

Public Document Pack

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

22nd March, 2023

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a /copies of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 24th March, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

(g) Asset Management (Pages 1 - 8)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

(c) Area Working Update (Pages 9 - 46)

9. Operational

(b) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality (Pages 47 - 50)

(e) Minutes of the Meeting of the Language Strategy Working Group (Pages 51 - 52)

(g) Minutes of the Meeting of the City Centre Working Group (Pages 53 - 54)

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Subject:	Update on Area Working Groups
Date:	24 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme 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"/>
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 AWG meetings.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the most recent AWG minutes (<i>West – 23 February, South – 27 February North – 28 February</i>) attached at Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
	<u>KEY ISSUES</u>
3.1	Area Working Group Minutes Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the

	<p>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 AWG minutes as attached.</p>
3.2	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>West AWG</p> <p>The Working Group made the following recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:</p> <p>Expansion of Belfast Bikes Scheme 2022/23 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. To note that Coláiste Feirste were content with the Belfast Bikes docking station to be placed on its land, with the agreement that the Council tidy up the entrance and maintain in the area before the docking station is installed. C&NS has agreed this approach. II. Shankill Road –agreed that further consideration be given to a docking site located closer to Glencairn with the potential for a location at the entrance to Glencairn Park at Forthriver Road as part of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.4	<p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Area Working Groups

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 23rd February, 2023

HYBRID MEETING OF THE SPECIAL WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCann (Chairperson),
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Canavan, Mathew Collins, M. Donnelly,
R.M Donnelly, Duffy, Garrett, Hutchinson, McCabe,
McLaughlin, Verner and Walsh.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. S. Kalke, Project Sponsor;
Mr. F. Grant, Operations Development Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was recorded on behalf of Councillor Thompson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Physical Programme Update

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); 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. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates on the Physical Programme for West Belfast.

3. Local Investment Fund

Members are reminded 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 - £1,400,000).

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 50 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 49 have been completed and 1 project at delivery stage. In total, 98% of all LIF West projects have been completed. Further details of these are outlined below.

LIF breakdown – West	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,617,500	24 (96%)	£1,341,788
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (4%)	£58,212
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)				
Total Number of Approved Projects	25	£1,617,500	25	£1,400,000

The table below shows an overview of the remaining live project:

LIF Ref	Project	LIF Funding	Stage	Status	Action / Recommendation
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	LIF £65,085; SOF £113,000	On Ground	Utility connections to the completed modular changing building remain outstanding. All actions are sitting with NI Water and their utilities connections. NI Water continue to be extremely slow to respond and progress their design and pricing to date.	Continue engagement with utility companies and project partners.

4. Belfast Investment Fund

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment. The West AWG had a total allocation of £9m comprising £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.

6 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 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

West	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; Greater Shankill Community Council- Royal British Legion- £300k, St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment				
BIF29	Greater Shankill Community Council - RBL	BIF- £300,000; SOF- £507,000	On Ground	Recently approved at Due Diligence. Contractor has been appointed and works are progressing.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,000	Uncommitted; Due Diligence stage	Updated cost estimate is £1.8m which is an increase of over £750k since 2020. Options for land transfer being explored. GCP has progressed to Stage 2 of Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. Meeting to progress matters held in Jan 2023 with NIHE, EA and political representatives.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.

5. Social Outcomes 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.

SOF – West Belfast projects overview

West	<p>Stage 3— James Connolly Interpretative centre—£650,000; Rock Centre — £200,000; Belfast Orange Hall Museum- £80,000; Roddy McCorley Museum - £1,350,000; Berlin Swifts Football Club - £113,000; Greater Shankill Community Council - £507,000</p> <p>Stage 1—Shankill Road Environmental Improvement Project - £50,000; Woodvale Park - £80,000</p>
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An overview of the remaining SOF projects is outlined in the table below –

SOF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / Recommendation
SOF05	Roddy McCorley Museum	£1,350,000	On Ground	There were delays in the supply and manufacture of elements of the museum fitout as well as a small number of contractor issues. Project progressing. Following a delay related to issues with supply and manufacture, the revised completion date is April 2023.	Continue engagement with the group
SOF10	Shankill Road Environmental Improvement Project	£50,000	On Ground	Approved at Due Diligence in December 2022. Project progressing.	Funding Agreement to be issued to the group.
SOF13	Woodvale Park	£80,000	Initial stage	Proposed MUGA upgrades and development of a sensory garden. Project	Meeting to be arranged with project promoter

				scoping exercise ongoing.	
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6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. On 27 October 2022, Members considered the feedback on Stage 1- Applications in the West Belfast area and made recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications they wish to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage*. In line with the agreed process, the outcome of special AWGs have been taken through Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and have been ratified by the Council (December 2022).

The table below provides an overview of the projects that have progressed to *Stage 2- Development* and the projects that are held on the reserve list at Stage 1.

West Belfast – NRF overview

South	<p>Stage 2— The Mountainview Hotel, Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre, Croí na Carraige - 'The Heart of the Rock' - Phase 1, The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitors' Centre, The Road, Glencairn Community Project (Hub)</p> <p>Stage 1— <i>Improving the Environment at Patrick Sarsfield's GAC, Corrigan Park Redevelopment Project, WCC New Purpose-Built Childcare and Family Support Centre, Curam Leanaí na Fuiseoige, Conway Mill - redeveloping for the future, Westcourt Uplift Project, Lamh Dhearg Renewable Energy & External Lighting Improvement scheme, St. Gall's Milltown Community Development, Colin Glen Eco Air-Cruizer, CNP Regeneration of Cloona House</i></p>
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West Belfast – NRF projects at Stage 2 - Development

Project name	Description	Status
The Mountainview Hotel	Building a socially owned environmentally friendly 65-bedroom hotel located on the new Glenmona development in West Belfast. This is promoted by Fáilte Feirste Thiar.	Business Case stage.
Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre	Transforming a large redundant site adjacent to Páirc Mac Daibhéid located in Beechmount, West Belfast. Creation of a museum/ exhibition space, multipurpose hall and supporting ancillary services.	Business Case stage.
Croí na Carraige - 'The Heart of the Rock' - Phase 1	Development of a flagship multi-purpose youth, community, family and heritage hub on the derelict land adjacent to our current community hub Gael-Ionad Mhic Goill in the Upper Springfield Area of West Belfast. It will incorporate their existing building and provide space for Irish language youth provision, a heritage exhibition	Business Case being reviewed.

	gallery and office space. This is promoted by Glor na Mona.	
The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitors' Centre	Purchase and development of ACT's central office and Community Hub to include a Visitors' Centre that features a historical exhibition.	Business Case stage.
The Road	Development of a capital tourism project based around the shared history of the Shankill Road and its contribution to Belfast. This is promoted by Lower Shankill Community Association.	Business Case stage.
Glencairn Community Project (Hub)	Link to BIF project (BIF09) above. Development of a purpose-built community and youth facility within the Glencairn estate to meet both the needs of the community and provide statutory youth provision within the area.	Business Case being refreshed. Work ongoing to seek agreement regarding transfer of land.

Members will note that activity at **Stage 2 – Development** (the equivalent to **Stage 2-Uncommitted** on the Capital Programme) will include development of a business case/ economic appraisal (commensurate with the scale of the project) along with detailed designs and project costings. If a business case or economic appraisal has already been undertaken, then the findings will be tested. Due-diligence checks will be carried out in line with arrangements under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes. It is proposed that this stage will be timebound to 6 months to allow decisions on projects to be taken at the same time. The outcome of this development phase will then be reported to the relevant Area Working Group (AWG), along with a presentation on the project. The AWG will put forward recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, with a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive committee approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to **Stage 3- Committed**.

7. 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 SP&R Committee. The table below provides an update on current live projects on the Council's Capital Programme in the West Belfast area.

West Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund	<i>Stage 3 – Committed. On ground.</i> The new service yard is completed. The restoration of the Mortuary Tower & exterior of Foxes Lodge is completed. Visitor centre is completed and officially opened to the public. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps and Victorian Fountains is well underway and

	aiming for completion by Summer 2023. Design and procurement works are underway with regards to Dual Language signage throughout the site with some external signage on centre now complete as well as the APP and research stations. Further dual language work (site signage, videos etc) is underway and engagement with Irish language groups is ongoing and will remain so until all dual language works are completed.
Playground Programme - Areema and Sally Gardens	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> Works programmed for completion within 2022/23 financial year.
Alleygating Phase 5	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> Consultation process and costs being prepared for each area. Engagement underway with Members to confirm locations. Order placed with Contractor and gates currently being manufactured.
Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Business case procurement underway. Will also be considered within the wider study as below.
Black Mountain/Upper Whiterock Greenway	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Undergoing the business case review process. Will be assessed within the wider study.
Colin Greenway	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Draft Business case related to the development of the Colin Active Travel Routes prepared and under review.
Connectivity - Access to Hills Programme (city wide)	<i>Stage 1- Emerging.</i> Secured DAERA funding for the Access to the Belfast Hills Feasibility Study. Consultant has been appointed and study and delivery plan will be complete in March 2023.

8. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office, Peace IV, Dfl as well as schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

The table below shows the status on UV projects in West Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined West Belfast geography (Colin area).

West Belfast – UV overview

Project	Status and update
Colin Valley Football Club	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. On ground. The contractor on site and the project is progressing well. Project completion expected in February 2023. Communications activity is being planned.
Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community PCA)	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. On ground. Contractor appointed and work progressing well on site. Lease agreement being finalised. Construction anticipated to complete by March 2023.

PEACEIV – Capital Projects

Members are asked to note updates on the capital projects that are related to the PEACEIV Programme.

West Belfast – Peace IV Capital Projects overview

Project	Status and update
Forth Meadow Community Greenway	<p>On ground.</p> <p><i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> – Works complete and handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services. Signage package to be installed to include feature panels, narrative panels and beacon lights.</p> <p><i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road</i> – Works commenced with the completion date in June.</p> <p><i>Section 3 – Falls Park/Whiterock</i> – Works complete</p> <p><i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> – All phases within this section now complete</p> <p><i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre</i> – currently at detailed design stage.</p> <p>Works on the flagship piece are progressing with installation and a revised plan for the public unveiling of March 2023. Discussions with Invest NI on the installation of the art piece are ongoing. DfC Levelling Up match funding received.</p>
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	<p>On ground. <i>Phase 1.</i> Works progressing well. Will be liaising with funders regarding reducing the deficit. Project completion will be outside the PIV funding programme. SEUPB are exploring the use of a bond so that the funding deficit and those works claimed outside the programme can be discharged.</p> <p><i>Phase 2.</i> McAdam appointed as design team. Design agreed with end user. Planning application submitted.</p>
Shankill Shared Women’s Centre	<p>On ground. Contractor works ongoing. Project completion revised to 31 December 2023.</p>

Dfl funded projects

Below is the status update on projects funded by Department for Infrastructure in West Belfast.

Dfl – West Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Covered cycle stands Phase 2	<p><i>Via Dfl Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i></p> <p>Páirc Nua Chollann, Andersonstown Leisure Centre – currently in production and due for installation by May 2023. Potential additional location: Brook Leisure Centre.</p>

DfC funded projects

Members are asked to note that the projects currently match funded by Department for Communities include: Berlin Swifts Football Club, Forth Meadow Community Greenway, Black

Mountain Shared Space Project and Paisley Park Sportsplex refurbishment (see below). All these projects are progressing well.

Project	Status and update
Paisley Park Sportsplex refurbishment	<i>On ground.</i> Refurbishment of the existing 3G pitch, provision of floodlighting, changing facilities and associated amenities. Project progressing well. ”

The Working Group noted the update provided.

Belfast Bikes Update

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To agree the final locations for next phase of expansion on the Falls Road and Shankill Road area.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- to agree the final locations for the next phase of expansion on the Falls Rd and Shankill Rd

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At CG&R on 9 June 2021 it was agreed to proceed with 15 docking stations outlined in the expansion proposal in Appendix 1. An investment of approximately £525,000 is required, based on cost estimates from previous network expansions. At SP&R on 18 June 2021 members agreed for £500,000 to be invested in the expansion proposal.

Eight stations will be installed in the upcoming phase, which should be completed by 31 March 2023. Seven stations will follow in the next phase the following year (2023/24).

The following areas were agreed previously by SP&R Committee, with the final locations of each docking station to be agreed through Area Working Groups:

- North: Yorkgate and Shore Road
- West: St Mary’s College and Shankill Road
- South: Lisburn Road and Malone Road
- East: Castlereagh Road, Upper Newtownards Road.

In the previous West AWG meeting, the location options for St. Mary’s College and the Shankill Rd have been discussed.

3.2 St. Mary's College

Two potential locations at St Dominic's Grammar School and Coláiste Feirste were presented. It was queried if consultation with Coláiste Feirste has been undertaken to establish if the school would be content with the location considering that it would be close to a public art piece.

It was agreed to defer the decision to enable further consideration regarding the proposed location.

Since then, officers have been on site and met with a representative from Coláiste Feirste.

In general, they are content for a Belfast Bikes docking station to be placed on their land. However, the land was previously transferred from BCC to Coláiste Feirste. A gentleman's agreement was put in place at the time to maintain the entrance to the school however over the intervening years due to changes in management and an integration of services into OSS, the gentleman's agreement is no longer being implemented. The area has fallen into disrepair and the present state of it is neglected. The group would like the Council to tidy up the entrance and maintain it as part of the OSS schedule of operations in the area before the bike's docking station is installed.

Officers have liaised with Open Spaces and Streetscene and they have agreed to maintain the area. Arrangements in relation to liability for the differing assets within the small space need to be reflected in the Belfast Bikes licence agreement between Council and Coláiste Feirste.

BCC legal team needs to be instructed to add these arrangements to the licence agreement.

3.3 Shankill Road

Members also considered the proposed Shankill locations and discussed the possibility of the final location being located nearer to Glencairn and requested that further consideration be given to this.

Officers identified as a potential new location the entrance to the Glencairn Park at Forthriver Rd that forms part of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway. They are liaising currently with officers who are involved in the Forth Meadow Community Greenway and believe that the proposed location for the docking station will provide good linkages for residents and visitors to the area.

Financial & Resource Implications

Finance

There are no specific financial or resource implications contained within this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

None”

The Working Group agreed the final locations for the next phase of expansion on the Falls Road and the Shankill Road, as outlined in the report.

Chairperson

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South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 27th February, 2023

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Bunting (Chairperson); and
Councillors Groogan, T. Kelly, Lyons,
McAteer, McKeown and Murray.

In attendance: Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager;
Mr. A. Ferguson, Senior Development Manager;
Ms. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Services Integration
Manager; and
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Spratt.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 30th January were approved by the Working Group.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation - Donegall Pass Community Enterprises

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from Donegall Pass Community Enterprises (DPCE), namely, Ms. L. McCloy, Capital Project Coordinator, DPCE delivered a presentation and provided the Working Group with background to the organisation. She explained that DPCE's purpose was to ensure a sustainable development in a residential area with mixed tenure opportunities that would offer community benefits and synergy with the rest of the city. Its vision was "to make Donegall Pass a more vibrant and thriving area of inner-city Belfast, that is welcoming and open to ALL."

Ms. McCloy informed the Members that the DPCE Board comprised of 11 Directors who had a breadth of expertise and a good blend of skills to direct and shape the development. She outlined DPCE's strategic aims which were:

- Building back a strong and resilient community;
- A fully involved and inspired community;
- Sustainable income generation; and
- Good governance and leadership.

Ms. McCloy provided the Members with details of the profile of the Donegall Pass area and highlighted a number of the challenges facing the local area and communities.

She outlined details of the 15-year plan which included the development and implementation of a Regeneration Strategy and Good Relations Strategy for the area. Ms. McCloy informed the Members of DPCE's approach and outlined the proposals for a new functional hub; a derelict former PSNI site being taken forward by Urban Villages and Clanmil Housing Association which would be transformational to the area.

Ms McCloy noted that the proposed project would act a catalyst for change in the local area that the community could be part of and benefit from. She outlined a range of the proposed outcomes from the project and also added that social clauses would be built in.

Discussion ensued, and a Member asked Ms. McCloy about next steps and how DPCE would ensure that mechanisms were in place to keep the community informed which would feed into capacity and confidence. Ms McCloy provided an overview of the engagement mechanisms noting that 2 stakeholder groups had been held to date. She provided an assurance that all local community stakeholders would be consulted. She also provided an update on the estimated timelines for completion. Members noted that the provisional timeline reflected that it was a significant capital build.

During the discussion, the Members raised concerns that recent developments around Donegall Pass had not benefited the community and therefore welcomed that the community would be involved in the proposed DPCE development.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. McCloy for her presentation.

Noted.

Update on Physical Programmes

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); 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. **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the physical programme update for South Belfast.

3. **Local Investment Fund (LIF)**

Members are reminded 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. The table below outlines 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; 1 project at delivery stage, 1 at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage. Further details of these are outlined below.

LIF breakdown – South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
<i>Stage/ Description:</i>	<i>No. Projects</i>	<i>Amount (£)</i>	<i>No. Projects</i>	<i>Amount/ (£)</i>
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery			1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (9%)	£40,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects – Holylands Area Improvement Initiative (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000) and The Lock House (£40,000). Members are asked to note the status of the live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
SLIF2-07	Holylands Area Improvement Initiative	£80,000	On ground	Works now complete see attached photos (Appendix 1). Note that this initial phase is a trial. Scoping and outcome of the	Continue engagement with partners

				pilot will inform next steps.	
SLIF2-13	LORAG- The Lock House	£40,000	Design stage	Partnership project with UV. Letter of Offer received. At detailed design stage and planning application has been submitted. Initial works have commenced on site with the main contractor also expected by Summer 2023, pending planning approval.	Continued engagement with the group and funder.
SLIF017	Finaghy Bridge	£30,000	Design stage	Approved at SP&R Committee in May 2016 to undertake improvements to the bridge. DfI Roads Highways Team are taking the lead on design and the Council will contribute the LIF funding to DfI.	Continue engagement with DfI Roads.

4. **Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)**

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m 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.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

South	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 1— Coffee Culture, and Arts & Digital Hub (BSCR IT Exam Centre
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	project) and Sandy Row Open Space project [Sandy Row area projects, formerly Gilpins]— £1.35m <i>Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
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Balmoral DEA	Stage 3 - Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k <i>Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k</i>
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Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
BIF04	Lagan Gateway	£2.1m	On ground	Phase 1 complete and bridge pier murals complete. Design of Phase 2 of the project ongoing. DfI match funding application for Phase 2 successful, subject to business case approval. Consultation complete and planning in early 2023. Site Investigation started on 15 Feb and due to complete on 28 Feb 2023.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF19	Bredagh GAC	£700,000	On ground	Contractor has been appointed and works are due to commence in late February 2023.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF07	Lanyon Tunnels	£1.3m	Stage 3- Committed	Potential funding under discussion with Urban Villages. Plans have been amended and new planning application is currently in PAD process. DfC to decide on Business Case in early 2023. Further planning responses have been requested	Officer engagement with Executive Office and DfC as key funders, and key stakeholders.

				and are being readied.	
BIF33	Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	£250,000	Stage 3- Committed	Linfield FC/Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC have agreed in principle that Belvoir FC can take forward project. Special AWG meeting held on 30 January 2023 and agreed that the BIF proposal which includes Phase 1 is decoupled from the wider masterplan and that any future phases will be taken forward separately by Linfield FC and Boys Brigade.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF46	Coffee Culture	£286,519	Stage 2- Uncommitted <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects</i>	Partnership project with UV – total funding package £900k. Letter of Offer approved. Funding package via UV, DfC, SOF and BIF. Due Diligence process complete. Property purchase complete. Design Team tender process complete. Planning application to be submitted by March 2023.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF48	Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub	£584,167	Stage 2- Uncommitted <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects</i>	Partnership project with UV. The Letter of Offer is expected imminently. Due Diligence process complete. Design Team tender process complete.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF47	Sandy Row Open	£479,314*	Stage 1- Emerging	Work is progressing, location being	Continue engagement with the group.

	Space project		Part of Sandy Row Area projects	confirmed with an exploration of potential opportunities in terms of final project, urban farm to allotments or a mixed development based on community needs. <i>*The remaining balance of the ringfenced allocation for the Sandy Row Area projects</i>	
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5. Social Outcomes 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. Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in the table below.

SOF – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Award	Status and update	Action/ Recommendation
SOF04 Belfast South Community Resources <i>(SRCF)</i>	£80,000	Project completed. Tourism signages are now installed (see Appendix 1).	Continue engagement with the group on post monitoring
SOF02 Coffee Culture	£100,000	As above at BIF46. Partnership project with UV. Letter of Offer approved. Funding package via UV, DfC, SOF and BIF. Due Diligence process complete. Property purchase complete. Design Team tender process complete. Planning application to be submitted by March 2023.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.

6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. On 3 November 2022, Members considered the feedback on Stage 1- Applications in the South Belfast area and made recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources

Committee on which applications they wish to move forward to **Stage 2 – Development Stage**. In line with the agreed process, the outcome of special AWGs have been taken through Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and have been ratified by the Council (December 2022).

The table below provides an overview of the projects that have progressed to **Stage 2- Development** and the projects that are on the reserve list at Stage 1.

South Belfast – NRF overview

South	Stage 2 - Sólás New Build project, Branching Out project, Lagan Water Access Activity Hub, Redevelopment of Riddel’s Warehouse, Redevelopment of former School of Music, Market Heritage Hub <i>Stage 1 (Reserve) - The Avenue Arts Centre, An Droichead Annex, Lagan Legacy</i>
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South Belfast – NRF projects at Stage 2 - Development

Project name	Description	Status
Sólás New Build project	Development of three-storey building and outdoor space for the special needs’ charity.	Business Case stage.
Branching Out project	Refurbishment and extension of existing GVRT premises.	Business Case stage.
Lagan Water Access Activity Hub	Water activity hub on the River Lagan including floating pontoon and footbridge.	Business Case being reviewed.
Redevelopment of Riddel’s Warehouse	Improvements to disused listed building including creation of an arts centre, co-working space and visitor attraction.	Business Case stage.
Redevelopment of former School of Music	Transformation of a derelict listed building into artist studios, a gallery, a rehearsal, dance and event space.	Business Case stage.
Market Heritage Hub	Regeneration of the former St Malachy’s Convent School and warehouse at Sussex Place into a vibrant new community heritage hub and visitor attraction.	Business Case being reviewed. Initially discussed at Due Diligence on 20 Feb 2023.

Members will note that activity at **Stage 2 – Development** (the equivalent to **Stage 2-Uncommitted** on the Capital Programme) will include development of a business case/ economic appraisal (commensurate with the scale of the project) along with detailed designs and project costings. If a business case or economic appraisal has already been undertaken, then the findings will be tested. Due-diligence checks will be carried out in line with arrangements under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes. It is proposed that this stage will be timebound to 6 months to allow decisions on projects to be taken at the same time.

The outcome of this development phase will then be reported to the relevant Area Working Group (AWG), along with a presentation on the project. The AWG will put forward recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, with a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive committee approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to *Stage 3- Committed*.

7. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or build / buy new assets or facilities. Table below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note status and update.

South Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> Consultation process and costs being prepared for each area. Engagement underway with Members to confirm locations. Order placed with Contractor and gates currently being manufactured.
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	<i>Stage 1 – Emerging.</i> Link to Tropical Ravine

8. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office as well as a number of schemes with DfC and DfI. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

Table 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).

UV – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Coffee Culture <i>SOF and BIF</i>	As above at BIF46. Partnership project with UV. Letter of Offer approved. Funding package via UV, DfC, SOF and BIF. Due Diligence process complete. Property purchase complete. Design Team tender process complete. Planning application to be submitted by March 2023.

The Lockhouse— Gateway to the River / Walkway	As above at SLIF2-13. Partnership project with UV. Letter of Offer approved. At design stage and planning application progressing. MTC works have commenced and it is anticipated that main contractor will be appointed and on site by Summer 2023, pending planning approval.
Sandy Row Arts & Digital Hub <i>BIF (formerly IT Exam Centre)</i>	Partnership project with UV. In August 2022, SAWG agreed to increase the total funding allocation to £584,167 draft UV Letter of Offer has been released with final LoO expected imminently. Due Diligence process is now complete for this stage. Design Team tender process complete.
Accidental Theatre (Shaftesbury Square)	Business Case at preliminary stage and progressing. No change from previous update.

DfC funded projects

Below is the status update on project funded by Department for Communities in South Belfast.

DfC – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Belfast Islamic Centre – Renovations of Aldersgate House, University Rd	The Council is the delivery agent for this project. Working in conjunction with BIC and DfC the project continues on site.
Holylands Alleygating and Cleansing Project	Project progressing. Link to the citywide Alleygating Phase 5 project.
Southwest Quarter Revitalisation Scheme	The Council is asked to be the delivery agent for this project. Contract for funding/ Letter of Offer received.
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	Feasibility study completed. Currently exploring funding opportunities for delivery.

DfI funded projects

Below is the status update on project funded by Department for Infrastructure in South Belfast.

DfI – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Lagan Gateway	As above as BIF04. Underway.
Finaghy Bridge	As above at SLIF017. Design stage.
Covered cycle stands Phase 2	<i>Via DfI Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i> Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park - Currently in production and due for installation by May 2023. Potential additional locations: Cherryvale Park, Shaftesbury Centre, Musgrave Park.
Expansion of Belfast Bikes Network	<i>Via Revitalisation Programme (DfC, DfI)</i> The new station at Olympia in South has been installed. Further stations are also under development via the Council funded scheme.

EU funded project

Project	Status and update
UPSURGE Project	City-centred approach to catalyse nature-based solutions through the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse for pollution alleviation and regenerative development. Additional funding has been secured from UKSPF to enable the first phase of the works (research plots and community garden) to be delivered in part. Design team appointed and planning to carry out first phase of works before end of March 2023.

The Project Manager updated the Members in relation to projects currently underway under the Physical Programme. A Member sought clarity on the status of the Finaghy Bridge project. The Project Manager highlighted that Council officers were continuing to engage closely with DfI which was considering the options in the feasibility study. He highlighted that this would be followed up and an update provided at the next meeting.

A Member raised the proposed works under Phase 2 of the Lagan Gateway and the need to ensure engagement with and buy-in by the local community. She recommended that consideration be given to holding a workshop on the proposed designs. The Project Manager noted that officers would consider the engagement options with an update to be brought back.

It was highlighted that Members had received a letter of invitation from a heritage group inviting them to have a tour of Riddel's warehouse. The Project Manager noted that this was one of a number of projects currently being considered under the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. Given this, it was agreed that direction would be sought from the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services to ascertain if a visit could be undertaken.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report.

Chairperson

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North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 28th February, 2023

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Bradley (Chairperson),
Councillors Cobain, Magee, Maskey,
McCullough, Murphy, Nelson, O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported for Councillor Doran.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 2nd and 29th November were approved by the Working Group.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Presentation:

Department for Infrastructure – York Street Interchange

The Chairperson introduced Mr. P. King, Project Sponsor, and Mr. B. Hassard, Project Manager, representing the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), and Mr. J. McBride, Project Manager, Mr. P. Clarke, UK and Ireland Masterplanning Lead, Mr. A. Patterson, Landscape Architect, and Mr. J. Lu, Senior Urban Designer, representing AECOM, to the Working Group and they were admitted to the meeting.

The representatives reminded the Working Group that AECOM had been commissioned to carry out a Placemaking and Active Travel Review (PATR) of the York Street Interchange (YSI) scheme in 2021 and the purpose of the study was to undertake further analysis around placemaking to identify opportunities to deliver benefits for communities, particularly in terms of connectivity and the wider living places agenda, and to consider how DfI could maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits of the project and its contribution to the future development of Belfast.

Mr. Clarke advised that this had included an international best practice review, connectivity analysis and stakeholder engagement which had resulted in eleven placemaking guiding themes and thirty-one desired outcomes for the area.

Mr. McBride described the proposals for the new cycle infrastructure across the city and summarised the audit outcomes.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Patterson informed the Working Group of the various placemaking scenarios which had been considered, which included mapping and illustrative sketches of the options, together with potential active travel, urban greening and streetscape improvements.

It was reported that the five scenarios had been evaluated against the 11 Guiding Principles, and Mr. Clarke provided an overview of the overall conclusions and recommendations of the refinement and development of three of the scenarios. He pointed out that, as part of the engagement strategy, it was recommended that consideration was given to the potential for a programme of stakeholder consultation, community involvement and co-design that could unlock further local insights, support buy-in and create long term social value.

Mr. McBride described the realignment options for the development of the M2 and provided illustrations of the Corporation Street studies.

He explained the potential delivery of the active travel network improvements, together with the next steps in the process. This included: Packaging and Phasing of Delivery; Engagement with Delivery Partners around delivery and long-term maintenance; Cost analysis of the interventions and wider economic benefits assessment; and Further engagement with stakeholders on selected topics. He pointed out that the preferred strategies would be developed for recommendations to the future Department for Infrastructure Minister.

During discussion, the representatives answered a range of questions in relation to the review of the transport objectives, timeframes, placemaking benefits and engagement with stakeholders.

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

Physical Programme Update

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); 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. Recommendations

Members are asked to

- note the physical programme update for North Belfast,
- note the updates on projects that were issued with a letter seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process – Holy Cross Trust/ Houben Centre, Mercy Primary School, Crumlin Road, and Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church.

3. 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 with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 43 projects in total have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 35 have been completed; 2 are at delivery stage; 1 are at pre-construction stage and 5 remain at due diligence / initial stages. In total, 80% of all LIF North projects have now been completed.

LIF breakdown – North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	23 (92%)	£996,500	12 (67%)	£566,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			2 (11%)	£133,467
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			2 (11%)	£68,334
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2(8%)	£131,000	2 (11%)	£30,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	25*	£1,127,500	18**	£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.*

The table below provide an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects. Members are asked to note the status of the current LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	Project	LIF Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
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NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	On ground. Electrical works complete. Art piece has been installed. Quotation from supplier for playground equipment received. Waiting for final certificate from other works before order can be made.	Continued engagement with the group.
NLIF2-22	Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment	£75,000	On Ground	On ground. Heaters procured and installed. Contractor on site. Works on gallery paused pending HED consent. Architectural option drawings for HED.	Continued engagement with group and HED.
NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender preparation	Funding agreement to be finalised. Planning amendment to be agreed, contractor appointed with a view to commencement on receipt of approved planning amendment	Continued engagement with group.
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec	£46,667	Tender preparation	Tender for the works to secure contractor ongoing.	Continued engagement with Group
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new building <i>(Link to UV Project)</i>	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Project originally agreed for LIF in January 2013. A revised community centre scheme has been agreed as an emerging UV capital project. A governance model is being explored and the Business Case is progressing.	Continued engagement with group and the Executive Office.
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club <i>(Link to UV project – ABC Trust H&L Hub)</i>	£66,000	Due Diligence stage	This project is part of the UV development of St Gemma's School - ABC Trust. Construction works on ABC Trust (Phase 1) ongoing. Boxing Club LIF project will be part of Phase 2.	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
NLIF2-03	Holy Cross Trust/ Houben Centre <i>(Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership)</i>	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage. Letter was sent to group on 11 January. Group formally responded on 25 January 2023 and confirm that they would wish to remain in the LIF process. Confirmation has been received that they wish to remain in the process and are now actively working with the Council to progress. Proposal is for an outside sensory room as well as play equipment.	AWG to note the project update. Continue engagement with group.
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed June 2016. Letter was sent to group on 11 January. Mercy PS formally responded on 10 February 2023 and confirm that they are interested and keen to progress the project. They have updated their plans and are progressing the procurement of works and	AWG to note the project update. Continue engagement with group.

				recently received quotations from EA approved suppliers.	
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4. Belfast Investment Fund

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – North Belfast was allocated £5.5m. In North Belfast, 7 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects are on the longer BIF list. Each of the ‘In Principle’ projects are taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

Members are asked to note the status update of these projects provided below. The table provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and funding allocated.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

North	Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£575k; Grace Family Centre —£1.3m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £900k; <i>Marrowbone Park</i> £750k; <i>Midland Boxing Club</i> £550k Stage 2- <i>Malgrove</i> - £950k, <i>Cultural Community Hub</i> - £350k Stage 1 - <i>Cliftonville Community Forum</i> , <i>Sunningdale Community Centre</i> - no commitment
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BIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
BIF41	Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>(Link to UV Project)</i>	£750,000	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing well onsite. Estimated completion date is early 2024.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
BIF45	Midland Boxing Club	BIF £550,000; GWF £30,000	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing well on site. Aiming for completion by Summer 2023.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church	BIF £900,000; DoE £500,000	Design stage	Letter was sent to group on 11 January 2023 seeking written confirmation on whether the group wish to either withdraw or engage in the process, with the deadline set on 17 February, so that an update to be brought to next AWG. However, Elim Church responded that it has not been possible to convene the Board together to finalise their response. They have requested an extension to	AWG to note the project update. Continue engagement with group.

				get a completed response no later than 10 March 2023. Officer will be working closely with the group to secure the completed response. Members to confirm of they are happy to accede to the request for an extension by Basement/ Elim. If agreed officers will continue to engage with the Group and provide an update to a future meeting.	
BIF15	Malgrove	£950,000	Design stage	Business case completed - preferred pavilion option is for a 4-team changing. Detailed design progressing. It is proposed to submit a planning application for the whole sporting complex within the next few weeks.	Continue engagement with the group and the team to agree the design and submit the planning application.
BIF43	Cultural Community Hub	£350,000	Uncommitted – Due Diligence stage	Proposed new cultural hub community facility. Project will comprise of a 130sqm permanent brick facility on derelict Orange Lodge owned site. DD information is still being assembled by the group.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
BIF49	Cavehill Tennis Club	£71,413	Due diligence stage	Sign-off at Due Diligence on 19 January 2023. Preparation for funding agreement progressing.	Continue engagement with the group.

5. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. On 2 November 2022, Members considered the feedback on Stage 1- Applications in the North Belfast area and made recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications they wish to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage*. In line with the agreed process, the outcome of special AWGs have been taken through Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and have been ratified by the Council (December 2022).

The table below provides an overview of the projects that have progressed to *Stage 2- Development* and the projects that are on the reserve list at Stage 1.

North Belfast – NRF overview

North	<p>Stage 2— Belfast Orange Hall, Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL), Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum, Sailortown Regeneration Group, Ardoyne Youth Enterprises,</p> <p>Stage 1 (Reserve)— <i>Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain, Indian Community Centre, North Belfast Working Men's Club, North City Business Centre, Quaker Service, Belfast Charitable Society, Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church, Arts for All, Ligoniel Improvement Association</i></p>
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North Belfast – NRF projects at Stage 2- Development

Project name	Description	Status
Ardoyne Youth Enterprises – Community Hub	Creation of a Community Youth Hub totalling almost 1,000m ² . It will comprise three main zones – (i) a fully shared and inclusive Community Youth Hub comprising a range of facilities including a flexible activity/ youth space, counselling rooms, coffee point and rest area; (ii) a Creative Learning Centre (CLC) that will include digital and creative skills equipment and workspaces; and (iii) Office space and meeting rooms.	Link to UV project below. Business case being reviewed. The UV Letter of Offer received and being process. TEO and the Project Promoter are exploring additional funding opportunities to support this project. Design Team appointed.
Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment	Refurbishment works to the Belfast Orange Hall, a Grade B listed building, to ensure it is fit for purpose. External and internal improvements to lighting, multiple rooms on different floors including kitchens as well as a new heating system.	Business Case stage. Consultant appointed to develop project business case.
USEL - Green Growth & The Circular Economy	Extension of the site through construction of a 600m ² purpose-built processing unit with storage for recycled and unrecycled materials increasing increase capacity to recycle a wide range of Dry, Mixed Recycling materials (DMR).	Business Case stage. Consultant appointed to refresh project Economic Appraisal.
Cliftonville Community Enterprise	Building a 750m ² social enterprise on Cliftonpark Avenue with a 2-storey childcare facility and 8 enterprise units.	Business Case stage. Consultant appointed to develop project business case.
St Joseph's Restoration project	Stabilising and reopening the Parochial House, a Grade B+ listed Italianate red brick building. Work to the Grade B+ listed Church space to assist with remaining water ingress and developing its potential for wider use.	Business Case stage. Procurement of consultant underway.

Members will note that activity at **Stage 2 – Development** (the equivalent to **Stage 2-Uncommitted** on the Capital Programme) will

include development of a business case/ economic appraisal (commensurate with the scale of the project) along with detailed designs and project costings. If a business case or economic appraisal has already been undertaken, then the findings will be tested. Due-diligence checks will be carried out in line with arrangements under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes. It is proposed that this stage will be timebound to 6 months to allow decisions on projects to be taken at the same time. The outcome of this development phase will then be reported to the relevant Area Working Group (AWG), along with a presentation on the project. The AWG will put forward recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, with a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive committee approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to *Stage 3- Committed*.

6. 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 SP&R Committee. The table below provides an update on current live projects North Belfast area. Members are asked to note the updates on the Physical Programme.

North Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)	Stage 3 - Committed. On ground. Sea Lion works complete, H&S works complete. Picnic area has been constructed. Work on new lion enclosure has started and aim to complete by Easter 2023.
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed. On ground. Storm Drainage Infrastructure Installation contractor appointed, started on site and completion expected in June 2023. The Landfill Gas Ring Main tender being reviewed in light of material price increases. Tender will be re-issued in March 2023.
Reservoir Safety Programme	Stage 3- Committed. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Consultants appointed and undertaking investigative work to assess the existing condition of the reservoirs and associated structures. Public consultation and planning application to be submitted in 2023. Proposals to take account and be integrated into Peace Plus application.
Cathedral Gardens (including Belfast Blitz)	Stage 3 – Committed. Design team is continuing to develop the project and prepare a RIBA Stage 2 Close Out report. Procurement of Design Team to deliver the project to completion will be underway by 3 March 2023. Aim to submit planning application in Summer 2023.

Playground Improvement Programme - Westland	Stage 3 – Committed. Works programmed for completion within 2022/23 financial year.
Alleygating Phase 5	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> Consultation process and costs being prepared for each area. Engagement underway with Members to confirm locations. Order placed with Contractor and gates currently being manufactured.
LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility	Stage 2 – Uncommitted. DfC partnership project. Continued development of OBC for new leisure facility. Continued liaison with key stakeholders around options for new facility and overall development of the Girdwood site.
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted. OBC being worked up. Possible alternative site at Corporation Street Car Park being assessed by design team. Design to progress through capital process.
Glencairn Park/ Ligoniel Park Greenway	Stage 2- Uncommitted. Will be considered within the wider study as below.
Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain	Stage 2- Uncommitted. Business case procurement underway. Will also be considered within the wider study as below.
Connectivity - Access to Hills Programme (city wide)	Stage 1- Emerging. Secured DAERA funding for the Access to the Belfast Hills Feasibility Study. Consultant has been appointed and study and delivery plan will be complete in March 2023.

7. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office, Peace IV as well as a number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

The table below shows the status on UV projects in North Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined North Belfast geography (Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan).

Project	Status and update
Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>(links to BIF programme)</i>	On ground. As above BIF41. Contractor has been appointed and work progressing well and completion date is estimated as early 2024.
ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub <i>(links to LIF programme)</i>	On ground. Partnership project with UV DfC, DfI and Flax Trust. Contractor has been appointed and works is progressing. Estimated completion of Phase 1 is early 2024 with Phase 2 to follow. Delays due to site issues have been mitigated and UV looking into how to increase budget to accommodate.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI Living with Water Programme. At design stage and the

	planning application is progressing. Land transfer issues are also progressing. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed and on-site in late 2023 pending planning approval. Currently working through options for dealing with large watermain with NIW as part of detailed design process.
Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project	Council is acting as delivery agent. The final Letter of Offer is received. TEO has identified a funding gap in the sum of £500,000. TEO and the Project Promoter are exploring additional funding opportunities to support this project. Planning application approval pending. Design Team appointed. Project was taken to Due Diligence on 19 January 2023. Procurement of contractor progressing.
Sunningdale Community Centre	Council is acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. The project is being fully funded by TEO UV Programme. The Design Team has been appointed and gaining design sign off from end users. Planning application to be submitted around Easter 2023. Contractor expected to start on site by Spring 2024.
Westland Community Centre <i>(links to LIF programme)</i>	Partnership project with UV. This is an emerging project. A governance model is being explored and the Business Case is expected to complete by March 2023 with the LoO being issued thereafter.

Peace IV

Members are asked to note the update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.

Project	Status and update
Forth Meadow Community Greenway project	<p>On ground.</p> <p><i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> – Works complete and handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services. Signage package to be installed to include feature panels, narrative panels and beacon lights.</p> <p><i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road</i> – Works commenced with the completion date in June.</p> <p><i>Section 3 – Falls Park/Whiterock</i> – Works complete</p> <p><i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> – All phases within this section now complete</p> <p><i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre</i> – currently at detailed design stage.</p> <p>Works on the flagship piece are progressing with installation and a revised plan for the public unveiling of March 2023. Discussions with Invest NI on the installation of the art piece are ongoing. DfC Levelling Up match funding received “</p>

The Working Group:

- noted the physical programme update for north Belfast;

- noted the updates on projects that had been issued with a letter seeking written confirmation on whether the group wished to either withdraw or engage in the process – Holy Cross Trust/ Houben Centre, Mercy Primary School, Crumlin Road and Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church; and
- agreed to accede to a request from Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church to extend its confirmation deadline to 10th March, 2023.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	24 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition 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"/>
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
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 10 March 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is Functions permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which demonstrably enhance the city’s image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination • functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province • functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes
3.2	<p>Functions not permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms • functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor’s Office. • functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities • functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council. • functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	<p>The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>The schedule attached at Appendix 1 covers 7 applications for functions, scheduled for 2023 and 2024.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>None.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.6	<p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 10 March 2023.</p>

MARCH 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2023 EVENTS						
Telugu Cultural Society of Northern Ireland	23 April 2023	Ugadi 2023 – New Year Celebration event for the people of Deccan, India people living in Belfast including a cultural program. Numbers attending 300	D	No charge as community group	No (There is no catering planned for this event)	Approve, No charge No hospitality
BTC - Belfast Tamil Community	29 April 2023	BTC 10-year anniversary and Tamil New Year Celebration - – an evening of food and entertainment to celebrate Tamil New Year Numbers attending 300	C & D	No charge as community group	Yes, Soft drinks reception.	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer.</i>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	7 June 2023	Belfast Trust Staff Remembrance Service 2023 for staff and volunteers who have died. Numbers attending – 300 - 400	C	Charge £825 <i>waivered due to nature of the event</i>	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Disasters Emergency Committee	20 June 2023	Launch of Ukraine Exhibition of photography depicting humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, the Pakistan Floods and the Turkey-Syria earthquakes. Launch will thank corporate and political supports of DEC's appeals. Numbers attending 300	D	No charge as charity	Yes, Soft drinks reception.	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer.</i>

MARCH 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

OMNI (Organisation of Malayalees in Northern Ireland)	29 August 2023	PONNONAM 2023 - A Cultural dinner and entertainment programme to celebrate Onam. Numbers attending 400	D	No charge as community group	Yes, Soft drinks reception.	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer.</i>
British Society of Immunology	5 December 2023	BSI Congress Speakers Dinner for guests attending their 3-day congress taking place in ICC Numbers attending - 150	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
2024 EVENTS						
Ulster University	17 June 2024	SPEA12 12th European Conference Dinner for guests attending their 4 day conference taking place in Ulster university on Solar Chemistry and Photocatalysis: Environmental Applications (SPEA). Numbers attending - 250	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast and Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

Language Strategy Working Group

Thursday, 2nd March, 2023

LANGUAGE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Walsh (in Chair), Long, O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor;
Mrs. S. Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer;
Mr. R. Connolly, Policy, Research and Compliance
Officer ;
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. A. McMullan, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies

No apologies were noted.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th November were taken as read and signed as correct.

Language Strategy Action Plan - progress update

The City Solicitor advised the members of the working group that the purpose of this report is to update the working group on the progress achieved in relation to the Draft Language Strategy Action Plan. She outlined a number of events that were being held to celebrate a number of cultural events, these included a Burns event that was organised in partnership with the Ulster-Scots Agency on Friday 27 January 2023 at the City Hall where over 400 school children attended from two different schools.

She outlined the plans for Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week, and advised that the Council was planning to hold an event for primary schoolchildren in the City Hall in partnership with a local Irish-language author, Maire Zeyr on Tuesday 14 March. Belfast City Council would host the inaugural meeting of the Irish Language Stakeholder Forum on Thursday 9 March 2023 at which they would be presenting the draft Action Plan. She said they would be arranging a facilitated workshop to have detailed discussions about the draft Action Plan after that initial meeting before they would present an updated Action Plan to the Working Group.

To celebrate Sign Language Week, she advised members that they would be hosting an event in partnership with the British Deaf Association on Thursday 16 March 2023 at the City Hall. The theme for this event was 'Protecting BSL and ISL' which included a showcase of accessible health resources for Sign Language users.

In relation to the learning and development plan for Council staff, the City Solicitor advised Members of the working group that the Language Officer had held discussions with Autism NI, the Now Group and Deafblind UK on how the Council could become:

- An Autism NI Impact Champion
- A Jam Card Partner
- A Deafblind friendly service provider

Sign Solutions, a Sign Language training provider was also approached to deliver Sign Language courses for Council staff. She outlined to members that as a result of these discussions with the above disability organisations, training material had been received and the next step is to put a learning and development plan together for implementation as from April 2023. Members would be provided with further updates on this work. After discussion, members of the working group noted the contents of the report.

Stakeholder Fora meetings - update

The City Solicitor told the members of the working group that the purpose of the report was to update the working group on the progress in relation to stakeholders' consultations. She reminded members of the background to the consultations and said that arrangements were being made to hold meetings with each of the Language Strategy Stakeholder Fora in March 2023 with the exception of the Disabled Related Communications strand as the actions related to this workstrand were consulted on last year as part of the Disability Action Plan.

She advised that officers proposed to hold a facilitated workshop with each of the four fora to get feedback on the Council's draft Language Strategy Action Plan before reporting the matter back to the Working Group and SP&R Committee before issuing the draft plan for public consultation.

She said that it had been proposed to hold an inaugural meeting of the Irish Stakeholder Fora during Irish Language Week on Thursday 9 March which would be chaired by the City Solicitor and held in English. This would be followed by a second facilitated workshop session to get feedback on the draft Language Strategy Action Plan. Feedback from the various stakeholder forums would be brought to the next meeting of the Language Strategy Working Group.

After discussion, the working group noted the contents of the report.

Chairperson

All-Party Working Group on the City Centre

Friday, 3rd March, 2023

MEETING OF THE ALL-PARTY WORKING GROUP ON THE CITY CENTRE
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Long (Chairperson); and
Councillors Dorian and McCullough.

In attendance:
Ms. L. Toland, Head of Economic Development
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mrs. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Service Integration
Mr. J. Uprichard, Business and Research Development
Manager ; and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was received from Councillors O'Hara and Hutchinson. Councillor Long agreed to act as chairperson for the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th January, 2023 were agreed.

Presentation from BIDs on Purple Flag Accreditation

The chairperson welcomed Chris McCracken from the Linen Quarter BID to the meeting of the working group. Mr McCracken then gave a presentation to update members on the Purple Flag accreditation for Belfast.

Mr McCracken said that Purple Flag accreditation was a UK wide accreditation system for the effective management of the night-time economy, the broad definition to include food and drink, arts and culture, family markets. The timeframe included activity from 5pm to 5am. As part of the accreditation there was help with problem identification and included a problem-solving process.

He continued that there were many benefits to purple flag accreditation that included a partnership approach to improved co-ordination of the night time economy, it raised standards and broadened the appeal of the City Centre. Wider patronage and increased expenditure, along with lower crime and anti-social behaviour were also associated with Purple Flag accreditation along with a more successful mixed-use economy in the longer term.

He went on to outline the 5 core standards of purple flag; the policy envelope, wellbeing, movement, appeal and place. Mr McCracken informed members of the background to Belfast's involvement as said that the 3 BID's had combined to deliver the Purple Flag scheme that had been awarded to Belfast in early 2020. Covid had disrupted activity for the next two years, but the public, private and 3rd sector steering group had reformed to renew 6-month renewal process using structured analytical process and independent evaluation. They had created a strategic action plan to support the night time economy and although the previous findings were still relevant, he said they would be retested in new 2023 perception survey. He gave members an overview of the public perception 2019 baseline survey and highlighted a number of the key findings.

He went on to outline work the BIDS were undertaking to support the night time economy that included enhanced policing, BID Clean Teams, City Centre Gift Card, Belfast Restaurant Week, Marketing initiatives throughout the year, Funding for additional Christmas Lighting, Delivery partner for regeneration alongside support for wider initiatives such as Ask for Angela, Night-Time Volunteers.

Mr McCracken concluded his presentation with 10 actions that would support Belfast city centre nighttime economy and which of the 5 themes they supported.

Members of the working group stressed the importance of assessing the work of the various groups working to revitalize the city centre and ensuring that the work was streamlined to ensure the key groups were involved to maximise impact. They asked officers to look at the various groups, their key priorities and how this information could be structured and then bring this information back to a future meeting of the working group.

After further discussion the Members of the working group noted the contents of the presentation.

Chairperson