

## Appendix 1: Alexandra park update to North Area Working Group on 26 April 17



**Belfast**  
City Council

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP  
BRIEFING NOTE: 26 APRIL 2017

<b>Subject:</b>	Alexandra park consultation and development exercise
<b>Date:</b>	26 April 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department Elaine Black, Policy and Business Development Officer.

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	This paper provides an update on the ongoing work taking place on Alexandra park.

2.0	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the update provided.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	In January 2017 Members received an update on Alexandra park (October 2016) which confirmed that an engagement round was taking place.
3.2	This engagement has been progressed in the last months by the consultant, Blueprint consultancy and a smaller dedicated working group has met to focus on proposing a development plan, revised term of reference for the group to progress it and a consultation framework for the community, users and stakeholders to shape the final plan.
3.3	The current status of this work is that the group have agreed a number of assumptions in which to work together on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreed to shape a plan to map the direction of travel and mark what is unique about it;</li><li>• The plan is being developed using the Green flag themes, is outcomes focused</li></ul>

in terms of measuring the difference to people and place (diagram 1 for illustration only);

- Reframed term of reference for group to drive the plan;
- Need for a consultation framework to ensure the proposals and priorities in it meet the needs of the neighbouring residents, communities and stakeholders including Council as the landowner.
- Need to capture all needs
- Principles for the plan and activity in the park

**Diagram 1: Green Flag themes:**



Further work is planned through ongoing workshops with the smaller working group in the next month or two on:

3.4

- Purpose of plan
- Fit for purpose proposals signed off for inclusion in the plan & ranking their prioritisation;
- Funding/resource plan to capture resources being committed by each party or sourced;
- Ownership of the Proposals in the plan by partners (including Council);
- Suitable balance of representation to support the delivery of the plan

3.5

This remains a challenging project however there is consensus to proceed and with political support align this plan and use Alexandra park as an anchor to support the regeneration in the neighbourhoods. Ideas are being shared and developed to confirm levels of consensus and ownership on key outcomes like capacity building and connecting (new) communities; resilient and shared space; environmental

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>management and the circular economy; Annual events programme including a Council animation programme (joining up a range of activities council can run in the park to bring in different users) and existing activity programme from all partners. This includes discussions on the Roald Dahl Trail; outdoor classroom and connecting the new communities e.g. residents of Housing association sites. All this work is at risk and final proposals are all dependent on resources.</p> <p>Discussions also reference the wider outcomes in the Belfast agenda around employability and entrepreneurship as well as delivering a safe and welcoming place where people are connected within it.</p> <p>J McVey, Blueprint consultancy will present at AWG to provide more detail on the workshop progress to date. AS progress continues over the course of the Council process Members will receive more detailed updates resulting in a draft plan being developed through the smaller working group in coming weeks/ months. Officers continue to monitor the progress on a workshop by workshop basis</p> <p>Members are requested to note this most recent update on progress for the Alexandra park consultation/ engagement exercise and confirm their continued support of stakeholders to work together on a plan for the park, revised term of reference for the group to drive the plan and the consultation framework to support this work.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> No additional costs noted at this time other than officer resources.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality issues of note at this time.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p><b>Appendices</b> None</p>