

Additional background information for prospective panel members and their nominating organisations

Community Planning and The Belfast Agenda

In 2015, following reforms to local government, Belfast City Council was tasked with leading and facilitating a community planning process in the city with a range of partners in the statutory sector. The process requires partners to identify long term objectives for improving economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the city, and to publish a Community Plan that sets out these long term outcomes and the actions that partners will take. The process also requires partners to involve communities in this process.

Following extensive engagement and consultation across the city over a 3 year period, Belfast City Council and its Community planning Partners published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first Community Plan, in November 2017. This sets out the city's shared vision and outcomes for the future (2035), along with priorities for 2017-21 that partners agreed to work together on.

The Belfast Agenda sets out a long term vision and 5 outcomes people told us they want to see in a future Belfast:

Our vision for Belfast in 2035

"Belfast will be a city re-imagined. A great place to live for everyone. It will energise and drive a successful economy where everyone can reach their potential. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a city shared and loved by its people and admired around the world. It will be a producer of and magnet for talent, investment, innovation and creativity – a compassionate place where people create value and are valued."

Our outcomes for 2035:

Belfast will be a city...



In 2017 the **priorities** Belfast Community Planning Partnership set for 2017-2021 were:

- **Growing the Economy** – more and better jobs, attracting investment and increasing tourism spend;

- **Living Here** – Making life better for all our residents – improving neighbourhoods, planning to address housing needs, addressing life and health inequalities, supporting older and younger people, ensuring fit for purpose city services;
- **City Development** – Creating a competitive and sustainable city – city infrastructure, key strategic physical projects, protecting and enhancing our environment and built heritage, creating the Local Development Plan; and
- **Working and Learning** – Connecting people to opportunities – addressing educational inequalities, skills and employability, lifelong learning.



Moving to Implementation

Since publishing the plan, the Community Planning Partnership has been formally re-established with a focus on delivery, and has put in place a number of delivery structures to take forward actions under the Belfast Agenda priorities. The **Community Planning Partnership** provides strategic leadership and oversight of the community planning process. Assurance for delivery of the Community Plan and thematic priorities is reported to the CPP via 4 delivery Boards which include:



The Community Planning Partnership currently includes the following statutory organisations



In addition, a number of support organisations are also represented in Community Planning Partnership meetings – these include:



Membership of the Delivery Boards includes many of the organisations above, however depending on areas of focus, other key organisations/stakeholders with relevant expertise or significant contribution in delivery may also be invited.

Further information on community planning and the Belfast Agenda, including a copies of the plan, and a recently published Statement of Progress (which gives an overview of activity) can be downloaded from the Belfast City Council website at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

Belfast VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel – Purpose and Role

The role and purpose of the Sectoral Advisory Panel will be to:

i) Ensure the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector's voices are articulated by;

- **influencing** the community planning process through participation in the governance structures through nomination of delegates from the Panel to sit on the Belfast Community Planning Partnership, and other Partnership structures (e.g. Delivery Boards and/or working groups)
- **advising** the Community Planning Partnership on sectoral perspectives in relation to the community planning themes and process, **advocating** on the wider sector's behalf, and by articulating and **reflecting the views of others** within the wider sector and/or the Panel's relevant areas of expertise (e.g. geographical area, thematic interests, identity/s75 categories).

ii) Support the development of Cross-sectoral Relationships and improved Partnership working by;

- **increasing collaboration** between voluntary, statutory and business sectors through panel member participation in both the Community Planning Partnership and action planning/working groups etc., promoting alignment of sectoral priorities/delivery to community planning outcomes.
- advising the partnership in **identifying key sectoral organisations, groups and networks, stakeholders** etc. for the purposes of ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation and involvement in focused action planning working groups/thematic task groups etc.
- acting as a **2-way conduit for sharing information** with the sector on the work of the Partnership, and **gathering wider sectoral views and inputs** by supporting engagement and consultation with existing partnerships, networks, forums and sectoral groups.
- assisting the Community Planning Partnership in assessing how work of the Partnership and implementation of Plans meet the needs of those most marginalised and disadvantaged over time.

iii) Promote ongoing and effective community engagement by;

- assisting the Community Planning Partnership in **ensuring the views, experiences and needs of all sections of the community**, including those who are seldom heard, are expressed, acknowledged and considered.
- **promoting and supporting broad community engagement** in the community planning process, including all section 75 groups and across the city.
- **connecting** the wider voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors and existing partnerships, networks, forums and inter-agency groups into the community engagement processes.
- acting in an **advisory capacity** to the Partnership in development and review of its wider engagement and communications strategies (and their implementation to achieve better outcomes for citizens).

Roles and responsibilities of Panel Members:

Panel members will be expected to demonstrate commitment and willingness to contribute to collaborative working. Panel members' role will be to support the progression of the community plan and community planning process by:

- Participating in Sectoral Advisory Panel meetings, Community Planning Partnership meetings and relevant working groups to help design and deliver on the community plan for the purposes of achieving improved wellbeing outcomes for citizens in Belfast.
- Envisaged time commitments are as follows (meetings usually 2-3 hours duration):
 - It is envisaged that the Sectoral Advisory Panel will meet up to 4 times per year.
 - Panel members nominated as delegates to attend the Community Planning Partnership will be required to attend approximately 2 Partnership meetings per year.
 - Panel members may be invited to attend other relevant Delivery Boards and/or adhoc working groups/Action Planning/Task groups/engagement events in support of the Community Planning Partnership activities throughout the year
- Working with other Panel members to identify actions, develop and agree action plans and ensure delivery against planned outcomes.
- Taking a lead in actions when required.
- Carrying out allocated tasks as agreed at meetings.
- Contributing to effective community engagement in the development and implementation of action plans.
- Engaging with other Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector groups and with communities within the city. Effective and meaningful public participation will help to ensure action plans and decisions taken to improve services are responsive and reflect local needs.
- Promoting inclusivity by identifying hard to reach groups and appropriate methods of engagement.
- Contributing to the collection of relevant data for performance management
- Developing relationships across the city to foster collaborative working

Term of Membership

The initial term of membership for Panel members will be 2 years, at which point an early review of the Panel and wider engagement model will be undertaken to identify any improvements required. After 2 years, subject to the review of initial arrangements, it is envisaged that all Panel members will need to reapply if they wish to be reappointed. To aid continuity while also ensuring refreshed membership, it is possible that the Community Planning Partnership may seek to retain up to 50% of existing Panel members.

Chairperson's roles

The Sectoral Advisory Panel will be chaired by a Panel member chosen from within the Panel membership. The Chairperson's responsibilities will include;

- Chairing meetings
- Agreeing agendas
- Allocating/reviewing/co-ordinating actions between meetings

- Ensuring each action is attributed to an owner
- Ensuring feedback from members attending the Community Planning Partnership, Delivery Boards Action Plan teams/working groups. ensuring that the Panel reports on progress as required
- Reporting back to the Community Planning Partnership
- Agreeing and reviewing performance management

Selection of Panel Delegates onto CPP structures

The process for identification/nomination of Panel Members to act as delegates to Community Planning Partnership structures will be agreed and implemented by the Sectoral Advisory Panel.