

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 7th September, 2023

## HYBRID MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Lawlor and Rodgers;  
Councillors Bell, Bower, R. Brooks, de Faoite,  
P. Donnelly, D. Douglas, S. Douglas, Ferguson,  
Long, Maghie, F. McAteer, McCormick, McMullan.

In attendance: Mr. D. Logan, Programme Delivery Manager;  
Ms. S. Kalke, Client Manager;  
Ms. L. Wilson, Client Manager;  
Ms. K. Watters, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

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

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson and

Resolved – that Councillor Flynn be elected to serve as Chairperson to the East Belfast Area Working Group until the date of the Annual Meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillors Hanvey and Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 30th March were an accurate record of proceedings.

At the request of the Chairperson, the Working Group agreed that future meetings would commence at 5.15pm.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ferguson declared an interest in item 4. Update on Physical Programmes, in that he was on the Board of Nettlefield Football Club and left the room whilst the item was under consideration.

Councillor D. Douglas declared an interest in item 4. Update on Physical Programmes, as his children played for Bloomfield Football Club and left the room whilst the item was under consideration.

### **Update on the Expansion of the Belfast Bikes Network**

Ms. S. Kalke, Client Manager, provided an update on the Belfast Bikes scheme, reminding the Members that the contract had been operated by NSL continually since its inception in 2015, using bikes and supporting infrastructure from Nextbike by TIER, however, the contract was coming to an end in March 2024.

She advised that the scheme currently operated with 573 bikes, including those in reserve for new stands, and 56 docking stations and proceeded to provide an overview of the proposed expansion of the Belfast Bikes Network for East Belfast, highlighting the following:

- The new station at the Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre had been installed and funded by the Revitalisation Programme (DfC, DfI) and had been operational since July 2022. In addition, in June 2021, Members had agreed to proceed with an additional 15 docking stations and for £980,000 to be invested in the expansion proposal (£480,000 funding for Belfast Bikes expansion and £500,000 reallocated from public space programme);
- Expansion in the East area for Phase 4 2022/23 included the Castlereagh Road and the Upper Newtownards Road. In the previous East AWG in January 2023 the exact locations in those areas were agreed: Castlereagh Road at the entrance of the CCG and on the Upper Newtownards Road/ Astoria Gardens, subject to agreement with landowners and local businesses, and that the Upper Newtownards Road/Sandown Rd Carpark be the reserve option for the area if the approval for Astoria Gardens was not forthcoming;
- Castlereagh Road – completed and operational since 25th August 2023;
- Upper Newtownards Road – as an agreement with local businesses/landowners could not be secured, officers had contacted BCC's Off Street Car Park Manager regarding the agreed back-up option at the Council car park. As the drawing showed the loss of three car parking spaces, the car park team had refused the location of the Belfast Bikes docking station in this area (they expect a legal challenge if they suspend parking bays under the current Off Street Parking Order). Officers were currently exploring the potential for a docking station in the car park that would not reduce the number of car parking spaces; and
- Expansion for Phase 5 2023/24 included the Creagh Road and the Hollywood Road. Planning for this expansion was on hold as the current supplier/operator contract was coming to an end in March 2024.

In term of progressing a new contract, the Client Manager reported that NSL continued to operate the Belfast Bikes scheme until March 2024. Council staff were currently reviewing the scheme and an Expression of Interest (EOI) had been completed as a market testing exercise. This would be used to inform the next stage of the tendering process.

The Client Manager advised that officers were currently working on the tender documents for a new Belfast Bikes contract and she highlighted that some of the elements to

be considered included the introduction of e-bikes, working with social enterprises and charities, the transition period between the existing and the new contract to ensure no gap in operation, step by step mobilisation, expansion in the agreed areas and beyond and managed service model, in that the Council would still control locations and prices. She advised that, at this stage, this was not a definitive list.

The officer concluded by highlighting that the Expression of Interest exercise had shown strong interest from suitable, experienced bike share companies (including the current supplier/operator). The majority had indicated that they could operate a fully contracted managed service whereby the Council would pay a fixed annual fee for the scheme supply and operation (this was the current model).

During discussion, the Working Group raised concerns in relation to the refusal of the Upper Newtownards Road/Sandown Rd Carpark and the lengthy process from location agreement to installation. The Client Manager explained further the consultation and tender processes and highlighted that officers were aware of the risks involved with a new tender process and had appointed an expert to advise on such issues.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to:

- suggest it brings forward legislation on the current Off-Street Parking Order to devolve through local councils;
- suggest a pilot scheme in relation to Bike docking stations in Council owned land, such as the proposed Sandown Road Carpark; and
- invite representatives from DfI to a meeting of the East Area Working Group to discuss the Bike Scheme and wider issues impacting the East of the city.

The Working Group also noted that the Client Manager would explore with the Off Street Car Parking Manager what the status of the changed car parking legislation was.

### **Update on Physical Programme**

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 on 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 East Belfast and the invitation from Cregagh Sports Club;**

- the details for the scheduled site visits for NRF Stage 2 Projects, and;
- the updates on the contribution to Newtownards Road plan and the visit to Sanctuary Theatre as requested by Members.

### 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 East being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £1.2m under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 22 projects received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 19 have been completed; 1 project in delivery; 2 projects at due diligence stage.

LIF breakdown – East	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	8 (80%)	£931,902	11 (92%)	£1,146,589
Number of Projects in Delivery			1 (8%)	£15,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				
Number of Projects at Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2 (20%)	£100,000		
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£1,031,902</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£1,161,589</b>

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects.

Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / Recommendation
ELIF30	Cregagh Sports Club	£70,000	Complete	<b>Project completed</b> (see Appendix 1). The organisation is continuing to seek partner funding to make improvements to the heating system.	<b>Members are asked to note that the group has invited them to visit the completed project.</b>
ELIF2-17	Lagan Village Youth and Community Association	£15,000	Complete	<b>Project completed.</b>	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
ELIF29	Cycling Ireland	£70,000	Due Diligence	The group is exploring a phased approach. Due Diligence issues to be resolved. Internal discussions ongoing regarding wider site and tenure options.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.

ELIF31	<b>Bloomfield FC, Clonduff FC, East Belfast FC and Glentoran Academy plus Tullycarnet, Cregagh Wanderers, Nettlefield Multi-Sports and Bredagh GAC – storage facilities</b>	£65,000 (comprising £30k plus £35k reallocation )	Due Diligence	Some Due Diligence information still outstanding from groups. Will bring back to DD once all groups have supplied the required DD information. Engagement ongoing with City & Neighbourhood Services Dept on storage facilities on Council assets.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
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#### 4. **Belfast Investment Fund**

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250,000 investment from Council. In East Belfast 9 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF. There are 5 projects 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. Table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and the funding allocated.

##### **Summary of BIF allocated projects:**

<b>East</b>	Stage 3—Willowfield—£560k; H&W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k Stage 2— <i>Lagan Village Youth &amp; Community—no commitment</i> Stage 1— <i>East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John’s Orangefield, Church of Ireland, Tullycarnet Community Support Services—no commitment / on long list</i>
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<b>Outer East</b>	Stage 3 —TAGIT- £434k; Hanwood—£396k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k; Braniel—£390k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k
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The table below provides an overview of the remaining projects. Members are asked to note the actions and recommendations.

Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
BIF12	Strand Arts Centre	£5,805,000  Comprising: LUF £4m BIF £1,550,000 HF £255,000	Stage 3 – procurement stage	Planning secured in August 2022. Funding has been secured from Heritage Fund (Development Phase) and Levelling Up Fund. An application to Heritage Fund (Delivery Phase) has been submitted with a response due in Sep 2023. Discussions with DfC on potential funding are also continuing. The project has progressed to RIBA Stage 4. Preparation for contractor procurement is underway with appointment expected by end of 2023.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF13	Bloomfield Community Association	£715,009 Comprising £440,000 plus reallocations of £60,009 and £215,000	Stage 3 - Committed – In Principle	The updated cost estimate is £815,635 as of June 2023, resulting in a current funding deficit of £100k. BCA are actively exploring additional funding opportunities to meet the shortfall.	Continue engagement with the group.

### Outer East BIF Projects

Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
BIF25	Braniel Church	£455,000 Comprising £390,000 plus £65,000 reallocation	Complete	<b>Project completed.</b> Base Braniel launched on 22 June 2023.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
BIF38	Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000	Stage 3 – Due Diligence	In August 2023 the congregation agreed to appoint The Presbyterian Church In Ireland Holding Trustee Company to hold congregational properties in trust. Due Diligence will now be carried out with new trustee. Due Diligence preparation underway. Procurement of design team undertaken.	Continued engagement with group and progress through Due Diligence.

## 5. Social Outcomes Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. There is one project under SOF for East Belfast - Eastside Visitor Centre – with an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Project	SOF Award	Status and update
<b>Eastside Visitor Centre</b> <i>Link to UV project</i>	£700,000	<i>Business case stage.</i> Partner project with Urban Villages. The project proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Status remains as reported previously - Final draft business case completed and remains with Executive Office.

## 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. The NRF Programme is currently at *Stage 2- Development Stage*. In line with the agreed process, the AWG made recommendations on which projects should move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage* and this was agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The table below provides an overview of the projects that have progressed to *Stage 2- Development*.

### East Belfast – NRF overview

<b>East</b>	Stage 2 - Eastside Container Hotel, Impact Belfast, Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience, Portview Exchange - a makerspace in East Belfast <i>Stage 1 (Reserve) - Development of sporting hub at Wilgar Park, Hosford Community Homes: 335 Newtownards Road</i>
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### East Belfast – NRF projects at Stage 2 - Development

Project name	Description	Status
<b>Eastside Container Hotel</b>	Development of 10 unique serviced tourist apartments overlooking the C.S. Lewis Square in east Belfast.	Business Case complete. Site visit for Members scheduled on 26 September.
<b>Impact Belfast</b>	Regeneration of the former church at 122-128 Ravenhill Road into a state-of-the-art social Impact Hub providing facilities for social impact organisations to work, collaborate, network and grow.	Business Case complete. Site visit for Members scheduled on 26 September.
<b>Nevin Spence Centre Visitor Experience</b>	Major overhaul of the NSC Visitor Experience, involving a new layout, full re-design, new exhibitions and integration of new augmented reality technology.	Business Case complete. Site visit for Members scheduled on 26 September.

<b>Portview Exchange – a makerspace in East Belfast</b>	Development of a state-of-the-art studio on the Newtownards Road comprising significant additional artist studio space as well as private rooms, workshops, test labs, a kiln and a retail shop frontage.	Linked to UV project. Business Case is awaited from Executive Office. Site visit for Members scheduled on 26 September.
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In June SP&R Committee received an update regarding NRF including the allocation model, outcome of *Stage 1- Application Stage*, updates on *Stage 2- Development Stage* which is underway and the updated programme timeline for delivery. Members also agreed to arrange site visits to Stage 2 projects for September. Site visits have now been arranged in conjunction with the groups and are detailed below. The AWG is asked to note the arrangements for the NRF site visits.

**NRF Site visits arrangements:**

Members are encouraged to attend any and all of these arranged visits and all of the Area Working Groups have now been provided with these details. The meeting point for all visits is City Hall and transport will be provided, returning to City Hall afterwards. Members are asked to RSVP as soon as possible.

Date	Time	Sites
<b>Tues 5 Sept 2023</b> (complete)	<b>9:30am – 12:30pm</b>	<b>South</b> Site visits to three projects – Sólás New Build Project, Lagan Water Access Activity Hub, and the Redevelopment of Riddel's Warehouse project
<b>Wed 6 Sept 2023</b> (complete)	<b>1:30pm – 4:30pm</b>	<b>South</b> Site visits to three projects – GVRT-Branching Out, Redevelopment of Former School of Music, and Market Heritage Hub project.
<b>Wed 13 Sept 2023</b>	<b>9:30am – 12:30pm</b>	<b>North</b> Site visits to three projects – AYE Youth and Community Hub, USEL- Green Growth & The Circular Economy, and Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment project
<b>Thurs 14 Sept 2023</b>	<b>1.30pm – 3.30pm</b>	<b>North</b> Site visits to two projects – CCRF- Cliftonville Community Enterprise and SRG- St Joseph's Restoration project.
<b>Wed 20 Sept 2023</b>	<b>9:30am - 12:30pm</b>	<b>West</b> Site visits to three projects – The Mountainview Hotel, Croí na Carraige and Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre
<b>Thurs 21 Sept 2023</b>	<b>9:30am - 12:30pm</b>	<b>West (Shankill)</b> Site visits to three projects – Glencairn Community Project, The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitor Centre, and The Road
<b>Tues 26 Sept 2023</b>	<b>9.30am – 1.30pm</b>	<b>East</b>

		Site visits to four projects – EastSide Container Hotel, Portview Exchange, Impact Belfast and Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience
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Members will also note that the outcome of the Stage 2 - development phase, preparations of business cases along with the detailed designs and projects costings are nearing completion. There will be a special AWG meeting to be held in October / November to consider the outcome of *Stage 2- Development* and recommend to SP&R Committee which projects are progressing to the next stage.

## 7. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new assets. 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 in East Belfast. Members are asked to note the status and update.

### East Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
LTP- Templemore- NLHF	<b>Project completed and operational.</b> Official opening held on 27 June 2023.
New Crematorium	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> RIBA Stage 4 Technical Design is currently being progressed. Planning Approval received in June 2023. Tender process is underway. Alternative use for existing building is being explored currently.
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> The consultation period was extended due to a low response rate and has now closed. The output is being reviewed prior to submission to Legal Services. If clearance is given to proceed, then Committee approval will be sought to advertise the notice of intention to install gates. If it is found that there is not enough support or evidence via this consultation then further consultation may be necessary.
Sydenham Greenway	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Business case to be worked up with Dfl.
Shared Youth and Community Facility Inner East	<i>Stage 1- Emerging.</i> Link to Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan. Officers had been liaising with the Education Authority on a potential youth facility at the council owned Ballymacarrett site. Following budget cuts for the EA overall, officers have now written formally to EA to ask for confirmation of their interest in the proposed project and await a response.
Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan	<i>Stage 1- Emerging.</i> Link to the UV/Dfl funded Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvement project, now complete. See update above.

<b>Cremated Remains Burial Plots</b>	<i>Stage 1 – Emerging.</i> Agreed at SP&R in June 2023. Business case to be developed.
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## 8. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for a number of government departments on significant capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and the Urban Villages Initiative (UV) funded by the Executive Office, and number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to East Belfast.

### Social Investment Fund

Project	Status and update
<b>Walkway Community Association</b>	<b>Project completed.</b> This is the final Social Investment Fund capital project to be delivered by the Council.

### Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
<b>Pitt Park redevelopment</b> <i>Council asset</i>	<i>Project underway.</i> This UV funded project is on a Council site and the Council is acting as the delivery partner. Contractor started on site in August 2023. Aiming to complete works in late Spring 2024. Ongoing community engagement information sessions are taking place.
<b>Hosford Community Homes Inclusion Hub</b>	<i>Letter of Offer stage.</i> Council is acting as Delivery Partner. Design team appointed. Proposed change of use Planning Application has been submitted and consultation is ongoing with statutory consultees. The procurement process is underway.
<b>Pop EastSide- Landmark East</b> <i>Link to SOF project 'Eastside Visitor Centre' and NRF 'Eastside Container Hotel'</i>	<i>Business case stage.</i> Partner project with Urban Villages. The project proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Status remains as reported previously - Final draft business case completed and remains with Executive Office.
<b>Titanic People Exhibition</b>	<i>Business case stage.</i> Work is ongoing to review design options with consideration being given to building safety and project outcome measures. DfC funding in the sum of £600,000 has been committed together with UV funding in the sum of £600,000. UV have finalised the business case. The design team has been re-engaged and started design process.
<b>Portview Exchange</b> <i>Link to NRF 'Portview Exchange'</i>	<i>Feasibility stage.</i> Emerging project at feasibility stage. Business case progressing. Procurement of design team underway. Application to NRF has moved to Stage 2.

### DfC and Dfl funded projects

Below is the status update on project funded by Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Communities in East Belfast.

### **Dfl and DfC – East Belfast projects overview**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre</b>	<b>Project completed.</b> As above.
<b>Covered cycle stands Phase 2 –East</b>	<i>Via Dfl Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Avoniel Leisure Centre - <b>completed.</b></li><li>– Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre - <b>completed</b></li></ul>
<b>Expansion of Belfast Bikes Network - East</b>	<i>Via Revitalisation Programme (DfC, Dfl)</i> <p>Further stations are also under development via the Council funded scheme. A separate update report being presented at this AWG.</p>

### **EB Northern Ireland Ltd (Landfill Communities Fund)**

**One project is receiving capital funding via EBNI in East Belfast:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Cherryvale Playing Fields Improvements Pitch 1</b>	The project involves erection of catch nets, spectator fencing and path on one boundary of Pitch 1 at Cherryvale Playing Fields. The pitch is used for Gaelic football, camogie and hurling. It is anticipated that the contractor will begin site set-up in the week commencing 11 September with works anticipated to begin the following week.

### **Newtownards Road 2030 update**

Members will recall that in January 2023 they agreed to a request from Eastside Partnership for the Council to contribute to the creation of a new development proposal for the Newtownards Road 2030. The planning workshops have now started and attended by representatives from different sectors across East Belfast. The Local Action Group was introduced regarding the initiatives, and discussed the issues, challenges and opportunities for Newtownards Road. This activity is contributing to the creation of the Newtownards Road plan and is led by Eastside Partnership together with the consultants, utilising the Living High Streets – Craft Kit. This is a new approach to placemaking that engages local communities in working together on all aspects of their village, town or city. There are 6 workshops scheduled from July-December 2023 with the final report envisaged to be completed by December 2023. Members will be updated on the outcome of this initiative.

### **Sanctuary Theatre update**

In March 2023 the AWG received a request from the Sanctuary Theatre and it was agreed that the Property & Projects Department

would undertake a visit and report back to Members. This site visit has now taken place and Members are updated as follows:

- The Bright Umbrella Drama Company (BUDCo) is a professional theatre company and registered charity affiliated to Equity, the Actor's Union. The group lease the old Mountpottinger Church building which is now renamed 'The Sanctuary Theatre'.
- The Sanctuary Theatre is located on the corner of Castlereagh Street and Albertbridge Road in East Belfast where plays, concerts and events are delivered. The church sits directly on an interface area dividing the Loyalist Mount and the Nationalist Short Strand areas of East Belfast.
- The company aims are:
  - To construct a modern arts and theatre facility for East Belfast
  - To help encourage a sense of community pride
  - To act as a catalyst for renewal and renovation in the wider area
  - To provide a focus for arts based cross community and good relations projects
- Short Term Objective - BUDCo require immediate funding to repair the dry rot so that it does not spread throughout the building and to reduce additional costs to the larger project. The estimated cost for the repair work is £30,000 including repairs, new ceiling, replacement roof and deck elements.
- Long Term Objective - BUDCo main goal is to renovate the church and turn it into a modern arts and theatre centre for East Belfast while retaining the historical and heritage elements of the building. Some of the main objectives are to construct a state of the art theatre auditorium seating around 150 people, a modern café bar which doubles as a smaller performance area, and a permanent exhibition detailing the history of the church and area. The aim is for construction work to start in January 2025 with the new facility opening in January 2026. Estimates from the group's architects put the capital works at £1.87m and £735,000 required in additional revenue costs for the project's first 3 years.

**Following the site visit, BUDCo submitted two applications to potential funders for the repair works. Decisions are awaited."**

The Programme Delivery Manager highlighted that the Strand Arts Centre (BIF12) had now been granted the delivery phase funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund.

During discussion, Ms. L. Wilson, Client Manager, explained further the Storage Facilities project (ELIF31) and the work that was being undertaken with City Neighbourhood Services and Legal Services to progress the 2 batches of container units through the due diligence process. In response to a Member's proposal to release £8k of the agreed £65k

funding to expedite the new toilet facilities at the Cregagh Wanderers Container, the Programme Delivery Manager advised that this would be explored with Legal Services, subject to the parameters of the Local Investment Fund.

In relation to the Sydenham Greenway Capital Project, the Working Group agreed to write to the Department of Infrastructure to request a meeting with all stakeholders, such as the other relevant Council's and EastSide Greenways, to learn from the Connswater Greenway model, to progress the Business Case.

During further discussion, the Working Group noted the need for prepared and viable projects to be on a reserve list for each of the various funding streams.

In addition, one Member suggested the necessity to update the Braniel Community Centre and the option for this to be placed on the reserve list under the Capital Programme. The Working Group agreed that the Physical Programmes Department would undertake a visit and report back to the Area Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- noted the physical programme update for East Belfast and the invitation from Cregagh Sports Club;
- noted the details for the scheduled site visits for NRF Stage 2 Projects;
- noted the updates on the contribution to Newtownards Road plan and the visit to Sanctuary Theatre as requested by Members;
- agreed that officers would explore the potential to release £8k of the agreed £65k funding to expedite the new toilet facilities at the Cregagh Wanderers Container (under ELIF31) with Legal Services, subject to the parameters of the Local Investment Fund;
- agreed to write to the Department of Infrastructure to request a meeting with all stakeholders in relation to the Sydenham Greenway; and
- agreed that the Physical Programmes Department would undertake a visit to the Braniel Community Centre and report back to the Area Working Group.

### **Correspondence from Dundela FC**

The Working Group granted approval for representatives of Dundela Football Club to attend a future meeting to provide an update on their project to upgrade the grounds.

### **The Larder**

Following a request from the Chairperson, on behalf of Councillor Smyth, the Working Group agreed to visit with representatives of the Larder to discuss their future plans.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, 30th November at 5.15pm.

Chairperson