

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 6th September, 2021

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Groogan,
T. Kelly, Lyons, McAteer, McKeown and Spratt.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager
(South);
Ms. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Groogan be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2022.

(Councillor Groogan in the Chair.)

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th May were approved, subject to the Declaration of Interest which had been made by Councillor Gormley being amended to reflect that he was not a Council appointee to LORAG.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gormley declared an interest in relation to the report on the Physical Programme, on the basis that he was a Director of LORAG, which had secured LIF funding for the John Murray Lockhouse project (SLIF2-13).

However, as the report was merely providing an update on LIF projects generally, he was not required to leave the meeting whilst it was being presented.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in relation to the presentation by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust representative on the proposed Integrated Care System consultation, on the basis that he was employed by the Public Health Agency, and took no part in the discussion.

Presentations

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

(Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Community Planning Officer reminded the Working Group that the Council had, in 2017, published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. The plan set out the long-term ambitions for the City's future, as well as outlining the key priorities for action over the subsequent four years. A statement of progress, covering the first two years of the plan, had been published in 2019.

He reported that a review of the Belfast Agenda had been launched in June, 2021 and that activities had, to date, included a press release, informal drop-in information sessions, the distribution of surveys through libraries, community centres and leisure centres, an online survey and engagement with various stakeholders.

He outlined the various steps in the review process, which would, in February/March 2022, lead to a consultation process being initiated on the new draft plan. An updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document would then be formulated, which would include a long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators, as a measure of success, and new four-year priorities. The new plan would be underpinned by Delivery Action Plans, which would identify specific actions to deliver the four-year priorities and would focus upon, for example, partnership activity providing collaborative gain, contributing to the Belfast Agenda outcomes/delivering wellbeing for Belfast residents and including 'area specific' elements, with a view to making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Community Planning Officer then provided the Working Group with a brief overview of the vision and outcomes for Belfast to 2035 and pointed out that the following eight priority themes were being proposed for the period from 2022 – 2026:

- Economic Recovery;
- Employability and Skills;
- Educational Attainment;
- Housing;
- Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration;
- Health Inequalities;
- Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and
- Active and Sustainable Travel.

Four cross-cutting themes were also being proposed, namely, Children and Young People, Good Relations and Shared Future, Inclusive Growth and Older People.

He concluded by stressing that Elected Members would have a key role to play in shaping the City's future and outlined the various ways in which they could become involved in the review process.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. C. Stoops, Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, who was in attendance to provide an overview of the proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System, in the context of the Department of Health's consultation, which was due to end on 17th September.

Mrs. Stoops began by explaining that an Integrated Care System was defined as being “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.”

She informed the Working Group that the review in 2015 of commissioning arrangements had found the current system to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability in decision making and she referred to the decision to close the Health and Social Care Board in March 2022 as being the first step in a longer-term transformation. Local Commissioning Groups would also cease to exist.

It was then pointed out that the Minister of Health had granted approval to undertake a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System model in Northern Ireland, which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding, with the exception of specialised services (which would be planned, managed and delivered regionally) and would support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

She drew the Members' attention to the principles and values which would underpin the emerging framework and pointed out that the four-tiered model being proposed would adopt a population health needs approach, which would be informed by local intelligence and be structured as follows:

- A Regional Group – providing oversight, co-ordination and support for the wider model be responsible for the associated governance and accountability functions and the co-ordination of the planning and delivery of regional and specialised services;
- Five Area Integrated Partnership Boards (one per Health and Social Care Trust area) – having overall responsibility for strategic area planning and local delivery to meet local population needs and be guided by a regional strategic outcome framework;
- Locality Groups – covering GP Federations and Integrated Care Partnership areas and aligning with other relevant areas, such as local councils, where possible, and working to deliver interventions and programmes in each locality, as agreed by the Area Integrated Partnership Boards; and
- Community Groups – focusing on individual towns/local districts, GP practices/Multi-Disciplinary Teams (where established) and

community pharmacies, with the potential to align with existing areas such as District Electoral Areas, where possible and appropriate. The exact size and number of communities in each area will be determined by the Area Integrated Partnership Board.

Mrs. Stoops went on to state that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust would be developing a response to the Department of Health's consultation and stressed the importance of ensuring that it reflected the views of its wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, she sought the opinion of Members and pointed out that, following the conclusion of the consultation, it was envisaged that the Integrated Care System model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, and be reviewed and refreshed, as necessary, thereafter.

During discussion, a Member welcomed the community planning element within the proposed model and the engagement which had been undertaken with the voluntary and community sectors. The point was made that the Covid-19 pandemic had demonstrated that communities were heavily reliant on health and social care workers and that it was essential to ensure that the emphasis being placed within the model on valuing staff should be fully reflected in future pay awards. It was also suggested that there should be Council representation on any steering groups being established to progress the model.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Stoops for her presentation and she, in turn, thanked the Members for their comments.

The Working Group noted the presentation and noted also that a draft Council response to the Department of Health consultation would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities for consideration and reflect the views which had been expressed across the four Area Working Groups.

Freshers Week 2021

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the work which had been undertaken by the Council in the Holylands and surrounding area, in preparation for the arrival of students. He referred to information sharing protocols having been reviewed, an increase in street cleansing provision, the ongoing monitoring of Covid-19 regulations and the continuing engagement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the universities and other agencies.

He then went on to outline the resources which the Council had put in place specifically for the freshers' period. He explained that its Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Alcohol Enforcement Officers and South Belfast Anti-Social Behaviours Officers would be highly visible in the area and the Daytime and Night-time Noise services would be operating as normal. Officers from the Building Control and Environmental Health Services would be working with the PSNI's Licensing Officer to monitor licensed premises in the area. Parks Wardens would also be monitoring parks for any build-up of crowds and linking in with officers in the Holylands area. Finally, the Council's social media channels would be used to publicise and provide contact details for all of these services.

The Chairman then welcomed to the meeting Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, together with Mr. D. Morrow and Mr. A. Stewart, representing the Ulster University and Queen's University, respectively.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick informed the Working Group that the Police Service was working closely with the Council, the universities and other partners in the run up to the opening of the universities. He explained that the Police Service's operation would run from 12th till 26th September, with one shift operating from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and another partly overlapping shift operating from 5 p.m. till 3 a.m. A minimum of sixteen officers would be involved each day and evidence gathering teams would also be utilised, along with a public order company, if required.

In response to an issue which had been raised by a Member, Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick confirmed that the deployment of additional officers to the Holylands area for two weeks in September would have a corresponding impact upon neighbourhood policing capacity in other parts of South Belfast.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager added that the Council would be monitoring the situation in the Holylands closely over the same period and would either deploy additional staff or direct them elsewhere, depending upon operational requirements.

Queen's University

Mr. Stewart explained that Queen's University had, over the summer months, been liaising with its partners in preparation for the new university term. He pointed out that, whilst the University had not, in recent years, organised a Freshers' Week, it was accepted that there was still the potential for issues to arise. It had, therefore, reviewed the information which it would be sending out to students and each school/faculty would be delivering an induction talk to make students aware of their responsibilities towards the local community. A dedicated officer would be in place to monitor the Holylands and surrounding area and additional staff would be allocated, if required.

University of Ulster

Mr. Morrow confirmed that the University of Ulster had also been working with partner organisations in advance of students returning to or entering university for the first time. He pointed out that, whilst the University would be holding a Freshers' Week, none of the planned activities would be taking place in South Belfast. Nevertheless, staff would be deployed to identify and address any issues which might arise in and around the Holylands area and a complaint management system was in place. Individual and collective messaging would also play an important role.

He concluded by pointing out that he, together with Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick and Mr. Stewart, had, earlier that day, met with the Minister for Communities to discuss the adoption of a more sustained approach for dealing with longstanding issues in the Holylands area and that the Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services had also attended.

In response to a query from a Member, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart each confirmed that the high level of suspensions in the previous year had been due primarily to breaches of the Covid-19 guidelines. They pointed out that, whilst the structures were still in place, it would be more difficult to gather evidence this year and, therefore, their respective universities would not be suspending students at the same rate.

Mr. Stewart then addressed a point which had been raised by that Member around purpose built and privately rented accommodation and stated that an analysis of the factors which had influenced student decisions in choosing one over the other would be undertaken in due course.

Mr. Morrow also addressed issues which had been raised in relation to the personal safety of students, high crime rates and sub-standard accommodation by stating that the universities provided information on mental health support and crime prevention and encouraged students to report any problems with their landlords/accommodation. He also highlighted the fact that a house with three or less tenants was classified as a flat and was not covered by HMO legislation or other formal legislative framework. There was evidence that there were a significant number of flats in the Holylands area, which created difficulties and concerns for tenants, local residents, the universities and other agencies.

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick added that the Police Service had produced a number of short educational videos on anti-social behaviour, student safety, crime prevention and alcohol and drug abuse, which had been shared with the universities. Officers in the area were also available to provide direct advice, if required.

A Member highlighted the need to move beyond behavioural management towards long-term solutions and welcomed the inter-agency work which was being undertaken at various levels. He then referred to the success of an initiative which had been undertaken by the Council's HMO Unit to force landlords to remove graffiti from their properties, under the terms of the standard licensing conditions. He suggested that the HMO Unit be requested to provide clarification on whether a programme of inspections existed or could be established to deal with other issues, such as the quality of the accommodation, the maintenance of gardens, walls etc., which was also covered under the standard licensing conditions.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart for their contribution.

The Working Group noted the presentations and noted also that the Neighbourhood Services Manager:

- i. would forward to Members details of the Council's operation over the Freshers' period, including the contact details for those officers from the various Council teams and the Police Service of Northern Ireland who would be leading their respective operations in the Holylands area;
- ii. would circulate to Members the contact details of those officers within the Council dealing with HMO's and private rented properties to enable them to forward on any referrals;
- iii. would bring to the attention of the HMO Unit the issue which had been raised by a Member around the potential for using the standard licensing conditions on HMO licences to deliver further improvement initiatives; and

- iv. would circulate in advance of the next meeting an update on the discussions which had taken place earlier that day with the Minister for Communities.

Request for Additional Enforcement Powers –
Response from DAERA Minister

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 25th March, it had been provided with an update on the Wider University and Lower Ormeau ILAB process, which had commenced in November, 2020. It had agreed, given the potential difficulties which residents of the Botanic District Electoral Area would be likely to experience once the Covid-19 night time economy restrictions were lifted and beyond, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Justice requesting that the Council be given additional enforcement powers around the seizure of alcohol and noise control.

The Working Group, at its meeting on 25th May, had noted the response from the Minister and had agreed that a letter then be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, highlighting the need for the powers contained within the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 relating to noise control to be strengthened.

It was reported that the Minister, within his response, had pointed out that there were a range of powers available to councils to assist them in addressing concerns around noise nuisance, including fixed penalty notices, abatement notices, seizure of noise-making equipment and prosecution. Those powers were contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and its extension of The Noise Act 1996 to Northern Ireland.

The Minister had explained that Articles 63 and 65 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provided councils with the power to deal with noise from premises, including land, which they considered to be prejudicial to health or amount to a statutory nuisance. These powers applied not only to existing noise, but also in instances where noise was expected to occur or reoccur. Where a council was satisfied that a statutory nuisance existed, Articles 63 and 65 required it to serve an abatement notice. That notice may require the noise to be stopped altogether or limited to certain times of the day and must be served on the person responsible for the noise or, if this person cannot be located, the owner or occupier of the premises. A person on whom an abatement notice was served had the right to appeal it within 21 days of being served.

The Minister had gone on to point out that the Noise Act 1996 allowed council officers to issue warning and fixed penalty notices and, in certain circumstances, to seize noisemaking equipment from premises emitting noise between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. These powers applied to premises such as dwellings, those with an exhibition or entertainments licence, premises with a licence to sell intoxicating liquor (including an occasional licence) or where meals or refreshments were supplied for consumption on or off the premises, or premises occupied by a registered club. Details of these powers were outlined in the guidance document The Noise Act 1996 – Guidance to District Councils, which had been produced to inform councils of amendments made to the Noise Act 1996 by the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

The Minister had made the point that it was DAERA's view that increasing education on noise prevention was one way of tackling the problem and avoiding costly

enforcement action and that he was keen for councils to continue their efforts to raise noise issues on local agendas. Officials were aware of the good working relationship which existed between the Council and Queens University in addressing noise issues within certain parts of the City and he supported the efforts of all those involved.

He had then referred to the fact that DAERA officials also produced an annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report, which outlined the numbers of complaints, source of noise, action taken and the numbers of complaints which proceeded to prosecution. Whilst he acknowledged the importance of resolving noise-related issues informally and without action, the level of prosecutions was low. This could be a result of the positive work of Council officers in resolving issues amicably or that prosecutions were unwarranted in the vast majority of cases. He urged Council officers to make full use of these powers and other councils, who had not yet adopted the Noise Act 1996 legislation, to consider doing so to assist in dealing with night-noise complaints.

The Minister had concluded by stating that he understood that his officials had been involved in the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group and that Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on business priorities within his Department. At present, the Department felt that appropriate powers were currently in place and, therefore, had no plans to revise the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment legislation. His officials would, however, keep the Council's request in mind and were happy to revisit the issue at a future date.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the response from the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;
- ii. noted that the Neighbourhood Services Manager would work with the Director of City Services and the City Protection Manager to examine ways in which the Council could increase the effectiveness of the enforcement powers available to it;
- iii. noted that officers would seek clarification from the Department Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on whether the figures contained within the annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report for all of Belfast could be provided at a local level; and
- iv. noted that it would receive regular updates on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

Alleyway Transformation Programme

The Neighbourhood Services Manager informed the Members that the Minister for Infrastructure had, in December 2020, written to the eleven councils advising them that funding would be made available through the Blue/Green Infrastructure fund to deliver alleyway transformation initiatives across the eleven council areas.

He explained that a report would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities Committee, seeking approval to proceed initially with a pilot

transformation programme, which would involve each of the four Area Working Groups ultimately selecting two locations for inclusion. The learning derived from that initiative would assist in the development of a larger alleyway transformation programme and all eleven councils could then apply for a share of the £1-2 million fund which the Department for Infrastructure was making available.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting providing an update on the delivery of the next phase of the Council's alleygating scheme, including a proposed timeframe.

Peace Plus Programme

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Members that, whilst the European Union had committed funding to the Peace Plus Programme, the programme content and delivery process had yet to be agreed.

She explained that Theme 1.1 - Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities would be the theme most applicable to councils, although the level of funding available for each council had still to be finalised. Action Plans would be implemented through models, based on local community planning processes, and would focus on a co-design approach with local communities and be centred around the core themes of Community Regeneration and Transformation, Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture, Diversity and Inclusion. She reviewed the range of interventions which would be delivered under each of those themes and stated that it was anticipated that Local Action Plans would be developed and submitted to the Special European Union Programmes Body for consideration between March and June, 22.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Capacity Building

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Working Group that officers were planning to test a new approach for providing support for those communities across the City where infrastructure was deemed to be weak. It was proposed that a mapping exercise be undertaken initially to determine the number of areas which required support. Each Area Working Group would then be presented with the findings for their specific area and be requested to select one pilot area to proceed to targeted intervention.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Future Presentations

The Working Group agreed, at the request of a Member, to invite representatives of the Lagan Navigation Trust to attend a future meeting to discuss the Lagan Gateway Project and future plans.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes 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, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme Photos of the recent project activities are attached . When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to note the physical programme update for South Belfast.

3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)

Members are reminded LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received 'In Principle' letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 1 project at delivery stage, 1 at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

LIF breakdown – South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
	No. Projects	Amount (£)	No. Projects	Amount/ (£)
<i>Stage/ Description:</i>				
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery			1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (9%)	£40,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects – Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000) and John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000). Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
SLIF2-07	Holylands Area Improvement Initiative	£80,000	On Ground	A contractor has been appointed to undertake these works but was unable to source trees to plant within the growing season due to BREXIT. The trees will be planted in late October 2021. Community group (QUBA) is aware of the project status and proposed way forward.	Continue engagement with the group and partners
SLIF2-13	LORAG - John Murray Lockhouse	£40,000	Design stage	LIF funding will contribute to the development of the community garden. Project through DD and funding agreement has been completed. Project is linked to Urban Villages programme. Group is expecting the UV business case approval and wish to submit the planning application together, with the overall development of the John Murray Lock House. Business case has been approved 11/8/2021 and LoO awaited.	Continued engagement with the group.
SLIF017	Finaghy Bridge	£30,000	Initial stage	Technical feasibility report completed. Number of options identified. Report currently being considered by DFI Roads.	Further engagement with Dfi Roads on potential funding and selection of a preferred project option. Once project scope is confirmed further engagement with group and community will take place and the LIF process can commence.

4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

South	<p>Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k</p> <p>Stage 1— Café Culture, Sandy Row Open Space project and BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts & Digital Hub) [Sandy Row area projects, formerly Gilpins]— £1.35m</p> <p><i>Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i></p>
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Balmoral DEA	<p>Stage 3 - Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</p> <p><i>Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k</i></p>
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BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
BIF35	Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	£250k	Complete	Project recently completed	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
BIF04	Lagan Gateway	£2.1m	On ground	Project is on site. Due to be completed by September 2021. Ongoing discussion with CNS regarding handover and operation of the lock.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF19	Bredagh GAC	£700k	Design stage	Project through Due Diligence. Tender for contractor resulted in prices that were significantly outside available budget. Following engagement with the group it was agreed to investigate the potential for a refurbishment of the existing building rather	Continue engagement with the group.

				than a complete redevelopment. Design team currently investigating feasibility of refurbishment.	
BIF07	Lanyon Tunnels	£1.3m	Stage 3- Committed	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). SIF programme expired and ongoing discussions with DfC and TEO regarding match funding. As Planning has expired in May 2021 and plans have been amended new planning application will be submitted in autumn 2021.	Officer engagement with TEO as key funder, and key stakeholders.
BIF33	Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	£250k	Stage 3- Committed	BIF funding to progress Phase 1A of larger sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FC's grass football pitch with associated widening of adjacent road access and resurfacing of existing carpark. Planning consent for wider development agreed early 2020. Project promoter working with NIHE on required tenure related elements of project development as well as required governance arrangements.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF46	Café Culture -	£1.35m - total allocation for the Sandy Area projects (formerly Gilpins)	Stage 1- Emerging	Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF (see below).	Continue engagement with the group.

				Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins).</i>	
BIF47	Sandy Row Open Space project		Stage 1- Emerging	Work is continuing on the development of a pop-up park with space for sensory play. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins)</i>	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF48	BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts & Digital Hub)		Stage 1- Emerging	Project approved in October 2020. Business Case progressing and approval anticipated by October 2021. Link to UV project. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins).</i>	Continue engagement with the group.

Lagan Gateway – Members will recall that on 25th March 2021, the AWG received a detailed update on the Lagan Gateway, including the outlined naming process of the bridge element of the project. Members will be provided with an update on the naming process at the meeting with an update also being brought to the People and Communities Committee on 7th September.

5. Social Outcome Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 3 projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table below.

SOF – South Belfast projects overview

Project	SOF Award	Status and update	Recommendation/ Proposed Action
SOF02 Coffee Culture <i>NB - UV partnership project (£402k)</i>	£100,000	Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.

		Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k.	
SOF04 Sandy Row Community Forum	£80,000	Development of a Tourism Trail to complement the Transport Hub. Due Diligence complete. The project concept has been developed and costed. Belfast South Community Resources have signed off the project concept. Council will act as delivery agent for the project and will assist in the maintenance of signage as part of the council-wide upkeep of tourism signage. The project is expected on site in October 2021, with supply chain issues causing some delays.	Continue engagement with the group

6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. The table below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note status and update.

South Belfast – Capital Programme Overview

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed
Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Ormeau Park playground to be completed in December 2021
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 1 –Emerging. Consultation stage

7. Externally Funded Programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration Directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

Social Investment Fund

Table below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials in relations to these projects.

SIF – South Belfast Projects Overview

Project	Status and update
Mornington Community Project	An initial project meeting was held on 25 May 2021. Contractor on site and work progressing
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO

Urban Villages Initiative

The table below provides a status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets).

UV – South Belfast Projects Overview

Project	Status and update
Coffee Culture <i>NB Linked to BCC SOF/ BIF</i>	Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. The Council is presently considering options around building purchase. Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k.
John Murray Lock House—wider development	Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. Project funding includes UV £997k and LIF £40k
Arts and Digital Hub (formerly Wee Ruby's Live, Work Studios)	Council acting as delivery agent. Synergies with BIF Exam Centre. Business Case progressing and approval anticipated by October 2021.
School of Music Redevelopment	Emerging project.

Members are also invited to view the UV Capital area video links from Executive Office on South Belfast UV area: [Summary aerial film across all five UV areas](#) and [South Belfast Urban Village Capital Aerial film](#)

DfC Funded Projects

Provided below is the status update on projects funded by the Department for Communities:

Project	Status and update
Belfast Islamic Centre - Renovations of Aldersgate House, University Rd	BCC is the delivery agent for this project. Working in conjunction with BIC and DfC the project has progressed to tender. Unfortunately, the project has not proceeded to award as there are governance issues that are required to be resolved between BIC and DfC. All parties are however committed to the project and funds are in place to undertake the project."

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to note the report.

Chairperson