

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 6th September, 2018

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

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

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

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from The High Sheriff, Councillor Howard, Alderman Copeland, and Councillors Armitage, Johnston and O'Neill.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meetings of 2nd August were an accurate record of proceedings.

In response to a Member's query regarding an update on the King George V Playing Fields, the Strategic Director advised the Working Group that work was ongoing and that he hoped to bring a report to the Working group for its consideration in the next few months.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Robinson Centre Update**

(Mr J. Nelson, Community Services Unit Manager, attended in connection with this Item)

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the work which was ongoing on the site of the former Robinson Centre.

He advised the Members that the contractors had previously requested to hoard the entire site but that a section of the rear of the site, containing a playground and a grassy area, had remained open to the community. At that time, the site was then partially hoarded to allow construction to begin.

He explained that the contractor had been constructing the new Leisure Centre building within the confines of the hoarding but, in order to meet the proposals for the site as per the facilities mix and to ensure that the project stayed on track for opening in the Autumn of 2019, it now needed to commence work to the rear of the site and therefore required the hoarding to be extended to the entire site.

He reminded the Working Group that the current plans for the rest of the site included an additional outdoor 5-a-side pitch and a skate park alongside the existing children's playground. The Working Group noted that the consultation feedback had shown no demand for a skate park and that a number of concerns had been raised in relation to this. This element had therefore not been submitted for planning.

The Community Services Unit Manager provided the Working Group with an overview of the engagement which the Council had had with the local residents.

A Member suggested that an outdoor gym be considered within the plans.

A number of Members stated that the hoarding needed to be extended in order that the continued development of the Leisure Centre and the associated works could proceed in a timely manner.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the hoarding be extended to the entire site and that the skate park element be removed from the facilities mix, with both the 5-a-side pitch and existing playground to be increased in size on the basis that this would be within the existing agreed budget envelope in light of the removal of the skate park element. The Working Group also agreed that the option of the local community managing the second 5-a-side pitch be investigated.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

In light of the Brexit Committee's schedule of meeting dates for the remainder of 2018, the Working Group agreed to change a number of its previously agreed dates and instead to meet on the following dates:

- Thursday, 4th October at 5pm;
- Wednesday, 31st October at 5pm; and
- Thursday, 29th November at 5pm.

Chairperson