

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, 1 May, 2012

Members present: Alderman Newton, Councillors Hendron, Hussey,
A. Newton and Kyle.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. G. Quinn, Senior Democratic Services Officer;
Ms C. Wilson, Project Officer;
Mr. J. Huish, Consultant, and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Section.

Apologies

Apologies were received from the High Sheriff (Alderman Campbell), Alderman Rodgers and Councillor Webb.

Welcome and Introduction

The Director of Property and Projects welcomed the Members to the first meeting of the East Belfast Area Working Group. He reminded the Working Group that the East Belfast area had been allocated a total of £1,127,500 from the Local Investment Fund.

Overview of Governance Arrangements

The Director of Finance and Resources referred to the report of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2012.

The Working Group noted the information and agreed to the format proposed.

Overview of Local Investment Fund

The Director of Finance and Resources referred to the report of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2012.

The Working Group noted the report, a copy of which had previously been circulated.

Prioritisation Framework

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that there were approximately two hundred possible projects which had been captured to date which would be divided between the City Investment and Local Investment Funds.

After discussion on the importance of reaching cross-party agreement on the selection of projects, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed to the proposed prioritisation framework.

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Overview of Identified Projects and Initial Sift

The Director of Property and Projects circulated a list of projects in the East Belfast area of the City. The Director informed the Members that some of the projects lacked specific detail currently and he advised that a team of staff had been established which would be contacting each of the project information sources in the near future to ascertain further details. Any approach which was made by any particular group for funding would be directed to its local elected representative.

The Director answered a range of questions from Members in respect of various initiatives within East Belfast which might be considered for assistance under the Local Investment Fund.

Next steps and date of next meeting

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that information on any additional projects should be forwarded to the Democratic Services Section for inclusion on the prioritisation list in advance of the next meeting. He requested that the Parties provide also appropriate contact information for lead people within each of the groups/organisations.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the East Belfast Area Working Group would take place on Thursday, 7th June at 5.15 pm, in the First Floor North Conference Room, The Cecil Ward Building, to consider the prioritisation of the projects which had been identified.

Chairman