

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 29th August, 2024

## HYBRID MEETING OF THE WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCann (Chairperson),  
Councillors Black, M. Donnelly,  
R-M Donnelly, Garrett,  
McCabe, McDowell, I. McLaughlin,  
R. McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager (PEACE  
Programmes);  
Ms. S. Murtagh, Physical Programmes Portfolio Manager; and  
Ms. C. Donnelly, Committee Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Doherty, Duffy, and Verner.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the special meeting of 5th June, 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

### **Presentations**

#### **PeacePlus**

The Programme Manager presented the Working Group with an update on the PEACEPLUS Community Action Plan for Belfast. He commenced by advising that the Programme was worth £15m / €17m funding to Belfast City Council, this would be made up of 3 themes and 16 individual projects. The three themes were as follows:

- Theme 1 – Local Community Regeneration and Transformation;
- Theme 2 – Thriving and Peaceful Communities; and
- Theme 3 – Celebrating Cultures and Diversity.

The officer advised that in terms of capital projects relating to Theme 1, these would consist of facilities that would be used by people from across the city. The project idea was a LGBTQIA + Hub – this would involve the redevelopment of the first floor of 2 Royal Avenue to provide a dedicated space for organisations representing the LGBTQIA + with a shared space services approach to the ground floor. He advised that this project idea would be progressed

by Council's Property and Project Unit, and that associated animation projects would likely be procured, with options for procurement currently under consideration.

She then referred the Members to the proposals/project ideas for each of the four areas of the city under Theme 1, with the proposal for North being 'Access to the Hills' - building upon the Forth Meadow Community Greenway proposed extensions to the routes at Glencairn and Ligoniel.

The Programme Manager then provided the Members with a detailed breakdown of each of the proposed projects, participant numbers and estimated budget under the three themes, as follows:

<b>THEME</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>EST BUDGET</b>
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	Capacity Building - Community Empowerment Programme	1000	£903,578
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	TPC2 Health and Well Being	1620	£853,000
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	TPC3 Youth Inspiring Future Belfast	2106	£970,861
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	TPC4 Sports for Peace	1600	£711,646
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	TPC5 Employability Language Up	816	£447,513
Thriving and Peaceful Communities	TPC6 Arts in Communities	496	£695,744
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	CCD1 Inter Faith and Belief	870	£304,564
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	CCD2 Community Connections Ethnic Minority	752	£638,135
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	CCD3 LGBTQIA + Community Engagement Programme	624	£391,672
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	CCD4 Community Empowerment Ex-Politically motivated prisoner community	750	£493,006
Celebrating Cultures and Diversity	CCD5 From Multi-culturalism to Inter-culturalism. Culture and Heritage	2565	£949,990

The Programme Manager advised that the PEACEPLUS Programme Board had recommended that mobilisation of the Action Plan be progressed as close to the original timeframe as possible, which might require condensed delivery to achieve targets by 1-2 months, with

contract awards up to December 2027. The Members' attention was drawn to an indicative timeframe and they were asked to note that there would be pre-market engagement sessions at least a week before each of the tenders opened, that tenders would be open for a minimum of 4 weeks and that they might be subject to change based on any feedback from the market. The Members were encouraged to forward the details of any groups or organisations which they felt should be added to the database for the circulation of relevant tender documentation.

The Programme Manager concluded by advising that each Project Manager would be responsible for the implementation, delivery and management of each of the projects on a cross-disciplinary approach across all three themes, this would include:

- Pre-Commencement Conditions;
- Capacity Checks;
- Implementation Conditions;
- Letter of Offer and Terms and Conditions of funding;
- Pre-market engagement for each specific project; and
- Procurement.

The Chairperson thanked the Programme Manager for her comprehensive update.

Noted.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1. Introduction**

**The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), 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 West Belfast including recently completed projects (Appendix 1):**
  - **Shankill Shared Women's Centre - PEACEIV**
  - **Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project Phase 1 – PEACEIV**
  - **Woodvale Park - Social Outcomes Fund**
  - **Shankill Road Environmental Improvement Project – Social Outcomes Fund**
  - **Berlin Swifts Football Club – Local Investment Fund and Social Outcomes Fund.**

- The updated list of external capital funding opportunities attached at Appendix 2.

### 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).

A summary is provided below:

LIF breakdown – West	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,617,500	25 (100%)	£1,400,000
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>£1,617,500</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>£1,400,000</b>

The table below shows an overview of the recently completed project:

LIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / Recommendation
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	LIF £65,085; SOF £113,000	Complete	<b>Project completed</b>	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.

All 50 LIF projects in West Belfast including Shankill have now been completed.

### 4. Belfast Investment Fund

Members are reminded that 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. The table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects.

*Summary of BIF allocated projects*

<b>West</b>	<p>Stage 3—Davitt's GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m; Greater Shankill Community Council - RBL project- £300k, Glencairn Community Project— £700k</p> <p>Stage 2— St Mary's CBS— no commitment</p> <p>Stage 1— An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment</p>
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**The table below shows an overview of the remaining BIF project –**

BIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action/ Recommendation
<b>BIF09</b>	<b>Glencairn Community Project</b>	BIF- £700,000; NRF- £200,000	Committed; Due Diligence	The group is working with NIHE on land arrangements for the smaller scale concept as agreed. the procurement process for the design team is ongoing.	Continue engagement with the group.

**5. Social Outcomes Fund**

SOF is a £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 a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

**SOF – West Belfast projects overview**

<b>West</b>	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; Shankill Road Environmental Improvement Project - £50,000; Woodvale Park - £80,000
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The table below shows an overview of the recently completed SOF projects -

SOF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / Recommendation
SOF10	Shankill Rd Env Improvement Project	£50,000	Complete	<b>Project completed.</b>	Continue engagement with the group.
SOF13	Woodvale Park	SOF: £80,000; IFA/ DMCS: £120,000	Complete	<b>Project completed.</b>	Continue engagement with key stakeholders.

All 5 SOF projects in West Belfast including Shankill have now been completed.

**6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund**

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF) is a capital fund with a current overall budget of £10,280,000 to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. The overall NRF allocation for West was £3,446,654 (West - £2,721,133 and Shankill - £725,521) and 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment. Each NRF 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.

**West Belfast – NRF overview**

<b>West</b>	Stage 3— Michael Davitt’s Community Heritage Centre- £684,058; Croí na Carraige - ‘The Heart of the Rock’ - Phase 1- £537,058; The Mountainview Hotel- £1,500,000; The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitors’ Centre- £295,000; Glencairn Community Project (Hub)- £200,000, The Road- £210,759; <i>Shankill contingency- £19,762.</i>
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	<p><i>Stage 1— 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 &amp; 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 3 - Delivery**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action/ Recommendation</b>
<b>Michael Davitt’s Community Heritage Centre</b>	£684,058	Stage 3- Committed	Procurement for the main contractor is now at tender stage. Discussions ongoing regarding the land/ leases required for the project. Work continues on the development of a capital bid to Heritage Lottery.	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>Croí na Carraige - ‘The Heart of the Rock’ - Phase 1</b>	£537,058	Stage 3- Committed	Procurement for the design team is now at tender stage. Discussions ongoing with potential funders and the group has recently received an offer of up to £250,000 from An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge for this project.	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>The Mountainview Hotel</b>	£1.5m	Stage 3- Committed	Negotiations with the landowner continuing. Expected to proceed to Due Diligence in Autumn.	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>The ACT Initiative Community Hub &amp; Visitors’ Centre</b>	£295,000	Stage 3- Committed	Purchase of building complete and the Council awaits legal documents for finalisation. Procurement process is now underway for exhibition element. Procurement preparation underway for remaining works.	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>Glencairn Community Project</b>	£200,000	Stage 3- Committed	<i>As above at BIF09.</i> The group is working with NIHE on land arrangements for the smaller scale concept as agreed. the procurement process for the design team is ongoing.	Continue engagement with the group.

<b>The Road</b>	£210,759	Stage 3- Committed	Recent funding applications have been unsuccessful. The group is now taking action by engaging a new consultancy group to take the project forward.	Continue engagement with the group.
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## 7. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building/buying new ones. The table below provides an update on current live projects on the Council's Capital Programme in the West Belfast area. Members are asked to note status and update.

### *West Belfast – Capital programme overview*

Project	Status and update
<b>City Cemetery Visitor Centre– Heritage Fund/ DfC</b>	<b>Project complete.</b> The new centre is continuing to operate. <i>Members will continue to receive reports on this project until the other external works are completed.</i> Works are still ongoing on the Victorian Fountain with the new cherub figures cast. External dual language signs have been installed across the cemetery grounds.
<b>Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide</b>	<i>Stage 3 – Committed.</i> Committee agreed a number of gates in May which was ratified by full council in June. Approval will be sought to proceed at more locations in September and October 2024. 61 gates across all four areas of the city will be programmed to start within this financial year. Programme of delivery to be confirmed by the contractor.
<b>Black Mountain / Upper Whiterock Greenway</b>	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Design stage. Design team is continuing to develop the project. Ongoing engagement with DfI as key partner. PAD process is now completed and the formal planning application is now being prepared.
<b>Colin Greenway</b>	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> Meetings are continuing between the Council and key stakeholders DfI, DfC and NIHE on the Colin Active Travel Plan. DfI have completed their consultation on one element, the Lagmore Avenue cycle scheme, and they aim to commence their works in Autumn.
<b>Access to the Hills - connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain</b>	<i>Stage 2- Uncommitted.</i> This is also being considered within the wider study as below and is part of the Peace Plus 'Access to the Hills' application.
<b>Connectivity - Access to Hills Programme (city wide)</b>	<i>Stage 1- Emerging.</i> Feasibility study presented to Members in Autumn 2023. Three of the identified routes submitted in the PeacePlus Local Action Plan application.
<b>Belfast Bikes Expansion</b>	The contract with existing operator has been extended until the end of the year. The tender for a new provider/



	operator is anticipated to go out in late Summer/ early Autumn 2024.
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## 8. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for several government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office, Peace IV, DfI 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
<b>Colin Community Health and Wellbeing Hub</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. This is a developing project from Colin Neighbourhood Partnership. At business case stage and subject to TEO approval. This project is classified as transformational. A planning application has been submitted. A funding application has been submitted by the Group to PeacePLUS under Theme 1.4 and an outcome is expected in September.

### 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
<b>Forth Meadow Community Greenway</b>	<b>Project completed.</b> Signage package to be installed subject to agreement via Committee and Council.
<b>Black Mountain Shared Space Project</b>	<i>Phase 1 - <b>Completed.</b></i> Launch planned for 18 September 2024 during Community Relations Week. <i>Phase 2 – <b>On Ground.</b></i> Contractor works progressing on site.
<b>Shankill Shared Women’s Centre</b>	<b>Project completed.</b> Official opening held in June 2024.

### DfI funded projects

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

#### *DfI – West Belfast projects overview*

Project	Status and update
<b>Covered cycle stands Phase 2</b>	<i>Via DfI Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund</i> Funding has been received for Phase 3 of this programme. It will see the delivery of covered cycle stands in locations at Musgrave Park, Falls Park, Bog Meadows and Whiterock Leisure Centre.

**9. Capital funding opportunities**

**Members are asked to note the updated version of the list of external capital funding opportunities attached at Appendix 2 which may be of assistance to groups and clubs.”**

The Working Group noted the recommendations as detailed at paragraph 2.0 of the report.

Chairperson