

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 24th January 2019

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Baker (Chairperson);  
Alderman Kingston; and  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Black, Canavan, Carson, Corr,  
Collins, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson, O'Hara, Nic Biorna and  
Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Ms. M. Bagnall, Project Sponsor;  
Mrs. T. Slevin, Project Manager;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Groves and Magennis.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd November were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

- Councillors Attwood and O'Hara declared an interest as Directors of the Colin Glen Trust; and
- Councillors Canavan, Carson, Garrett and Hutchinson declared an interest in agenda item 6. (a) Braidwater Homes in that they were all Members of the Planning Committee and they left the meeting while the matter was under consideration.

### **Decision Tracker**

The Policy and Performance Analyst explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and he provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 22nd November.

Noted.

### **Presentations**

## **Brassneck Theatre Company**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. T. Devlin and Mrs. A. McCrudden, representing Brassneck Theatre Company, to the meeting.

Mrs. McCrudden reminded the Working Group that it had previously received a presentation approximately a year ago regarding the organisation's proposal and she thanked the Members for the opportunity to update on how the proposal had progressed during this time.

By way of background information, she recapped that the Brassneck Theatre Company had been established in 2007 and Brassneck Youth had been setup in 2015.

She then detailed its various Strands of Works as follows:

- Creation: quality, accessible and professional theatre;
- Development: local artists, writers, designers and technicians;
- Contribution: to the reimagining of West Belfast;
- Promotion: themes of identity, history, culture and tolerance;
- Representation: local communities by providing them with a collective and inclusive voice; and
- Collaboration: with new and existing funders as well as private sponsors towards sustainability.

She advised that the youth organisation provided weekly classes, outreach projects, masterclasses and theatre visits and she proceeded to detail some of the benefits of this work as follows, increased self-esteem, confidence building, increased social skills and leadership skills.

The Working Group was advised that the feasibility study that had been discussed at the last meeting had been completed in September 2018. This had assessed the economic, social, community and cultural viability of establishing a dedicated, multi-purpose theatre space in West Belfast and she detailed the results as follows:

- it had proved conclusively that there was a sizeable markets for Brassneck Theatre Co productions/youth theatre training which was unique and growing;
- west Belfast had a rich tradition of drama and cultural activities. There was no suitable professional venue in West Belfast for Brassneck to develop its offer from;
- Brassneck Youth had a real opportunity to expand in partnership with Belfast Metropolitan College, Queens University and NI Screen;
- Brassneck had an enviable track record of delivering quality new theatre to new and existing audiences; and
- the new venue would not only house theatre, but it would be a performing arts space for music, festivals, dance, youth drama, cross community programmes.

Mrs. McCrudden advised that the Company wished to progress to a Green Book Economic Appraisal (EA). She stated that it would consider and identify the various options to progress the recommendations from the feasibility study and would include consideration of the proposed locations, capacity and options for delivery. The EA would agree the preferred option to progress the proposal and would identify the funding and investment that would be required.

The representative advised that the Theatre Company had already been awarded £5,000 from the Arts Council Northern Ireland towards the Economic Appraisal and detailed that they were asking the Council to match fund this. In addition, it was seeking the Council to partner it in exploring how its vision could be transformed into action.

Following a query, the representative clarified that other premises were also being considered other than the Press Hall, this would be a necessary element of the Economic Appraisal as it would help assess whether the proposed premises represented value for money.

At this stage in the proceedings, the Chairperson thanked the representatives and they left the meeting.

The Working Group considered the possibility of match funding the Arts Council's contribution of £5,000 to help the organisation progress its economic appraisal.

Following discussion, it was agreed that officers would liaise with the Council's Economic Development Section to ascertain if it would be possible to secure match funding from its existing budgets.

### **Sports and Leisure Swifts Football Club**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. P. Kane, representing Sport and Leisure Swifts Football Club, to the meeting.

Mr. Kane provided the Members with background information on Sport and Leisure Swifts Football Club and its work and involvement with the local community.

The representative proceeded to outline the Club's vision to create a fully professional Football Club in west Belfast and which would include:

- ensuring that all coaching staff would be remunerated;
- ensuring all first teams and development squad players were on professional contracts;
- developing links with all amateur teams in West Belfast to benefit from a system encouraging any players coming through Belfast Celtic to be remunerated for their time and effort (beyond the youth system);
- to develop its own Football Academy;
- to provide employment in the west of Belfast and over the next five years to provide opportunities not just for players but for coaching staff, grounds men and stewards;
- to provide an opportunity for young people to support a competitive team that is striving to play in the top flight domestically and in Europe; and
- to ensure that all players at the club, irrespective of age, would play football for free.

The representative advised the Working Group that it was envisaged that the finished project would result in the creation of a community hub in the Glen Road Area that would integrate sport and communities and he sought the Council's assistance in progressing the initiative, along with the following:

- match funding for the redevelopment of playing surfaces and facilities;
- help with the promotion of Belfast Celtic F.C. as an integral part of Professional Football in west Belfast, and for the entire City;
- to buy into the ethos of free football for all players;
- to encourage the planners and developers of the new housing estates surrounding the Club to engage in practical ways to help provide community access and facilities.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending and for the excellent work that Sport and Leisure Swifts F.C. undertook with the local community and he retired from the room.

The Members discussed the need for such proposals to be considered within the context of the long term development of the Glen Road.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would give consideration to the various proposals for the area and options as to how the Council could assist in progressing these initiatives to ensure a partnership approach was adopted.

#### **Peace IV – Transform for Change Update**

(Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager, and Ms. K. McIvor, Building Positive Relations Project Manager, attended in connection with this item).

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an overview in respect of the Peace IV Programme which was a European Union (EU) funded programme that had been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region. The Programme was managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

She advised that the programme had two horizontal principles: Sustainable Development and Equal Opportunities. There was a strong focus on sustained, meaningful and purposeful cross-community work.

The Project Manager then advised that, under the theme of Building Positive Relations, which related to the Transform for Change project, the objective was “the promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialize together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.”

She explained that the aim of the Transform for Change Programme was to develop new, innovative and collaborative approaches to peace building, reconciliation and addressing prolonged social and economic disadvantages as a result of living in segregated communities in Belfast. It aimed to build the leadership skills of citizens, the political sector, public and statutory providers to work collectively at addressing issues of division, segregation, prejudice and hate that directly impacted on individual life opportunities and community cohesion. It was also about the changing the way services were delivered.

She advised that the project would create opportunities for meaningful dialogue and the development of strengthened voices across interfaces.

She advised that the Transform for Change project would focus on creating a new strategic model of cohesive working together on an area basis. As the community planning framework continued to emerge, the project would provide benefit to the wider community enabling leadership and transformation for change to improve outcomes at a local level.

She detailed the proposed targeted areas which were made up of 15 clusters across interfaces as follows:

1. Suffolk/Lenadoon;
2. Springfield Road;
3. Falls/Shankill;
4. The Village/Westlink;

5. Inner Ring;
6. Duncairn Gardens;
7. Limestone Road/Alexandra Park;
8. Lower Oldpark/Manor Street;
9. Crumlin Road/Ardoyne/Gkenbryn;
10. Ligoniel;
11. Whitewell Road/Longlands; and
12. Shortstrand/Inner East.

The Target Beneficiaries – 960 Participants

- Political: Policy Framers and Decision Makers;
- Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprises: Current and next generation leaders;
- Faith Based Organisations;
- Public Bodies and Agencies;
- Area and Regional Support Organisations; and
- Funders and Charitable Foundations.

The officers provided the Members with an overview of the Integrated Delivery model, timeline and engagement plans.

In response to a Member's question regarding the clusters, the officer confirmed that these were indicative areas but would need to be approved through the Shared City Partnership and she encouraged the Members to actively encourage participation in their constituency areas.

The officers explained that they hoped to engage 960 participants in the programme, to include 90 from the political sphere, 720 from the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise sector, 150 from public agencies as well as representatives from regional support organisations and charitable foundations.

During discussion, a Member stated that it would be useful for officers to engage with those who had been involved in similar programmes previously. The Project Manager explained that they would be building on previous work which had been carried out and would also be working with The Executive Office.

The Chairperson thanked the officers for the update provided.

### **Amazing Spaces Smart Places' Small Business Research Initiative**

(Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager, and Ms. D. Smyth, Safer City Assistant Manager, attended in connection with this item).

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the 'Amazing Spaces Smart Places', Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) challenge. £120,000 of funding for Small Medium Enterprises (including community and voluntary organisations) was awarded by the Department for Economy to a partnership between Department of Justice and Belfast City Council to explore the use of innovative digital technology and data-driven solutions to help manage parks and open spaces.**

## **2.0 Recommendations**

**Area Working Group Members are asked to note the update, in particular the assurance arrangements in place to manage potential privacy and data protection implications.**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **Key Issues**

**3.1 People and Communities Committee have been updated in recent months as part of the quarterly ASB Update on the progress of this initiative. Since the last update to Members, the challenge was officially launched, expressions of interest received and shortlisted.**

**3.2 The final selection panel involved range of Council Officers (Community Safety, Parks, Business Development and Smart Cities) as well as the Department of Justice, Department for Economy and the Strategic Investment Board. Dublin City Council have been in attendance throughout as through their own Smart Cities Team identified the similarities in the challenges Belfast and Dublin are experiencing. Dublin City Council also made a small financial contribution to the project to allow them to work with successful companies on testing in Dublin if appropriate.**

**3.3 Members should note however, the majority of testing and solution development will take place within Belfast.**

**3.4 A number of well attended information sessions were rolled out across the city and sixteen applications received & reviewed, including from SME's based in Belfast. As a result of the final selection process five awards have been made to SME's working in the following areas:**

**3.5**

**1. An Internet of Things (IoT) network anonymously logs presence of smartphones in the park. Analytics provided on a cloud-based platform to inform park managers of usage/resources and interventions needed.**

**3.6**

**2. A real time solution for the public and park managers detailing what is happening in parks and open spaces. Company plans to provide insights using a variety of data including Wi-Fi data. It will also test the use of QR codes on park signage to encourage greater engagement.**

**3.7**

**3. A dashboard with real time information for park users and managers on usage of facilities to support booking, allocation of resources and planning. The proposal builds on an existing pitch booking solution that collects data on 'organised' usage of facilities and will add data on 'ad hoc' usage. 'Ad hoc' data gathered via Wi-Fi probe devices or dongle and software will anonymously log when a device sends a Wi-Fi request.**

3.8

4. A solution that encourages 'civic' action to ensure parks and open spaces are well maintained. Individuals who earn 'Civic Dollars' as a reward for use of parks & reporting issues etc. Devices carried by individuals will connect to beacons that use Wi-Fi or IoT technology. Small, temporary beacons installed onto lampposts. Citizens who sign up will gain rewards via a social digital currency built on Blockchain.

3.9

5. A flexible low cost system located on street furniture that uses artificial intelligence and machine vision to provide real time alerts to relevant agencies when unusual activity is taking. This is not a human-operated CCTV system – rather it is a less-invasive rules-based system that will train itself to generate alerts based on unusual activity.

3.10 In the coming weeks Officers will support the successful SME's in engaging directly with community, residents and 'friends of' groups who have interests and/or are users of the parks/open spaces the technology will be developed to support.

A primary focus of the project is to discover how technology may innovate open space management and help address the challenges and impacts of anti-social behaviour as well as encouraging positive usage.

3.11 The technology will be developed with communities at a small number of parks and open spaces in North, South, East and West Belfast. The site list is being finalised but the following factors are being considered in the selection:

- Current priorities being managed within the department
- A site which maximises the potential return
- Community interest/ support
- ASB hotspots
- Geographical suitability
- Type of activity being targeted e.g. transient/ ASB or utilisation etc.

3.12 Each test will be completed in Phase 1 (end March 2019).

3.13 The objective of the Phase 1 funding is to determine the viability of the technological solutions proposed in achieving the project objectives of promoting safe and positive parks and open spaces.

3.14 An end of Phase 1 update will be brought to both People and Communities and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course.

Privacy Impact/Data Protection

- 3.15 Real and perceived concerns about any privacy/data protection impacts from the project were identified at the initiation stage and a full privacy/data protection screening exercise was completed.**
- 3.16 Additionally, an element of the essential criteria within the assessment process was that SME's making an application had to demonstrate how they would manage any privacy/data protection implications and put control measures in place.**
- 3.17 Council's Information Governance Unit (within Legal Services) are actively engaged in providing support to Officers and the successful SME's in ensuring ongoing and full compliance with legislation and Information Commissioner Officer Guidance.**

**3.18 Financial & Resource Implications**

The total available project budget is £120,000. The Department for Economy have provided £100,000 of this funding with Dublin City Council providing another £10,000. Given the potential for this work to have a positive impact on reducing anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces and encouraging positive use, City and Neighbourhood Services have contributed £10,000.

**3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

As mentioned in the main report, equality and privacy implications have been proactively managed & mitigated on an ongoing basis. This includes avoiding bias or stereotyping in the project. The equality and privacy impact screening process remains under review."

A number of Members raised concern regarding data protection implications in respect of collection personal data pertaining to youths.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised the Members that the development of any technology was in its early initial stages and advised that the majority of testing and solution development would take place within Belfast. She stated that the primary focus of the project would be to discover how technology could potentially innovate open space management and help to address the challenges and impacts of anti-social behaviour and added that the privacy impact of any new technology would be of paramount importance.

The Members reiterated their concern regarding the collection of data relating to young people and expressed concern that this might, in the long term, be shared with other statutory agencies.

In response to a number of Members' questions, she confirmed to the Working Group that no personal sensitive data would be collected as part of the initiative and she undertook to seek assurances around the sharing of information and data protection implications.

The Members noted the information which had been provided and that the report would be submitted to the People and Communities for further consideration.

**Cherry Wildlife Garden**

Following a request from a Member at a previous meeting of the Working Group, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services referred the Members to a report which



detailed proposals regarding the potential for a piece of land at Summer Hill Road, Twinbrook to become a 'wildlife garden'.

The Director provided an overview of the Council's existing site at this location which had transferred to the Council under Local Government Reform in 2014. To date, the Council had invested 83K in upgrading the entrance, pathways and the open green space. This had included drainage of the site and the planting of semi mature trees to screen the properties to the side of the site.

He advised that the site had experienced some levels of anti-social activity in the past but there had been no significant reports in this area recently.

The Director reported that the Council was currently in the process of acquiring the lands at Summer Hill Road at a cost of approximately £13,800. This would ensure that the site was maintained to the same standard as the Council owned land. The site was currently used for small-scale community/school events which were delivered by the outreach team for west Belfast. He stated that, physically, the site could accommodate a community garden or allotments but contamination surveys would be required to determine ground suitability which would incur additional costs. In addition, a boundary fence would be required to prevent dog access.

The Working Group was also asked to note that:

- site lines to the site would be very important for natural safety;
- there was no boundary fence and it would be difficult to secure the site as the connection between Twinbrook and the Areema area needed to remain open;
- the installation of lighting in the park would be required to improve safety;
- the Council would be required to install new signage and an information panel to maximise user awareness of the rich biodiversity in the area to residents visitors;
- the Council would be required to remove the security screen at the entrance and replace it with a similar railing which would complement the entrance to the Areema housing estate; and
- a motion was currently being considered regarding the installation of lights throughout a range of Council parks and open spaces and the associated affordability issues.

The Director reported that the total estimated cost for all the aforementioned elements was £126,790. This did not include any land surveys or other professional fees and charges. He advised that this project was not on the list of approved and agreed capital projects and was currently on a list of a much longer emerging projects with no capital finance available at present. Additionally, no budget was available with the City and Neighbourhood Services revenue budgets to support any of the identified works.

A Member detailed the need for this project to be progressed due to ongoing antisocial behaviour in the location. She stated that whilst she acknowledged that no funding currently was available she would welcome the opportunity for officers to investigate if other funding streams were available.

The Working Group agreed that officers would engage with external funders in an attempt to identify if any funding opportunities were available which would support the development of a community garden at this location.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

**“1. Introduction**

The Council’s Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, Social Outcome Fund (SOF), Peace IV and the projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

Members will be aware, through the recent round of Party Group briefings and through the SP&R report in November, that the key issue going forward for the physical programme is the overall affordability of the Programme with no agreed future allocations for LIF/BIF and a limited amount of capital financing to support the capital programme. Currently there is a ‘wish-list’ of over 50 potential capital programme proposals which have come forward through the AWGs/Party Group and there is no capacity to deliver these – both from a financial and resource perspective. In addition there is a growing list of community projects that are seeking support and there is no mechanism under which to fund these going forward. Members are therefore asked to consider this going forward – particularly in respect of any new project proposals – either under the capital programme or from Groups.

**2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report specifically –

- the updates on LIF attached (Appendix 1) and the progress on LIF projects - Paisley Park, Colin Valley FC and Lamh Dhearg GAC
- note the PEACEIV workshop event on Thursday, 31st January 2019

**3. Local Investment Fund**

To date 44 projects have received in principle support under LIF1 and LIF2. A summary of the status of the LIF projects is outlined below and a full progress report is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

Stage/ Description	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,567,500	12 (63%)	£850,788
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (5%)	£60,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			4 (21%)	£191,000

Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)			2 (11%)	£98,212
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>£1,567,500</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>£1,200,000</b>

**WLIF2-24 Paisley Park Sportsplex – The project went through Due Diligence on 20th December 2018, subject to conditions. Additional funding is required to provide a full funding package to deliver the project. Officers leading discussions with DfC in particular in the first instance; and Alpha Programme, to examine delivery timescales and options.**

**WLIF2-16 Colin Valley Football Club – The club have completed the quotation process and appointed a contractor. Construction is due to start in early 2019.**

**WLIF2-06 Lamh Dhearg GAC – Group have completed the procurement process and contractor has been appointed. Works on the extension of the existing changing and toilet facilities are well underway.**

4.

#### **Belfast Investment Fund**

**To date 6 projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under BIF. There are 4 projects on the longer BIF list.**

<b>West</b>	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£500k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment
-------------	--

**Below are the brief updates on the projects that have received in-principle funding.**

Project	Status and update
Davitts GAC	Project complete. Discussion with Officers and the group ongoing around the official launch. Council/ AWG to be kept updated. Monitoring exercise to be carried out.
Raidió Fáilte	Project complete. Discussion with Officers and the group ongoing around the official launch. Council/ AWG to be kept updated. Monitoring exercise to be carried out.
St Comgall's	The project is progressing well with enabling works phase substantially completed. The design process is at stage 4 (Technical Design) with listed building consent application submitted. Procurement of a main works contractor is ongoing, with the final stage of the tender process due to take place early 2019.

Colin Glen Trust	Masterplan projects include Alpine Toboggan, zipline, driving range improvements and 3G pitch dome. Contractors on site for pitch and golf elements from Sept 2018. Golf driving range due for completion by end of January and dome pitch by March 2019. DAERA application for zipline has now submitted.
Glencairn Community Project	Officers have meet EA representatives on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss the financial contributions towards the project. Number of issues to be resolved but work is ongoing to address these. Further update to be provided at February meeting. Ongoing engagement with the group.
Royal British Legion	Officer have meet the group representatives on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss the project moving forward. Project proposal now includes the purchase and refurbishment of the existing building. Ongoing engagement with the group.

## 5. Capital Programme

**The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Below is the status of the projects in West under the programme.**

Project	Status and update
Davitts GAC	Project complete. Discussion with Officers and the group ongoing around the official launch. Council/ AWG to be kept updated. Monitoring exercise to be carried out.
Raidió Fáilte	Project complete. Discussion with Officers and the group ongoing around the official launch. Council/ AWG to be kept updated. Monitoring exercise to be carried out.
St Comgall's	The project is progressing well with enabling works phase substantially completed. The design process is at stage 4 (Technical Design) with listed building consent application submitted. Procurement of a main works contractor is ongoing, with the final stage of the tender process due to take place early 2019.
Colin Glen Trust	Masterplan projects include Alpine Toboggan, zipline, driving range improvements and 3G pitch dome. Contractors on site for pitch and golf elements from Sept 2018. Golf driving range due for completion by end of January and dome pitch by March 2019. DAERA application for zipline has now submitted.
Glencairn Community Project	Officers have meet EA representatives on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss the financial contributions towards the project. Number of issues to be resolved but work is ongoing to address these. Further update to be provided at February meeting. Ongoing engagement with the group.
Royal British Legion	Officer have meet the group representatives on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss the project moving forward. Project proposal now includes the purchase and refurbishment of the existing building. Ongoing engagement with the group.

## 6. Social Outcome Fund

**To date projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under SOF. Below are the brief updates on the projects. Projects sponsors have been assigned to all these projects and are working with the groups**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
Rock Centre	Development of new tourism visitor centre. The purchase of the building has been made. Project was discussed at Due Diligence Board on 18 Oct 2018 and the Board sign-off the remaining funds for the completion of works. Tenders for enabling works + interpretative works will be scored by end of January 2019 with the view to progressing the project.
James Connolly Interpretative Centre	Development of a dedicated interactive exhibition, study area, library of Connolly's writing and tourist facilities. The project is currently on-site with the completion date planned for April 2019.
Belfast Orange Hall Museum	Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor. Project through Due Diligence on 20 Sept 2018. Funding agreement has been signed. Procurement of design team underway in advance of BCC delivery.
Shankill Mission	Development of a social economy training hotel. SOC and Business Plan presented to Due Diligence on 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018. The overall scheme cost around £7m and no other funding secured aside from BCC £750k. Group is exploring the Heritage Enterprise Fund (HLF), bank loans and private investments. Work progressing with group
Roddy McCorley Museum	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. Group pulling together business plan and relevant paperwork to take to Due Diligence on February 2019. Awaiting documentations from group.

**7.**

### **Externally- funded programmes**

#### **Urban Villages Initiatives**

**Members are asked to note that Letters of Offer from Urban Villages have been received, for the Council as delivery agent, for the following projects;**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
Colin Allotments & HLC Improvements Project	Contractor procurement stage. Due on site in Jan/ Feb 2019
Footprints Women's Centre	Contractor procurement stage. Due on site in Jan/ Feb 2019

**In addition to the above projects, Council Officers are working with the UV team to secure funding for the New Park at Colin project. The project business case has been finalised and is now with the Department of Finance.”**

Several Members referred to the lands at Beechmount and the legal opinion that had been circulated by the City Solicitor which had advised that it would be for the Council to determine what prospective use would best fit the current and future community needs.

Following discussion, it was agreed that, when the Council was progressing the project, the vision for the area that had been developed by Forbairt Feirste would be considered within the context of the overall development brief.

It was further agreed that officers would provide an update in respect of the Black's Path, Dunmurry at the next meeting.

### **Braidwater Homes**

(At this stage in proceedings Councillors Canavan, Carson, Garrett and Hutchinson left the meeting).

The Working Group was advised that Braidwater/Apex HA had recently acquired the Glenmona site which was the single largest plot of the ten identified sites in the Glen Road Development Framework. This site currently had outline planning consent for a mixed use development of residential units, community and culture, offices, light industrial, local retail, hotel, educational and care home. The Working Group noted that the BMAP key site requirement was for a 50:50 split between private and social housing.

Braidwater had contacted the Council to outline its initial ideas and approach to the development of housing and, in particular, to discuss how the development might link with the Council's Peace IV Connecting Open Spaces project. An early draft of the concept plan indicated that further discussions would be required with the Council, neighbouring landowners, the Department for Communities and Invest NI.

In the interim period, Braidwater had offered to arrange a site visit for Elected Members to its Skeoge development which was similar in size to that of the proposed Glenmona site.

The Working Group agreed that officers liaise with Braidwater to convene a site visit to its Skeoge development.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 28th February.

Chairperson