

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 5th January, 2017

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Graham, Howard,  
Hussey, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long,  
Mullan, Milne, Newton and O'Donnell.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mrs. M. Hand, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Copeland and O'Neill.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Milne to her first meeting of the Area Working Group.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Sandford and Councillor Long declared an interest in the ring-fenced Belfast Investment Fund, in that they were Members of the Board of Governors of Cregagh Primary School and Leadhill Primary School respectively.

Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Copeland and Newton declared an interest in the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group, in that they were Board members.

### **Good Relations – Together: Building a United Community**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Working Group that the Executive had given the Department of Justice some funding towards the physical removal of barriers at interface sites. She highlighted that there were a number of key partners in relation to this work, including the International Fund for Ireland programme. She advised the Working Group that £28,000 had been made available to the Good Relations Unit in the Council for small pieces of work to take place throughout the city.

The Working Group was advised that, while a number of the sites were in the north and west of the city, one priority site for removal of an interface was on Bryson Street/Madrid Street. A number of Members asked that officers would engage with residents in Cluan Place, and suggested that the Tension Monitoring Group and those responsible for the Inner East Locality Plan should also be contacted in relation to the site.

The Members were advised that an event on interfaces in Belfast would take place on 19th January, 2017 at 2 p.m. in the Reception Room in the City Hall, with all Members invited to attend.

### **Belfast Investment Fund**

#### **Ring-fenced Belfast Investment Fund for Outer East**

The Working Group requested that an update be provided at the next meeting on the three projects which were listed to be funded through the additional £2million BIF for the outer east area, namely, the Hanwood Trust, TAGIT Boxing Club and Branial Church.

A Member advised the Working Group that the Members which represented the Lisnasharragh area were developing a proposal which involved working with six primary schools in the area. The Working Group noted that the proposal would be brought to the Working Group for its consideration at a future meeting.

#### **Lagan Village Youth and Community Group**

Alderman Rodgers, Councillor Kyle and Councillor Newton declared an interest in the item, in that they were Board members, and they retired from the meeting while the matter was under discussion.

After discussion, the Working Group noted that the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group was now at Stage 2, and agreed that it should be considered first, if any funding became available through the outer east Belfast Investment Fund.

The Director of Property and Projects confirmed to the Working Group that the Council would, as a matter of course, encourage the Community Group to seek other sources of funding as well.

### **Local Investment Fund**

#### **Our Lady and St. Patrick's College Knock**

The Working Group was advised that the Chairperson had recently received correspondence from Our Lady and St. Patrick's College Knock with updated costings for its LIF request, and that it would be circulated next month.

#### **Dock Titanic Quarter Project**

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Working Group that there had been no further development on the Dock Titanic Quarter project and that an update would be brought to a future meeting.

#### **St. Christopher's Church**

At the request of a Member, the Director of Property and Projects agreed to provide an update on the St. Christopher's Church proposal to the next meeting.

#### **Castlereagh Presbyterian Church**

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that a letter had been received from Castlereagh Presbyterian Church, which was seeking funding under the Belfast Investment Fund, but that no costings had been included.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers should engage with the Church regarding their proposal, with an update provided at a future meeting.

**Date of next meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 2nd February at 5pm.

Chairperson

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 19th December, 2016

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and Councillors Boyle, Craig, Hargey, Nicholl and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28th November were approved.

### Matters Arising

#### South Belfast Partnership Board/ Local Development Plan Seminar

The Working Group was informed that the Planning and Place Department had since indicated that it had no specific budget to allocate towards activities such as the Local Development Plan Seminar. However, it would assist the Lord Mayor in his preparation for the event.

Noted.

#### Moonstone Street/Mowhan Street

It was reported that residents of the above-mentioned streets had met recently with Councillors McAteer and Nicholl and with Council officers to discuss their concerns around antisocial behaviour and the potential for alleygates to be installed.

The Working Group agreed that representatives of the residents be invited to attend its meeting in January and noted that the Council's Safer City Co-ordinator would provide at that meeting an update on Phase IV of the Alleygating scheme.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in that he owned a number of properties within the Botanic District Electoral Area, which he represented on the Council.

## **City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 28th November, it had agreed that Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development, be invited to attend its next meeting in order to provide an update on the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

The Director provided a brief overview of the Strategy, which set out the Council's framework for the continued growth and regeneration of the City core and its surrounding areas till 2030. She outlined the regeneration work which was being undertaken or being planned within each of the five designated City Centre Special Action Areas, which included the Transport Hub and South Centre (Linen Quarter) in the South of the City. In terms of the Transport Hub, a pre-planning application consultation exercise, which had closed on 2nd December, had generated in the region of 1,800 responses. She reviewed the main issues which had been raised by the Council within its response and confirmed that it would have a further opportunity to comment, as part of a further consultation exercise which was planned for February.

The Director reminded the Working Group that, in June, 2016, the Council had approved a Vision and Guidance document to assist in the regeneration of the City's Linen Quarter. She explained that the document recognised the need for new public spaces to be created within the quarter and drew the Members' attention to proposals for the remodelling of Blackstaff Square, which acted as a primary transition space on the route through to the Transport Hub. She concluded by highlighting the need for intervention work across the City centre generally, to increase connectivity, promote safer streets, address social challenges, and support local businesses and tourism and provided examples of such work which had been undertaken in other cities.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that it should receive regular updates on the Transport Hub and South Centre (Linen Quarter).

## **Belfast Investment Fund**

The Director of Property and Projects reported that the Council had, earlier in the year, agreed to make available an additional £5million of BIF funding for projects in those areas which had been transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh under Local Government Reform, £500,000 of which had been allocated to South Belfast.

He reminded the Working Group that, at its meeting on 31st October, it had agreed to allocate up to £250,000 of the additional funding towards a joint project being undertaken by Linfield FC, the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade and Belvoir FC to develop a community sports hub within the Belvoir Park. It had agreed also that representatives of Knockbreda Parish and of the Edenderry Residents' Association be invited to attend a future meeting in order to provide details of their respective projects, which might qualify for funding under the additional BIF allocation. Representatives of Knockbreda Parish had attended the meeting on 28th November and had outlined proposals for the upgrading of their church hall.

He confirmed that representatives of the Edenderry Residents' Association were in attendance at this meeting in order to provide information around the Edenderry Village

Renewal Scheme. Accordingly, Mr. S. Malone, Mr. G. Millington and Mr. P. Mullan were welcomed by the Chairperson.

The representatives informed the Working Group that Edenderry Village had close historic links to the linen industry and that it still retained its strong character and sense of community. They explained that, whilst some work had been undertaken in recent years to enhance the village through, for example, the provision of planters and allotments, it was still lacking in terms of public transport services, infrastructure and community and retail facilities. They reminded the Members that the Council had contributed funding towards the formulation of a Village Renewal Plan for Edenderry Village and that Arup Consultants had been appointed to facilitate the delivery of that plan. Following initial consultation with local residents and stakeholders, Arup had produced a draft plan, which had identified a number of projects and initiatives, including the provision of a purpose built community facility, all of which could have a real impact upon the village. Further consultation would be required before a final renewal plan, including an action plan, would be developed. The representatives concluded by requesting the Council to make available BIF funding to assist with the Edenderry Village renewal scheme and to designate an officer to assist them with land ownership and other issues which required to be addressed.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed, in the first instance, that officers should meet with the Edenderry Residents' Association and with the representatives of Knockbreda Parish in order to assess the extent of the work which had been undertaken to date on their respective projects and that it receive at its next meeting an update in that regard.

### **River Terrace Land Licence Agreement**

The Working Group agreed to defer until its next meeting a report on a former proposal to develop a community garden at River Terrace to enable an officer from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department to attend.

### **Restoration of Tropical Ravine**

The Working Group agreed to undertake in the spring a visit to the Botanic Gardens to view the work being undertaken to restore the Tropical Ravine building.

### **Update on Local Investment Fund Projects**

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1 Local Investment Fund**

**Through the Local Investment Fund (LIF) members committed their allocation of £1,127,500 initially to 12 projects. Of this total, seven projects have been completed (Stage 5). Of the remaining five projects, two (Taughmonagh Community Forum and Finaghy Bridge) remain at stage 1, Annadale/Haywood Residents Association) are at stage 3, Belfast South Community Resources have progressed to**

stage 4 and is currently being delivered. The Women's Aid project is also at stage 4 but is almost complete – the final invoice has been received and needs processing; normal monitoring processes will follow before the project is complete. A more detailed progress update on all projects has been circulated to the Working Group.

TOTAL LIF ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£1,127,500	£1,083,600	£43,900*

## 2 Local Investment Fund 2

Given the success of the original LIF, it was agreed in March 2015 that a £4m LIF2 would be established and allocated to Area Working Groups (AWGs) on a proportional basis. The South Belfast AWG, consisting of two District Electoral Areas (Balmoral and Botanic) was allocated a total of £0.8m. The table below shows the total allocation to date and the remaining balance.

TOTAL LIF2 ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT REMAINING
£800,000	£796,000	£4,000*

3 Members have committed their allocation thus far to 11 projects. Two of the projects currently remain at stage 1, one project is at stage 2, six projects are at stage 3, one project is at stage 4 and one project has completed and is at stage 5. Since the last meeting, the project at Sandy Row Orange Hall has progressed to stage 3 and the organisation has received their funding agreement. In addition, the Surestart project at Belvoir has progressed to stage 4 and the procured contractor is due on site in mid-December.

\* Members agreed to make no further LIF decisions until the exact prices for the additional alley-gates are known in the New Year and, therefore, how much of the remaining balance would need to be decommitted.

## 3 Recommendation

The Working Group is requested to note the update on all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast.”

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Action Cancer**

The Working Group was informed that the Chief Executive of Action Cancer had written to the Council seeking funding from the Belfast Investment Fund towards the establishment of a Clinic and Therapeutic Centre of Excellence within a property which it had acquired in Windsor Avenue.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that he had, subsequently, written to the Chief Executive of the charity explaining that the South Belfast Area Working Group had committed all of its BIF funding and that no further projects were being considered. The Chief Executive, in response, had thanked the Director for clarifying the current funding situation and had confirmed that he would continue to seek to engage with the Working Group, with a view to advancing his request.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Future Meetings**

The Working Group agreed that its meetings on 23rd January, 27th February, 20th March and 24th April should commence at the earlier time of 4.30 p.m., in order to prevent them from overlapping with a meeting which had been scheduled for 5.30 p.m. on those dates.

Chairperson