

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 25th August, 2022

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr, McCoubrey, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Donnelly, Garrett, Hutchinson, McCann, Verner and Thompson.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Ms. E. McCullough, Neighbourhood Integration Manager
Mr. F. Smith, Project Sponsor and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group was reminded that, since this was its first meeting since the Annual Meeting of the Council in June, it was required to elect a Member to serve as Chairperson.

Accordingly, Councillor McCann was proposed by Councillor Corr and seconded by Councillor Spratt. The vote was deemed carried and Councillor McCann was appointed to serve as Chairperson until the date of the Local Government Elections in May, 2023..

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Beattie and McCabe.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Thompson asked that her membership of the Greater Shankill Community Forum be noted for the record.

Update on Physical Programme

The Members of the working group considered the content of the report below;

“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 new 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 programmes update for West Belfast.
- Note the correspondence received from Shankill Mission and consider any proposals of the £750,000 now available for re-allocation

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: 49 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 47 have been completed and 2 projects at delivery stage. In total, 95% of all LIF West projects have now 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 | 22 (92%) | £1,301,788 |
| Number of Projects On-going Delivery | | | 2 (8%) | £98,212 |
| Number of Projects in Pre-construction | | | | |
| Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence) | | | | |
| Total Number of Approved Projects | 25 | £1,617,500 | 24 | £1,400,000 |

The below table is a brief overview of the remaining live projects are shown below.

| LIF Ref | Project | LIF Funding | Stage | Status | Action / recommendation |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|
| WLIF2-08 | Berlin Swifts Football Club | £65,085 | On Ground | Modular changing building has been installed however utility connections remain outstanding. Ongoing meetings with the EA to confirmed preferred option. A price for connections to the sewerage system has been received from NI Water but is significantly above cost estimates reflecting ongoing issues in the construction sector. Project is therefore facing a funding deficit. Officers investigating options to bridge funding deficit | Continue engagement with the groups and project partners. |
| WLIF2-04 | St John Bosco Boxing Club | £40,000 | On Ground | Project completion expected late August/early September. Project delayed due to movement of gas pipe work and associated approvals. | Ongoing liaison with the group, Sport NI, DfC and DoF. |
| WLIF-29 | Davitt's GAC | £16,000 | Complete | Works complete and payment to be made | Continue engagement with the groups 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 | <p>Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m</p> <p>Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment</p> <p>Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£300k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment</p> |
|-------------|---|

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</p> <p>Stage 1— Shankill Mission - £750,000</p> |
|-------------|---|

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 | Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. Project progressing well. Estimated completion late September 2022. | Continue engagement with the group |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|----------|---------------|---|---|
| SOF07 | Shankill Mission | £750,000 | Initial stage | Proposed development of a social economy training hotel. Initial stage. Overall scheme approx. cost at £7m. | Members are asked to note the attached correspondence received from Shankill Mission withdrawing the project. |
|-------|------------------|----------|---------------|---|---|

Members are asked to note there has been ongoing liaison with Argyle Business Centre who are the project promoters of the Shankill Mission Hotel project regarding the viability of the project. Members are asked to note the correspondence received from the Board of Argyle thanking Members for their support of the project but noting the challenges in the current economic climate and therefore formally withdrawing from the process. The correspondence received requested that the Council allocate £100,000 towards revenue costs however the Director noted that the Council cannot fund these types of costs except where they are capitalizable against a project. Members are asked to note the update and consider any proposals in respect of the £750,000 which is now available for re-allocation in the Shankill area.

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. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund has attracted significant interest and an exceptionally high volume of applications was received. The Fund encompasses a three-stage process as approved by Council. Stage 1 is the application phase; Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The fund closed to applicants in May 2022. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the Stage 1 – Application stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. An intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been completed with final checks now underway. Reports will be brought to Members shortly via the AWGs as per the agreed process. Activity remains in line with the timeframe previously presented to Members.

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. Table below provides an update on current live

projects West Belfast area. Members are asked to note the status and updates provided.

West Belfast – Capital programme overview

| Project | Status and update |
|---|---|
| City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund | Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard is completed. The restoration of the Mortuary Tower & exterior of Foxes Lodge is completed. Visitor centre is completed and work is ongoing in preparation for opening. 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. Design and procurement works are underway with regards to Dual Language signage throughout the site. |
| Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain | Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC procurement underway. |
| Black Mountain/ Upper Whiterock Greenway | Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC completed and circulated to stakeholders for comments. |
| Colin Greenway | Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC underway. |
| Alley-gates Phase 5 | Stage 2 – Uncommitted. Consultation underway and MTC in place |
| Playground Programme (Areema and Sally Gardens) | Stage 3 – committed. Works programmed with MTC for completion within 22/23 financial year. |
| Belfast Bikes (New Station at Kennedy Centre) | DFI funded (see below) |

Members are asked to note the updates provided.

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 several 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).

| Project | Status and update |
|---|---|
| Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin) | Council is acting as Delivery Partner. A finishing contractor has been appointed and a delivery programme and cost plan have been agreed. |

| | |
|---|--|
| | The project is being actively managed and ongoing monitoring is in progress. It is anticipated that the project will complete in late September 2022. |
| Colin Valley Football Club | Council is acting as Delivery Partner. Contractor on site and project programme progressing well. Planning for press release / launch event ongoing. Anticipated completion December 2022. |
| Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community (PCA)) | Council is acting as Delivery Partner. Council agreed 25 year lease and 25 year Deed of Dedication has been confirmed. Final lease to be signed off. Design Team appointed. Planning application approved. Letter of Offer is approved. Contractor appointed and expected on site in September 2022. |
| Colin Community Health and Wellbeing Hub | Council is acting as Delivery Partner. This is a developing project in the Colin UV area and the project promoter is Colin Neighbourhood Partnership. The project is still at business case stage and remains subject to TEO approval. This project is classified as transformational scale. |

PEACEIV – Capital Projects

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

| Project | Status and update |
|--|---|
| Forth Meadow Community Greenway | <p><i>Section 1 – Glencairn – Works complete and handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services. Signage package to be installed to include feature panels, narrative panels and beacon lights (currently in fabrication)</i></p> <p><i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road – Anticipated start date of September 2022.</i></p> <p><i>Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock – Works partially completed due to complete within next few weeks.</i></p> <p><i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows – Phase 1 complete, Phase 4 underway, anticipated completion mid November 2022.</i></p> <p><i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre - currently at detailed design stage.</i></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council has now gained planning permission for Section 2 at August planning committee.</p> |
| Black Mountain Shared Space Project | Procurement stage with tender returns in September 2022 and an anticipated start on site in October 2022. Planning due to be considered at Planning on 31 st August. SEUPB have granted the project an extension to December 2023 and the construction programme is still in line with this timeframe. Further project update to be provided on receipt of tender return and planning decision. |
| Shankill Women’s Centre | Contractor onsite with works ongoing. Artwork on hoarding unveiling took place on 11 August 2022, work completed by cross- community Shankill Women’s Centre Empowering Young Women’s Project, Shankill Women’s Centre Volunteer Group, Small Wonders After Schools, Edenderry Nursery and Hydebank Wood College. Work |

| | |
|--|--|
| | supported by contractor as part of their social clause requirements. |
|--|--|

DfC funded projects

Members are asked to note the projects match funded by Department for Communities which include Páirc Nua Chollann nearing completion, Berlin Swifts Football Club, Forth Meadow Community Greenway underway, Black Mountain Shared Space Project and Whiterock 3G pitch carpet replacement (the latter is now complete).

DfI funded projects

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

DfI – South Belfast projects overview

| Project | Status and update |
|---|--|
| Covered cycle stands Phase 1 | <i>Via Revitalisation Programme (DfC, DfI)</i> Grosvenor Community Centre – due to be installed in September |
| Covered cycle stands Phase 2 | <i>Via DfI Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i> Pairc Nua Chollan, Andersonstown Leisure Centre - Currently in production and due for installation by May 2023. Potential additional location: Brook Leisure Centre. |
| Belfast Bikes (New Station at Kennedy Centre) | <i>Via DfI Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i> Approvals in place and works to be completed by early September 2022” |

The Director of Physical Programmes drew members attention to the ongoing liaison regarding the viability of the project with Argyle Business Centre which was the project promoter of the Shankill Mission Hotel project. She highlighted the correspondence received from the Board of Argyle thanking Members for their support of the project but noting the challenges in the current economic climate and therefore formally withdrawing from the process. The correspondence received requested that the Council allocate £100,000 towards revenue costs, however, the Director noted that the Council can fund these types of costs except where they are capitalizable against a project.

The Director of Physical Programmes advised the Working Group that, as the Shankill Mission project was no longer viable, £750,000 was now available for re-allocation. A discussion took place in respect of the reallocation of funds.

Moved by Alderman Mc Coubrey,
Seconded by the Councillor Verner and

Resolved – that the £750,000 reallocated as follows:

- recognising that both Berlin Swifts and Greater Shankill Community Council (Legion) projects are committed projects where significant

work has already been undertaken, that monies are reallocated to meet the funding deficits on both projects with up to £113,000 to be allocated to Berlin Swifts and the final budget allocation for the Greater Shankill Community Council project to be agreed once the tender had been returned;

- that £50k be allocated to a small-scale environmental improvement project for the Shankill Road; and
- that out of the remaining allocation, agree, in principle, to look at a number of other proposals in Woodvale Park namely, MUGA upgrades and the development of a sensory garden with further detail to be brought back to the Working Group and Committee in due course.

A Member raised a query in relation to the completion and handover of Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin). He asked for details on how the space would be animated and what engagement had taken place with local groups such as the community safety partnership. The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed members of the working group that there was a 1st draft of the animation plan and there had been various local groups as part of this process. The neighbourhood Integration Manager agreed to contact Councillor Garrett to discuss further engagement in relation to the animation of the space.

CNS – Neighbourhood Services Portfolios Update

The area working group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of the report is to update Area Working Group members on the recent changes at Neighbourhood Services Manager (NSM) level in terms of portfolios.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of the report, and the changes outlined within it, in relation to areas of responsibility (at NSM level), and key contact points (more detailed information included in the presentation at Appendix 1) within the Neighbourhood Services section of City & Neighbourhood Services Department.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

As we emerge from the pandemic and the need to restore services to pre-Covid levels, and following the departure of the fourth Neighbourhood Services Manager, Alison Allen back in February 2022 it was agreed that it would be timely to review the areas of responsibility and operational alignment, managed by each of the four Neighbourhood Services Managers to support and improve coordination going forward.

As a result of this review it was agreed at Director level within City and Neighbourhood Services, and then at Strategic DMT and CMT that, from April 2022 onwards, Neighbourhood Service Managers (NSMs) would be responsible and accountable for specific service/portfolio areas rather than geographical areas as they were previously.

3.2 Neighbourhood Service Managers (NSMs) are responsible and accountable for the service/portfolio areas as outlined below – namely

- Stephen Leonard for Open Space and Street Scene,
- Cate Taggart for Community Services and Community Support,
- Kelly Gilliland for Community Funding and Neighbourhood Integration,
- and the NSM currently being recruited will have responsibility for Community Safety, Good Relations and Partnership Working. *NB Kelly Gilliland is currently responsible for this portfolio area until someone is appointed.*

3.3 NSMs are supported by Lead Officers (LOs)

- Edel Mullan for Open Space and Street Scene.

Under Community Provision:

- Cormac McCann for Community Services and Community Support,
- Margaret Higgins for Community Funding and Neighbourhood Integration,
- Jim Girvan for Community Safety,
- There are also a number of service or programme area focussed posts who report direct to NSMs, namely Nicola Lane as Good Relations Manager, Stevie Lavery as Programme Manager and Noel Munnis as Partnerships Manager (See Appendix 1).

3.4 Member or partner enquiries, regardless of area of origin, should now be directed to the relevant NSM, Lead Officer or Manager within the service area.

3.5 Open Space and Street Scene Managers (OSS Managers) – David Salters (North), Currently vacant/being recruited (South), Liam McKinley (West) and Colin Willets (East) will continue to be available to assist with queries or concerns in relation to street cleansing or in relation to maintenance and upkeep of our parks and open spaces.

3.6 Neighbourhood Integration Managers (NIMs) – Eimear McCullough (North), Denise Smith (South), Alice McGlone (West) and Kathy Watters (East) will remain area focussed. The role of the NIMs is

to work at a neighbourhood level to transform and integrate, both internally within Council, and externally alongside partners where it is clear that Council has a key role to play.

- 3.7 NIMs will work alongside colleagues, partners and/or members, on a specific timebound basis, to develop projects and initiatives with the aim of transforming how we provide support and services at a neighbourhood level. These priorities will be identified within our City & Neighbourhood Services business plan for 2022/23-2024/25 as well as via the Belfast Agenda Refresh (22-26) community planning process currently underway.
- 3.8 In summary, we are hopeful that this new way of working, with clear accountability and reporting lines, will result in greater clarity, improved communication, reduced duplication and better coordination going forward.

The presentation included at Appendix 1 outlines in more detail (and with visuals where available) how each of the portfolio/service area teams are comprised.

Financial and Resource Implications

None

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

None.”

The Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to send a copy of the City and Neighbourhood services structure chart along with the contact number for each officer to the members of west area working group.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report.

Chairperson