

Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday 25th September 2025

Location: Council Chamber, Cloonavin, Coleraine. **Present and Absentees:** List of Attendees detailed below on pages 5-7.

1.	Welcome / Apologies / Minutes & Matters Arising	Professor Gerry McKenna		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
2.	CFTF Subgroups - Update	Deputy Chairs HK (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	All sub group members to review initial feedback from engagement sessions and report back to the CFTF team by 5 th October.	ALL		
3.	CFTF Board Governance	Hazel King (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
4.	Delivery of Engagement Update	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	CFTF Engagement Closing Event rescheduled to 2pm – 4pm 21 st October in The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine			
5.	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process	TH (SIB) JD (MAGS)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#1.	Check corporate diary for dates for extra CFTF Board meetings and Special Council Meeting.	DD		

#2.	DD to send out diary invites for extra meetings to all Board and sub group members, and book appropriate meeting venues.	DD		
6.	DONM & AOB	Professor Gerry McKenna		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Next meeting 4.00pm Thursday 23 rd October 2025, Lodge Hotel, Coleraine			

Red  Not yet commenced
 Yellow  In Progress
 Green  Complete

1.	Welcome / Apologies Matters Arising
	• GMK chaired meeting welcoming everyone and noting apologies. Minutes from previous meeting shared and agreed. • GMK notified the board that Lynn Kane (Equality Forum) had stepped down from the CFTF Board, he thanked her for all her input to the Board to date. He welcomed Riley McCaughan Chair of the CCGBC Equality Forum who had been nominated by the Equality Forum members as a replacement on the Board. • GMK informed the board that Graham Thompson (Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust) had also left the CFTF Board and asked the group if a suitable replacement for heritage should be found, noting that the Mountsandel Group were already members of the subgroups so it may be appropriate that the Mountsandel Group no be nominated to the Board to provide the heritage expertise. • GMK asked if anyone had conflicts of interests to declare. Nil response.
2.	CFTF Subgroups Update
	Deputy Chairs HK (SIB) High Street, Heritage & Regeneration Sub group • KY gave an update on the High Street, Heritage & regeneration subgroup meeting held on 9th September, noting discussions on Stakeholder engagement, data pack, ASB, and how to engage with 50 plus and youth economically active groups. She noted that 12.4% of people walk to work in Coleraine and discussions were had on making the area safer and more attractive and encouraging children to walk to school by promoting active travel and greenways.

- KY noted discussions on High Street Heritage England, making the centre more welcoming, removal of shutters and shop fronts lit at night, light shows, attractions and extension of shopping hours, shaping the vision using artist to animate and being creative.
- SM advised that anyone replacing shutters will need planning permission and current planning regulations make replacement difficult.
- GS explained the background to the Historic England's High Streets Heritage Action Zones noting that it had been very effective and seen a significant increase in footfall. GS agreed to provide further information on this scheme.
- JE advised the board that the Coleraine Town Team are feeding into consultation on potential town centre heritage regeneration funding.
- DJ noted the Active Travel plans by DfI and upcoming meeting where they would discuss routes to bring people into the town centre.
- BO'B noted that the centre of the town was a pedestrian area and would require declassification by DfI to allow cycles, noting complaints about cycles in the town centre.
- GMK suggested a conversation to be had re Heritage Funding in Derry.
- EMM advised of a know your town programme ran with children to encourage pride in their town.

Stakeholder Engagement & Cohesion Sub group

- TH updated the group on Stakeholder Engagement subgroup meeting noting discussions on education, children, needs of young people including wider qualifications as there is a lack of skills in the area.. She noted the common thread of the need of a Community Hub and the need to grow links with Northern Regional College and Ulster University, and breaking intergenerational challenges.
- YMcM – idea of incorporating children into initiatives to get to know their own area which builds pride in their area and reduces anti social behaviour.
- GS noted the need to reflect on social exclusion caused by poverty.
- AMcN – Concept of Heritage for Health – using different buildings, and walks to promote mental health – this has been delivered successfully in other areas.
- TH suggested that this could be a key objective of this project.

Transport & Connectivity Sub group

- DF updated the board on the Transport & Connectivity subgroup meeting, noting discussions on the data pack, river and connectivity. He advised that conversations were had on how successful the Riverfest festival was when it was delivered in

previous years, and the successful European Rowing Championships held in 2016, suggesting that areas around the river could be developed to attract the Championships back.

- RS noted the data pack included information on people traveling out of Coleraine and questioned if it would give answers to getting people into town.
- TH noted discussions on marine industries and the potential for creating new high end jobs in this sector.
- Chair – issue with public transport – how do you travel to Coleraine if you are not based in Derry/Londonderry or Belfast? A lot of the current public transport focused on people travelling out of Coleraine.

Safety & Security Sub group

- BO'B updated the board on the September Safety & security subgroup meeting. He made introductions for his colleagues Superintendent Yvonne McManus & Chief Inspector Clare Willis. He noted the low numbers of members of the subgroup and discussions on data pack and the correlation of the information with police statistics and community feedback. He advised that he had supplied the subgroup with the top ten locations of crime in Coleraine, noting the hospital as the number one area. He noted discussions held on housing in town centre and recent housing projects in the town and the increase in police demand that could result. He noted that CCGBC low crime stats, however Coleraine has above average. He also noted the link between the provision of more housing in the town centre would have an unintended consequence of requiring an increase in the number of police required on the ground.
- JD noted the importance of housing tenure.
- DJ advised that the availability of affordable housing was possibly the number one issue in the council area.
- RS noted that the issue of Safety & Security had featured in the Transport & Connectivity subgroup meeting with discussions on CCTV & lighting on pathways.
- PM agreed and suggested that PCSP could communicate with CFTF.
- RW mentioned the lighting issue also effects children taking part in sports, and that a simple fix could assist in many different areas.
- YMM noted that at a recent event on violence against women it was mentioned that women do not feel safe at night.

ACTION: All sub group members to review initial feedback from engagement sessions and report back to the CFTF team by 5th October.

3.	CFTF Board Governance	Hazel King (SIB)
	• HK updated the board on recent engagement events noting the success of passporting of capacity monies to community groups to hold events and complete surveys, including West Bann, Ballysally & Millburn, noting that events to date had cost under £7000, with further events planned. She advised that the closing event had been moved to 21st October in The Lodge Hotel as events were still taking place and feedback still being gathered. • DJ noted the comprehensive CFTF engagement and feedback. • GMK advised that MHC&LC were impressed by the level of engagement.	
4.	Delivery of Engagement Update	TH (SIB)
	• TH updated the group on community engagement events since the last CFTF Board meeting. • GMK noted that MHC&LG had asked CFTF to provide feedback on the CFTF engagement process and emerging concepts to be used as part of the MHCLG announcement of an extension to the programme.. • YMM questioned if Arts groups had been consulted. • TH confirmed that there was an Arts specific workshop held on 27th August and attended by over 60 people, with theatre/culture hub high on the agenda. • GMK noted that shared facilities benefit all. • TH noted the question on the surveys regarding the roles of Olympians and elite athletes in the regeneration process. • DJ advised of the potential to build upon an upcoming event for Hanna Scott. • RW noted the amount of local sporting talent and what is being achieved with little funding, the local sports sector requires proper investment. • KY noted 4 running tracks in Coleraine but only one has lighting, noting the importance of shared spaces. • TH noted the difficulty for residents of Heights to access GAA pitches. Comms & Marketing Update • GB updated the CFTF Board on communications and marketing, noting 1379 survey responses received so far, with a leaflet drop to all households in Coleraine starting on Monday 6th October. He noted that regarding feedback on perception of safety at night so far men polled double to women in relation to feeling safe at night. He advised that over 600 orders for tickets had been placed for events, but as many events were not ticketed the attendance has been much greater. He advised of a promotional video to be presented at the event on 21st October. • DJ replied that with nearly 1400 survey responses so far it would provide a fantastic data set. • TH thanked the facilitators for their help at the engagement events.	

5.	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process Therese Hogg, Justine Daly
	• HK updated the board on the Task & Finish meeting noting the 3 key steps 1. Benchmarking with other PfN towns, 2. CFTF Task & Finish Co Design Group & 3. CCGBC Capital Projects Process & LAF, she noted that discussions were at a high level but would like to develop a 1-page framework reflective of the CFTF PfN vision & aligned to council processes. • TH noted the submission date of 28th November, and flagged the need for an extension to the submission date. • HK advised on a number of additional dates which were being proposed for Board & sub group meetings in the run up to the finalisation of the 10 year Regeneration plan and submission. These dates would be sent out to all Board members and sub group members. • GMK noted that the November submission would include themes and not necessarily projects. • DJ noted the importance of matched funding with DfC spending £17M in Portrush which in turn brought in £170M of private funding. He suggested a special council meeting to be arranged around 19th November and would check the corporate diary. • HK agreed to align dates with the councils corporate diary and asked DD to send out diary invites when dates are confirmed.
6.	DONM & AOB Chair
	• DONM Thursday 23rd October 2025 @ 6.00pm Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cloonavin at present unless another meeting is arranged. • GMK brings meeting to a close at 7.57pm.

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Chair			
Professor Gerry McKenna	GMK	1	Independent
Board Members			
Karen Yates	KY	1	Causeway Chamber Commerce
Rob Skelly	RS	1	Harbour Commissioner
Inspector Bjorn O'Brien	BOB	1	PSNI
Elaine Donnelly	ED	0	Coleraine Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (Chair)
Ann McNickle	AMN	1	Causeway Rural & Urban Network,
Jonny McKane	AMK	0	Council of Churches

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Ian Donaghey	ID	1	Chairman Coleraine BID, Harbour Commissioner
Jayne Taggart	JT	0	Enterprise Causeway
Duane Farrell	DF	1	The Honourable The Irish Society
Mark Lennox	ML	0	Northern Regional College
Victor Gault	VG	1	Ulster University
Mark Alexander	MA	0	NI Housing Executive
Graeme Stevenson	GS	1	Arts Council NI
Caitlin Bond	CB	0	CCGBC Youth Forum
Charlie Smyth	CS	1	CCGBC Youth Forum
Henry Taggart	HT	0	Coleraine Town Team
Riley McCahon	RMC	1	Coleraine Equality Forum
Local MP			
Gregory Campbell	GC	0	MP
Elected Members			
Councillor Philip Anderson	PA	0	Coleraine DEA
Councillor Niamh Archibald	NA	0	Coleraine DEA
Alderman Yvonne Boyle	YB	0	Coleraine DEA
Councillor Tanya Stirling	TS	0	Coleraine DEA (Teams)
Councillor Russell Watton	RW	0	Coleraine DEA
Councillor John Wisener	JW	0	Coleraine DEA
MLAS's Observers			
Caoimhe Archibald	CA	0	Sinn Féin Constituency: East Londonderry.
Maurice Bradley	MB	0	Democratic Unionist Party Constituency: East Londonderry
Cara Hunter	CH	0	<u>SDLP East Londonderry</u>
Claire Sugden	CS	0	Independent Constituency: East Londonderry
Departmental Observers			
Rhonda Williamson	RW	1	Department for Communities
Alan Keys	AK	0	Department for Infrastructure
Ann Marie Orr	AO	1	Tourism Ireland

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Ciaran Doherty	CD	0	Tourism NI
Justine Daly	JD	1	MAG Advisor Department for Communities
Council Officers			-
Niall McGurk	NMG	0	Head of Prosperity & Place
David Wright	DW	1	Head of Finance
Pat Mulvenna	PMV	1	Director Leisure & Development
David Jackson	DJ	1	Chief Executive
Des Donnelly	DD	1	Secretariat to CFTF Board
Shane Mathers	SM	1	Principle Planning Officer
Julienne Elliott	JE	1	Town and Village Manager
SIB			-
Hazel King	HK	1	CFTF PM
Therese Hogg	TH	1	Community Engagement (SSU)
Gavin Boyd	GB	1	Communications
Total		21	