

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 25th September, 2017

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Boyle, Craig, Dudgeon, Lyons and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director, City and  
Neighbourhood Services; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Dudgeon be re-elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2018.

(Councillor Dudgeon in the Chair.)

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholl.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 21st April were approved.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Presentations**

#### **GLL Positive Impacts**

The Working Group was informed that Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director, and Mr. R. McKenna, Regional Community Sports Manager, were in attendance in order to provide details of GLL's positive impacts and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The representatives highlighted a number of notable events and initiatives which had taken place over recent months, such as the hosting of a Summer Sports Day, which had been attended by 200 children from seven Summer Schemes across the City, and of the second annual Belfast Greenwich Leisure Sports Foundation Awards ceremony, at which ninety-three athletes had received awards and been provided with a combined funding commitment of £50,000 by GLL. They highlighted also the success of the Belfast-wide MacMillan 'Move More' Programme, which promoted the benefits of physical activity to people living with and beyond cancer and which had received over 100 referrals during its first six months of operation and of the Active Women Programme, which had offered a range of studio-based and aqua-based fitness classes for women of all fitness levels.

They drew the Members' attention to a number of training and development and team-building initiatives, which included the completion by the management team in the Olympia Leisure Centre of a learning and development leadership programme and the ongoing Management Academy initiative and the Trainee Management Scheme for participants across all GLL-managed centres.

Mr. Kirk then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by the Members by providing a brief overview of GLL's overall performance to date, together with its objectives and challenges. In terms of South Belfast, he pointed out that the next phase of the Olympia Leisure Centre project, involving the construction of a 3G pitch and play park and the completion of the main boulevard, would commence later in the year and be completed in 2018. He concluded by providing details around a fatality which had occurred earlier in the month in the Centre's swimming pool, which was still under investigation.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **TRE-ECO**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its previous meeting, it had acceded to a request from TRE-ECO, a social enterprise based in South Belfast, to attend a future meeting in order to outline the extent of its work.

Accordingly, Mr. G. Bowden, Ms. S. Bowden, Ms. G. Kennedy and Ms. M. Lynas were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Lynas informed the Members that TRE-ECO had been established as a social enterprise in 2016 by the Greater Village Regeneration Trust to regenerate and improve the local environment. Funding had been secured initially from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for signage, marketing and the development of a website and an application had now been made for additional funding to assist with staffing costs. She reviewed the organisation's achievements over the past year and highlighted the fact that it had been shortlisted for an award at the Social Economy NI Awards 2017, under the category of 'One to Watch'.

Mr. Bowden confirmed that TRE-ECO offered a fully accredited training programme for young people, who delivered power washing, weeding, cutting, cleansing and building services for residents and organisations in South Belfast. He provided a breakdown of the number of young people who were progressing through the various levels of training and emphasised the fact that it boosted their confidence and sense of pride and increased their chance of securing full time employment.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson.

Noted.

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

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 13 projects. Of those projects, nine have been completed (Stage 5). Of the remaining four projects, two have yet to progress through the Due Diligence process:**

- (SLIF017) Finaghy Bridge; and
- (SLIF064) Taughmonagh Community Forum.

The Working Group will also be aware that, at its meeting on 23rd January 2017, it 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 initiative, 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 AWG, consisting of two DEAs (Balmoral and Botanic), was allocated a total of £0.8m.

Members committed their allocation to 11 projects, three of which have been completed. Of the remaining eight projects, the following three have yet to progress through Due Diligence:

- (SLIF2-10) Ormeau Boxing Club;
- (SLIF2-07) Greater Village Regeneration Trust; and
- (SLIF2-07) Holylands Area Improvement Initiative.

At its meeting on 23rd January 2017, the Working Group agreed to decommit the remaining £4,000 of its LIF2 budget to fund a number of reserve alleygates. A detailed progress update on all projects is attached.

## **3 Sandy Row Orange Hall (SLIF2-05)**

An invitation to tender to complete works at Sandy Row Orange Hall was issued through e-sourcing NI. Two returns have been received and were subsequently assessed on 20th September 2017. The lowest tender has been returned at £70,000 over the available budget.

**There are two options for Members to consider:**

- 1. prioritise essential items in line with the work packages contained within the tender documents to remain within the available budget. The Group will be fully consulted regarding the removal of items; and**
- 2. allocate additional funding to complete all works on the client's schedule, ie £70,000 (including VAT). However, it should be noted that the required funds are not currently available within the South AWG.**

**The Sandy Row Orange Hall Management Committee has been provided with an update.**

**4 Sólás (SLIF2-04) (Cllr Lyons to raise)**

**Sólás was awarded £100,000 towards the establishment of the Children's Autism Centre on the Ormeau Road. Project works have complete and the centre opened on 4th September 2017. The organisation is requesting an uplift in award by approximately £10,000 towards the installation of two accessibility ramps to external portable buildings.**

**5 Recommendations**

**The Working Group is requested to:**

- consider how it wishes to proceed with the project at Sandy Row Orange Hall;**
- consider how it wishes to proceed regarding Sólás' request for additional assistance; and**
- note the update to all other LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast."**

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the current status of those LIF and LIF2 projects which it had approved for South Belfast and highlighted the additional issues to be considered in relation to the Sandy Row Orange Hall and the Sólás projects, as identified within the report.

He then drew its attention to a project for the development of the Blythefield pitch, for which Belfast South Community Resources had obtained funding of £20,000 under LIF2. The Working Group had since agreed, at the request of the recipient, due to security of tenure requirements, that the Greater Village Regeneration Trust should assume the role of lead organisation for the project and that the funding should transfer to it. The Greater Village Regeneration Trust had since confirmed that the project could be delivered without that funding and the Belfast South Community Resources had requested that it be transferred back to it for use on an alternative proposal.

It was reported that Mr. G. Busby, representing the Belfast South Community Resources, was in attendance to provide details around that proposal and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Busby informed the Members that the tendering exercise for the re- development of the Blythefield pitch had confirmed that the project could be delivered using only the funding which had been provided by Sport NI. With that in mind, he highlighted a number of issues which required to

be addressed at the Belfast South Community Resources' office in Sandy Row. He explained that, although the building had been refurbished recently, its roof had been found to be leaking and in need of repair, as did shutter doors which had been damaged during a break-in. In addition, benches were needed for use in a digital suite. On that basis, he requested that the Working Group consider transferring the £20,000 of LIF 2 funding back to Belfast South Community Resources.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Busby and he left the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed:

- i. that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the transfer back into the LIF2 fund of the £20,000 which had been allocated for the development of the Blythefield pitch;
- ii. that officers provide further information around the proposed Sólás and Belfast South Community Resources projects and confirm if they would qualify for LIF funding;
- iii. that officers identify the works which could be prioritised using the £100,000 which it had allocated to Sandy Row Orange Hall and indicate how an additional allocation of £10,000 might assist in the delivery of the project, should it be minded to make that available from the funding which had been allocated initially to the Blythefield pitch project;
- iv. that it would continue to support the Ormeau Boxing Club project, which now involved relocation to other premises, subject to all due diligence and LIF requirements being met; and
- v. that a report be submitted to its meeting on 20th November providing an update on all issues relating to the Holylands Area Improvement initiative.

### **Alleygating Scheme**

Arising from discussion on the aforementioned item, the Working Group agreed that Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Co-ordinator, be invited to attend its next meeting in order to provide an update on the current alleygating programme for South Belfast.

### **Request to Address a Future Meeting**

The Working Group acceded to a request which had been received from a representative of the Belfast Islamic Centre to attend a future meeting in order to outline the Centre's plans for a new place of worship and community centre.

### **Schedule of Meetings for 2018**

The Working Group approved the following schedule of meetings for 2018, with all meetings to commence at 4.00 p.m.:

- Monday 22nd January;
- Monday 26th February;
- Monday 26th March;
- Monday 23rd April;
- Monday 21st May;

- Monday 25th June;
- Monday 20th August;
- Monday 24th September;
- Monday 22nd October;
- Monday 26th November; and
- Monday 17th December.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 16th October.

Chairperson

# North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 27th September, 2017

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Convery, McKee and Patterson;  
Councillors Campbell, Clarke, Magee and McCusker.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and  
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and Alderman Spence.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 29th August 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 29th August.

### **Presentation – GLL - Positive Impact Report**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director of Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL).

He provided an update in relation to the positive impact of GLL in the delivery of the leisure services in Belfast and highlighted a number of notable events and initiatives which had taken place during the previous quarter. Those had included the hosting of a Summer Sports Day, which had been attended by 200 children from seven Summer Schemes across the City, and of the second annual Belfast Greenwich Leisure Sports Foundation Awards ceremony, at which ninety-three athletes had received awards, together with a funding commitment of £50,000 from GLL. In addition, the MacMillan 'Move More' Programme, which sought to deliver cancer specific physical activity and social opportunities within leisure centres, had received over 100 referrals during its first six months

of operation and the Active Women Programme, which had offered a range of studio-based and aqua-based fitness classes for women of all fitness levels, had received positive feedback.

He informed the Working Group of a number of training and development initiatives, which included the completion by the management team in the Olympia Leisure Centre of a learning and development leadership programme and the ongoing Management Academy initiative and the Trainee Management Scheme for participants across all GLL-managed centres.

During discussion, Members were informed of the usage levels and opening hours of the leisure facility at Girdwood Community Hub. Mr. Kirk also informed the Group that GLL continued to try and resolve any incidents of anti-social behaviour on the site.

He advised that GLL wished to engage with local groups in the future, such as Urban Villages and the Cavehill Community Group, to increase participation in GLL activities and community events in North Belfast.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and the Chairperson thanked Mr. Kirk for attending and he left the meeting.

### **Navarra Place - Update**

(Mr. B. Carr, Project Sponsor, was in attendance for this item.)

The Director provided an update on the current status in respect of a proposal to develop a new playground and a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) at Navarra Place with the potential for funding on a 50/50 basis through the T:BUC/Fresh Start Programme, which might result in the re-imaging of a community interface at Navarra Place/Serpentine Road.

He reported the following project issues:

1. T:BUC/Fresh Start Funding – A decision had been taken not to fund councils in 2017/18, which raised the risk that an application for Navarra in 2018/19 might not be successful in securing match funding. The Department of Justice (DoJ) officers had advised that they were supportive of the project and had confirmed that Navarra Place would be a priority project for 2018/19. However, there were strict timelines associated with this funding stream and expenditure was required within the financial year if an application was successful;
2. Planning – In order to meet the strict funding deadlines officers were progressing the design and costings and the submission of a planning application, which would ensure the project would be ready for an application to the T:BUC/Fresh Start Programme in 2018/19;
3. Project Costs – A very high level estimate had been set at £369,000 based on figures provided in 2015. There needed to be proper scrutiny in terms of project costs and the outcome of the funding application would need to be determined before any investment decision could be made;
4. Land Ownership – The land at Navarra Place currently belonged to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the land would need to be acquired, should the project progress; and
5. Ballygoland/PIV Capital Bid – Greater Whitewell Community Surgery had an application in with Special EU Programmes Body under the capital theme to develop the former Ballygoland PS site as a community hub for the Greater Whitewell and mid-Antrim Road area. The plan was to develop a 'corridor' of shared space in the local area to link existing assets. There would be synergies with the Navarra project should the Peace IV bid be successful.



He highlighted that officers were in the process of appointing an integrated design team to develop the design further, provide more cost scrutiny and submit a planning application. He advised that this would ensure the project would be prepared so that the Council could make a decision on whether to proceed, or not, with the project.

He pointed out that further updates would continue to be provided through the North Area Working Group, People and Communities Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, as required.

Noted.

### Alleygates - Update

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, was in attendance for this item.)

With permission of the Chairperson, the Safer City Manager tabled a report which provided an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates. She reminded the Working Group that, as part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme), North Belfast had been allocated a budget of £140,000 (60 gates approximately). She advised that the Road Traffic Order for the North Belfast Phase Alleygates had been processed and finalised and that installation would commence in October, 2017.

She informed the Working Group that there were a number of technical and legal issues with some of the proposed gates, which Officers were working to resolve, and reported the following status update:

<b>Gate Location</b>	<b>No. of Gates Affected</b>	<b>Comments</b>	
To the side and rear of 2-40 Clifton Crescent, 1-45 Manor Street, 1-3 Harcourt Drive and 68-78 Cliftonville Road	4	The Technical challenges associated with these gates being replacement community gates had been resolved. However, there was a very low consultation response rate.	
To the side and rear of 4-54 Manor Street	2		
To the rear of 1-17 Cliftonville Street and 119-123 Cliftonville Road and to the side of 1 Cliftonville Street	1	Officers were working with Legal Services to find a resolution with the hope of including them in the next Road Traffic Order to be advertised in November/December, 2017.	
To the rear of 24-54 Glantane Drive, 3 and 5 Skegoniel Avenue, 535-549 Antrim Road and 2-6 Glandore Gardens and to the side of 2 Glandore Gardens and 52 Glantane Drive	2		
To the rear of 2-18 Jamaica Way and to the side of 18 Jamaica Way	2		
To the rear of 276-292 Limestone Road and to the side of 34 Oceanic Avenue	1		
To the rear of 2-40 Victoria Gardens, 183-205 Cavehill Road, 2 and 4 Charnwood Avenue and 5-11 Inver Avenue and to the side of 2 and 40 Victoria Gardens	4		
To the rear of 26-38 Pinkerton Walk and 2-14 Bruslee Way and to the	2		This gate was withdrawn

side of 32 and 34 Pinkerton Walk and 6 and 8 Bruslee Way		
To the side of 16 and 18 Jamaica Road	2	NIHE have completed the abandonment process for these gates as they were 'walkways' under their responsibility. These gates will be installed during October/November, 2017
To the side of 2 Jamaica Road and 25 Havana Gardens	2	
To the rear of 31-51 Brookhill Avenue and to the side of 2 Brookvale Avenue	2	After a number of attempts to achieve consultation returns from affected houses at this location, still no consultation responses have been returned. These gates cannot process with no consultation responses.
To the rear of 115-201 Alexandra Park Avenue	2	Officers re-consulted around these gates in an attempt to resolve the objections received. Unfortunately, the objections were not withdrawn and these gates cannot process.

She confirmed that the following locations had been suggested as reserve gates:

<b>Gate Location</b>	<b>Number of Gates</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>
North Queen St/Limestone Road	1	Ald. Spence
Ardilea Drive	1	Cllr. McCabe
Lothair Avenue	2	Cllr. McAllister
Ritchie Street/Glasgow Street	3	Ald. Spence
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	

She advised that, if all current gates progressed as expected, including community gates and those on the reserve list, the Working Group would have allocated its full Phase 4 Alleygate budget of £140,000.

She highlighted that the next steps included:

- Continued installation of first batches of North Belfast Alleygates (October/November, 2017);
- Advertisement of the second draft Road Traffic Order for North Belfast as the formal consultation stage;
- Legal scrutiny in respect of formal consultation responses from the Road Traffic Order;
- Submission of the final Road Traffic Order for North Belfast to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, subject to legal approval; and
- The manufacture and installation of the remaining gates.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed that the reserve list be progressed, as outlined, and authority be given to the Safer City Team to complete phase 4 of the North Belfast Alleygating Scheme.

#### **Cavehill Country Park (Verbal Update)**

The Committee noted that the Council was reviewing the signage, possible Bye-Laws and legal requirements surrounding the recent incidents on Cavehill Country Park between pedestrians and mountain bikers.

#### **Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre and Hillview Boxing Club – Update**

The Committee was reminded that the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 12th September, had agreed to refer consideration of Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre matter to the North Area Working Group and that an update report would be submitted to the October meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

The Working Group considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre has become vacant and the former occupier Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre Limited (UAYC) has dissolved. The Council owns the land and had entered into an Agreement for Lease with the former UAYC although the Lease was never executed. This report seeks approval to take possession of the Youth Centre and bring it into operational Council use.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Committee is asked to:**

- **Agree to terminate the Agreement for Lease to take possession of the property, subject to approval from SP&R Committee and further subject to the funder providing formal confirmation that it does not wish to exercise step in rights.**
- **Agree to bring the property into operational use by the Council subject to assessment of condition and need – consideration of the purpose/use to be considered by the North Area Working Group.**
- **Alternatively seek to sell the property for a capital receipt if no viable alternative use exists**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre is situate off Alliance Drive, on Council owned land at the south east of Ballysillan Playing Fields. It was constructed circa 2007 and comprises a single storey brick built building laid out to provide partitioned meeting room, office, youth room and ancillary facilities, together with external yard space and grassed area.**

**3.2 The Council entered into an Agreement for Lease with UAYC on 25 October 2007 to facilitate construction of a Community Centre and Community Garden. Issues arose with regard to rental and the Lease did not complete, however, the Company built and then occupied the premises for a number of years. The Company was dissolved on 26 July 2013 and the property is currently unoccupied.**

**3.3 We have obtained legal advice which confirms that under the terms of the Agreement for Lease the Council may terminate the arrangement and take back the property, (unlike some situations in seeking to recover a property from a dissolved company it is not necessary to liaise with the Crown Solicitor’s Office as the Agreement for Lease contains provision for termination in the event that the Lease is not granted). Recovering**

the property would be subject to the funder not opting to exercise step in rights.

- 3.4 The former UAYC had obtained Urban II funding through the former North Belfast Partnership (NBP). Under the terms of the Agreement for Lease the Council would require to offer the funder the opportunity to take an assignment of the Agreement for Lease and complete the lease with the Council. The Department for Communities (DFC) as successor to NBP has however already given an initial indication that they have no interest in the subject property.**
- 3.5 In terms of future use it is proposed that it be brought into operational use by the Council subject to a condition survey and assessment of need in the area, with the purpose to be agreed through the North Area Working Group.**
- 3.6 A further report will be brought to Committee in terms of condition and future use.**

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.7 Resource is required from Legal Services, Estates Management Unit and City and Neighbourhoods officers in connection with taking possession.**
- 3.8 Revenue and resource costs in terms of staff resource and ongoing property costs will need to be reviewed in the context of condition and operational use.**

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

- 3.9 No equality or good relations implications.”**

A Member suggested that the Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre should be brought back into Council ownership and that a condition survey was required to assess the building work required. It was also suggested that the local community should be engaged and the option to “*seek to sell the property for a capital receipt*” should be removed from the potential recommendations to the People and Communities Committee.

During discussion, a Member raised the item of Hillview Amateur Boxing Club and the feasibility study which had taken place regarding the potential to construct a building to accommodate the club within the Council’s Finlay Park.

The Director informed the Working Group that the Sports Council had undertaken an economic appraisal for consideration and that a land transfer would also be required if the project was progressed. He advised that a full report would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee regarding the matter and confirmed that £1 million remained in the Belfast Investment Fund for the North Area Working Group to allocate.

During further discussion, a Member suggested that the Hillview Amateur Boxing Club project be added as an emerging project to the Belfast Investment Fund so that the feasibility of the project could be considered further.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the People and Communities Committee that it agrees to:

- terminate the Agreement for Lease to take possession of the property (Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre), subject to approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, and further, subject to the funder providing formal confirmation that it does not wish to exercise step in rights; and
- bring the property (Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre) into operational use by the Council, subject to an assessment of condition and need.

The Working Group also agreed that the Hillview Amateur Boxing Club be added as a Stage 1 - Emerging Project to the Belfast Investment Fund, subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Group noted that officers would consider taking forward both of these projects at the same time and provide updates in conjunction with one another, if possible.

### **Future Agenda Items**

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

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;
- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP;
- Unitorah Charity - information on their Centre for Tolerance development; and
- Alleygate Update.

Chairperson

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 28th September, 2017

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);  
Alderman Kingston;  
Councillors, Beattie, Corr, Garrett, Hutchinson,  
Heading, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Bell, Collins and McVeigh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 24th August were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Site Visit**

The Chairperson advised that a site visit had taken place to St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf the previous day. This had been an informative visit and the organisation, with the Council's assistance, were going to investigate if any other alternative options for funding might be available.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Kinston declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3, viz., Presentation – Argyle Business Centre, as he was a Member of the Board of the Argyle Business Centre.

### **Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker**

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 24th August.

Noted.

## **Presentation – Argyle Business Centre**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. D. McBride, Executive Chairman, representing the Argyle Business Centre (ABC).

Mr. McBride provided the Working Group with a brief background to the ABC and its services. He then drew Members' attention to the ABC's proposal in respect of the Mission Hotel that would be located in the Shankill Road Mission building on the Shankill Road, Belfast.

The representative explained that it was hoped that the project would act as a catalyst in this part of the City to help rejuvenate the area and encourage economic and social growth, as well as increasing tourism trade in the greater north and west Belfast areas.

Mr. McBride proceeded to outline the ABC's Goals for the proposed Mission Hotel as follows:

- to reinstate a historically important building;
- the renewal of a building that would animate an important city streetscape;
- provide a home for a vibrant and economically important social economy enterprise project;
- provide education and training of traditional heritage skills during construction;
- provide employment, education and appropriate skills on an ongoing basis;
- promote the value of education, training and lifelong learning;
- enhance the overall tourism product and marketing of the Shankill, north and west Belfast, and the City as a whole;
- be a catalyst for private investment and economic regeneration in an area of multiple deprivation; and
- note that the project sponsor was a Registered Charity and that any profits would be reinvested into the regeneration of the area.

The representative circulated a brochure which outlined the vision of the proposed hotel and included the architect's plans and designs.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. McBride for his informative presentation and he left the meeting.

## **Presentation – GLL - Positive Impact Report**

The Working Group was informed that Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director, and Mr. R. McKenna, Regional Community Sports Manager, were in attendance in order to provide details of GLL's positive impacts and they were welcomed to the meeting.

He provided an update in relation to the positive impact of GLL in the delivery of the leisure services in Belfast and highlighted a number of notable events and initiatives which had taken place during the previous quarter. Those had included the hosting of a Summer Sports Day, which had been attended by 200 children from seven Summer Schemes across the City, and of the second annual Belfast Greenwich Leisure Sports Foundation Awards ceremony, at which ninety-three athletes had received awards, together with a funding commitment of £50,000 from GLL. In addition, the MacMillan 'Move More' Programme, which sought to deliver cancer specific physical activity and social opportunities within leisure centres, had received over 100 referrals during its first six months of operation and the Active Women Programme, which had offered a range of studio-based and aqua-based fitness classes for women of all fitness levels, had received positive feedback.

He informed the Working Group of a number of training and development initiatives, which included the completion by the management team in the Olympia Leisure Centre of a learning and

development leadership programme and the ongoing Management Academy initiative and the Trainee Management Scheme for participants across all GLL-managed centres.

Following a query from a Member, the representatives from GLL advised the Members that consultation had been undertaken with local schools and groups to establish if transportation was required to nearby facilities whilst the Andersonstown Centre was out of use and none had been requested. The Member clarified that the request had not been specific to schools and organisations/groups but also for outreach to individuals within the local community. As the Assistant Director was not in attendance at the meeting, it was agreed that an update report on the transportation options to assist locals in availing of the alternative leisure offerings would be submitted to the next meeting.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and the Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and they left the meeting.

### **Local Investment Fund - Update**

The Director of Property and Projects reported that, through the original LIF1 allocation, the Members of the former West and Shankill AWGs had supported 24 projects and all of those projects had now been completed.

He continued that, when the second phase of the LIF had been agreed, £1,200,000 was allocated to the West AWG. To date, a total of 17 new projects had been agreed for in principle support, as well as additional support to two LIF 1 projects. Of the 17 projects, 2 were preparing for due diligence, 4 were currently going through due diligence or had recently passed due diligence and were awaiting contracts to be drawn up, 4 were at the pre-construction stage, 3 had commenced construction and 4 projects had been completed.

The Director of Property and Projects concluded by drawing the Members' attention to the list of all 41 projects.

Noted.

### **Innovation Factory Update**

(Mr. C. McCabrey, Economic Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Economic Development Manager provided the Working Group with a status update on the Innovation Factory since it had opened in October 2016. This included detailed performance updates in respect of the occupancy rates at the new facility, details regarding the sectors from which the tenants originated, the tenants' employability and skills, an update in respect of business growth and innovation services which were provided for occupants of the facility, foreign direct investment to the facility, marketing promotions, social regeneration and details regarding the overall management of the facility.

The Members noted the following facts:

Occupancy:

- 105 enquiries, 88 qualified, 23 licenses;
- 6,277 sq ft of Net lettable area of 35,000 sq ft;
- that Belfast City Council's first funding occupancy related target was to achieve 55% occupancy by 31st December 2018; and
- no customers had left the centre.



The Economic Development Manager advised that the centre had the scope to accommodate 382 workstations across 111 business units when at full capacity and would support 145 jobs by December 2018 and 187 by December 2020. He concluded his presentation by advising that the year 1 Annual Performance Review had been conducted by officers and a summary report would be submitted to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in October.

Noted.

### **Alley Gates - Update**

(Ms. A. Allen, Safer City Manager, was in attendance for this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose**

##### **1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 Alleygates
- highlight any remaining technical or legal issues
- to update on the West Belfast reserve list
- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps

#### **2.0 Background**

##### **2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme) West Belfast was allocated a budget of £210,000**

#### **3.0 Key Issues**

##### **Update on Progress to Date**

- 3.1 The Road Traffic Order for the first batch of West Belfast Phase 4 Alleygates has been processed and finalised (copy attached).**
- 3.2 The West Belfast Alleygates (as per Road Traffic Order attached) have already started to be manufactured and will be installed during October and November 2017.**
- 3.3 Residents affected by these gates will receive correspondence from Council inviting them to attend key distribution sessions in due course**
- 3.4 Members will recall that the majority of the proposed gates for West Belfast were replacements for existing community gates.**
- 3.5 There were a number of technical and legal issues with some of the proposed gates, which Officers were working to resolve. The current status of these issues is as follows:**

##### **DDA Issues**

The following proposed gates cannot proceed as they do not meet the minimum legal width requirement as per the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The manufacturer has not been able to design a suitable gate which will meet Council's legal obligations.

- To the rear of 2-32 St James's Gardens, 1-53 St James's Crescent, 478-482 Donegall Road and 54-60 St James's Road and to the side of 1 St James's Crescent, 60 St James's Road and 2 and 32 St James's Gardens
- To the rear of 1-27 St James's Gardens, 2-28 St James's Place, 46-52 St James's Road and 492-50 Donegall Road and to the side of 1 and 27 St James's Gardens and 2 and 28 St James's Place
- To the rear of 1-27 St James's Place, 2-22 St James's Drive, 24-36 St James's Road and 508-522 Donegall Road and to the side of 1 and 27 St James's Place and 2 St James's Drive

### Community Gate Replacements

As indicated to Members in January 2017, there were a number of technical and legal issues associated with the replacement of community gates.

The technical issues relate to target hardening (spikes, razor wire, and broken glass on walls) on and around the proposed gates.

The legal issues relate to very low consultation responses which didn't meet the legislative threshold to permit gate installation.

Officers have been working to resolve these issues in recent months with the assistance of Legal Services and an appointed structural engineer.

After consultation with Legal Services, the issues have been resolved on balance of risk and due to concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour articulated by Members for these gates.

However, Members should be aware that Officers will still carry out reasonable endeavours to get consent forms and waivers signed by affected properties to minimise the risk to Council. Should consent forms and waivers not be secured, the gates can still proceed.

- To the rear of 2-48 Locan Street, 1-45 Amcomri Street and 36-46 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Locan Street and 1 Amcomri Street
- To the rear of 50-98 Locan Street and 47-97 Amcomri Street
- To the rear of 2-46 Amcomri Street, 1-47 Clowney Street and 22-34 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Amcomri Street and 1 Clowney Street
- To the rear of 48-98 Amcomri Street and 45-93 Clowney Street
- To the rear of 2-50 Clowney Street, 1-49 Beechmount Parade and 10-20 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Clowney Street and 1 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 52-100 Clowney Street and 51-9 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 2A-58 Beechmount Parade and 1-3 Beechmount Drive

- To the rear of 60-108 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 1-5 Iveagh Crescent and 2-26 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 7-39 Iveagh Crescent and 28-60 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 41-67 Iveagh Crescent and 62-94 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 2-40 Fallswater Street, 1-37 Iveagh Drive and 240-250 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Fallswater Street and 1 Iveagh Drive
- To the rear of 218-226 Falls Road, 2-44 Iveagh Parade and 1-55 Fallswater Street and to the side of 2 Iveagh Parade and 2 Fallswater Street
- To the rear of 216 Falls Road, 2-42 Fallswater Street and 3-47 Nansen Street and to the side of 3 Nansen Street
- To the rear of 200-214 Falls Road, 2-60 Nansen Street and 5-63 Broadway and to the side of 2 Nansen Street and 3 and 5 Broadway
- To the rear of 4-22 Beechview Park, 447-465 Falls Road and 1-69 Rockdale Street and to the side of 4 Beechview Park and 1 Rockdale Street
- To the rear of 2A-54 Rockdale Street, 1-55 Rockville Street and 467-477 Falls Road and to the side of 2A Rockdale Street and 1, 35 and 37 Rockville Street
- To the rear of 2-64 Rockville Street, 1-67 Rockmore Road and 479-489 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Rockville Street and 1A, 1 and 67 Rockmoe Road
- To the rear of 6-70 Rockmore Road, 3-57 Rockmount Street and 491-501 Falls Road and to the side of 3 and 57 Rockmount Street
- To the rear of 2-54 Rodney Parade and to the side of 2 and 54 Rodney Parade
- To the rear of 1-27 Rodney Parade, 1-59 Rodney Drive and 2-30 St James's Crescent and to the side of 1 Rodney Parade, 1 and 59 Rodney Drive
- To the rear of 11-79 St Katharine Road and to the side of 11, 39, 41 and 79 St Katharine Road<sup>1</sup>
- To the rear of 1A-21 St James's Parade and 2- St James's Road and to the side of 1A, 1 and 21 St James's Parade
- To the rear of 1-23 Hugo Street and 438-442 Falls Road and to the side of 1 Hugo Street
- To the rear of 2-24 Hugo Street, 1-29 Clondara Street and 426-436 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Hugo Street and 1 Clondara Street
- To the rear of 2-38 Clondara Street and 416-424 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Clondara Street
- To the rear of 37-49 Westrock Gardens, 13-17 Westrock Park and 11-14 Westrock Court and to the side of 43 and 45 Westrock Gardens

Members should note that a formal objection has been lodged in respect of the following gate and until that is resolved, this gate cannot proceed to Road Traffic Order stage.

- To the rear of 2-40 Iveagh Drive, 1-45 Iveagh Parade and 228-238 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Iveagh Drive and 1 Iveagh Parade

## **Budget**

Even though 8 gates in the St. James area cannot proceed due to DDA considerations, the funding for these gates will be required to undertake the additional physical works associated with the replacement of community gates.

Therefore, the West Belfast Phase 4 Alleygating budget is now fully committed.

## **Reserve List**

Members will recall that at a previous West Area Working Group, it was agreed that the reserve list for West Belfast would be comprised of alleygates from the Collin Area.

Officers have liaised with Elected Members from the Collin Area and the following gate locations have been agreed in priority order.

<b>Gate Location</b>	<b>Number of Gates</b>
Colinmill/Old Colin	7
Summerhill Drive	2
Broom Park	3
Cherry Drive	2
Glasvey Drive	6
Thornhill Crescent	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>

Members are advised that other suggestions from the reserve list have been received from outside the Collin area. These are:

<b>Gate Location</b>	<b>Number of Gates</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>
McQuillan Street	2	Cllr McConville
Dunmore Street	2	Cllr McVeigh
Dunlewey Street	2	Cllr McVeigh
Eccles/Orkney/Acton/Dewey St	10	Cllr Bunting
Iris Drive	1	Residents
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	

Members are asked to consider whether they wish to add the above gates to the reserve list and in what priority order.

### **4.0 Resource Implications**

4.1 £700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.

4.2 £210,000 of this capital funding was allocated to West Belfast

### **5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.**

## **6.0 Recommendations**

### **6.1 Councillors are requested to:**

- **Consider the contents of the report**
- **Finalise the reserve list and give Officers authority to complete West Belfast Phase 4.”**

The Safer City Manager sought clarification in respect of the reserve list suggestions that had been received from outside the Collin area and asked the Members to consider whether they wished to add these to the reserve list and to prioritise the order. The officer stressed that the alley gating budget was fully committed and that Members had already agreed the 23 gates in the Collin area detailed in the report would be at the top of the reserve list. The officers also stressed that both the Collin reserve list and any subsequent reserve gates agreed by Members would only be progressed in the event of additional revenue becoming available and that there was none at present.

A Member suggested that, given the lack of gates in the Shankill area, the gates at Eccles, Orkney/Acton and Dewey Street should be added to the reserve list after the gates previously agreed for the Colin area. Detailed discussion ensued, following which it was agreed:

- that no other additions would be submitted and therefore the 17 gates (as per the report) would make up the final reserve list: and
- that to assist with prioritising the second reserve list (17 gates), the Safer City Manager would provide clarification on the dates each of the requests had been received and submit a report to a future meeting.

### **Request to Rename Springfield Park**

The Working Group noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee proposing that the Springfield Avenue Playground, located in the Clonard area, be renamed the Cluain Ard Playground.

It was agreed, at the request of a Member, that the report should provide clarification around the policy for the naming of parks/playing fields in a language other than English.

### **Building Successful Communities – Divis Back Path Proposal**

(Mr. S. Walker, City and Neighbourhood Services, was in attendance for this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

#### **“1. Background**

**Members are reminded that the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee considered a Report Transfer of Assets / Liabilities to Belfast City Council in September and October 2016. At the September 2016 Meeting the Committee, while noting its support for the capital investment**

proposed, agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable the Director of Property and Projects to hold further discussions with the Department for Communities and the Executive Office on the ongoing revenue implications and the conditions under which the Council would accept the transfer of assets. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting in October 2016 agreed in principle to accept the transfer of the assets and the associated liability subject to certain conditions being met. A copy of the report is attached for information.

Included within this general consent are a number of projects under building Successful Communities. This report specifically deals with the proposal referred to a Divis Back Path, however members are asked to be aware that this project is linked with a similar proposal, the Bullring, which runs from the Shankill Road to Clifton Street, design work on this project is continuing and will be presented to the Group at a later date.

Council Officers have been involved in discussions around the concept plan. While it is a somewhat innovative design and is not something that Council would normally provide, we are conscious that the proposal has emerged following a consultation exercise undertaken on behalf of Department for Communities by a design team appointed by them. Council Officers are satisfied that a maintenance regime can be put in place to undertake routine inspection of the facility, open and close it and undertake general routine operational maintenance of the facility. Council has agreed to accept the maintenance liability subject to a minimum of 3 years maintenance cost being agreed with DfC, outside of any defects liability period.

In addition the Council would include the facility under its Insurance Policy.

The Group is asked to consider the attached concept plan (available on mod.gov) and offer its views.

#### **Future management**

As outlined above, the Council will undertake a normal maintenance operation of this facility once it is completed, providing agreement can be reached with DfC. The Department for Communities envisaged the development as a regeneration project seeking to develop a piece of disused land into a valued and used community asset which would be available to all to use.

In advance of further conversations, with the Department and the Community, Officers are seeking direction from Members in relation to potential management of the facility.

Correspondence from a local Community representative indicates the view that owing to lack of capacity in local groups that the council is the only body who make the scheme a success and that Council should provide:

1. A firm commitment in relation to security of the site (the whole site)
2. A firm commitment in relation to the maintenance of the site (the whole site)

3. A clear commitment in relation to insurance of the site (the whole site)
4. An agreement with BCC in relation to providing resources to develop activity on the site (the whole site)

Council Officers can provide a commitment in respect of 1, 2 and 3 above within the context of its normal method of operation. However, in relation to point 4 above this is not normally provided and could potentially set a precedent for other interventions across the city. Council at this time has no resource set against such activities. Department for Communities has indicated it will agree to meeting the cost of the operational maintenance for a 3 year period, this would not however include site animation or programming.

Members will be mindful that the Council has been supportive within the area and has sought to support capacity building through its Community Services and Community safety Unit.

Members are asked to consider their position on this matter to guide officers in their discussions with the Department and the community as this scheme is progressed to planning and delivery.

## 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report;
- Provide comments on the concept plans
- Provide direction as to resourcing of activity on the site.”

A Member requested additional information in respect of the planned memorial contained within the plans. The officer agreed to investigate and report back to the Area Working Group.

The Working Group noted the update provided.

## Future Role of AWGs

Following a query from a Member, it was confirmed that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would be submitting an update report in respect of the future role of Area Working Groups at the November meeting. It was also agreed that an update on the Whiterock Locality Planning would be submitted to a future meeting.

Noted.

## Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 25th October at 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 5th October, 2017

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Haire (Chairperson); Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Graham, Howard, Johnston, Long, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources; Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; Mrs. A. Allen, Safer City Manager; Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, and Councillors Newton and O'Donnell.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 5th September were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Alleygates**

The Safer City Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the progress of Phase 4 of the Alleygating scheme for east Belfast.

She outlined that there had been issues with the installation of 2 gates to the rear of 10-36 Thorndyke Street and 189-223 Albertbridge Road and 3 gates to the rear of 9-39 Park Avenue and to the side of 9,23,25 and 39 Park Avenue. The Members were advised that the proposed gate locations at Thorndyke Street were too narrow and that the gates could not proceed due to the minimum legal width under the Disability Discrimination Act. She explained that there had been significant objections received in relation to the proposed Park Avenue gates and that gates could not be installed while the objections remained.

She explained to the Working Group that a finalised reserve list needed to be agreed.

A number of Members explained that there had been a number of break-ins in the Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue area and that they felt that it should be given preference for alleygates.



A further Member stated that Titania Street should have alleygates.

A Member questioned why the scheme had changed, as, previously, the former Health and Environmental Services Department had controlled the installation of alleygates across the city, whereby gates were installed based on the highest PSNI statistics for each area of the city.

The Safer City Manager confirmed to the Working Group that, after the conclusion of Phase 3, the Council had agreed to amend the process whereby alleygate locations for Phase 4 would be Member-led, supported by PSNI statistics. The Safer City Manager outlined that the reason for this change was as a result of concern from Members that the official PSNI statistics did not always fully reflect the complaints that they were receiving from their constituents.

She also confirmed to the Members that none of the streets which the Members had suggested for the reserve list were on the PSNI's crime hotspot list, as previously presented to the Members.

A number of Members stated that PSNI statistics were important and that the reserve list should be prioritised in accordance with the PSNI hotspot list instead of from Members suggestions.

A further Member disagreed, stating that all the Working Groups had allocated this phase based on Members' suggestions.

Moved by Councillor Long  
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the sixteen gates which were already agreed by the Working Group, namely, 4 in Harper Street, 4 in Madrid Street and 8 in Roseberry Road should proceed and that the 3 streets in the reserve list which had been requested by two different political party representatives, namely, 4 gates in Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue, 11 gates in Donard Street and 2 gates in Grove Avenue should also proceed.

On a vote by show of hands, six Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was declared lost.

The Working Group agreed that the sixteen gates which had already been granted approval by the Working Group for Harper Street, Madrid Street and Roseberry Road would proceed and that the remaining budget would be allocated to the streets which had been identified in order of 'highest need' by the PSNI.

### **GLL – Positive Impact Report**

The Working Group was informed that Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director, and Mr. R. McKenna, Regional Community Sports Manager, were in attendance in order to provide details of GLL's positive impacts and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The representatives highlighted a number of notable events and initiatives which had taken place over recent months, such as the hosting of a Summer Sports Day, which had been attended by 200 children from across the City, and the second annual Belfast Greenwich Leisure Sports Foundation Awards ceremony, where 93 athletes had received awards and been provided with a combined funding commitment of £50,000 by GLL. They highlighted also the success of the Belfast-wide MacMillan 'Move More' Programme, which promoted the benefits of physical activity to people living with and beyond cancer and which had received over 100 referrals during its first six months of operation.

They drew the Members' attention to a number of training, development and team-building initiatives, which they explained included the management undertaking a learning and development

leadership programme, the ongoing Management Academy initiative and the Trainee Management Scheme for participants across all GLL-managed centres.

Mr. Kirk then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by the Members by providing a brief overview of GLL's overall performance to date, together with its objectives and challenges.

In terms of East Belfast, he pointed out that Avoniel Leisure Centre had introduced the Active Women Programme. A number of Members stated that they would be happy to distribute flyers promoting it, and other health programmes, in their local pharmacies and GP surgeries.

A further Member requested that, in future updates from GLL, information be provided on the number of people using each centre, and that a key would be provided detailing the various acronyms within the report.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Leisure Estates**

The Directors of Property and Projects, Finance and Resources and City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to the Members that concerns from local residents had been raised regarding the hoardings which had been erected around the Robinson Centre site.

The Director of Finance and Resources confirmed to the Working Group that a contract with Heron Construction had been agreed for the works on the Robinson Centre site and that the plans, which included two 3G pitches, could not now be changed.

The Director of Property and Projects explained that hoardings encompassing the whole site had not yet been erected due to a number of complaints from nearby residents. He emphasised that the cost of materials had increased since the budget for the Leisure Investment Programme had been agreed and that it was important that the contractors could commence work on all parts of the site as soon as possible.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Property and Projects confirmed that the hoardings needed to be installed as soon as practicable, in order not to jeopardise the project.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the hoardings should be extended to incorporate the entire site to allow works to commence.

### **Social Innovation Pitch**

The Programme Manager outlined the following report to the Members:

- “1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues  
To provide members with an update on the Inner East Social Innovation Challenge Programme.**
  
- 2.0 Recommendations  
To seek approval to recommend funding is approved for the Diamond Residents Group Street by Street project following the recent pitching session held in City Hall.**
  
- 3.0 Main report  
Key Issues**

**3.1** Belfast City Council agreed to do Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. Currently, there are four locality planning projects being delivered across Belfast as follows;

**1. Whiterock, 2. Inner East, 3. Belvoir & Milltown, 4. New Lodge**

**3.2** To support this work, Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model.' The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems.

**3.3** As part of this model, a Challenge Programme is being implemented with funding available in each locality planning area for up to four projects that can be delivered within the area with a maximum £15,000 per project to allow them to be delivered to see if they have potential to become self-sustainable and / or can be scaled and replicated elsewhere.

**3.4** For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the current status with regards to Inner East and seek authority to recommend that the first project 'Diamond Residents Group – Street by Street' is awarded funding, subject to carrying out the relevant due diligence processes on the group receiving funding.

#### **Inner East Current Status**

**3.5** Over the past year local groups (including the Diamond Residents group) have been working with the Young Foundation and Council officers to develop potential Socially Innovative ideas to be developed with a view that they will receive a recommendation for funding, following successful completion of the following two stage process;

#### **3.6 Stage 1 Accelerator Workshops**

Local residents and supportive organisations have participated in the accelerator workshops to develop ideas linked to local priorities (health & wellbeing).

#### **3.7 Stage 2 Pitching**

Attending a pitching session to informally "pitch" their idea to two separate panels.

The decision panel members will award an overall % score to each project idea with the following weighting being apportioned to each panel

**3.8** Independent panel which will include experts and practitioners working in the field of innovation – 75% total marks  
Local DEA elected members panel – 25% total marks

#### **Inner East Pitch**

**3.9** On completion of the Accelerator Workshops, the Diamond Residents Group successfully pitched their idea to the above decision panels on the 20th September and were successful in achieving a score above the pass mark.

- 3.10 We are now seeing authorisation from the Inner East AWG to recommend that this group receives an award of £15,000 for the following project.**
- 3.11 Street by Street – This is a resident led project developing volunteering in the local community. Through this project the residents group will set up base in the local area and will undertake a programme of engagement with local residents to encourage new volunteers to get involved in local activities to build their capacity, improve health and wellbeing through participation in a range of resident led programmes and events**
- 3.12 The residents group are currently not in a position to formally constitute their and are unable to receive the funding directly and have requested that funding is administered through a constituted group Charter NI that currently receive funding from Belfast City Council.**
- 3.13 It should be noted that this funding is not being awarded through an open call; it has been restricted to those projects that involve local residents and have been developed by those who have been involved in the locality planning process and have successfully completed the Accelerator Programme.**
- 3.14 Next Steps**  
Subject to approval at full council, officers will work with internal colleagues in legal to draw up funding agreements and letter of offer to award funding to progress this work. The residents group has also expressed an interest in attending a future East AWG to update members on the work they hope to develop through this process.
- 3.15 Furthermore, the Young Foundation in partnership with Council officers have been working with other groups in the inner east area to support them in identifying possible social innovation projects that can be taken forward over the coming months with a view to pitching for funding at a future pitching session.**
- 3.16 Financial & Resource Implications**  
**Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates**
- 3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications**  
**Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration in relation to the social innovation model.”**

During discussion, a number of Members stated that the group had worked hard on their pitch and that it was a worthwhile event.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that funding be approved for the Diamond Residents Group Street by Street project, and requested that an update on the project be submitted to the Area Working Group in 3 months.

**Request to present to a future meeting:**  
**Belfast City BMX Club**

The Working Group acceded to a request from the Belfast City BMX Club to present to a future meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that a number of Members were unable to attend the next meeting, which was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 2nd November.

After discussion the Working Group agreed to change the date, and that the meeting would instead be held at 5p.m. on Wednesday, 15th November.

Chairperson