

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 27th February, 2017

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

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

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. D. Rogan, Head of Contracts; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd January were approved.

Matters Arising

Moonstone Street / Mowhan Street

The Working Group noted that Translink was addressing the issue of the defective railings between the railway line and Moonstone Street, which had been raised by residents.

Shaftesbury Square

The Working Group noted that the agent acting on behalf of the owner of the former public toilets in Shaftesbury Square had now been identified and that a letter would be forwarded to them seeking the removal of the fencing/hoardings around that building.

Urban Villages Initiative

The Working Group noted that details of the consultation exercise being undertaken around the projects to be delivered in South Belfast, under the Urban Villages initiative, had been circulated on 10th February.

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.

Presentation – Queen’s University Belfast

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd January, it had agreed to receive from representatives of Queen’s University Belfast details of the University’s contribution to the Belfast agenda. Accordingly, Mr. D. Corbett, Community Engagement Manager, Ms. A. Cummins, Community Impact Officer, Mr. R. Feeney, Head of Public Engagement, and Mr. A. Stewart, Public Affairs Manager, were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Feeney informed the Working Group that Queen’s University was ranked among the top 1% of universities in the world and had gained a global reputation as a centre of teaching excellence and innovative research. The Members were then provided with a presentation, which outlined the role which the university played at a local and strategic level, together with its notable achievements, future plans and the main challenges which it faced. During the presentation and the ensuing discussion, the following points emerged:

- South Belfast accounted currently for 2,387 of the university’s student population and for 13,581 of its alumni;
- at a community level, 11,000 students were involved in clubs and societies, 3,000 students were involved in volunteering and 17 homework clubs for children and young people were being facilitated;
- Easter camps and summer revision schools were also being considered;
- the university had established a unique pilot Pathways Opportunity Programme, which offered those groups which were under-represented currently within the student population an alternative entry route into the university;
- the university was working with the Northern Ireland Executive to address the issue of underfunding in third level education in Northern Ireland, which was currently the lowest in the United Kingdom;
- should funding levels continue to be cut, there were be 2,000 fewer student places available in the university by 2020;
- in 2015/2016, 37% of UCAS students in Northern Ireland had enrolled in universities overseas; and
- the university would be launching a Social Charter in May and was currently developing a Corporate Plan, which would in due course be presented to the Council.

Mr. Feeney concluded by emphasising the importance of continued partnership working between Queen's University and the Council through, for example, the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan and, having been thanked by the Chairperson, the representatives left the meeting.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Head of Contracts reported that the Council had, in January, 2016, 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, in September, 2016, it had received from representatives of Linfield FC, the Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade and Belvoir FC details of a joint project to develop a community sports hub within the Belvoir Park. At its meeting on 31st October, the Working Group had agreed to add this as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project, under the Belfast Investment Fund, and to ring-fence £250,000 from its additional BIF allocation to the project, subject to Council officers confirming that it complied with all BIF requirements.

He reminded the Working Group further that it had, subsequently, received details from representatives of Knockbreda Parish Church of a proposal to upgrade their church hall and from the Edenderry Residents' Association on their plans to develop a community facility and undertake environmental improvements in Edenderry village, with the possibility of each organisation qualifying for the £250,000 remaining within the additional BIF allocation.

The Head of Contracts explained that the Council had, earlier in the day, received from the Secretary of the Edenderry Residents' Association confirmation that the Association wished to withdraw from the BIF process, in light of its concerns primarily around the long-term financial viability of the proposed community facility. In terms of the remaining proposal for the upgrading of the Knockbreda Parish Church Hall, he confirmed that an architect had been commissioned to undertake a detailed design of the new facility, which would allow for a new entrance, with disabled access, a multi-purpose meeting space, new toilet facilities, and improved kitchen and storage facilities. Initial pre-tender estimates had indicated that the project would meet the required £250,000 BIF expenditure threshold. It was, therefore, a matter for the Working Group to decide whether it wished to proceed with that project or identify an alternative project for consideration.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to add the upgrade of the Knockbreda Parish Church Hall as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project, under the Belfast Investment Fund, and to ring-fence the £250,000 remaining within its additional BIF allocation to the project, subject to Council officers confirming that it complied with all BIF requirements.

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) have yet to progress through Due Diligence; 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 there are some minor works yet to be finished. A more detailed progress update on all projects is attached.

At its meeting on 23rd January, members agreed to decommit £43,900 of its LIF1 budget to fund a number of reserve alleygates.

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 on a proportional basis. The South Belfast AWG, consisting of two District Electoral Areas (Balmoral and Botanic) was allocated a total of £0.8m. Members have committed their allocation thus far to 11 projects. One project currently remains at stage 1; two projects are at stage 2, four projects are at stage 3, three projects are 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 moved to stage 4, an Integrated Design Team has been appointed and the project is progressing well. A detailed progress update on all projects is attached.

At its meeting on 23rd January, the Working Group agreed to decommit the remaining £4,000 of its LIF2 budget to fund a number of reserve alleygates.

Future Updates

Considering that both the LIF1 and LIF2 budgets have been fully allocated and the timing of progress with capital projects, it is proposed that future LIF reports move to bimonthly updates.

3 Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to:

- **note the update to all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast; and**
- **going forward, agree to receive bimonthly updates on Local Investment Fund projects.”**

After discussion, during which the Head of Contracts provided clarification around a number of projects which had been raised by individual Members, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

Dog Enclosure - Clement Wilson Park

(Mr. R. Rice, City Parks Manager, and Ms. S. Barkley, Community Parks Outreach Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Assistant Director informed the Working Group that the Clean Neighbourhoods Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which had come into effect in April, 2012, provided councils with additional powers to deal with, amongst other things, dogs related issues. The Council had, subsequently, introduced two of four Dog Control Orders, prohibiting dog fouling and limiting to four the number of dogs which a person could be in control of at any time. Following feedback from a City-wide consultation exercise in 2012, the implementation of the two remaining orders, namely, making it an offence to allow dogs off their lead in designated areas and excluding dogs from designated areas, had been delayed, to allow for further consultation and a wider analysis of users' needs.

She reported that the additional consultation had highlighted a requirement for facilities to be made available in parks to allow for dogs to be exercised off-lead. As a result, a pilot exercise had been operating for over two years within the Grove Playing Fields, which had provided an enclosure specifically for that purpose. She pointed out that the continued consultation process around the pilot initiative had provided Council officers with a greater understanding of the issues which needed to be addressed in advance of the two remaining Dog Control Orders being implemented. As part of that process, officers had identified a number of parks across the City as being suitable for the location of a permanent off-lead enclosure, one of which was Clement Wilson Park in South Belfast. If approved, the enclosure would be similar to that within the Grove Playing Fields in terms of size, construction and signage and would cost approximately £15,000 to install. She confirmed that an extensive local engagement process would be required beforehand, which would be publicised through, for example, the media, retail outlets, awareness sessions and City Matters and would provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of effective dog control and the adverse impact of dog fouling.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive an update once the consultation exercise had concluded.

Locality Planning – Visit to Belvoir/Milltown Area

(Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd January, it had agreed to undertake a tour of the Belvoir/Milltown area, which had been one of the four areas across the City chosen to participate in the pilot locality planning initiative.

The Programme Manager drew the Working Group's attention to a draft itinerary for the tour, which would include a visit to the new community hub building being developed in the centre of the Belvoir estate and which was being funded through both the Local and the Belfast Investment Funds. Members would be accompanied on their tour by local community representatives, who would highlight key assets in the area and the issues which they were seeking to address. Members would also be afforded the opportunity to hear at first hand from local people on how the community hub project would benefit the area as a whole. He confirmed that Thursday, 23rd March and Thursday, 27th April had been identified for the visit and he requested that the Working Group indicate its preference.

After discussion the Working Group agreed to undertake the visit to the Belvoir/Milltown area at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27th April.

Outcomes Based Accountability Workshop

The Working Group noted that the Council would, between 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th March, be hosting in the Milltown Baptist Church Hall an Outcomes Based Accountability Workshop to consider one of the proposed priorities for the area, namely, 'Support for Young People'. It noted also that details of a further workshop being held in April to examine the priority area of 'Improving Health and Supporting Young People – Service Provision and Access Issues' would be circulated in due course.

Other Business

Olympia Drive

The Assistant Director circulated for the information of the Working Group drawings relating to the proposed enhancement of the entrance providing access from Olympia Drive to the new Olympia Leisure Centre and confirmed that engagement would take place with local residents around the proposal.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 20th March.

Chairperson

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 28th February, 2017

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell;
Alderman Convery;
Councillors Clarke and Magee.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager;
Ms. S. Grimes, Programme Manager;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Miss E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen McKee, L. Patterson and Spence.
And Councillor McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th January were agreed as an accurate record
of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Decision Tracker

The Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to
Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of
actions since the last meeting held on 26th January.

Girdwood Community Forum - Update from Representatives

The Chairperson welcomed members of the Girdwood Community Forum to the
meeting, Mr. M. Maguire, Mr. I. McLaughlin and Mr. P. O'Neill.

The representatives outlined the contents of the report that had been submitted to
the Working Group for consideration, which included the following points for discussion:

- changing facilities for the Girdwood sports pitches;
- toilet facilities for the Girdwood Youth Space;
- fencing around the new sports pitches;
- community management of the Girdwood Community Hub;
- issues with car access and bollards in situ;
- Girdwood Project Board – Final meeting required; and
- Governance of Girdwood Community Forum – Councillor involvement.

They also highlighted that The Girdwood Community Hub had been open for over one year and outlined the usage of the space at events by local residents and young people from the surrounding communities.

It was reported that The Girdwood Youth Programme had been delivered by the following project teams and organisations:

- North Talks Too project;
- New Lodge Arts;
- Lower Shankill Youth Project;
- Star Neighbourhood; and
- Let Youth Lead project.

During discussion the Members commended the work of the Girdwood community Forum and the youth organisations which had been involved in the delivery of the projects and events.

The Community Development Manager informed the Group that a resourcing agreement had been put in place regarding the toilet facilities and access point, and should be completed by the summer.

She also advised that council staff had been working with the Girdwood Community Forum (GCF) regarding the potential of community management of the Youth Space and that technical assistance regarding the management of the youth space consultation was currently out for tender. She informed the Committee that a meeting had taken place with the GCF regarding the options of management and governance models and a report would be submitted to Committee for consideration, once the Forum's decisions had been finalised.

During discussion, Members of the GCF raised concerns regarding the future governance of the site and the potential for an operational tier to be put in place. Members also raised concerns regarding the detail of the Councillor consultation that had been reported to have taken place.

The Programme Manager reported that the request for a report to explain the processes, approximate timeline, and key decision points of the outstanding actions to help the Girdwood Community Forum and the wider community gain a better understanding of Council procedures should be available by the meeting in April.

The Community Development Manager also advised that a celebration event 'Spring into Girdwood' would be organised for the end of March and Councillors would be invited to attend the event.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that:

- a report be submitted to the next Working Group for consideration regarding the setup of the Girdwood Community Trust, to include the options for its governance arrangements, potential membership, and timeline of its inception;
- details of engagement and consultation that had taken place by Strategem with North Belfast Councillors regarding the management of Girdwood; and
- a meeting be arranged between the GFC and Council Officers to discuss further the future governance options of Girdwood Community Hub, to which the North Area Working Group also be invited.

Interface Sites - Priorities for North Belfast

(Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Good Relations Manager provided an update regarding information on interfaces in North Belfast. She advised that a detailed list of all interface sites in north Belfast had been provided in Appendix 1, which included the ownership, location, a brief description and the International Fund for Ireland Peace Walls Programme (IFI PWP) group it was currently connected to.

She informed the Working Group that the statistics which had been requested regarding peace walls in North Belfast were not available, however, the PSNI, which was represented on all 4 of the IFI PWP Review Groups in North Belfast had reported anecdotally that there had been little or no criminal activity, anti-social behaviour or nuisance behaviour reported at any of the interfaces in North Belfast.

She outlined that, at the November, 2016 IFI Board meeting, five Peace Wall Programme groups had been awarded funding for January to December 2017 as follows:

- Black Mountain Shared Space - £151,573.20;
- Bogside Brandywell Initiative Derry - £107,023.68;
- Duncairn Community Partnership -£150,463.75;
- Greater Whitewell Community Surgery - £107,633.61;and
- The Imagine Project: LOCA/CCRF - £104,393.00.

She highlighted that an application had also been received from Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) and presented to the IFI Board in February.

She advised that each of the current five projects had submitted an Action Plan for 2017 aligned to the IFI's Outcome Based Accountability Framework and explained that the roll-out of a capacity-training programme to the project groups had highlighted the importance of inter-group engagement. She advised that the project groups would

present an update to the Designated Board Members meeting in May, with a progress paper presented at the IFI's Special Board meeting in April.

She advised that the groups had identified actions to focus on going forward as follows:

- seek political support for developing a strategy and establishing a budget for delivering on Together: Building a United Community 2023 target;
- consult with PWP groups/local communities to influence and develop the strategy;
- recognise and build upon successes of PWP group work and contribution to date;
- develop synergies between current strategies – Urban Villages, Shared Space, Urban Regeneration, Good Relations, Peace Walls Programme, and Local Authority Plans; and
- improve progress to deliver physical change and/or aftercare response once local agreements were reached.

She also advised that officers had submitted an application to the Department of Justice (DoJ) on 28th February for a programme of delivery in 2017/18, which included funding towards a staff member, to work on further consultation and strategic development of plans for the redevelopment at Navarra Park in North Belfast and shared space access across the City.

The Working Group was also informed of the progress on the future development of Alexandra Park. It was reported that an independent consultant had hosted workshops with local community representatives, PSNI, DoJ and Council staff to look at agreeing a Development Plan for Alexandra Park and the objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To discuss and agree a Park Plan Framework;
- To identify and agree any quick wins/initiatives which would show evidence of progress on the ground;
- To agree the establishment of a refreshed steering group and working group;
- To discuss and agree a consultation process which may gain local support and engagement; and
- To agree how any proposals arising might be progressed.

Noted.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group also noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- BIF Update;
- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Belfast Hills;
- Zoo Update ;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- Yorkgate Interchange Update;
- Queens University – Outreach Programmes;
- Alexandra Park Steering Group;

- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 13th March, 2017

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Copeland, Dorrian, Howard,
Hussey, Johnston, Jones, Milne and Newton.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Graham, Long and O'Neill.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 2nd February, 2017, were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in Item 2, Local Investment Fund Update, in that he was a Board Member of Ashfield Girls School and Belmont Bowling Club.

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

The Director of Property and Projects advised the Area Working Group that, through Phase 1 of LIF, it had committed £1,111,902 to 8 projects, with 7 of the projects having been completed.

He advised the Working Group that, through Phase 2 of LIF, it had allocated £1,161,589 to 12 projects and provided an update to the Members as to what stage each project was currently at, namely:

- 1 project was at Stage 1 and had received an initial letter of offer in principle;
- 1 project was at Stage 2 and was working toward due diligence;
- 5 projects were at Stage 3, having passed due diligence and were preparing for construction; and
- the remaining 5 projects were in construction (Stage 4).

The Director advised the Working Group that £54,009 of LIF funding was still to be allocated, £15,598 from LIF1 and £38,411 from LIF2.

The Working Group noted that officers had had further discussions with representatives of St. Christopher's Church, where Boring Wells would be the lead partner of the proposed project. The Director advised the Members that the group was requesting £55,000 of funding from LIF towards the upgrade of the current facilities, having received outline costings from a Quantity Surveyor.

After discussion, during which a Member expressed concern that some of the existing projects might require additional amounts of funding to complete their projects, the Working Group agreed that the remaining £54,009 would not be allocated to a project at that stage.

Belfast Investment Fund (Outer East)

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the Emerging Projects (Stage 1) for the £2million which had been ring-fenced for the Outer East area under the Belfast Investment Fund, namely TAGIT Boxing Club, the Hanwood Trust and Braniel Church.

The Director also outlined that there were three other projects for consideration within the outer east area, including proposals from Tullycarnet Community Support Services (TCSS), a multi-school community project and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church.

A number of Members expressed concern that they did not wish to raise expectations of other projects which were seeking funding as the amount of funding available was finite.

During discussion, the Working Group agreed that no more projects would be considered, at that time, under the Outer East BIF.

A number of Members asked that further information be provided on the TCSS project.

After further discussion, the Area Working Group agreed that Tullycarnet Community Support Services, the multi-school project and Castlereagh Presbyterian proposals be designated as Emerging Projects (Stage 1).

Avoniel Play Centre re-location and Connswater Community Centre

The Area Working Group considered the undernoted report:

1.0 “ Purpose”

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the current status in respect of the interim and long term relocation of Avoniel Play Centre.

In addition, Members are asked to note that the Education Authority (EA) is undertaking a feasibility study to identify options for suitable capital projects that will allow them to develop youth provision in east Belfast. One of the options the EA are considering within this high-level study is the acquisition and development of Connswater Community Centre, which may present a strategic opportunity for the Council.

2.0 Background

In August 2015 the SP&R Committee agreed to dispose of a parcel of land to the EA to accommodate their development plans for the existing Avoniel Primary School subject to number of caveats which have since been met.

In November 2016, Members were informed that agreement in principle had been reached with the EA and agreed to proceed with the disposal of land. In addition, Members agreed that the capital receipt of £316,659 would be ring fenced for the interim and permanent re-location of play services in the area.

User numbers are very low at Avoniel Play Centre with 16 children from P1-P3 using the service on a Monday and Friday afternoon and 17 P5-P7 children using it on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon (a total of 33 children). These numbers are based on the legislative requirements for supervision of children with 1 adult for every 8 children. The community have indicated that there are significant numbers of other children who would benefit from this service, however with the current staffing complement there is no capacity for this to be increased.

Based on these usage numbers and following a site options appraisal Community Services arrived at a preferred option to relocate to Beersbridge Elim Church in the short term to enable continuity of service, with a longer term ambition to transfer services to Connswater Community Centre, with time taken to develop a new user base.

However, following engagement with parents and local councillors in respect of the relocation proposals a preference was indicated for the service to remain in the immediate Avoniel area with the school nursery site being identified as a preferred option.

3.0 Play Centre Relocation & Land Disposal

At a meeting held in February the EA agreed 'in principle' to relocating the play centre within the school site, subject to approval from their Board. The existing school nursery building is due to be demolished and rebuilt as part of the school development and this is the most likely long-term location for the Play Centre, which would be developed as part of an integrated design.

Proposed area schedules detailing Community Services requirements have been issued to the EA, which they will use to develop a design. If approved by the EA's Board the timescales for construction are uncertain at this stage, however, it is clear that an interim solution will need to be in place for a significant amount of time (potentially 1-2 years). In order to accommodate the EA's school development programme the Play Centre will need to decant to a new location by the end of June 2017.

Beersbridge Elim Church recently advised that they are unable to accommodate the Play Centre on an interim basis. However, following engagement with staff and Charter NI, who have represented parents on this issue, another viable option has been identified at the Exchange Church on the Albertbridge Road (the old YMCA building).

The Exchange Church has the space and capacity to accommodate the play services and a proposal has been submitted to them, which would allow the summer scheme to take place as planned between the 17th July and 18th August 2017, subject to approval from the Church Committee. The Church has also been asked to consider renting space for the provision of the Play Centre's 'after-schools' term-time service from September 2017. However, consultation will need to take place with parents before a final decision is taken.

Members will continue to be updated with progress on the interim and permanent relocation of the Play Centre through the East AWG and SP&R Committee.

Land Disposal

Members are asked to note that in February the EA requested that the acquisition process is completed by the end of this financial year and the Council's legal and estates teams are working to achieve this, subject to the Play Centre remaining operational by a license agreement until the end of June 2017.

4.0 Connswater Community Centre

The EA are undertaking a review of youth service provision within east Belfast, which will have a particular focus on inner east Belfast and may result in a number of capital projects in this area. They are in the early stages of completing a feasibility study to identify suitable options and have expressed an interest in the acquisition and development of Connswater Community Centre, which they have included within their study as a potential option.

Officers have had initial discussions to identify potential linkages, community benefits and co-investment opportunities from any joint development at the Connswater Community Centre site. It should be emphasised however that these discussions are at a very early stage and if a proposal does emerge from the EA's feasibility study it will need to be considered in much more detail.

It is suggested that the concept of a joint project with the EA does offer a potential strategic opportunity for the Council to maximise its investment in this area. Members will be aware that the Ballymacarret Area Masterplan, which is stage 1 on the Capital Programme, includes an open space development proposal for land adjacent to the Community Centre which will complement C.S. Lewis Square.

Community Services have also indicated that services currently provided from Avoniel Play Centre and Dee Street Community Centre could be best served from this location over the longer term.

Members are asked to note that Connswater Community Centre is leased out to Connswater Community Leisure Services until 2019 with further option to extend (subject to performance). Should a firm proposal materialise from the discussions with the EA the rights of the current tenant will need to be recognised and agreement reached with them, if required.

5.0 Recommendation

- 1. Members are asked to note the update in respect of the relocation of Avoniel Play Centre; and**
- 2. Members are asked to note the discussions that have taken place with the EA in respect of Connswater Community Centre and consider the potential strategic opportunities from a joint development with the EA.”**

The Working Group adopted the recommendations.

Robinson Centre

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Area Working Group with a verbal update on the progress which had been made to date with the redevelopment of the Robinson Centre, as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme.

He reported to the Working Group that a decision with regards to Planning Permission for the new Centre was expected in April. The Working Group also noted that the Clonduff Community Centre within the original centre had now closed.

Noted.

Dogs Off Lead Enclosure

(Mr F. Grant, City Parks Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The City Parks Manager informed the Working Group that the Clean Neighbourhoods Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, had provided councils with additional powers to deal with dog related issues. He explained that the Council had introduced two of four Dog Control Orders, prohibiting dog fouling and limiting to four the number of dogs which a person could be in control of at any time. Following feedback from a City-wide consultation exercise in 2012, the implementation of the two remaining orders, namely, making it an offence to allow dogs off their lead in designated areas and excluding dogs

from designated areas, had been delayed, to allow for further consultation and a wider analysis of users' needs.

He reported that the additional consultation had highlighted a requirement for facilities to be made available in parks to allow for dogs to be exercised off-lead. As a result, a pilot enclosure had been operating for over two years within the Grove Playing Fields. It was pointed out to the Members that the pilot initiative had provided Council officers with a greater understanding of the issues which needed to be addressed in advance of the two remaining Dog Control Orders being implemented. As part of that process, officers had identified Orangefield Playing Fields in the east of the city as being suitable for the location of a permanent off-lead enclosure. The City Parks Manager reported that, if approved, the enclosure would be approximately 60metres by 90metres and would cost approximately £14,000 to install. The Working Group noted that an extensive local engagement process would be required beforehand, which would be publicised through the media, awareness sessions and City Matters and would provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of effective dog control and the adverse impact of dog fouling.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive an update once the consultation exercise had concluded.

Willowfield Bowling Club

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Working Group that it had requested that officers engage with Willowfield Bowling Club to ascertain what assistance it required and to consider whether the Support for Sport grant scheme would be suitable.

He advised the Members that the Leisure Development Unit had been working closely with the Club for some time and that officers had been preparing the Club for its Clubmark assessment which looked at the governance. The Working Group was advised that the Club had successfully completed this assessment and would be presented with their Clubmark certificate in April. As a result of this, the Director outlined that the Club would receive £500 of funding through the Support for Sport grant. He added that the Leisure Development Unit also aimed to get the Club to achieve Clubmark Silver accreditation by the end of the summer period, which would entitle them to a Support for Sport grant of £750.

The Area Working Group noted that Council officers would continue to support the Club.

Dates of Future Meetings

The Area Working Group agreed that it would meet at 5p.m. on the following dates throughout 2017, unless otherwise stated:

Thursday 6th April;
Thursday 4th May;
Thursday 8th June;
Thursday 3rd August (5.30pm);
Thursday 7th September;
Thursday, 5th October;

Thursday, 2nd November (5.30pm); and
Thursday, 7th December (5.30pm).

Transport NI – Correspondence received

The Working Group noted correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure outlining proposals to extend the operating hours of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) bus lanes to 12 hours, 7a.m. to 7p.m, from the summer of 2018. The letter outlined that the proposed changes would be subject to public consultation before any changes were made and that all comments should be submitted to the Department before the closing date of 17th April, 2017.

Chairperson