

Minutes of the Meeting of the Transition Community Planning Partnership held on Friday 26 May 2017 at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Derry~Londonderry

Present

Cathy Mullan, Public Health Agency
Mark Deeney, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
Paul McCracken, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Trisha Ward, Libraries NI
Martin Graham, Tourism NI
June Neill, Education Authority
Maura O'Neill, Western Health and Social Care Trust
Tara Herron, Invest NI
John News, Sport NI
John Cassidy, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Paul Cavanagh, Health and Social Care Board
Maura Fox, DCSD (Planning)
Proinsias McCaughey, DCSD (Planning)

Leo Murphy, North West Regional College
Samantha Traynor, North West Regional College
Des Gartland, Invest NI
Eddie Friel, Ulster University
Malachy O'Neill, Ulster University
Gavin Killeen, Londonderry Chamber of Commerce
Catriona Donnelly, Junior Chamber
Jim Roddy, City Centre Initiative
Pauline Campbell, Department of Communities
Nichola Creagh, Department of Communities

Gary Middleton, DUP MLA

Councillor Hilary McClintock, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council (in the Chair)

Councillor Martin Reilly, Derry City and Strabane District Council

Councillor Dan Kelly, Derry City and Strabane District Council

John Kelpie, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Rachael Craig, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Ellen Cavanagh, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Jarlath McNulty, Strabane Local Community Planning Area
Paddy McEldowney, Sperrins Local Community Planning Area

Gordon Speer, Castlederg Local Community Planning Area
Wendy Gibbons, Foyleside Local Community Planning Area

1. Apologies

Superintendent MCCalmount, PSNI
Karen Mullan, Hillcrest Trust
Karen Phillips, DCSDC
Stephen Gillespie, DCSDC
Mary Black, Public Health, WH&S
Karen McFarland, DCSDC
Teresa Molloy, WHSCT
John Collings, Education Authority
Elma Newberry, NIHE
Gerry Quinn, The Moor Local Community Planning Area

TCPP Welcome

01/17

The Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Alderman Hilary McClintock, welcomed those present to the meeting to consider and approve the launch of the Draft Strategic Growth Plan for consultation. The Mayor referred to the extensive amount of work which involved in arriving at this position and thanked those involved for their input and dedication.

TCPP Draft Minutes

02/17

Draft Minutes of the Transition Community Planning Partnership Community Planning Workshop held on 14 October 2016 were submitted.

John News, Sports NI Proposed, Gary Middleton, MLA Seconded and the Partnership

Resolved that the Draft Minutes of the Transition Community Planning Partnership Community Planning Workshop held on 14 October 2016 be accepted and adopted.

TCPP Draft Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan)

03/17

Gavin Killeen, Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the business sector commended all those involved in the process, Council Officers and the wider community for their input during the past two years.

The Chief Executive presented his report on the above, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Members. He thanked Mr Killeen for his comments. He welcomed Members to the Meeting and to consider launching the draft Strategic Growth Plan for consultation. He said it was worth reflecting on the considerable work that each of the individuals involved within their specific organisations had contributed to the process and to the support of the wider community must be commended. He pointed out that the launch of the draft Strategic Growth Plan for consultation together with the first stage of the planning process was a significant milestone. He referred to the transfer of planning powers to Council in April 2015 and to the link between spatial planning and community planning. He advised that the Planning Officers present would outline the spatial articulation of the Community Plan. He advised that DCSDC was the only Council area to be launching its strategic growth plan and local development plan preferred options paper simultaneously which indicated the level of joint working taking place. He continued that an enhanced Equality Impact Assess (to include rural proofing) would also be launched as part of the draft plan. He stated that the main focus of the growth plan was growth and addressing inequalities in the region.

The Chief Executive advised that under Section 10 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 there was a new statutory obligation on Councils to initiate, facilitate and maintain community planning in their area and on partners to fully engage with the process. Councils were also obliged to bring forward the main strategic objectives and to report on the progress which were fully aligned to the Strategic Growth and the objectives set out in the plan.

The Chief Executive advised that there were an agreed 8 plans to sit below this in respect of Strabane Town centre. However, it was never felt these would conclude at the same time as this process. However, these were in alignment with the overall community planning process and it was anticipated would be delivered successfully as part of that process.

The Chief Executive provided Members with an overview of the contents of the Plan. He stated that the Plan was not yet finalised some elements of which still required additional work. He provided Members with an insight into the consultation process and invited suggestions from those who had been involved in the process and those who had not.

Mr Paul Cavanagh, Health and Social Care Board commended the Chief Executive on his impressive delivery and commended all those involved on the progress achieved to date. He stated that from a health sector perspective it

was important to emphasise that a lot of the outcomes and actions reflected in the Plan were health orientated. He stated that the joint approach which had been adopted throughout the process had proved extremely positive. Whilst acknowledging the development and growth of Altnagelvin Hospital during the past number of years, he referred to the need to consider in the next stage how Altnagelvin Hospital could be used to drive the economy.

He welcomed the level of support for the establishment of a Medical School at the Magee Campus given the fundamental need for more Doctors and the growth of Magee in general and referred to the need boost this campaign.

Mr Cavanagh referred to the need for an active agenda and to the level of work to be carried out in this regard. He stated that this would prove a major element in addressing the huge social care issue.

Ms Nichola Creagh, Department for the Communities referred to the Plan as a superb piece of work. She referred to the fact that the Programme for Government Framework had reduced from 14 to 12 outcomes and queried if this would have any implications on the consultation process.

Mr Leo Murphy, North West Regional College referred to the use of the term 'skills' throughout the Plan and suggested that this be replaced with the term referred 'apprenticeship' which he felt was more effectual and robust and would present the City as strong and encourage investment. It would greatly assist in shaping and building the economy.

Subsequently Members

Resolved that the Partnership approves the release of the draft Strategic Growth Plan attached at appendix one for public consultation and endorses the approach outlined therein.

TCPP Addressing Inequalities

04/17

Ms Pauline Campbell, Department of Communities invited Ms Ellen Cavanagh, Lead Democratic Services Officer DCSDC and Mr Michael Gallagher, Performance Improvement Manger DCSDC to present the report on Addressing Inequalities.

Ms Cavanagh presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to provide members of the Strategic Growth Partnership with a copy of the draft EQIA for

the Strategic Growth Plan for the Derry City and Strabane District Council area (2017-2032).

Ms Cavanagh and Mr Gallagher then gave a joint power-point presentation on Addressing Inequalities.

Ms Cavanagh reminded members that one of the key elements of the plan was to provide opportunities and in order to deliver this it was felt it would be necessary that an EQIA of the process be carried which Council was obligation to provide under the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Subsequently Councillor Reilly Moved, Gary Middleton, MLA Seconded and the Partnership

Resolved that Members endorse the EQIA and its effectiveness in guiding how the Strategic Growth Plan would be implemented, monitored and reported upon.

TCPP Preferred Options Paper 05/17

Ms Maura Fox, Head of Planning, DCSDC presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to update the Partnership on the progress of the Local Development Plan team in preparing a Preferred Options Paper for consultation.

Ms Fox and Mr Proinsias McCaughey, Senior Planning Officer DCSDC then gave a joint power-point presentation on the Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper.

Ms Fox pointed out that this was a crucial stage in terms of planning. She stated that during the two years since the transfer of planning functions to Councils in 2015 time had been invested in producing the preferred options paper. She referred to the statutory obligation on Council to produce plans which would be monitored by DFI. She advised that the Local Development Plan acknowledged the Community Plan and would be assessed throughout the process in this regard. She stated that Planning Officers were pioneering this Plan in Northern Ireland which was imbedded in legislation which must be demonstrated throughout the process.

Mr. McCaughey said it was important the Local Development Plan was aligned with the Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) which was now going out to public consultation.

Members subsequently

Recommended that the Partnership note this update on progress developing the Local Development Plan and its emerging Preferred Options.

TCPP Update on Local Community Planning Process

06/17

Mr Kenny McFarland commended council officers on the work carried out developing local community plans and the work and commitment of the interim-Chairs. He said that there was good engagement with the local communities, who had bought into the process and it had proved extremely positive particularly in the rural areas with a high expectation of what the plan could deliver.

Mr Barry O'Hagan, Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members of the Strategic Growth Partnership on the progress of the local community planning process to date.

Subsequently the Partnership

Recommended that the Partnership noted the update on progress developing Local Community Plans.

TCPP Performance Improvement Objectives

07/17

Ms Ellen Cavanagh presented the above report a copy of which had previously been circulated. She advised that the purpose of the report was to advise members of the Strategic Growth Partnership of and seek views on the draft Performance Improvement Plan 2017/18, for Derry City and Strabane District Council, as set out in Appendix 1.

Members of the partnership agreed accordingly.

It was subsequently

Recommended **(a) that the Partnership notes the draft Performance Improvement Plan 2017/18, for Derry City and Strabane District Council, as set out in Appendix 1; and**
(b) provides comments that can be fed into the consultation process.

The Chief Executive, in concluding the meeting stated that a huge and impressive amount of work had been carried out to arrive at this stage. He explained that during the consultation process the Partnership would be in delivery mode. He added that the Partnership would not be waiting until the consultation had ended to begin delivery on the actions. He stated that the newly formed Derry City and Strabane District Council had completely restructured in order to align with the Strategic Growth Plan. He continued that Council Officers were aligned to the three pillars of economic wellbeing, environmental wellbeing and social wellbeing and the support groups attached to these. He stated that the agenda was to drive forward these three main pillars together with the strategic objectives to improve lives not only in Derry and Strabane but across the North West region. He stated that the five draft improvement objectives had been reviewed and were more aligned to the Community Plan. He stated that this was a wider region with access into other Council areas and its proximity to Donegal were unique. He stated that the necessary partnership arrangement had also been established cross-border – with the North West Strategic Partnership and North West Development Group.

The Chief Executive advised that in going forward he would be reviewing the meeting schedule with a view to arranging quarterly meetings to consider the Plan. He referred to the importance of joint partnership working and said he would anticipate the next meeting would take place when the consultation process had ended.

The Chief Executive said it had been suggested that future meetings be held in open businesses and that the Partnership consider inviting Members of the public to future meetings in compliance with Council policy of openness and accountability. The Members agreed with this approach.

The Mayor thanked everyone involved for the active role which they had played in the process to date. She said it was a case of ‘together we can make it happen’. She said there had been a wonderful sense of positivity throughout the process. On behalf of Officers and Co-Chairs she thanked

those present for their attendance and looked forward to meeting again in the Autumn.

TCP **Education to Employability Event**

08/17

Mr. Leo Murphy, North West Regional College invited members to attend the first ever Education to Employability event scheduled to take place that day at Ebrington Square between 1.00 pm-6.00 pm. He stated that more than 100 exhibitors had booked to take part in this event, a partnership delivery by NWRC and DCSDC which was designed to inspire local people in the North West to make the connection from Education to Employability.

The Meeting terminated at 12.10 pm