 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 the Social Outcome Fund (SOF). In addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to:

- i. note the physical programme update for South Belfast;**
- ii. note the update on LIF and BIF projects and current ongoing actions (Sections 3 and 4) and agree to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that BIF funding which had been allocated previously to a project at Gilpins be ringfenced to a project(s) in the Sandy Row area;**
- iii. note the SOF update, including the request from TEO - Urban Villages regarding the funding of the Coffee Culture project (Section 5); and**
- iv. note the SIF update and the closure of the programme in March, 2020 (Section 7).**

3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-Council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Table 1 below outlines the funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received 'In Principle' letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 2 are at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

Table 1

LIF breakdown - South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	No. Projects	Amount (£)	No. Projects	Amount/ (£)
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			2 (18%)	£120,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

An appendix providing an overview of progress and actions around the remaining 3 live projects, namely, Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000), John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000), has been circulated.

Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

BIF is a £28.2m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3 stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

South	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Gilpins— £1.3m Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment
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Balmoral DEA	Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k
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The appendix provides a progress overview and update on all projects. Members are asked to note projects that remain a RED RAG status - Lanyon Tunnels project, which also has initial SIF funding but is at risk given the SIF Programme will end March 2020 (see Section 7 below for specific SIF update); and Gilpins, where the original proposal is no longer viable as Gilpins site is now sold.

In relation to these projects Members are asked to note:

- **Gilpins** – that discussions have been ongoing on a wider project within the Sandy Row area regarding the development of a sensory garden/playground. Members are therefore asked to agree that the money which was previously allocated to a project at Gilpins is ringfenced to a project(s) in the Sandy Row area with further details to be brought back to the AWG as required.
- **Lanyon Tunnels** – note that discussions are ongoing with TEO and DFC and that a further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. **Social Outcome Fund**

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 3 projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Table 2

Project	SOF Award	Status and update
Assembly Buildings Conference Centre	£90,000	Project completed – new Exhibition and Genealogical Research Space.
Coffee Culture <i>NB - UV partnership project (£402k)</i>	£100,000	Proposal is for a barista type social enterprise cafe that creates a shared space and place that connects the Café, including heritage café and other projects the area. Project is at Business Case development stage, which needs to be completed in order to secure UV funding – a funding shortfall has been identified and formal request from UV to BCC for a further £387k contribution to this project to make up the full amount of the shortfall.

Sandy Row Community Forum	£80,000	Proposal is for the development of a Tourism Trail (with digital element) to complement the Transport Hub - project was been considered in terms of its Due Diligence status, and number of issues raised that need to be resolved (project concept, delivery on site and future maintenance arrangements). Further updates to be reported back to Due Diligence in due course. Ongoing engagement with group.
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Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table 2 above, in particular, the current funding shortfall issues with Coffee Culture project. The Director of Physical Programmes has received a Letter from the Urban Villages Programme Director providing an update on the project current status and requesting the Council to look at the funding shortfall of £387,000.

Member are asked to note the position with respect to Coffee Culture and that officers will work in conjunction with UV investigate the potential for addressing the funding shortfall

6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. Members are reminded of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. Table 3 below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

Table 3. South Belfast – Capital Programme Overview

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Phase 4A and 4B completed. Phase 4C almost completed.
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2019/2020 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Preparation on going Ormeau Park Lower playground, Geeragh Community Centre playground and McClure Street playground
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

7. **Externally- Funded Programmes**

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

SIF

Table 4 below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Members are asked to note that the SIF Programme will end March 2020, which has resulted in a number of capital projects now at risk. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials, in particular for South Belfast, around Mornington Community project, and Lanyon Tunnels projects.

Table 4: SIF – South Belfast Projects Overview

Project	Status and update
South City Resource and Dev't Centre (St. Simon's)	Anticipated completion date of 3rd February, 2020.
Mornington Community Project	Liaison ongoing between BCC design team and HBK Architects to verify the proposed reduced works and whether a planning application will be required for same. Site meeting held on 10 January and further detailed work is ongoing. Recently advised by TEO that funding may be withdrawn however officers working with Group on a reduced funding option.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Project may be affected by SIF programme closure timeframe (March 2020). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO.

UV capital programme

Table 5 below is the status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets).

NB The Coffee Culture project is linked to the Council's SOF - see Section 5 SOF update.

Table 5: UV – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Sandy Row Play Park	Project completed and handed over
Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Project completed and play park opened on December 19. Feedback received from Donegall Pass Community Centre is very positive. Communications event being progressed.
Coffee Culture <i>NB Linked to BCC SOF</i>	Project business case being developed. Potential funding mix includes; UV contribution £302k and BCC SOF- £100k. UV issued a letter to BCC to request additional funding (£387k) to fully fund the current shortfall, as per SOF update.”

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

Area Specific Issues

Update on Wider University and Lower Ormeau Area

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide the Working Group with an update on the actions which were agreed by the People and Communities Committee in October 2019 in respect of the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area.

2.0 Background

The following motion regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Holylands and surrounding area was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor McKeown at the Council meeting on 1st October, 2019.

‘This Council condemns the persistent and serious anti-social behaviour that residents of the Holylands and the surrounding

area endure throughout the year due to the high numbers of HMOs that exist there.

This Council will review its policy for dealing with all aspects of anti-social behaviour in the Holylands area, particularly around on-street drinking, noise and littering and bring forward an action plan for tackling the ongoing problems experienced in this area.'

Subsequently, the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 29th October, agreed the following actions, which were ratified by the Council on 4th November:

1. to designate the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area as a Special Action Area under community planning and to develop a long-term vision and development plan for the area to include a housing plan, a spatial planning approach and a regeneration programme;
2. that the Department for Communities, and other agencies such as SOS Bus and Sure Start, which work with vulnerable communities in the area, be invited to join the ongoing conversation;
3. that the Council writes to the NIHE and to social housing operators regarding the potential of them 'buying back' properties in the area;
4. to write to the VCs of Queens University Belfast and the Ulster University and to the owners of privately-owned Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation throughout the city to ask them to reduce the price of their accommodation in the city centre to make it more affordable for students;
5. that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining what enforcement powers were available to agencies for those who were operating a property as an Airbnb without the appropriate certification from the NI Tourist Board; and
6. that a further briefing would be offered on the topic of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), with all Members to be invited to attend and as part of that it would update members on the impact of re-definition of HMOs, and any effect it has on standards in terms of fire safety and building control regulations

3.0 Key Issues

Officers have been progressing the actions agreed by the People and Communities Committee in October, with progress updates against each action being provided below:

To designate the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area as a Special Action Area under community planning and to develop a long-term vision and development plan for the area to include a housing plan, a spatial planning approach and a regeneration programme:

The particular issues which have arisen in the wider university and lower Ormeau areas over time prompted the formation in 2005 of the Holyland Inter-Agency Group (IAG). This brought together key stakeholders – education providers, government departments, the Council, accommodation providers, student representatives and community representatives – who have sought to promote a joined up approach to tackling the issues and addressing concerns.

Since 2012, the Council and other statutory partners adopted the *Belfast: A Learning City, Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study*. Many of the short to medium term recommendations have been achieved, with the long-term ambitions to be reviewed and progressed through the Local Development Plan and Community Planning structures.

The Belfast Agenda sets out our joint city vision and long-term ambitions and outcomes for Belfast's future, as well as outlining our priorities for action every four years. The establishment of community planning governance and infrastructure, coupled with the development of a 'Transformational Places' approach across the City offers a real opportunity to make a sustained impact in the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area, particularly given its proximity to the South Corridor.

This area based approach is about how the Council, partners and local communities work together to tailor projects/interventions within particular neighbourhoods where we believe there are opportunities to maximise synergies and improve outcomes at a local level. The alignment of governance within community planning infrastructure is therefore essential and a revised governance model is in the process of being developed with partners.

To help inform the development of a long-term vision and development plan for the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area, officers have secured the commitment from the Department for Communities and the Department of Finance to hold an Innovation Lab (ILAB).

The ILAB is a 3-day workshop which will be hosted by expert facilitators who will work with a representatives from all key stakeholders to identify local challenges and agree strategic level recommendations on how to best address them. It was envisaged that the ILAB events would take place between January and April 2019, however, the return of the Assembly has resulted in the redeployment of officers within DoF and as such they are currently assessing their capacity to meet this timeline with an update expected in the coming weeks.

Following completion of the ILAB event officers will work with partners to develop an agreed governance model, within the context of existing community planning infrastructure, and an integrated action plan to deliver the strategic recommendations. Two critical elements within this process are:

- a) to ensure that all partners work collaboratively to identify/address issues and deliver the integrated action plan within their own spheres of responsibility; and
- b) the development of a new community involvement model to ensure effective stakeholder involvement in the design and delivery of the emerging programme of work.

In addition to the ILAB event, officers have been working with Queens University Belfast in relation to securing support over a 3-year period from its School of Natural and Built Environment, towards the development of a long term vision and development plan. Work is underway to confirm the scope of this work and to ensure that it aligns with other academic work that has been completed or underway within the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area.

That the Department for Communities and other agencies, such as SOS Bus and Sure Start, which work with vulnerable communities in the area, be invited to join the ongoing conversation

Meetings with statutory and community stakeholders took place in October and December with key updates being as follows:

- general public messages and planning required for peak periods i.e. Halloween, St Patrick's Day etc – Council will continue to work with partners through PACT and other structures to address day-to-day operational issues and prepare for peak periods that have seen a rise in complaints around noise and anti-social behaviour;
- a long term action plan for the area to be developed – the first step in this process is the completion of the ILAB event which will involve all key statutory and community stakeholders within the area;
- while leading community stakeholders have been effectively engaged for some time, securing participation at the citizen level, from what is a largely transient and ethnically diverse population has proven difficult. To try and address this challenge, officers have submitted an expression of interest to the Community Foundation Northern Ireland's (CFNI) Civic

Innovation Programme, seeking to secure up to £50,000 funding to develop new and innovative methods of increasing citizen engagement within the area.

That the Council write to NIHE and to social housing operators regarding the potential of them 'buying back' properties in the area

Officers have written to the NIHE and DFC and Housing Associations have also been contacted in relation to engaging with the Innovation lab.

To write to the VCs of Queens University Belfast and Ulster University and to the owners of privately-owned Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation throughout the city to ask them to reduce the price of their accommodation in the city centre to make it more affordable for students

Both universities were subsequently written to. QUB has held an initial meeting with Council staff and is keen to engage with members on the pricing structures in place for PBMSA. It is happy to attend a future South Belfast Area Working Group meeting to discuss the issue and has offered a tour of its current facilities. To date, there has been no reply from the Ulster University.

That a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining what enforcement powers were available to agencies for those who were operating a property as an Airbnb without the appropriate certification from the NI Tourist Board

Officers are preparing a follow up paper for the People and Communities Committee meeting in March.

That a further briefing would be offered on the topic of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), with all Members invited to attend and as part of that it would update members on the impact of re-definition of HMOs, and any effect it has on standards in terms of fire safety and building control regulations.

Officers are preparing a follow up paper for the People and Communities Committee meeting in March.

4.0 Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to note the content of this report and approve the following next steps:

- i. officers will continue to liaise with the Department of Finance, Department for Communities and key stakeholders in relation to the delivery of the Innovation Lab event;

- ii. **funding through NICF's Civic Innovation Fund will be pursued with a view to developing new and innovative ways of increasing citizen engagement; and**
- iii. **officers will continue to liaise with QUB in relation to securing academic support with the development of a long term vision and development plan."**

After discussion, during which Members welcomed the progress which had been made to date, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 27th April.

Chairperson

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West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 30th January, 2020

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Verner;
Councillors Beattie, Black, Canavan, Matthew Collins,
Donnelly, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson, Kingston,
Magennis, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Black, Director of
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. M. Bagnall, Programme Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Election of Chairperson

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

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Canavan and

Resolved – that Councillor Corr be elected to serve as Chairperson to the West Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Michael Collins.

Declaration of Interest

Alderman Kingston declared that he was a member of the Board of Directors in respect of the Argyle Business Centre. Councillor Walsh declared that he was a member of the management board in respect of the James Connolly Interpretative Centre.

Terms of Reference

The Working Group noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September, 2019.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Presentation

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services introduced the context of the plan in respect of the Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working Plan and the fact that it was a development plan for the city as a whole and captured in essence where the city needed to be in complimenting the themes within the Belfast Agenda.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with a detailed presentation of the work involved in regard to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working Plan, incorporating the following key strands:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance
- Integrated Service Delivery
- Capital Investment
- Evidence based decision making
- Local Development Plan
- City Regeneration
- Economic Development

The Director highlighted the need to integrate its services and develop external partnerships in the pursuit of community engagement and Neighbourhood Regeneration. He referred specifically to the City and Neighbourhood Services approach to integrated service delivery including:

- Open Spaces and Streetscene
- City Protection
- Community Provision and
- Resources and Fleet.

The Working Group was provided with a range of specific issues which were relevant to West Belfast, including amongst other things:

- Mental Health
- Drug Dependency
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Education
- Employment
- Lone Parents
- Unemployment

The Working Group was presented with a detailed Area Profile for West Belfast providing a range of indices including; age profile, morbidity rates and levels of deprivation. The Director referred to the links between Citywide Regeneration and the Council's local development plans. A Member highlighted the importance of the Northern Ireland's Assembly's input and of the need to engage with its M.L.A's. In response the Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed the Department for Communities (DfC) were aware of the Council's regeneration proposals and appeared to be supportive.

A Member raised the issue of land zoning and of the Area Working Group to input in this area if the objectives within the regeneration plan were to be achieved, In response to a further question, the Director confirmed that no compulsory job losses as part of any efficiency programme would be required and that the Council operated a policy of voluntary redundancy where this was requested.

The Working Group thanked both Directors for their detailed and informative presentation.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted the undernoted report, with the exception of appendices, copies of which had been circulated previously to the Members.

1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers 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); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies.

This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Local Investment Fund

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. (LIF 1 – West - £1,127,500 + Shankill £490,000 and LIF 2 - £1,200,000)

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Table 1 below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 44 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 41 have been completed; 2 are at pre construction stage and 1 remains at due diligence / initial stage.

Table 1. LIF breakdown - West	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,617,500	16 (84%)	£937,915
Number of Projects On-going Delivery				£75,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			2 (11%)	£147,085
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)			1 (5%)	£40,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	25	£1,617,500	19	£1,200,000

Of the 3 remaining live projects Members are asked/recommended to (Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview):

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£65,085	Design stage	Project through Due Diligence on 21st February 2019, subject to security of tenure conditions. Rental negotiations have now concluded with EA - Funding agreement being	Group are to submit an application to Alpha for shortfall in funding on receipt of funding agreement from Council.

				prepared following receipt and review of lease at December's Due Diligence meeting. Funding shortfall of approximately £15,000	Continue engagement with the Group
WLIF2-10	St James Community Forum	£82,000	Tender preparation	Detailed plans and costs are in place and the project has been tendered for construction. The project has funding allocated by Alpha (Groundwork NI). A reduced scheme is planned to proceed in early 2020 when Dfl land transfer issues have been resolved.	Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.
WLIF2-04	St John Bosco Boxing Club	£40,000	Due Diligence	Work is ongoing with St John Bosco ABC and Sport NI. The group have now moved to another part of Conway Mill due to structural issues with their previous location. The group have also requested that the Council take on the delivery of the project providing that arrangements can be formalised with Sport NI - (Sport NI programme coming to an end).	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group regarding funding and project delivery. AWG decision required regarding BCC delivery request.

3. Belfast Investment Fund

BIF is a £28.2m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF. The West AWG had a total allocation of £9.2m (£5.5m from the original allocation, an additional £1.2m which was ring-fenced for projects in the Shankill area when this became part of the West AWG following the Council elections in 2015 and £2.5m which was ringfenced for projects in the Colin area following LGR.

In six projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF accounting for the full allocation. Each of the 'In Principle' projects are taken through a three stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table 2 below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects ie project title; the Stage it is at; and the funding allocated.

Table 2 Summary of BIF allocated projects

West	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m (Completed); Raidió Fáilte—£950k (Completed); St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£500k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment
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Appendix 1 provides a progress overview and update on all live BIF projects in West. 2 projects are completed (Davitts and Raidio Failte) with 1 currently on ground (Colin Glen Trust) while works are due to commence in February on St. Comgall's.

In relation to the remaining two BIF projects Members are asked to note the following -

BIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,00	Due Diligence; and Design stage	Additional funding contribution of up to £500,000 has been confirmed from Education Authority. Designs have been reworked to include the EA's schedule of accommodation requirement, with robust costings currently being determined. Work is underway in terms of ascertaining running costs and determining	Continue engagement with the group. Needs to go back through the DD process

				sustainability once final PTE (pre-tender estimate) costs have been confirmed for the new scheme.	
BIF29	Royal British Legion	£500,000	Due Diligence stage - Emerging project status	Scope of project has changed from original proposal. Lack of information on revised project - project proposal but no costings etc. Group representatives had been scheduled to attend Area Working Group in March to present their revised proposals however they cancelled their attendance. Change in project scope is required to be reported to the Due Diligence group and West AWG.	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to continue to engage in BIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG, or that the Group are requested to present their revised proposal to the next AWG.

4. Social Outcome Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 5 projects in West Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Table 3: SOF – West Belfast projects overview

West	Stage 3— James Connolly Interpretative centre—£650,000; Rock Centre —£200,000; Belfast Orange Hall Museum- £80,000; Stage 2—Roddy McCorley Museum - £1,350,000 Stage 1— Shankill Mission - £750,000
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Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview on all SOF projects in West. Two projects are completed (James Connolly Centre and the Rock Centre). An overview of the other projects is outlined in the Table below -

SOF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
SOF09	Belfast Orange Hall Museum	£80,000	Funding agreement in place; tender stage	Project involves Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor. Integrated Design Team has been appointed and procurement process completed - the returned tender price is above budget – £35k shortfall	Discussions underway to try to secure funding deficit. If no additional funding can be secured within this financial year then the Group would like to progress with a phased option and seek to secure additional funding to complete the project going forward
SOF05	Roddy McCorley Museum	£1,350,000	In Principle Letter issued (Due Diligence); Design stage	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. Procurement of design team underway; with a view that project will be on site late summer 2020 (subject to completion of Due Diligence process).	Continue engagement with the group
SOF07	Shankill Mission	£750,000	Initial stage	Development of a social economy training hotel. Initial stage. Overall scheme approx. cost at £7m. Funding is the major issue– no other funding has yet been secured. Group is still working to secure match funding- exploring the Heritage Enterprise Fund (HLF), bank loans and private investments - likely to be a long term process.	Note the current position with the project and continued significant funding gap. HLF application due to be submitted in Spring – recommend that regular updates on progress are brought back to the AWG

5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building/buying new ones. Members

are reminded of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Table 3 below provides an update on current live projects North Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

Table 4. West Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
LTP - Andersonstown Regeneration	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. On track for construction completion in February with opening in April
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF)	Stage 3 – Committed. Tender stage. Appointment of contractor in January and due to start on site in February 2020. Engagement officer recruited and due to start early Feb (3 year post).
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery	Stage 3 – Committed. Tender stage. Planning application in process. Link to the City Cemetery - National Lottery Heritage Fund project.

6. Externally-funded programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

Members are asked to note that Letters of Offer from Urban Villages have been received, for the Council as delivery agent, for the following projects:

Project	Status and update
Colin Allotments& HLC Improvements Project	Project completed.
Footprints Women's Centre	Project completed.
New Park in Colin	Contractor appointed and due to commence on site in January/Feb 2020.

Social Investment Fund

Members are asked to note that a Letters of Offer from the Executive Office under SIF have been received for the following projects:

Project	Status and update
St. Comgall's	Link to BIF project as above. Works due to commence in February.

PEACE IV – Capital Projects

Members are asked to note updates on the capital projects that are related to the PEACE IV Programme:

Project	Status and update
Springfield Dam and Park <i>Link to / first phase of PEACE IV Connecting Open spaces project.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being funded by DfC Contractor appointed and regular meetings held - project works expected to start in February 2020. Construction schedule approximately 6 to 8 months.
PEACE IV – Connecting Open Spaces	<p>Design team have been appointed re design of some 12km of pathways/cycle ways from Glencairn Park, Ballygomartin to Springfield Road, Falls Park and Bog Meadows. Project progressing through consultation and design stages. Phases include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> - Detailed design complete; Planning applications submitted for lighting, entrance and signage <i>Section 2 – Ballygomartin to Springfield Road</i> - Detailed design work in final stages <i>Section 3 – Falls Park</i> - No further progress required at present <i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> - Meeting held with Ulster Wildlife Trust – management, maintenance and liability issues to be confirmed in advance of a planning application being submitted <i>Section 5</i> - No further progress required at present <p><u>Procurement</u> - Wider scheme tender documentation being finalised with a view to letting works to Section 1 and Section 2 March 2020.</p>
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of design team will commence to work up the detailed designs. First project board meeting end Jan 2020. Officers actively work to secure additional capital funding required for the social enterprise units (£500k confirmed informally by IFI – awaiting LOO). Discussions ongoing with DfC and DoJ.
Shankill Women’s Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers are working with SEUPB and group to finalise a pre-commencement report. Procurement of design team underway to work up detailed designs. First project board meeting end Jan 2020.

7. Recommendations

Members are asked to

- note the Physical Programmes update for West Belfast and that officers are happy to arrange site visits to any projects as required**
- note the updates on the remaining LIF and BIF projects and consider the request to deliver LIF project St John’s Bosco Boxing Club**
- note that it has been agreed in principle by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in December that £8m is committed to a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – work is currently underway by officers and it is envisaged that Party Group briefings will take place in February/March on this.**

The Working Group was reminded that a number of projects, including the Berlin Swifts Football Club and the St James Community Forum had incurred a funding shortfall and that options were being explored currently by officers to offset the funding deficit. A Member expressed concern in regard to delays in the land transfer arrangements by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in respect of St James Community Forum Development and the Director of Physical Programmes agreed that she would follow up on the Member’s concerns with that Department. The Director reported that, in respect of St John Bosco Boxing Club, Sport N.I. had requested that the Council take delivery of the development proposal and that the Council had agreed to do so.

The Director provided an overview of the projects undertaken currently under the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), including the Glencairn Community Project and the Royal British Legion. Concern was raised in respect of the change in the application in regard to the Royal British Legion in that they had indicated a requirement to purchase a second building with the requirement of additional capital expenditure. The Working Group agreed with the Director that additional information in respect of their proposal was required and that she would correspond with them to this end and requested that they attend a future meeting of the Working Group to provide additional information in regard to their development proposal.

The Director provided the Working Group with an update on a number of projects undertaken in West Belfast under the Social Outcome Fund (SOF). She stated that discussions were continuing in regard to securing additional funding in respect of the Belfast Orange Hall Museum and of the need to secure substantial additional funding in respect of the Shankill Mission. It was agreed also that, updates on both these projects would be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group. The Members were provided with an outline of progress made to date in respect of the Council's capital programme to enhance its existing assets, including Andersonstown regeneration, Alleygating Phase 4 and the proposed visitor centre at the City Cemetery. The Director agreed to provide the Working Group with a timeline in respect of the work to be undertaken in regard to the construction of the afore-mentioned visitor centre.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided in regard to work undertaken under the Council's physical programme including the Urban Villages initiative and a range of capital projects undertaken as part of the PEACE1V programme.

Area Specific Issues

Dunville Park

The Neighbourhood Services Manager referred to the persistent anti-social behaviour in Dunville Park, with particular reference to the 'rocket slide'. She referred to the ongoing costs associated with maintaining a particular piece of equipment and the fact that it was unusable by children for significant periods of time due to ongoing and regular repairs. The Working Group was advised that the equipment would be removed and a suitable alternative replacement sought. A Member raised concerns in regard to the poor lighting in the park as being a contributory factor and for the need to engage with the community outreach as a means to deal with the anti-social elements. A Member raised the issue of animation in the park as a means to encourage greater use of the facilities. The Neighbourhood Services Manager accepted that a more targeted approach was required and that she would bring back proposals to a future meeting of the Working Group on how the use of the park could be encouraged and developed further.

Noted.

Glen Road Portacabin

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the current usage and status of the Glen Road porta-cabin which had been used previously for the delivery of Traveller Services. It was reported that, statutory responsibility for travellers no longer resided with the Council. It was reported also that the Council had entered into a lease agreement with An Munia Tober to provide support for the traveller community and that, since 2018, An Munia Tober was no longer able to deliver its services and consequently relinquished its lease in respect of the porta-cabin. It was reported that the Council currently provided a once a week play service with Toy Box and that the Council did not have a dedicated staff member to manage the facility.

It was reported that more recently, a group called Tome Anosha had expressed a desire to deliver services to the traveller community from the facility but, as yet, remained un-constituted. The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the porta-cabin was now in an acceptable state of repair after remedial work had been undertaken but did not meet the standard required for community centre provision. She reported that the Council was unable to enter into an asset management agreement with Tome Anosha despite their ambition to deliver traveller services given that they remained un-constituted. She stated that, in the meantime, the Council had been looking at alternative manned community facilities for that group which, to date, could not be offered exclusively for the use of Tome Anosha.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and stressed the importance of the Council working closely with Tome Anosha in providing support and assistance in that group becoming constituted.

Paramilitary Attacks Multi-Agency Demonstrator

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Members with an update on the offer by the Department of Justice (DoJ) to provide funding to Belfast City Council to undertake a multi-agency demonstration project, as the lead organisation, in support of those at risk of paramilitary attacks in West Belfast. It was reported that, previously, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People had requested that the Council take the lead role in addressing issues associated with paramilitary assaults in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast. The Working Group was informed that a multi-disciplinary task force had been established, with the core objective of agreeing to a process aimed at supporting those at risk of paramilitary attacks and their families. She provided an outline of the key objectives of the initiative, including improving communication between service providers in addition to incorporating the collection of data and statistics to demonstrate the impact of the PSA multi-agency group. The Neighbourhood Services Manager stated that funding for the project was conditional on the Council working with DoJ accredited restorative schemes and that, if the initiative was to prove successful, it was intended that it would be rolled out to other parts of the city.

Noted.

Social Innovation – Challenge Programme

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted the undernoted report in respect of the Social Innovation Challenge Programme:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide Members with an update on the Whiterock Social Innovation Challenge Programme.

2.0 Recommendations

To seek approval to recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that officers work with elected members and the local community to develop suitable project(s) to be considered for funding as agreed within the original scope of the Social Innovation Challenge Programme.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

In 2016, Belfast City Council agreed to undertake Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. One of the areas chosen was within the Whiterock locality of West Belfast;

To support this work, Council also agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model.' The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems.

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme was developed with funding available in each locality planning area for up to four projects that can be delivered within the area with a maximum £15,000 per project.

To access this funding local groups involved in the locality planning process worked with the Young Foundation and Council officers to develop potential ideas which received a recommendation for funding, following successfully pitching their ideas to a panel which included members and practitioners working in the field of innovation.

This work was developed as part of our approach to neighbourhood working, which we are now calling Neighbourhood Regeneration, a presentation on this approach will be delivered at the Area Working Groups in January. While, this work, had some successes it has been superseded with a wider programme of work i.e. Neighbourhood Regeneration which will be developed with members over the coming months further developing how we align programmes and services and work in specific geographical locations to improve outcomes for residents.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the current status with regards to funding still available within the Whiterock area and seek authority to work with local community groups and residents to develop ideas which can be considered for funding at the next area working group

Current Status

Two projects in Whiterock were awarded funding of £15,000 in late 2018 leaving a current balance of £30,000. With the reconfiguration of the Area Working Groups, we are now seeking approval for the Neighbourhood Services Manager to work with local residents, members and community groups to develop suitable ideas to bring back to the area working group to consider funding to be allocated as part of this process, subject to Strategic Policy and Resources approval and Council ratification.

It should be noted that this funding was not awarded through an open call; it was restricted to those projects that involved local residents and were developed by those who have been

involved in the locality planning process and successfully pitched their ideas. While, we do not have the Young Foundation to support this work, officers have continued to engage with those who were involved within the original locality planning work and can follow a similar process to the what was previously delivered to ensure any funding awarded is within the scope of the original programme of work.

Furthermore, as we develop our approach to Neighbourhood Regeneration, it is important that this work is aligned to this emerging process to ensure it is consistent with the transformational approach that the Council is taking with regards to area working. To support this, the Neighbourhood Services Manager West Belfast, will oversee this process and allocate staff resources to support.

Next Steps

Subject to approval at full council, officers will work with members, residents and the local community to develop potential ideas and bring back to the West Area Working Group to seek approval to recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that suitable project(s) to be considered for funding.

Financial and Resource Implications

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications were considered in relation to the social innovation model.

The Members noted the information provided and agreed that officers should engage with the local community to develop suitable projects which would attract funding and agreed also that a report in support of securing funding under the Social Innovation Challenge Programme would be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

A Member requested that information be provided to a future meeting of the Working Group in respect of the acquisition of land at Mount Eagles.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting be held on Thursday, 30th April at 4.30 p.m.

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East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 6th February, 2020

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson);
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Rodgers
and Sandford; and
Councillors Brooks, Dorrian, Flynn, Hanvey,
Howard, Hussey, M. Kelly, Kyle, Long,
McMullan and Newton.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

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

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Howard and

Resolved – that Councillor Smyth, representing the Green Party, be elected to serve as Chairperson to the East Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020; and

that the Democratic Unionist Party, the Alliance Party and the Ulster Unionist Party, as the three largest parties on the Working Group, would each nominate a Member to take the role of Chairperson for the following three years.

Apologies

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

Declarations of Interest

Aldermen Haire and Rodgers, and Councillors Brooks, Dorrian, Flynn, Howard, M. Kelly and McMullan declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Eastside Partnership.

Councillors Newton and Kyle declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre.

Alderman Sandford declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of Governors of Cregagh Primary School.

Terms of Reference

The Working Group noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups, which had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September, 2019.

Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an overview of how the Area Working Groups would integrate with existing programmes of work and how it related to the overall aims contained within the Belfast Agenda, the Capital Investment Programme, the Local Development Plan and Economic Development.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services explained that the newly integrated Open Spaces and Streetscene was a new model of neighbourhood working which sought to maximise resources, avoid duplication and to make it easier for customers to understand the services that the Council provided.

The Area Working Group was provided with data and research statistics in respect of key issues which affected East Belfast. These included extreme inequality, mental health, dereliction and vandalism, health, Anti-Social Behaviour, educational underachievement and unemployment.

The Members were advised that a facilitated Workshop would take place for each area in April, in order to begin the process of identifying key issues at a wider area level. The Strategic Director advised the Working Group that the Workshop was to help determine the key elements of neighbourhood regeneration and to choose the 2 or 3 key priorities for the east of the City.

A Member stated that sustainability and resilience should be key considerations in determining the future of the City as a whole.

In response to requests from Members, the Working Group agreed that Mr M. Kinkead and Mr. M. Briggs, EastSide Partnership, and Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience, be invited to attend the East Belfast Workshop in April.

The Working Group noted the update which had been provided.

Update on the Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes provided the Working Group with an overview of the Council's Physical Programme, including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast

Investment Fund (BIF), the Social Outcome Fund (SOF) and other projects which the Council was delivering on behalf of other agencies.

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

She explained to the Members that LIF was a £9million fixed programme of capital investment in non-Council neighbourhood assets over two tranches. LIF1, from 2012-2015, comprised a total of £5million, with East having been allocated £1.127million. LIF2 comprised a total of £4million, with East having been allocated £1.2million. The Members were advised that each LIF project was taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Table 1. LIF breakdown - East	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	7 (87%)	£877,500	11 (92%)	£1,146,589
Number of Projects in On-going Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (8%)	£15,000
Number of Projects at Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (13%)	£250,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	8	£1,127,500	12	£1,161,589

She provided the Working Group with an update on the two LIF projects which were yet to be completed.

In relation to the Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People project, the Working Group agreed that officers would meet with the group given the recent withdrawal of SIF funding for the project by the Executive Office. In respect of the Dock Titanic Quarter project, the Working group agreed that officers would write to the group advising them that they would be given three months in which to provide the Council with its decision regarding the location of the café. The Members noted that updates in respect of both remaining committed LIF projects would be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Director explained that BIF was a £28.2million fund for regeneration, partnership projects with a minimum £250,000 investment from the Council. She advised the Working Group that East Belfast had been allocated £5.5million under BIF, with an additional £2million allocated for use in Outer East, which took account of the areas which had been subsumed into the Belfast area under Local Government Reform.

East	<p>Stage 3: Willowfield—£560k (completed); H&W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k</p> <p>Stage 2: Lagan Village Youth & Community— <i>(no commitment)</i></p>
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	Stage 1: East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John's Orangefield, Church of Ireland— <i>(no commitment / on long list)</i>
Outer East *	Stage 3: TAGIT- £434k; Braniel—£390k; Hanwood—£396k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k

The Working Group considered the updates and agreed the following actions for the projects which were at Stage 3:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	ACTION
H&W Welders Club	£2,370,000	Revised completion date for project is now Apr 2021.	The AWG agreed that officers would continue engagement with the group and partners.
Strand Arts Centre	£1,800,000	Committed in principle in October 2016 (with 2 years to secure match funding; with the option to be extended by a further year – October 2019) Development of a revised Stage 1 Design Report indicates £4.6m preferred option – the current fit-out and condition of the building significantly restricts the extent and quality of the entertainment services, significant investment is required. DfC currently considering business case. Have indicated that funding will only match the funding offer from the Council.	The AWG agreed: 1. to undertake a site visit to the Strand; 2. that Council officers would seek a meeting with DfC and with the group in terms of timelines and next steps; and 3. that an update be submitted to a future meeting of the AWG (with a Special meeting to be called if necessary)
Bloomfield Community Association	£440,000	Committed in principle in September 2016 with Group given 6/9 months to secure match funding (would have been June 2017). No significant progress for more than 3 years. The preferred option leaves a shortfall of £178,000 (as of 2016). Discussions have been had with DfC but, to date, no additional funding has been secured. Discussions with the group ongoing.	The AWG agreed: 1. to undertake a site visit to the BCA; 2. that Council officers would seek a meeting with the group and DfC in terms of timelines and next steps; and 3. that an update be submitted to the next meeting.

The Members were provided with updates on the Outer East BIF projects which were at Stage 3, as follows:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	ACTION
Hanwood Project	£396,000	Pitch and lighting element has been completed. Roller shutter installs to be completed by February 2020.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
TAGIT Boxing Club	£434,000	Planning permission approved in November 2019. Contractor procurement had been completed (early January) – project currently £150k over allocated BIF amount (Contractor procurement can be held for 6months). DfC Sports Division have been formally approached to make up the shortfall.	The AWG agreed that: 1. officers would continue to engage with the group; and 2. DfC Sports Division and other funding solutions be explored.
Braniel Church	£390,000	Design work and costings had been completed with a view to submission of a planning application in March 2020, subject to project approval at Due Diligence.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project	£398,000	The Education Authority had confirmed it would be responsible for project delivery and would procure a contractor. EA had appointed a technical lead to prepare a feasibility study and officers to produce a business plan.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000	At final Due Diligence stage, however a funding shortfall remains – the Economic Appraisal preferred option was £559k, which was £177k over BIF allocated amount. The Group was considering reducing the scale of works.	The AWG agreed: 1. that officers would seek a meeting with the group in terms of the timeline around a reduced scale of works; and 2. that an update be submitted to next meeting.

The Director reminded the AWG that, at its meeting on 5th January, 2017, it had agreed that the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre (LVYCC) was a Stage 2 (uncommitted) project, and that it should be considered first, if any funding became available through the Outer East BIF fund.

During discussion on the Physical Programme, a Member stated that the Working Group should be mindful of the increase in construction costs.

Capital Programme

The Working Group was provided with updates on projects in the Capital Programme in East Belfast, including the newly opened Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre, Alleygating Phase 4, Blanchflower Playing Fields, the New Crematorium, Avoniel and Templemore.

Social Outcome Fund

The Director advised the Working Group that the Social Outcome Fund was a £4million ring-fenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. She advised that there was one project in East Belfast, near the Eastside Visitor Centre/C.S. Lewis Square, with an in-principle funding commitment of £700,000. The Working Group was advised that the Council would be working with Urban Villages on the joint project and that meeting were ongoing with Eastside Partnership to progress, parallel to the Urban Villages' approval process.

The Chairperson thanked the Director of Physical Programmes for the updates which had been provided.

Area Specific Issues

Hollywood Arches Greenway's projects (including Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan)

(Ms. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager – East, attended in connection with the following two items)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that, over the past two years, the Council had been leading an integrated programme of work with partner organisations including Eastside Partnership, Urban Villages, DfI, Education Authority, DfC and Eastside Partnership, to regenerate a number of key stretches of open space along the Comber Greenway, linking to the Hollywood Arches and C. S Lewis Square. These included:

- the Bloomfield Walkway Environmental Improvements Project;
- the Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Project; and
- BCC lands (Options Site) at Connswater Community Centre /Ballymacarrett Masterplan

Bloomfield Walkway

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the details of the planned installation of replacement lighting columns along the Bloomfield Walkway in March 2020, which would see the completion of a total capital investment of £220,000, £190,000 of which had been funded by the DfI, into the stretch of the Greenway between the Ravenscoft Carpark at the Hollywood Arches and the Beersbridge Road.

As agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in February 2019, she explained that the Council had delivered the project which focused on turning the Walkway into a welcoming and accessible community asset through the introduction of soft landscaping, planting, upgraded link paths into residential streets and a community event/bbq area.

She outlined to the Members that concept drawings for a second phase, focusing on the reconfiguration of Ravenscroft carpark to provide a segregated pathway, had also been developed through engagement with key partners but that funding to progress that phase had not yet been secured.

In order to encourage community ownership funding for the project, an animation programme to the value of £40,000 had been jointly committed to by The Executive Office and the Council. At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2019, it was agreed that officers would engage with the Inner East Forum to identify and arrange for a suitable community lead to take forward this work. An update would be submitted to a future meeting of the AWG in due course.

Ballymacarrett Walkway

The Members were apprised of the projects which were currently being progressed in relation to the Council-owned Ballymacarrett Walkway, including the Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvements Project, the Island Street Cycling Infrastructure Improvements Project and the Temporary car park at Connswater Community Centre.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined that a £700,000 investment, comprising £590,000 of Urban Villages funding and a £110,000 contribution from DfI Roads under the Belfast Cycling Strategy, would see the introduction of a new 4 metre wide path and improved lighting along the stretch between Connswater Street and Dee Street, as well as improved access paths and soft landscaping to this Council-owned asset. She explained that Urban Villages had committed roughly £25,000 in revenue funding for Eastside Greenway's delivery of a programme of activities to animate the space.

She advised the Working Group that, following on from initial development work with partners and the development of a design concept which would reconfigure Island Street to provide a safe, segregated cycle path linking Ballymacarrett Walkway at Dee Street through to the Titanic Halt station, a commitment of capital investment from DfI Roads and from The Executive Office (via the Urban Villages Programme) had been confirmed in principle. The Members were advised that, as the road schemes fell under DfI Roads remit and were classified as permitted development, it would take forward the works separately and engage with the Council to ensure consistency of design with the Ballymacarrett and Bloomfield Walkway projects.

Temporary Car Park at Connswater Community Centre

The Members were advised that the planned realignment and widening of the Comber Greenway path would see the removal of an area informally used as a car park, adjacent to the Connswater Community Centre. The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that Council funding for alternative temporary car parking provision had been secured within the fenced off area of waste land adjacent to the centre and was currently the subject of a planning application.

A Member expressed concern regarding the removal of car parking spaces close to the nearby Health Centre, particularly for older people who drove to medical appointments.

In response to Members' requests, the Working Group agreed to undertake a site visit to the area to examine the proposals at first hand. In response to a further Member's query, it was suggested that officers should discuss with the nearby Health Centre that the car park could be limited to a 2 hour maximum as a way of preventing all-day commuter parking in the area.

The Working Group was advised that, at its meeting on 7th March, 2019, it had agreed a preferred option of a high level masterplan for the Council owned lands at Ballymacarrett, which indicated three land use zones. The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined the details of the three zones, which consisted of a community/children and young people's services zone, a private development zone and a play-park/recreational space.

The Working Group agreed to carry out a site visit to the area in order to examine the parking issues which had been raised.

King George V Playing Fields

The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised the Working Group that the developer of the former Maple Leaf Club site, for 12 social and affordable apartments, had agreed to a Section 76 Agreement. She explained that the financial agreement was to offset the under provision of open space in the development by offering a contribution of £52,000 towards improvements to a local park, namely, King George V Playing Fields.

The Members were provided with the details of the proposed improvement works, which included a new trim trail, Parkgate boundary enhancements and significant tree and shrub planting to the western boundary.

During discussion, a Member queried why the King George V Playing Fields had been chosen. He added that he had previously asked officers in the Planning department if a Section 76 Agreement might be utilised to support improvements to the steps between Strandburn Park and Sydenham Park, but that they had advised that the steps had no relationship with the development, despite being beside it, and could therefore not be considered for improvement under the Section 76 Agreement.

The officers advised the Members that the King George V Playing Fields were the nearest accessible public open space and were approximately 400metres from the Maple Leaf Club site.

A Member added that there had been recent issues with scramblers on the site. A number of Members queried why there would be no fencing or floodlighting as part of the development of the pitch and that it was an important community facility.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that fencing would not be permitted by the owners of the site, Fields in Trust. The Strategic Director added that floodlights were never included in the plans for the site.

In response to a further Member's question regarding upcoming NI Water works at the site, the Director of Physical Programmes advised the Working Group that NI Water would be obligated to leave the site as they found it.

After discussion, during which a number of Members agreed that the steps at Strandburn Park were especially unsafe, the Strategic Director agreed to investigate the ownership and to submit a report to the next meeting of the Working Group in respect of potential remedial action.

In response to a Member's suggestion, the Working Group agreed to add the King George V Playing Fields to the list of site visits to be undertaken.

The Working Group noted:

- the £52,000 developer contribution for the King George V Playing Fields;
- that information sharing with the local community was planned in the coming weeks; and
- that works would be delivered by the City and Neighbourhood Services Landscape Team by way of the Council's existing measured terms contracts.

Doctor Pitt Memorial Park

(Mr. A. Charles, Project Sponsor, attended in connection with this item)

The Working Group was provided with an update on the plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Doctor Pitt Memorial Park under the Urban Villages Programme.

The Project Sponsor explained that the Pitt Park redevelopment EastSide had been classified as a transformational project for the area as part of wider strategic developments at Fraser Pass, Titanic Halt and Ballymacarrett walkway. He explained that the Pitt Park project had been brought forward through an application for funding by the local community partner, the Ballymac Friendship Trust.

The Members were advised that the Programme was a key part of the Executive's Together Building a United Community Strategy, designed to help improve good relations and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension.

In response to a Member's question, the Project Sponsor explained that the designs would be going out for public consultation in March and that Members would be advised of the dates in due course.

The Working Group noted the update which had been provided.

Correspondence

Orchardville

The Working Group noted that a letter had been received from Orchardville, a charity and social enterprise for people with learning disabilities and autism. The Members noted that it had been sent to the former Chair of the Working Group in May, 2019, when the Working Group for the new Council term had not yet been established.

The Members were advised that Orchardville was requesting financial support through the Local Investment Fund (LIF).

In accordance with previous discussions, the Working Group agreed that a letter be sent to Orchardville advising it that the Working Group had just held its inaugural meeting in the new Council term and to advise it of the current situation with LIF and to advise them that the Council had recently agreed to establish a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, the criteria for which was still to be determined.

Chairperson

Working Group on the Climate Crisis

Monday, 10th February, 2020

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Members present: Councillors Ferguson, Hutchinson and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. C. McKeown, Sustainability Manager;
Ms. C. Shortt, Policy and Data Analyst; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Also Attended: Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience.
(via digital link)

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor de Faoite, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds, and Aldermen Copeland and Spence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January, 2020 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

Presentation from Arup on a Climate Change Risk Assessment

Ms. D. Emerson, Associate Director (ARUP), attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson. She provided the Working Group with an outline of the potential impacts of future climate hazards on the infrastructure systems for Belfast. The Members were given an overview of the potential impacts of a rise in global temperatures of 2.4 c and 4.3 c and how this temperature rise might impact on transport, water systems and agriculture, including food production. She highlighted a number of factors where the city was suffering as a result of climate change and highlighted the opportunities available to the Council as a planning authority to have a positive impact on the city's infrastructure and resilience.

Ms. Emerson outlined the importance of undertaking a climate risk assessment as part of the city's Local Development Plan, including the importance attached to working with key stakeholders in averting a climate emergency. To this end, she identified the need to undertake a comprehensive citywide climate change action plan which had been identified within the Council's draft Resilience Strategy. She referred to the importance of building knowledge and understanding across the city, with particular reference to the interconnectivity of infrastructure systems, including social infrastructure, housing, the natural environment and the economy.

The Working Group thanked Ms. Emerson for her detailed and informative presentation and she departed from the meeting.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – Existing Pilot Projects

The Sustainable Development Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the electric vehicle-charging infrastructure in the city and new pilot projects. She reported that the transition to electric vehicles and the environmental impact of such a switch was easier to achieve than, for example, the transition involved with coal or oil fired electric power stations.

She referred to the reduced running costs associated with the switch to electric vehicles, but acknowledged concern raised about the high initial costs associated with the purchase of such vehicles for the majority of households. She referred to the recent government publication entitled 'The Road to Zero' and the development of new concepts in relation to charging and smart electricity.

The Sustainable Development Manager highlighted the proposal to extend the policy of on street charging points for electric vehicles and forging of partnerships with other pioneers including Virgin Media. She referred to the £9.2 million invested in this area by Innovate UK, which involved repurposing Virgin Media on street connections in 7 cities in the UK. She stated that Belfast City Council had observer status in that project. She raised also the issue that the Council had invested in the procurement of a number of electric vehicles to promote its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

A Member raised the issue of the need to develop financial incentives to increase the use of electric vehicles and of the need, as part of its green commitment, to address fuel poverty, incorporating a process of retro fitting homes, to reduce heat loss. The Working Group referred to the work undertaken by 'Green New Deal' in the past and requested that the architects of the Green New Deal be invited to attend the next meeting of the Working Group.

Car-Free Days

The Sustainable Development Manager referred to the work which had commenced in regard to the proposal to have a two- day car free period, in the city centre, in September 2020. She informed the group that the Resilience Team was working with the economic development team on proposals to taking the car out of the city for an event in September and a report would be brought back to the APWGCC. In addition to this, a report was due to be presented to the People and Communities Committee in March, 2020 on City Connectivity which would include proposals from several organisations including, DFC and DFI about taking the car out of the city. She stated further that it was proposed to invite Jacobs to a future meeting of the Working Group to provide an outline of the proposals in the Connectivity study.

Noted.

Climate Finance – Briefing from the Belfast Climate Commission Roundtable

The Sustainable Development Manager referred to a Climate Finance workshop which had been hosted recently by Queen's University and the PCAN project attended by Professor Nick Robbins. She reported that the event examined issues such as the role of investment, equity and public and private finance in making the just transition happen. There was a sharp focus on fuel poverty and retrofitting of premises to conserve energy and reduce associated energy costs and create jobs. The Members were advised of a number of proposals associated with the financial benefits accruing from the pursuance of a green agenda and agreed that it wished to receive a briefing, at its next meeting, from representatives of the 'Green New Deal' group.

Fracking, Oil and Gas Exploration

The Working Group considered a proposed Motion, presented by Councillor Smyth, in respect of future fracking, gas and oil exploration, including permitted development rights. The Members, while supportive of the motion, requested that it might be prudent to receive more detailed information on the legal and policy implications associated with adopting the motion. The Member agreed that he would defer consideration of the motion to allow sufficient time for the Commissioner for Resilience to prepare a paper on the policy levers and implications for the Council in support of the motion, which would be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Symposium on Climate Adaptation (Dublin, April 2020)

The Sustainable Development Manager provided the Working Group with information in regard to the Symposium on Climate Adaptation which was due to be held in Dublin, on 27th April, 2020. The Members were informed that the agenda for the Symposium would be distributed, once available, and were requested to inform the officers if they wished to attend, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 16th March at 5.15 p.m.

Chairperson

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