



## Belfast District Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Area Working - BIF/LIF Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Programme Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>															
1.1	<p>At the Shadow SP&amp;R Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> February Members agreed the boundaries for new area working groups comprising 4 AWGs based on a combination of the 10 District Electoral Areas across Belfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area 1: North (2 DEAs) – Castle and Oldpark</li> <li>- Area 2: South (2 DEAs) – Botanic and Balmoral</li> <li>- Area 3: East (3 DEAs) - Titanic; Ormiston and Lisnasharragh</li> <li>- Area 4: West (3 DEAs)- Court; Black Mountain and Collin</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="193 965 1430 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>NORTH - Castle; Oldpark DEAs</b></th> <th><b>SOUTH - Botanic; Balmoral DEAs</b></th> <th><b>EAST - Titanic; Ormiston; Lisnasharragh DEAs</b></th> <th><b>WEST - Court; Black Mountain; Collin DEAs</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Overall combined Population of DEAs</td> <td>63,807</td> <td>68,597</td> <td>98,249</td> <td>103,073</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No of Councillors</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<b>NORTH - Castle; Oldpark DEAs</b>	<b>SOUTH - Botanic; Balmoral DEAs</b>	<b>EAST - Titanic; Ormiston; Lisnasharragh DEAs</b>	<b>WEST - Court; Black Mountain; Collin DEAs</b>	Overall combined Population of DEAs	63,807	68,597	98,249	103,073	No of Councillors	12	10	19	19
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Overall combined Population of DEAs	63,807	68,597	98,249	103,073												
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1.2	Work on a revised Terms of Reference for the new AWGs is underway on a report will be brought to Committee in the coming months on this.															
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Establishment of Local Investment Fund 2</b>															
2.1	The current £5million LIF programme was established in 2012 under the Investment Programme and was designed to support the delivery of local regeneration projects in neighbourhoods and as a way for Members to connect with their local communities. LIF has been successful with over 60 projects worth over £4.85m allocated in principle funding of which 20 projects are already complete; 9 are currently on the ground with a further 28 are at tender preparation stage.															
2.2	Recognising the benefits of LIF at an area level and the outcomes which have accrued from this, <b>Members have agreed the need for a LIF 2 programme. It is proposed that £4million is reallocated from the Belfast Investment Fund reserves to a new LIF 2 programme.</b>															
	<b>LIF - Options For Allocation Model For LIF2 and the new AWG Boundaries</b>															
2.3	The current LIF programme was allocated on an equal basis across the former North, South, East, West (£1,127,500) with a proportional allocation to the Shankill (£490,000). The revised boundaries under the LGR means that there are now 10DEAs in the Belfast area. Both the new West and East AWGs are made up of three DEAs and therefore have larger overall populations and also a larger number of Members per AWG area. Given this, the Committee is asked to give consideration to an option of allocating monies for LIF2 on a proportional basis based on the number of DEAs in an AWG rather than an equal allocation per area.															
2.4	On the basis of the future AWGs which have been agreed by Committee this option would mean the following -															

	Option 1 – Equal allocation	Option 2 – Proportional allocation of £4m based on number of DEAs within the AWG <i>£4m/10 (10 DEAs) x numbers of DEAs per AWG</i>
NORTH – Castle & Oldpark DEAs	£1,000,000	£800,000 (2 DEAs)
SOUTH – Botanic & Balmoral DEAs	£1,000,000	£800,000 (2 DEAs)
EAST - Titanic; Ormiston & Lisnasharragh DEAs	£1,000,000	£1,200,000 (3 DEAs)
WEST - Court; Black Mountain & Collin DEAs	£1,000,000	£1,200,000 (3 DEAs)

2.5 **It is recommended that Members agree ‘Option 2 - Proportional allocation of £4m based on number of DEAs within the AWG’.** This would appear to be a fairer allocation of LIF 2 given that both the East and West AWGs are made up of three DEAs apiece and have larger overall populations.

#### LIF 2 – Proposals for use of LIF 2

2.6 The current LIF programme was specifically designed to support the delivery of local regeneration projects in neighbourhoods and as a way for Members to connect with their local communities in advance of LGR and. A fixed amount of £5m was available with a minimum level of investment of no less than £15,000 in a project and a maximum of £250,000 to ensure a spread of investment across the city. The current LIF programme funded capital projects only

2.7 **LIF 2 presents a new funding stream for Members and therefore an opportunity to change the focus of what can be funded under the next programme.** This therefore presents an opportunity for Members to consider the possibility of not only supporting capital projects but also funding revenue projects or other focused interventions including for example

- supporting focused interventions, area planning and collaborative working and as agreed by the AWGs (similar to those already taken forward – community focused initiatives in West, Shankill and East; community safety initiatives in North and retail in South)
- potential match funding for smaller scale projects including those seeking funding from other external funding sources including Peace IV

2.8 This would enable Members to focus on the particular needs of their local area and target LIF spend on those issues/projects which will most benefit their local areas within the context of area plans and the emerging Belfast Agenda. **It is recommended that it is left to the discretion of individual AWGs to decide if they wish to use 100% of their LIF allocation to fund capital projects, 100% on revenue projects or to agree the breakdown of allocation between funding capital and revenue in line with the AWG priorities.** If Members agree that LIF 2 could also be used to fund revenue type projects or further interventions it is proposed that criteria on how this will be applied will be brought back to Committee in due course.

2.9 *LIF Capital Projects* - If AWGs decide to continue to use some or all of their LIF allocation towards capital projects it is recommended that these are on the same criteria as the under the current programme, that they follow the same processes which are already agreed and that these continue to be for investments of a minimum of £15,000 up to a maximum of £250,000. However a new outcomes framework will be developed to aid decision making and support maximum impact.

#### North AWG

2.10 The North AWG made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their Local Investment Fund

LIF Ref	Project	£	AWG Comments
NLIF051	Small Steps	Additional £30,000	That an additional £30,000 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to the Small Steps project

			Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £30,281 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Belfast Investment Fund</b>		
3.1	Members will recall that it was agreed in February that the criteria for the Belfast Investment Fund should be revised. Work is currently underway in relation to this and discussion ongoing with Party Groups. An update report on this will be presented to Committee in April.		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>		
Financial: As outlined above.			
Human: Officer time in working with groups on developing their project proposals			
Assets: none at present			
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>		
Changes to the overall LIF programme will be re-screened			
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>		
Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and			
<b>Establishment of LIF 2</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agree that a Local Investment Fund 2 is established and that £4million is reallocated from BIF reserves to fund this</li> </ul>			
<b>Allocation model – LIF 2</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree whether to allocate resources equally based on Option 1 or '<b>Option 2 - Proportional allocation of £4m based on number of DEAs within the AWG</b>' as outlined in 2.4 above in relation to LIF 2 given that both the East and West AWGs are made up of three DEAs apiece and have larger overall populations</li> </ul>			
<b>Options for LIF2</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note that LIF 2 presents a new funding stream for Members and therefore an opportunity to change the focus of what can be funded under the next programme. A new outcomes framework will be developed to aid decision making and support maximum impact.</li> <li>agree if LIF2 should be refocused to enable AWGs to also fund revenue projects (e.g. supporting focused area interventions) in addition to capital.</li> <li>If the above is agreed, it is recommended that it is left to the discretion of individual AWGs to decide if they wish to use 100% of their LIF allocation to fund capital projects, 100% on revenue projects or to agree the breakdown of allocation between funding capital and revenue projects in line with the AWG priorities.</li> </ul>			
<b>North AWG</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>agree that an additional £30,000 of LIF funding</b> is allocated to the <b>Small Steps Adult Education Group project</b> (NLIF055) from unallocated North LIF monies</li> </ul>			
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Call-in</b>		
This report is subject to call-in.			