

## Belfast Community Planning Partnership Meeting

Date: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Venue: Black Mountain Shared Space, 280 Ballygomartin Road.

### ATTENDEES

ORGANISATION	NOMINATION	ORGANISATION	NOMINATION
Co-Chair, VCSE Panel	Natasha Brennan	Belfast City Council	Sharon McNicholl
East side Partnership	Michele Bryans	North Belfast Area Representative	Maria Morgan
Climate Commissioner, BCC	Debbie Caldwell	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Bryan Nelson
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Alistair Campbell	Invest NI	Susan O'Kane
Belfast City Council	Brian Carr	Belfast City Council	Louise O'Kane
Belfast City Council	Geoff Dickson	Greater Shankill Partnership	Jackie Redpath
Belfast City Council	Naomi Doak	Belfast City Council	Cathy Reynolds
Belfast City Council	Necole Donaghy	Belfast City Council	David Sales
North Belfast Area Representative	Billy Hutchinson	Chair, VCSE Panel	Irene Sherry
Queen's University Belfast	Matthew Jackson	Department for Communities	Simon Sloan
Police Service of Northern Ireland	Gavin Kirkpatrick	Belfast City Council	Lisa Toland
Belfast City Council	Nicola Lane	Belfast City Council	John Tully
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	Gerry Largey	Public Health Agency	David Tumilty
West Belfast Partnership Board	Peter Lynch	Belfast City Council (Cllr)	Nicola Verner
Consultant	Chris Marsh	Belfast City Council (Chair)	John Walsh
Belfast City Council	Damien Martin	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	KerryLee Weatherall
Belfast Metropolitan College	Isaac May	INVOLVE (presenter)	Rebekah McCabe
NI Housing Executive	Fiona McGrath		

### APOLOGIES

ORGANISATION	NOMINATION	ORGANISATION	NOMINATION
Belfast City Council	Kevin Heaney	Invest NI	Alan McKeown
Belfast City Council (Cllr)	Tara Brooks	Libraries NI	Ciara Gault
Belfast Harbour Commission	Nicholas Cowan	Libraries NI	Jim O'Hagan
Belfast Metropolitan College	Damien Duffy	NICVA	Celine McStravick
Department of Education	Linsey Farrell	NI Housing Executive	Elma Newberry
Department for Communities	Avril Sharkey	NI Housing Executive	Grainia Long
Department for Communities	Anthony Carleton	NI Fire and Rescue Service	Andy McVeigh
Department for Communities	Derek Kennedy	PSNI	Jeremy Lynsey
Education Authority	John Unsworth	Queen's University Belfast	Alistair Stewart
Forward South Partnership	Briege Arthurs	Tourism NI	Martin Graham
Health and Social Care - SPPG	Joanne McKissick	Visit Belfast	Gerry Lennon

## NOTE OF MEETING

NO	AGENDA ITEM
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>John Walsh welcomed all partners and noted the symbolism of holding the meeting in the Black Mountain Shared Space building, an exemplar of regeneration and reconciliation. He thanked the partnership for their commitment to the refreshed Belfast Agenda and emphasised the need for collective buy-in across all sectors to make community planning work and make the lives of our citizens better.</p>
2.	<p><b>Refreshed Belfast Agenda Governance Arrangements and Collective Leadership Focus</b></p> <p>John Tully outlined the main agenda items and referenced the importance of getting organised around delivery, focusing on (for example) climate, cost of living, a compassionate city - stepping into spaces where we can address complex issues together. He acknowledged the wide-ranging consultation that had informed the Belfast Agenda refresh. John provided a recap of the commitments included in the Belfast Agenda and the challenge of having over 100 actions. He noted that the real challenge is to identify some areas where we need to keep our attention. John referenced the newly established governance structures and highlighted the role of the City Leadership Group initially focussed largely on vulnerability work with the intention to extend its scope.</p> <p>John introduced each of the Boards, noting the bulk of work underway and the importance of keeping the pace moving.</p>
3.	<p><b>Board and Highlight updates on behalf of BA Delivery Boards</b></p> <p><u>Our People and Communities Board</u></p> <p>Bryan Nelson provided an update on the work of the board highlighting five strategic areas of focus: Complex Lives; Children and Families Seamless Pathway; MASH; Place based Community Plans; and Whole Systems Approach to Obesity. Bryan noted key work streams, key milestones achieved in the last quarter, including that 141 Individuals with complex needs have been supported through the Complex Lives Multi-Agency Model, and outlined milestones set for the next quarter.</p> <p>Kerry Lee Weatherall and Chris Marsh provided an update on the Seamless Pathways for Children and Young People. Chris provided an overview of the rationale behind the approach and the blueprint developed to take forward this work. The aim is to identify what can be done differently at key points in a child’s life, focusing on a whole child, family and community approach. Placing an emphasis on key transition moments where things can either go ‘well’ or ‘badly’. It adopts a localised delivery model, with collaboration and networking between local organisations and communities a central component. Chris referenced alignment with the RAISE programme and helping people connect and communicate, bringing together the ecosystem of services and crucially looking at how this may need to adapt over time. The key</p>

ingredients are the skills, confidence, energy and knowledge of families themselves and harnessing the energy of communities to self-help. The blueprint will be published soon.

This represents a new partnership delivery model, Chris highlighted that links to commissioning activity will be important with tight multi-disciplinary teams to work together with people who are most at risk. This is in keeping with Prof Ray Jones review of children in social care which has recommended teams coming together to work in a different way. In some parts of Belfast there are quite worrying spikes of young people who are at risk of going into the care system. Data and heat mapping have been undertaken the intention is to move into delivery very soon. Chris thanked the design group for their ongoing participation.

David Tumilty provided an update on the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity. David noted that the language currently being used is likely to change towards healthy weight to better reflect lived experience. He emphasised that there is certainly room for improvement and that all of the main areas of ill-health are preventable. He noted that it is shocking that your postcode determines 50% of your health outcomes. He noted that in the more deprived communities outcomes in relation to health are a lot worse with a life expectancy gap of 7.2 years. The risk factors include obesity, diet and physical activity, a whole systems approach is required, working together to get into the right spaces. It requires collaboration and that is why the PHA have plugged into community planning. David noted that the Public Health England six phase approach is being utilised. The first phase of the programme of work is completed. The second phase will be about building the local picture and creating an area profile for Belfast drawing on ARC GIS mapping against over 200 wider determinants of health. Phase three is about systems mapping and reaching out into communities. The intention is to adopt a co-design approach and David noted that there is a real opportunity to test and apply the Community Planning Partnership's Co-design Framework. This will help us understand what important systems changes we need to support people. During phase four, action planning, there is a need to engage with the business and private sector and David welcomed any connections which partners could facilitate. He also noted the intention to engage with the VCSE Panel.

#### Our Economy Board

Damien Martin provided an update on the Economy board highlighting the breadth and scope of key workstreams which is challenging. He emphasised the need to focus on areas where we are prepared to be held to account for; areas where we can collaborate and bring others in to contribute drawing on existing mechanisms such as Labour Market Partnership and the City Innovation Group to facilitate change. He referenced a new area of focus centred on inclusive pathways to good employment.

Lisa Toland provided an update on the Inclusive Pathways to Good Employment exploring new routes such as Employment Academies, to move people into job opportunities. Lisa highlighted the role of sustainable employment opportunities in driving the economy. Lisa noted that it is clear that employers have challenges and that working with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust provides an opportunity to test out

the new approach to link supply and demand. The project currently has buy-in from partners, now need to shift the focus to the mechanics and detail of how it will work.

## Our Place Board

Damien Martin provided an update on the work of the Place Board noting the wide range of issues included. He highlighted that some issues may need to be relocated for example, innovation. Damien called out the huge challenge of housing which is facing the city but noted that positively many of the answers involve partners coming together in different ways. He cautioned that while partnership working can help, place-making also requires finance and a lack of funding in this area is a real challenge.

Fiona McGrath and Cathy Reynolds provided an update on Housing-led Regeneration. Fiona outlined the Terms of References, focus and progress of the Housing Led Regeneration Group. Fiona noted that the Local Development Plan provides the spatial articulation of the Community Plan. She recognised that the ambitious targets set aren't going to be achieved without extensive public sector intervention. Fiona referenced that the social housing development fund programme is under way at the moment but that there is still a huge unmet need, and waiting lists continue to rise with over 12,000 households in housing stress. Fiona drew attention to the modest pilot at Sunningdale which has seen the Housing Executive build for the first time in 25 years and sets a model for the future.

Fiona highlighted the recent Innovation Lab and the opportunity to come together to address the shortage of social housing and funding models. Fiona emphasised that the reduction in budget for social housing is very challenging. Fiona referenced that costs for temporary accommodation have increased substantially with £34 Million spent across the region, £5-6 Million of this has been allocated in Belfast. In the last year alone, over 5000 people presented as homeless in Belfast. Fiona noted that the Housing Executive are looking at retrofit and other mechanisms to improve energy efficiency as part of a major programme over the next 3 years.

Cathy Reynolds shared that partners have mapped all public sector land owned by Housing Executive, Belfast City Council and Department for Communities with the aid of LPS – (finalising land owned by the Department for Infrastructure). Planning and viability appraisals are being undertaken. Cathy noted the ambitious targets set for city centre living and reported that between 3,000 - 4,000 units have received planning consent. Cathy emphasised that other cities across the UK have access to special regeneration funds which Northern Ireland cannot avail of. There are other challenges such as limited public sector land in North and Inner North. Cathy also referenced the Innovation Lab and recognised the need for the private sector to be more involved to deliver housing to meet targets. Cathy referenced the City Centre Stocktake and that the ambition to grow the residential population of the city centre is one of the most important things that we can do. BCC is working to appoint a development partner for the delivery of housing across a number of sites.

	<p><u>Our Planet Board</u></p> <p>Debbie Caldwell provided an overview of the Our Planet Programme noting the tough legislative targets which government have signed up to. Debbie noted that government has not been as upfront about the penalties associated with not meeting these ambitious targets. The strategic areas of focus of the board are re-naturing the city and increasing resilience to climate change; creating a sustainable circular economy; and innovating to net zero.</p> <p>Debbie provided a deeper dive on LAEP, Local Area Energy Plan, noting that the plan launched in September with a delivery group including planners, property and projects, NIHE, Phoenix Energy, QUB, RSUA and Action Renewables. The energy plan will be current for the next 4-5 years. Debbie noted that most emissions are from the built environment, and that more than two thirds of stock is less than a 'D' rating. Banks are now mapping EPC ratings and a 'C' will be the new normal for lending.</p> <p>Debbie noted that the fall in decarbonisation is largely due to decarbonising the electricity network and noted that this reduction has now plateaued. LAEP modelled the whole energy system and looked at best ways to de-carbonise. Debbie provided an overview of where we are on the net zero carbon road map and key projects such as retrofitting stock, district heat networks, move to low carbon heating systems, EV, solar car ports, rooftop solar potential and UP2030 net zero neighbourhood.</p> <p>Debbie provided an overview of key challenges including the scale and pace of change required, incentivising people to improve energy efficiency, the highest electricity costs in Europe, grid capacity, supply chain capacity and supply security (products are coming from China, geo-political risk). Public procurement can play a significant role in driving decarbonisation and overcoming barriers. Target area for a heat network has been set to catalyse investment. Feasibility study and heating mapping are being undertaken to identify the best delivery model. Phase 1: base load public sector and Phase 2: residential (timescale of 2030).</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note the updates and strategic areas of focus from each of the boards.</b></li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Update on work commissioned on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership</b></p>
4.1	<p><b>Review of VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel</b></p> <p>John Tully provided an update on the review of the VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel undertaken by BakerTilly. The review recognised the significant work of the chairs, the need to increase membership and the need for resource and support to enhance the VCSE Panel. John noted that NICVA has been appointed to undertake an independently managed nomination and selection process for a refreshed VCSE Advisory Panel. He noted that the panel membership will be increased from 15 up to 30 members to better cover the breath of priorities identified through the Belfast Agenda. The practicalities of the refresh are currently being considered with the existing panel to ensure a smooth transition. John noted that importantly the</p>

	<p>work of the panel is plugged into all parts of community planning. Partners were asked to promote the nomination and selection process within their own networks. John noted that a separate strategic support contract will be commissioned to provide a secretariat and facilitative role to the refreshed panel.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note that NICVA have been appointed to undertake an independently managed nomination and selection process.</b></li> <li>• <b>Partners to promote the nomination and selection process.</b></li> <li>• <b>Note a strategic support contract will be commissioned to provide a secretariat and facilitative role to the panel.</b></li> </ul>
4.2	<p><b>Co-design Framework Update</b></p> <p>Irene Sherry introduced the development of the Co-design Framework, emphasising the importance of developing authentic relationships through community planning to bring about positive change for communities. Irene thanked Rebekah McCabe and Louise O’Kane for the work they had done in developing the Co-design Framework and noted the importance of starting to action and resource it.</p> <p>Rebekah McCabe from Involve (and on behalf of Community Places) presented the Co-design Framework. Rebekah emphasised the importance of having a shared definition of co-design and drew attention to the definition outlined within the framework. Rebekah provided an overview of the content of the framework including the building blocks of principles, preparation, people and practice.</p> <p>Rebekah presented recommendations to embed co-design including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate resources are committed to support its implementation.</li> <li>• Co-design should sit within a wider participation framework and applied as appropriate.</li> <li>• Co-design training to help raise understanding and capacity to apply.</li> <li>• Nurture relationships to build trust within the CPP.</li> <li>• Create a ‘community of practice’ for co-design.</li> <li>• Capture and tell stories about what works.</li> <li>• Regularly review the framework as practice develops.</li> </ul> <p>Rebekah highlighted the next steps agreed by the Co-design Steering Group including securing commitment to test the co-design framework using real issues; taking forward the recommendations to embed co-design and to position it within wider engagement and collaboration; exploring opportunities and resources with DfC, TEO and other government departments; promoting and sharing the co-design framework with civic society, partners and other community planning partnerships; the opportunity to promote the co-design framework through the Inclusive Growth Toolkit; and the need for continuous review and improvement as we learn from co-design practice.</p> <p>John Tully thanked Rebekah and Louise. He noted that discussions have already progressed with the BA Boards to identify potential pilots where a co-design approach could add value. These included: addressing poverty, a whole systems approach to obesity, health and work, and climate related projects such as food sustainability, One Million Trees and climate adaptation. John noted that in taking forward any such pilots further consideration will need to be given to how the processes would be resourced and supported. John highlighted that he would be writing to each of the statutory partners asking them to consider contributing to an enabling fund to support new ways of working to unlock delivery.</p>

	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note the recommendations for embedding the framework and promote the Co-design Framework within own organisations.</b></li> <li>• <b>Agree Boards to take forward emerging co-design pilot projects to test the Co-design Framework.</b></li> <li>• <b>Consider allocating resources to a community planning enabling fund to progress innovative approaches and demonstrator projects.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Next Steps &amp; Close</b></p> <p>John thanked the Community Planning Partnership and emphasised the need to keep the momentum going and to focus on delivery.</p> <p>The forward schedule for Community Planning Partnership was shared:</p> <p><b>Thursday 10 April 2025; and</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 6 November 2025.</b></p> <p>A survey feedback link was shared on screen and will be circulated to all partners after the meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note the forward schedule of meetings.</b></li> <li>• <b>Provide feedback on the meeting through the online survey.</b></li> </ul>