



## BRCDC Council Panel

<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCDC) Council Panel
<b>Date:</b>	12:30 pm, 27 January 2021
<b>Councillors in attendance:</b>	<p>Councillor Pete Byrne (Chair) – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council  Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council  Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council  Councillor Robert Adair – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council  Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council  Councillor Richard Smart – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council  Councillor Stephen Dunlop – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council  Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council  Councillor Ronan McLaughlin – Belfast City Council  Councillor Sorcha Eastwood – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council  Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council  Alderman Allan Ewart MBE – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council  Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council  Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council  Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council  Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council  Alderman Audrey Wales MBE – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council  Councillor Charlie Casey – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council  Councillor Robert Burgess – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p>
<b>Officers:</b>	<p>Marie Ward – Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council  Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council  Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards and North Down Borough Council  Suzanne Wylie – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council  David Burns – Chief Executive, Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council  Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council  Damien Martin – BRCDC Programme Director, Belfast City Council  Susie McCullough – Director Regeneration, Development and Planning, Ards and North Down Borough Council  Padraic Murphy – Programme Co-ordinator, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council  Ursula O’Loughlin – Head of Economic Development, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council  Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  Conor Mallon – Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  Jonathan McGilly, Assistant Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  Sarah Louise Taggart, Demographic Services Manager (Acting) , Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  Majella McAllister – Director of Economic Development and Planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council  Emer Husbands, Stephen Wallace, Ruth Rea, Theresa Slevin – BRCDC Programme Office</p>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
1.1	Cllr Pete Byrne welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Marie Ward, Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, outlined the key areas of focus for the meeting.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
2.1	Apologies were received from: Cllr Glenn Finlay (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) Alderman Mark Cosgrove (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) Councillor Willie Clarke (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
3.1	Cllr Byrne asked Councillors if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
4.1	Cllr Byrne asked if the Panel agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate reflection of the meeting. Cllr Casey proposed that the minutes from the last meeting were agreed. Seconded – Ald Brian Kingston. <b>Members agreed the minutes.</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Tourism and Regeneration Programme</b>
5.1	Cllr Pete Byrne introduced Stephen Reid, Chief Executive of Ards and North Down Borough Council, who chairs the Tourism and Regeneration Advisory Board, to deliver a presentation on the recommended Tourism and Regeneration (T&R) programme and its impact on the Region’s economy. Stephen Reid outlined the strategic narrative which makes the case for the T&R programme of investment and detailed the projects which following 18 months of intensive work, have been recommended for inclusion in Deal Document to support the long term recovery of our tourism industry and the sustainability of our town and city centres.  Cllr Byrne noted the exciting, stand out tourism products in this programme and the importance of the delivery of these projects, given the current economic climate.  Cllr Casey, expressed support for the programme and the proposed projects and welcomed the employment opportunities that will be delivered through both the construction and operational phases. Cllr Casey asked how long it would take to get to the construction and operational phases for the projects.

Stephen Reid explained that the Outline Business Cases (OBCs) will be submitted to the Departments in the coming weeks and following review and approval of expenditure and agreement of the Deal Documentation, money could start to flow to projects from the next financial year.

Cllr Adair also welcomed progress on the exciting projects which will deliver many new jobs, but he also expressed disappointment that Whitespots project was not included within the proposed programme.

Stephen Reid explained that unfortunately the Whitespots project did not align strongly enough with the BRCD objectives, however the project can still contribute tot Programme for Government Outcomes and the Council are pursuing other funding sources to deliver the Whitespots project.

Alderman Ashe queried what would happen if one of the Infrastructure projects does not progress and whether that money could be moved back to the T&R projects.

Cllr Byrne explained that given the early stage of development of the Infrastructure projects, there is not enough information to make a decision regarding these projects. Therefore the proposal is to allow the T&R projects which have developed OBCs to progress and allow time for the infrastructure projects to be developed further.

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council, noted that if a project fell, that money should be reinvested, but there is a need to ensure a balanced Deal and it is hoped that further funding sources can be secured to support the Infrastructure projects.

Alderman Kingston, noted his support for the OBCs to be progressed and asked for clarification around Point 5.3 in the report and the £100m of co-investment from Council Partners.

Damien Martin, BRCD Programme Director, clarified that this was an error in the report and should have read “with an additional £100m of co-investment from Council Partners”.

Cllr Gaston asked for confirmation that if the tourism and regeneration OBCs are approved that the tourism and regeneration projects will be prioritised and it will be an infrastructure project that drops if required.

Suzanne Wylie explained that the Infrastructure projects are more long term and until we have further detail and information from the OBCs, it is not possible to prioritise and it is hoped that further funding sources can be secured to support the Infrastructure projects, to enable all projects to progress.

Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council, further clarified that the proposal is for the seven T&R projects to be named in the Deal Documentation and Funding Agreement, with an agreed budget for each

	<p>project, to enable money to start to be released to develop and deliver these projects, which are core to the Deal and ensuring that there is a spread of benefits across the region.</p> <p>Cllr Byrne asked if the Panel agreed the Strategic Narrative and are content to note the proposed programme of investment and the next steps.</p> <p>Proposed – Cllr Robert Burgess  Seconded – Cllr Charlie Casey</p> <p><b>Members agreed the Strategic Narrative and noted the proposed programme of investment and the next steps.</b></p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>BRC D Programme Update</b></p>
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Members were provided with a paper providing an update in respect of work streams relating to progress in developing Outline and Programme Business Cases across each of the pillars of investment and on deal development.</p> <p>Damien Martin updated members on the progress made and some of the key issues that need to be resolved to enable timely progress in converting the important decision on the agreement in principle on a phased deal, into the agreement of the deal document and financial plan.</p> <p>It was noted that the Employability and Skills pillar is key to aligning the plans and resources of partners to deliver the skills that are needed for the new jobs that are being created into growth sectors and, this is even more important as job losses continue as a result of the pandemic. Strategic communications and engagement materials are being developed to build support for the programme, with an emphasis on how the deal will play a key role in recovery from Covid 19. Importantly the programme will seek to enable NI to leverage and access more of the major UK funds than have been announced in recent months,</p> <p>Cllr Byrne agreed on the value of seeking to maximise the return for the region following recent announcements from the Chancellor and potential Westminster funding.</p> <p>Cllr Byrne asked Members if they are content to note the programme update, including the update on progressing Outline Business Cases, Deal Development and Next Steps.</p> <p>Proposed - Cllr Casey  Seconded - Ald Kingston</p> <p><b>Members agreed to note the programme update, including the update on progressing Outline Business Cases, Deal Development and Next Steps.</b></p>

<b>7.0</b>	<b>Press Release</b>
7.1	<p>Cllr Byrne asked members if they were content to agree the draft press release circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed - Cllr Burgess</p> <p>Seconded - Ald Brett</p> <p><b>Members agreed the press release.</b></p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Schedule of Meetings</b>
8.1	<p>The next meeting would take place at 12.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and would be hosted by Ards and North Down Borough Council.</p>