

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th August, 2021

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson),
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson
Donnelly, Garrett, Hutchinson, McLaughlin
and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager;
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved – that Councillor Corr be elected to serve as Chairperson to the West Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Black, Heading McCabe and Verner.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th May were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

Presentations

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He confirmed that the Review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June,

and that there was a legislative requirement to publish an updated Belfast Agenda by April, 2022.

He advised that the aim was to build a society that values and takes care of people of all ages and to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential, and that this was Members and partners chance to influence the focus in the next four years.

A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place between January and March 2022.

He advised that co-design was a central principle which had been adopted to review the Belfast Agenda and by the end of March 2022, the Council wished to co-design an updated Belfast Agenda.

He provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the new 4-year priorities.

He described the 8 priority themes for 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He added that feedback had underlined the need for these themes to be cross-cutting.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which included actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the progress of the launch to date and planned engagement events of targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September.

The Director encouraged the Working Group to get involved and continue the Belfast Conversation and help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the survey was online at yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk and would be advertised via the Council's Social Media Channels and further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups. He also advised that hard copies of the survey were available at local libraries, community centres and leisure centres.

In response to a question as to how success would be measured, the Director advised that in refining the priorities, it would be important to understand what needed to be monitored. He added that a partnership existed with Queens University to assist with this work, particularly around area-based analysis. The Portfolio Manager confirmed that there was a commitment to publish the supporting Action Plans alongside the Belfast Agenda, which would provide further transparency and accountability.

A Member questioned when the next Statement of Progress would be published and asked if further detail could be provided in the future, in particular, a breakdown of the statistics provided to demonstrate the differences that were being made.

The Director advised that the next Statement of Progress would be produced alongside the Belfast Agenda refresh (November 2021- March 2022), and agreed that further work was needed to develop a supporting outcomes framework to measure success that would enable regular updates to be provided to Elected Members.

The Working Group noted the information provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpinned the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which adopted a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs;
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation, and welcomed the locality approach. He also underlined the importance of ongoing relationships between the ICS model and local Elected Members.

A Member commented on the positive partnership working that had been demonstrated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and emphasised the importance of having a strategic direction when setting up new partnerships, with the needs, actions and outcomes clearly articulated. The Co-Director agreed that a framework was important so as to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

Request to Present - The Roddy McCorley Historical Society

The Working Group agreed to receive a presentation from the Roddy McCorley Historical Society at the next meeting of the West Belfast Area Working Group. It was noted that the Lagmore Youth Project would also be delivering a presentation at the meeting.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work within the City and Neighbourhoods Department which, if agreed, would form the focus of the West Belfast Area Working Group in the months ahead.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing in a bid to transform and green alleyways, and that an update would be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and then to the Area Working Groups in order to refine and agree the list of priorities.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would continue to be funded by the European Commission, however, the content of the programme was yet to be agreed with SEUPB. She explained the proposal that localised action plans would be co-designed with communities, with a view to the Area Working Groups refining the range of interventions, which could include youth development programmes, health and well-being, community regeneration projects, initiatives to build positive relations and social innovation. She confirmed that timeframes were still to be confirmed but it was envisioned that submission of the Plans would be between March and June 2022.

A Member welcomed the Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot in light of previous discussions about the number of large scale housing developments under construction where plans existed to include community facilities within them, but no strategies were in place for how this would be managed.

Another Member raised concerns that just one group would be chosen in each area of the city given the need in West Belfast, and asked that a group from the Shankill area be included in the list provided to the Area Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the updates provided and welcomed further information at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Physical Programmes Update

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams, including the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Social Outcome Fund (SOF), Capital Programme, and externally funded programmes.

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

He explained that since the last meeting, a number of projects had been completed, and provided an update as follows:

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
WLIF2-10	St James Community Forum	£115,000	Recently completed	Project recently completed in May 2021. Project has received extremely positive media and local support. Final account currently being completed.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought in the next AWG meeting.
WLIF2-28	Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street	£65,000	Recently completed	Building upgrades project recently completed. Link to SOF project.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-25	Woodvale Cricket Club -	£33,000	Complete	Upgrade to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-26	St. Matthew's Parish Church Hall	£35,000	Complete	Building upgrades. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-27	West Belfast Orange Hall -	£17,000	Complete	Building upgrades. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-30	St. John GAC	£17,000	Complete	Project complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£65,085	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing. Estimated project completion date by end of August 2021.	Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.
WLIF2-04	St John Bosco Boxing Club	£40,000	Due Diligence	BCC delivery to be formalised with Sport NI and subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between parties. Planning permission in place. Still awaiting Sport NI info. Project need to be sign off at the next Due Diligence.	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Project Manager drew attention to the Colin Glen Trust project which was nearing completion and had been successfully received. A further update was provided in relation to the following projects:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF10	St Comgall's	£3,500,000	On Ground	Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF30	Colin Glen Trust	£2,500,000	On Ground	Project is now largely complete apart from long zipline which is due to complete in August. Toboggan, short zipline, land train, car park and ticket office are now fully operational and site is already experiencing strong visitor numbers. In all, additional funding in excess of £2.5m was levered in to add to Council's original £2.5m investment. Formal launch will be organised for September 2021.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,00	Uncommitted; Due Diligence stage	Project to be match funded by Education Authority (£500k). Discussed at Due Diligence issues around sustainability. Meeting with Shankill Councillors, Group and EA to develop an options paper with a view to moving the project forward.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF29	Greater Shankill Community Council - Royal British Legion	£300,000	Uncommitted; Design stage	Project moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted in March 2021. Project progressing to detailed design. Integrated Design Team appointed to prepare tender documents. Building survey undertaken.	Continue engagement with the group. Project Delivery Team established first meeting week commencing 23 August 2021.

Capital Programme

The current status of the live projects for West Belfast was summarised as follows:

Project	Status and update
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery	Project recently completed. Link to the City Cemetery - National Lottery Heritage Fund project (as per below).
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF)	Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard is underway and should be complete by Oct/Nov 2020. It is hoped work will comment on the visitor centre in November and will be completed in Aug/Sept 2021. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps, Victorian Fountains and Mortuary Tower is well underway.
Playground Improvement Programme 2020/21 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds recently completed.

Externally Funded Programme

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast:

Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin)	Ongoing issues with the contractor has impacted project delivery dates. Officers, in conjunction with Legal Services and Urban Villages, are considering future options in relation to the contractor, following which next steps will be identified. Regular communication with the local community remains ongoing and regular meetings are being arranged to update on the current position. Members will be kept up to date with progress.
Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community (PCA)	Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.

Colin Glen Trust	Draft Business Case prepared, UV awaiting response from Group regarding funding deficit.
Colin Valley Football Club	Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.

Social Investment Fund

The Project Manager confirmed that works were progressing well at the St. Comgall's site, and drew attention to the update provided within the report:

Project	Status and update
St. Comgall's	Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022. Link to BIF project – see above update.

PEACE IV

The following update on the Peace IV capital projects was provided:

Project	Status and update
Springfield Dam & Park	The project was completed and opened to the public in December 2020 This work was part of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.
Forth Meadow Community	Planning approvals for remaining sections of the scheme with planners for approval. Letter of Offers from DfI (£750k) and DfC received (£500k). Contractor on site at Section 1. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	Design underway. Revised SEUPB LoO for Phase 1 received and IFI LoO (£500k) received for Phase 2 (extension rec'd). Discussions ongoing with DfC and DoJ to bridge gap left by SEUPB for the proposed Phase 2 works. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.
Shankill Women's Centre	Design underway. PQQ documentation for contractor appointment issued. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.

Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in West Belfast:

Project	Status and update
Playground Improvements Programme	Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds completed
Grosvenor 3G pitch carpet replacement	Project completed
Grosvenor Centre playpark	Project completed
Willowbank Changing pavilion	Project completed
Old Golf Course Road— remedial works	Project completed
Restoration works at City Cemetery	Project completed
Colin Glen Trust (multiyear)	Project completed
St James Community Forum	Project recently completed. Link to LIF project
Berlin Swifts Football Club	Project on ground. Link to LIF project
Páirc Nua Chollann	Project on ground. Link to UV project (update above)
Forth Meadow Community Greenway	Project on ground. Link to PeaceIV project (update above)
Paisley Park – Phase 2	Project at initial stage

In response to a query as to an official launch date of the Colin Glen Trust project, and involvement of the Lord Mayor, the Project Manager undertook to seek an update from the relevant officers.

The Working Group noted the physical programmes update as provided, alongside the photos of recently completed or underway projects.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted the date of the next scheduled meeting, Thursday, 25th November, 2021.

Chairperson