

Belfast Stories Working Group

Tuesday, 11th March, 2025

MEETING OF THE BELFAST STORIES WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors Bunting, Duffy and McKeown.

In attendance: Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director;
Ms. E. Henry, Creative and Strategic Lead;
Ms. N. McElroy, Programme Support Assistant;
Mrs. L. Holmes, Marketing & Communications
Coordinator; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th November, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Progress Update - Verbal Report

The Programme Director provide the Working Group with an update on the delivery timetable and highlighted the key milestones for 2025.

The Creative and Strategic Lead explained that a working group had been convened to assist Brink! to move to an alternative site and stated that a timeline had been agreed.

The Working Group noted the update.

Outline Business Case - Verbal Report

The Programme Director informed the Working Group that bidding was ongoing to secure City Deal funding of £65m and summarised the following five draft outline business cases:

- Strategic case;
- Economic case;
- Commercial case;
- Financial case; and
- Management case.

She outlined the potential benefits of the project that included growth of the creative economy, boosting tourism and the city's international reputation and bringing people together.

She concluded by providing the Working Group with an overview of the project's risk management strategy and stated that there was sufficient risk budget and optimism bias to delivery Belfast Stories.

The Working Group noted the update.

Chairperson