

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 25th May, 2022

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Whyte (acting Chair)
Councillors Boylan, Bradley, Ferguson, Magee,
Maskey, Murphy, O'Hara

In attendance: Mr. G. Bell
Ms. K. Gilliland,
Mr. K. Heaney,
Mr. S. Lavery
Mr S. Leonard
Ms. E. McCullough, Neighbourhood Services
Integration Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies for an inability to attend the meeting were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 30th March, 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

In relation to item Forth Meadow Community Greenway, Councillors Maskey, O'Hara and Whyte asked that it be noted that they were members of the Planning Committee.

PEACEPLUS Update

The Programme Manager provided the Working Group with an overview of the emerging development of the overall PEACEPLUS programme. He highlighted the need for external resource to support the Co-Designed Local Community PEACE Action Plan which had gone to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Working Group also received a presentation from the SEUPB appointed consultants, Locus Management (C Boylan), which were currently supporting local authorities to develop the approach to submitting a plan for a Local Community PEACE Action Plan for Belfast.

C Boylan informed the Members that the PEACEPLUS Programme had received €1.4bn funding across 6 thematic areas and provided an overview of the Co - designed Local Community Peace Action Plans (priority 1.1). As with previous PEACE Programmes, one of the key investment areas for Council was the development of a Local Community Peace

Action Plan for the city. This programme was under theme 1 'Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities' with investment funding of €110 Million. C Boylan provided further details of the programme timeframe and reassured the Members that Section 75 groups and geographical community engagement was a key focus.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report.

PEACE IV Shared Space Project – Forth Meadow Community Greenway

The Programme Manager provided an update for members of the Area Working Group on progress and key issues regarding the delivery of the PEACE IV Shared Space Project, Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

She highlighted a number of points for Members under the capital works element including:

- That work in Section 1 (Clarendon / Glencairn / Forthriver) had been completed with handover to council on Thursday 19 May 2022;
- That works in Section 2 (Springvale / INI site) were on hold;
- That works in Section 3 (Whiterock / Falls Park) and 4 (Bog Meadows) were progressing and remained on schedule;
- That a planning application for works in Section 5 (West-Link) had been submitted; and
- That an artist had been appointed for the three public art pieces.

And under the programming element she highlighted the following events:

- That pupils from Springfield, Springhill and St Clare's primary schools had participated in shared stories / history / heritage discussions;
- That volunteers would participate in training on all four volunteer training projects;
- That a governance model discussion event had taken place on 27 April 2022;
- "Swamp Festival" had taken place on 14 May 2022 in Bog Meadows; and
- Planned events along Forth Meadow Community Greenway in June 2022, would include a community cycle and picnic and colour run.

She advised members that a request to extend the Letter of Offer for the Shared Spaces theme to June 2023 and to reallocate underspends from other PEACE IV projects (estimated at £900K) had been submitted to SEUPB. A decision would be expected in June 2022.

The Programme Manager detailed a number of Governance Model options, further details of which were outlined in her report. She advised that engagement with key stakeholders had been challenging, and it had been identified that further engagement sessions would be necessary to address gaps. There had been a request to extend the Viatac Limited contract to July 2022, with a 10% uplift to their budget, that would be subject to SEUPB approval. The uplift would enable delivery of up to 4 engagement sessions and 2 workshops that would be delivered during May / June 22 and enable final reporting by July 2022.

The Peace IV team and Arts Ekta would continue to review and agree the events calendar, ensuring that all communities along Forth Meadow Community Greenway were included and made aware of the up-coming events / activities.

The Programme Manager advised that a monthly update on the progress of the Greenway, including events and activities, would be issued to key stakeholders. The first monthly update had been issued on Monday 9 May 2022.

A member made a request for specific information relating to the parts of the project relevant to North Belfast DEAs. The Programme Manager agreed to circulate an update to Members via email.

After discussion, the Members noted the contents of the report.

Alleygating - Verbal Report

The Working Group agreed to defer, until its next meeting, consideration of a report on the Alleygating Programme.

In the meantime, a roundtable hybrid workshop would be arranged for the Working Group to gain further clarity and detail in relation to the programme. The Chairperson asked that this be arranged in advance of June Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting. He also asked the Neighbourhood Services Manager (North Belfast) to bring further information in relation to the DfC Letter of Offer to the workshop.

Chairperson