

# Community Planning Working Group

Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022

## COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Verner and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy  
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager  
Ms. C. Patterson, Inclusive Growth-Policy & Programme Officer  
Ms. C. Sullivan, Strategic Planning & Policy Officer  
Mr. G. Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

### Election of Chairperson

The Working Group agreed that Councillor O'Hara take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

### Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Hutchinson.

### Minutes

As this was the first formal meeting of the Working Group, there were no minutes for approval.

### Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Presentations

#### Refresh of Belfast Agenda – Action Planning Update

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy presented Members with an overview of the refresh of the Belfast Agenda including a recap of the city stakeholder engagement and co-design approach that has been adopted to date. A copy of the All-Party Community Planning presentation was circulated in advance for Members'

consideration. He informed Members that an Economic Strategy was being created alongside the Belfast Agenda.

The Community Planning Officer provided details around the outcomes of participant discussions and how these had shaped the revised plans. He highlighted that Economic Recovery had been refocused as Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and City Development had been included as an additional priority area. He then provided an overview of community priorities and details of the action planning process to date.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy outlined the commitments and milestones and the link between the strategy document and delivery plans. He advised the Members that an easy-read version of the strategy would be available, as well as a 4-year action plan document. A Draft for Consultation would be considered at the next Community Planning Partnership meeting. He added that leadership commitment to jointly resource the initiative from across the partner organisations would be needed to ensure delivery of ensuing actions.

The Portfolio Manager provided an outline of the following 9 themes along with the priorities, strategic intent and stretch goals contained within the emerging draft framework. He reported that, to date, there had been a good level of true partnership working and commitment to co-design.

1. Climate, Resilience and Sustainability
2. Sustainable Transport and Active Travel
3. Housing-Led Regeneration
4. Health Inequalities
5. City Development
6. Educational Inequalities
7. Employability and Skills
8. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth
9. Community and Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Portfolio Manager advised the Members that the 9 pillars were being looked at with a dual thematic and cross-cutting lens. The action plans in development would map intervention of the 9 priorities and the following 4 cross-cutting priorities:-

1. Inclusive Growth
2. Children and Young People
3. Older People
4. Good Relations and Shared Future

The Community Planning Officer provided an example of what was being sought by co-design in terms of strategic intent by April 2022. He added that the 51 population indicators, which measured the long-term success of community planning, were also under review.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy referred to a timeline of milestones and noted draft plans would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources and Community Planning partners for collective feedback by mid-April which would be followed by citywide remote and face-to-face events to co-design Delivery Plans.

## Action Planning Framework Discussion

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy invited Members' comments. Councillor Verner specified the need for children and young people to be a vital cross-cutting priority and for more prominence to be given to future proofing the strategy so that it remained relevant throughout the different phases of their lives. In relation to Education, she highlighted that hard-to-reach areas would require intense and focused work. In terms of Housing, Councillor Verner referred to an intervention titled, the BUILD project, which included a significant piece of work on land availability in the city and asked if there would be an opportunity for this work to be presented to the Housing Led Regeneration Group.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy thanked Councillor Verner for her input.

The Chairperson stressed the importance of getting data capture right. He suggested a new 'Embedding and Enhancing Citizen Partnership' priority. In response, the Director of City and Organisational Strategy confirmed that conversations were already underway in respect of both points. The Chairperson provided the following thematic input in relation to stretch goals:-

### Climate

- Review stretch goals in line with new WHO standards
- Community energy/energy independence stretch goal
- Reduce carbon emissions by 66% by 2025
- Define stretch goal for residual waste in landfill

### Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

- Look at cities such as Copenhagen which show what is possible
- Reduce private car use and ownership in the city
- Differentiate between the different modes of sustainable transport and report separately

### Housing-Led Regeneration

- Improve stretch goals
- Additional homes to include mix of homes and tenures

### Employability and Skills

- Include living wage and good jobs

### Sustainable & Inclusive Economic Growth

- Baseline analysis (refer to CLES report)
- Community wealth building
- Local contracts and support for co-operatives and social enterprises

### City Development

- Heritage and built environment – Belfast USP

- Sustainable tourism goals
- Community and neighbourhood regeneration

#### Cross-Cutting

- Consider 'Shared City', 'Local Communities' and 'Communities of Interest' rather than 'Good Relations' phrasing

The Chairperson also stated that he would like the opportunity to feedback on the full table of population indicators.

Councillor Verner commented that goals need to be achievable and realistic, and the plan should offer a level playing field for everyone in terms of engagement opportunities. She welcomed the opportunity to feed into this piece of work.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy thanked Members for their helpful comments which would be fed into the subsequent version of the framework. He asked Members if they would welcome a presentation at Party briefings. The Chairperson and Councillor Verner were both in agreement.

Following discussion the Working Group noted that:

- a Community Planning update would be scheduled at future Party Briefings
- Councillor Verner would forward contact details for BUILD to The Director of City and Organisational Strategy in order for the Operational Director of City Regeneration and Development to organise a presentation from BUILD.

Chairperson