

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 28th January, 2019

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Boyle, Dudgeon and McAteer.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development
Lead Officer;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Ms. S. Grimes, Programme Office Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Chairing of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson (Councillor Craig), it was agreed that Councillor Dudgeon take the Chair.

(Councillor Dudgeon in the Chair)

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Craig.)

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd October were approved.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Amazing Spaces Smart Places Small Business Research Initiative

(Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/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 Recommendation

2.1 The Working Group is requested 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 The People and Communities Committee has received updates 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 a 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 has been in attendance throughout, as through its 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, that 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 and 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:

- 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;
- 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. 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;
 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 and 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; and
 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Each test will be completed in Phase 1 (end March 2019).

- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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

- 3.11 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.
- 3.12 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.
- 3.13 The Council's Information Governance Unit (within Legal Services) is 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.

3.14 Financial and Resource Implications

The total available project budget is £120,000. The Department for Economy has 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 has contributed £10,000.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report.

Peace IV: Building Positive Relations – Transform for Change

(Mrs. D. McKinney, Programme Manager, and Ms. K. McIvor, Building Positive Relations Project Manager, attended in connection with this item).

The Project Manager informed the Working Group that the PEACE IV Programme, which was managed by the Special European Union Programmes Body, was a European Union funded initiative which had been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region.

She drew the Members' attention to the Transform for Change element of the Building Positive Relations theme within the Programme and pointed out that it would seek to develop new, innovative and collaborative approaches to peace building, reconciliation and address prolonged social and economic disadvantages as a result of living in segregated communities in Belfast. It would seek also to build the leadership skills of citizens, policy makers and public and statutory providers to enable them to work collectively to address issues of division, segregation, prejudice and hate which impacted directly on individual life opportunities and community cohesion.

She highlighted the fact that there were currently many local neighbourhood plans being implemented individually across the City by communities, statutory agencies and the Council, which resulted in conflicting priorities and competition for limited resources. The Transform for Change initiative would, she indicated, focus upon creating a new strategic model of cohesive working together on an area basis and, as the community planning framework continued to emerge, would provide benefit to the wider community by improving outcomes at a local level.

The Project Manager explained that the 960 participants in the initiative would be drawn from policy framers/decision-makers, community, voluntary and social enterprises, faith-based organisations, public bodies and agencies, area and regional support organisations and funders and charitable foundations across the following interface clusters/neighbourhoods:

1. Crumlin Road/Ardoyne/Glenbryn;
2. Duncairn Gardens;
3. Falls/Shankill;
4. Inner Ring;
5. Ligoniel;
6. Limestone Road/Alexandra Park;
7. Lower Oldpark/Manor Street;
8. Short Strand/Inner East;
9. Springfield Road;
10. Suffolk/Lenadoon;
11. The Village/Westlink; and
12. Whitewell Road/Longlands.

She concluded by providing Members with details of the integrated delivery model, timeline and engagement plans associated with the Transform for Change initiative.

In response to a Member's query regarding the potential inclusion of the Belvoir and Taughmonagh areas, the Project Manager confirmed that this was an indicative list and that other would be considered.

The Chairperson thanked the Programme Manager and the Project Manager, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Physical Programme

The Programme Office Manager submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following 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) and the projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to:

- **note the contents of this report and the updates on LIF projects, details of which were circulated;**
- **note the Belfast South Community Resources completed project and the official opening of the Taughmonagh Health Business Centre;**
- **approve the request from SOLAS to use its additional £10k LIF funding towards the purchase of a vehicle;**
- **note the movement of two BIF projects, namely, Knockbreda Parish Hall and Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC to Stage 2- Uncommitted Projects;**
- **note that works at Pitches Programme - Ulidia Playing Fields have been completed; and**
- **note the update of the proposed Strangford Avenue Trim Trail**

3. Local Investment Fund

To date 24 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 has been circulated.

	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)

Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000	1 (9%)	£40,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

Members are asked to note the following LIF updates –

- **Belfast South Community Resources (SLIF11) – the building purchase and refurbishment of the BSRC centre has been completed;**
- **Taughmonagh Community Forum (SLIF064) – the new gym equipment for the Taughmonagh Healthy Business Centre has been completed and installed. The LIF funded project complements the new enterprise centre of the local community, which is funded by SIF. The Taughmonagh Community Forum will be holding an official opening on the project. AWG will be informed, once the date and time is confirmed; and**
- **SOLAS (SLIF2-04) – the AWG on 25th October, 2017, agreed to grant additional £10k to fund the installation of DDA access ramps to groups’ mobile units. However, the group have advised that they now wish to use this for the purchase of company vehicle for transporting children with disabilities to after-school and respite services, as per the letter dated 15th January 2019, a copy of which was circulated. The request was discussed at the Due Diligence Group on 17th January 2019. The DD Group recognised the merit of such request, confirmed that purchase of the vehicle is a capital project and referred the final decision to the AWG. AWG is asked to approve the SOLAS request to reallocate the additional £10k LIF funding for the purchase of a vehicle.**

4. Belfast Investment Fund

To date, 6 projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under BIF. There is 1 project on the BIF list that has no commitment.

South	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Gilpins— £1.3m Stage 1— <i>Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
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Balmoral DEA	Stage 1— <i>Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</i>
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Brief updates on the projects which have received in-principle funding are provided below:

Project	Status and update
Lagan Gateway	Project works on site has been stopped as the contractor went into administration. Procurement of new contractor ongoing and PQQ released.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been delayed due to legal proceedings regarding the adjacent development. Officer has looked at the feasibility for an alternative solution with a single access from the Lanyon side. However, MDA have made it clear that they are not willing to look at another option – has potential impact on the BIF and SIF funding. Awaiting decision on adjacent Planning Application before determining next steps.
Bredagh GAC	Officers have been working with the club to try to resolve an access issue to the left hand side of the site to allow construction. This issue is close to a resolution but the group are yet to sign the agreement. Council will then assist in appointing a design team.
Gilpins	Meetings took place with Department for Communities and community stakeholders. DfC to formally confirm commitment as Lead Partner. There is a requirement to fully scope out project in terms of community and political requirements for the scheme.
Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC *	See below
Knockbreda Parish Church Hall *	See below

* *Outer South projects*

Members are asked to note that the 2 BIF projects have been discussed at the Due Diligence at different occasions and are ready to move to the next stage under BIF. This will be

reported to the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Project	Update	Recommendation
BIF35 Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	Discussed at Due Diligence on the 24 th October 2018. Business Plan now completed. DD is content on the information provided for BIF Stage (Checkpoint 1) and the sign-off the project to proceed.	Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted Progressing to detailed design
BIF33 Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	BIF support to focus on Phase 1A of the sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FCs grass football with associated widen of adjacent road access and resurface of existing car park. Discussed at BIF Due Diligence on 6 th Sept 2018. Business Plan/ feasibility study provided. Awaiting further information from their consultants on land tenure/ ownership. DD content on the information provided for BIF Stage 1 (Checkpoint 1) and sign-off the project	Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted

5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Below are the updates on the projects under the programme in South Belfast.

Project	Status and update
Pitches Programme- Ulidia Playing Fields	Stage 3 – Committed. Project works complete. Handed over to City and Neighbourhood Services
LTP- Olympia	Stage 3 – Committed. Project completed
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2018/2019 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground Fullerton and Barnetts Playground – to be completed by March 2019
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

Strangford Avenue/ Playing Fields Trim Trail – The Working Group will note that, on 26th March 2018, it agreed to examine the feasibility of the development of cycle path/trim trail at

Strangford Playing Fields. This project has been added to the long ‘wish list’ of projects which were presented to Members at Party briefings and to the respective Committees, in the context of the Physical Programme challenges and implications. However, officers have now developed a high-level drawings/ plan and costings of the potential trim trail (1100m long x 2.0m wide). Members will note that the proposal/ estimate was produced as a desktop exercise and no survey or site investigation work was undertaken. Members are asked to note the update of this potential project.

6. Social Outcome Fund

To date, projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under SOF. Below are the brief updates on the projects.

Project	Status and update
Assembly Buildings Conference Centre (Transport Hub)	Exhibition and Genealogical Research Space – project is substantially complete. Launch event planned for 27 th March 2019.
Coffee Culture (Transport Hub)	Development of a social economy café designed to support investment in tourism infrastructure including the Transport Hub and Gilpins. Discussions ongoing with the Group. Urban Villages agreed to prioritise the business case which will be completed in March 2019.
Sandy Row Community Forum (Transport Hub)	Development of a Tourism Trail (with digital element) to complement the Transport Hub. The project was discussed at Due Diligence in May and September 2018 and number of issues raised that need to be resolved including the project concept, delivery on site and future maintenance arrangement. Project concept needed significant development. Ongoing engagement with group.

Presbyterian Church in Ireland ‘Assembly Buildings Exhibition’ (SOF03) – AWG is asked to note that the new exhibition space at Assembly Buildings Conference Centre is now substantially complete. The Group is planning to open it to the public once ready and an official launch event is scheduled for Wednesday, 27th March, 2019.

7. Externally- funded programmes

Social Investment Fund – The overall SIF programme has been significantly delayed however considerable progress on outstanding issues has been made recently and a number of projects are moving forward. An update on the status of SIF projects in South Belfast is provided below:

Project	Status and update
South City Resource and Development Centre (St. Simon's)	Project at design procurement stage. PQQ/ ITT to commence in January 2019 with the view of appointing the contractor by April 2019. Preparation for conveyancing is underway
Mornington Community Project	Design and survey work underway. PQQ/ ITT to be completed in 2019
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision—MDA have made it clear that they are not willing to look at another option—has implications for the BIF funding

Urban Villages - Members are asked to note that Letter of Offer has been received Sandy Row Play Park in the amount of £250,000. In addition, officers are continuing to work with Urban Villages on emerging projects.

Project	Status and update
Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Contractor procurement complete. On site in February 2019
Sandy Row Play Park	Contractor procurement complete. On site in February 2019

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the information contained within the report;
- ii. agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the £10,000 which had been allocated previously to SOLAS for the installation of access ramps be used instead to purchase a vehicle for transporting children with disabilities to after-school and respite services; and
- iii. agreed, in terms of the Strangford Avenue Playing Fields Trim Trail project, that:
 - a) the high level drawings and costings alluded to within the report be circulated to Members;
 - b) officers compile a list of alternative funding sources for capital projects for circulation to Members; and
 - c) a Council officer be assigned to work up a firm proposal.

Belfast Transport Hub – Wider Development

The Working Group agreed that its meeting in March should focus upon emerging proposals in the context of the Belfast Transport Hub/Weavers Cross developments and that officers should undertake a mapping exercise of new/planned projects to assist with discussions.

It agreed also that Translink should be contacted to determine if an evaluation had yet been undertaken around the socio and economic impacts of the Glider Service.

National Football Stadium

The Working Group was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd December, 2018, had agreed that the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association be invited to attend a future meeting of the Working Group to discuss concerns which had been raised by local residents in relation to the National Football Stadium.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager pointed out that he would be meeting with local residents' groups to gain a better understanding of their concerns and that those would be communicated to the Chief Executive in advance of him meeting with the Working Group.

Noted.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st May, 2018, it had received from representatives of DfI Rivers Agency and Atkins Global, project consultants, a presentation on the Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Working Group agreed to accede to a request from the representatives to attend a future meeting in order to provide an update on the scheme.

Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 18th February.

Chairperson