



Present Members: Alderman: Hillis (UUP), Knight-McQuillan (DUP)
Councillors: Anderson (DUP), Schenning (SDLP), McShane (SF)

Officers: D Jackson, Chief Executive (Chair)
R Baker, Director of Leisure & Development
N Harkness, SIB Project Manager
J Beggs, SIB Project Manager
M Smyth, Interim Director of Finance
L Mullan, Digital & Strategic Projects Officer

In Attendance: L Maguire, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Ulster University

NO.		ACTIONS
1.	Welcome and Declaration of Interests	
	Chief Executive as Chair welcomed Members to meeting and asked if anyone needed to make a declaration of interest. Focus for today: Members to be updated on progress to date, risk review, programme budget, Bushmills and Dungiven Consultation Forums and Best Practice Visit.	
2.	Apologies	
	Councillors: Holmes (UUP), Bateson (SF), Callan (DUP) Officers: N McGurk, Interim Head of Prosperity & Place	

NO.		ACTIONS
3	Notes of Meeting held 13th October 2021	
	Minutes of previous meeting agreed.	
4.	Matters Arising & Update on Actions	
	Director of Leisure & Development updated Members on actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIB Officer and Administrative Officer to be appointed – SIB Officer appointed in September 2021 for three years. Administrative Officer needs currently undertaken by Council staff. • Best Practice Visit – Delayed due to other Growth Deal priorities. Proposed trip to be discussed during Item 10. 	Complete Ongoing
5.	Programme Progress	
	Director of Leisure & Development provided members with an update on progress made by the Programme Management Office (PMO). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 projects have been prioritised for SOC or OBC (East Lighthouse project, Rathlin withdrew voluntarily); • 5 pieces of independent research have been commissioned; • Business Case Consultants appointed and to date 7 business cases are underway, target for business case submissions is January 2023; • PMO are currently seeking nominees to Level 1: Government Department Engagement Group (GDEG), with first meeting expected May 2022 (potential for some of the proposed Pillar Advisory Boards to merge with the GDEG); • PMO contributing to research by Cardiff University on innovation challenge funds within NI City/Growth Deals. <p>Members questioned if they would receive a more specific update on projects. Director of Leisure & Development confirmed that Item 9 would provide further detail.</p>	
6.	Procurement Risk Review	
	N Harkness drew Members attention to the three 'red' risks on the risk register: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction inflation impacting on affordability. 	

NO.		ACTIONS
	<p>2. Budget uptake not sufficient, therefore Members may need to consider projects not currently shortlisted or an Innovation Challenge Fund.</p> <p>3. Over-reliance on Council due to project not having a competent and financially committed project promoter. Council is limited by capital projects commitment.</p> <p>Members briefly discussed when decision to remove projects, in particular those projects with no obvious promoter or significant land ownership issues, will take place.</p> <p>N Harkness advised business cases will determine if projects have potential to remain under Growth Deal consideration.</p>	
7.	Programme Management Office Budget	
	<p>J Beggs provided members with an overview of the projected revenue expenditure in 2022/23 on business case development - £137,025</p> <p>Funds secured via PMO budget (£70,000) and from Levelling Up Fund development costs (£67,025).</p> <p>PMO has appointed consultants to undertake Strategic Outline Cases (SOC) and Outline Business Cases (OBC), in line with agreed delegated limits of authority.</p> <p>Six projects currently under consideration for Growth Deal have the potential to be submitted for Levelling Up Funding, once they have advanced to a greater state of readiness.</p> <p>PMO will provide a mid-year budget review in September 2022, it is anticipated that additional resourcing will be required.</p> <p>Executive Programme Board approval will be required for the commissioning of individual OBCs later in the year, depending upon the outcome of the initial 5 SOC's.</p> <p>No comments provided from Members.</p>	<p>Mid-year budget report to be presented in Sept. 2022 (JB)</p>

NO.		ACTIONS
8.	CC&G Economic Report and Outlook Spring 2022	
	Dr Eoin Magennis was unable to attend meeting, Chair advised that he would be invited to the next EPB or Leisure & Development meeting to provide update to members.	Dr Magennis to be invited to next EPB or L&D meeting (RB)
9.	Project Specific Progress	
	<p>N Harkness provided Members with key highlights on projects since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Lighthouse project has been withdrawn following notification from Department for Infrastructure. • Ongoing risks across a number of projects; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land acquisition – Dunluce Castle and greenways. ○ Business case approvals – project promoters identified and demonstrating growth potential. ○ Partnership funding – Ulster University have applied to Shared Island Fund (cross-border programme) for additional support for the Centre for Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Innovation, to supplement any Growth Deal award. • Impact of the identified risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects may no longer be seen as viable for Growth Deal funds. ○ Finding alternate projects has the potential to delay progress. • How to address risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer back to long-list for additional projects. ○ Consideration given to new projects as they emerge. ○ Increase budget allocation for projects which are moving forward (due to construction inflation). ○ Introduce an Innovation Challenge Fund financed through Growth Deal reserves. 	

NO.			ACTIONS
Preparatory Research completing 2021/22:			
1	Traffic Study		
2	Dungiven Master Planning Research		
3	Bushmills Master Planning Research		
4	Foodovation Joint Research with Mid South West Growth Deal		
	Portrush to Bushmills Greenway feasibility study		
Shortlisted Projects & Current Status			
1	Rathlin Lighthouse	Project withdrawn	
2	Business Innovation Hub	ToR for SOC under development	
3	Mountsandel	SOC commissioned	
4	Dunluce Castle	SOC commissioned	
5	Foodovation Centre	OBC awaiting independent research	
6	Connected Causeway Traffic & Parking	OBC awaiting independent research	
7	Grow the Glens Digital Hub	OBC commissioned	
8	Dungiven Regeneration Programme	SOC commissioned	
9	Bushmills Regeneration Programme	SOC commissioned	
	Greenways:		
	Ballycastle to Ballymoney Greenway	OBC commissioned, Landowner engagement commissioned	
10	Portrush to Bushmills Greenway	Feasibility study commissioned	
11	Centre for Drug Discovery and Pharmaceutical Innovation	SOC commissioned by UU	
<p>Coucillor McShane requested update on any progress regarding the greenways.</p> <p>N Harkness advised that prospectus was currently being designed and once this is completed it will be printed. AECOM have been appointed to assist Council's Coast and Countryside team with landowner engagement, letters to be issued to all known landowners and additional letter will be sent to 30 biggest landowners. Members will be further updated following this engagement.</p>			

NO.		ACTIONS
10.	Village Regeneration Frameworks Consultation Forum	
	<p>Director of Leisure & Development provided Members with update on proposed approach to stakeholder consultation, based on engagement undertaken for the Portrush Town Centre project.</p> <p>Each village will have its own Growth Deal Regeneration Framework and Regeneration Forums will be established for each village.</p> <p>Terms of Reference will be developed based on the principles and practices undertaken for Portrush. Prior to any public meetings, DEA Members will be fully appraised and consulted with.</p> <p>Members briefly discussed the stage each project was at and how the need for consultation on these matters is of paramount importance.</p>	
11.	Study Visit	
	<p>Director of Leisure & Development provided overview of the proposed itinerary for Best Practice Visit to North Wales.</p> <p>Members were asked to advise Officers of their attendance by midday on Friday 29th April 2022, to allow final arrangements to be made.</p>	Confirmation of attendance to be provided (Members)
12.	Any Other Relevant Business	
	<p>Councillor Anderson requested update on Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>Director of Leisure & Development advised that discussions are ongoing with an interested party, who could take the lead with the Innovation Centre proposed for the Enterprise Zone.</p> <p>L Maguire expressed his support for a Challenge Fund and noted Belfast Region City Deal use a similar model.</p>	

NO.		ACTIONS
13.	Date of Next Meeting	
	Date of next meeting to be determined. Chair advised that there will be opportunities for updates during Best Practice Visit in May 2022.	Meeting invite to be issued (RB)

Meeting closed at 7:59pm

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