

Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday 23rd October 2025

Location: The Lodge Hotel, 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
3.	CFTF Board Governance	Hazel King (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#1.	DD to send out survey links to board members to share.	DD		
4.	Delivery of Engagement Update	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#2.	TH & HK to refine feedback from vision statement & principles and present back to board before next board meeting.	TH & HK		
5.	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process	TH (SIB) JD (MAGS)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#3.	TH & HK to amend and bring back to board.	TH & HK		

6.	DONM & AOB	Professor Gerry McKenna		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Next meeting 10.00am Tuesday 5 th November 2025 the Lodge Hotel			

Red Not yet commenced
Yellow In Progress
Green Complete

1.	Welcome / Apologies Matters Arising
	GMK chaired meeting, welcoming everyone and noted apologies. Minutes shared and agreed. GMK asked if anyone would like to declare conflict of interest regarding tonight's agenda, nil response. GMK noted the presence of MHCLG delegation at the Closing Event on Tuesday, adding that they were very impressed with the engagement and work of the board. He thanked everyone for their work and support. HK advised that the 10-step check list will be uploaded to the Pride in Place portal by the deadline on the 28th of November. GMK advised the board of an invitation to join a trip to Kilkenny on 10th – 11th December and asked if any board members would like to attend to contact the CFTF Team.
2.	CFTF Subgroups Update
	Deputy Chairs HK (SIB) HK updated the board on subgroup meetings for all four subgroups, noting that the groups were sense checking the data and trying to pull out the top priorities looking for the top 3-5 ideas. She noted that the feedback so far was consistent and that there were strong themes emerging including housing, town centre, river culture, culture quarter and a creative schools programme, noting a total list of 14 themes to be discussed later. HK advised that the next 2 subgroup meetings will be combined. DF noted that there were strong river themes including the blue way and around the train station including the connection to the football stadium. BOB advised that Community Rescue Service have been represented on the Safety & Security subgroup by Sean McGarry.

	GMK reminded that Lynn Kane had resigned from the board and had been replaced by Riley McCahon chair of the Equality Forum. He noted that it had been suggested that Riley replace Lynn as the Deputy Chair of the Stakeholder Engagement & Cohesion subgroup, asking if there were any additional nominations. Riley confirmed by board as Deputy Chair of Stakeholder Engagement & Cohesion Subgroup.
3.	CFTF Board Governance Hazel King (SIB)
	HK updated the board on Governance giving an update on the budget and noting that two payments of capacity monies have been received so far totalling £450,000. HK noted that 1700 survey responses had been received to date. DD to send out survey links to board members to share. HK advised that a video had been developed, and a press release had been pushed out through council channels.
4.	Delivery of Engagement Update TH (SIB)
	TH updated the board on the delivery of engagement finishing with the closing event held on 21st October. She noted the responses from those who attended had been very positive regarding their views being listened to. She advised that the top 4 emerging concepts were: 1.Town Centre as vibrant welcoming place 2.Create a river culture 3.Multi-functional spaces (arts, sport, youth) 4.Housing TH delivered a workshop to help shape the vision and emerging principles, asking the members to refine the vision statement. Initial Vision Statement <i>Coleraine is a thriving, inclusive, and forward-looking hub - gateway to the North Coast and a destination in its own right. Rooted in its rich history and strong community spirit, it is a safe and welcoming place to live, work, learn, visit, and do business. With a commitment to opportunity, sustainability, and connectivity, Coleraine embraces the future while preserving the character that makes it unique.</i> Feedback included changing North Coast to Causeway Coast, changing gateway to bridge, making Coleraine a hub of the Causeway Coast. TH & HK to refine feedback and present back to board before next board meeting. Discussion held on emerging principles, feedback from the board noted that the wording needs to be simplified and be accessible. TH & HK to refine feedback and present back to board before next board meeting. JE noted that business investment and focus on businesses in the town centre were lacking.

	TH shared statistics from the Governments data pack and discussions were held. TH shared PfN preapproved investment interventions.	
5.	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process	Therese Hogg, Justine Daly
	TH shared a copy of the councils Capital Projects Prioritisation process, and discussions were had on using this to create a prioritisation process for CFTF. JE suggested removing the word admin and replacing with delivery. PM suggested amending the wording to say to up to 15% for delivery costs. Discussion held on emerging concepts and ideas, with emphasis on sifting and prioritisation and the use of scoring. GMK suggested that the number of concepts could reduce as we go through the process. Consensus board happy with 5 elements but would change scoring. TH & HK to amend and bring back to board to sign off. TH suggested bringing the revised prioritisation framework to the subgroups.	
6.	DONM & AOB	Chair
	GMK thanked members for their attendance he noted DONM as Tuesday 5 th November in the Lodge Hotel and brought the meeting to a close at 19.59.	

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

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Duane Farrell	DF	1	The Honourable The Irish Society
Mark Lennox	ML	1	Northern Regional College
Victor Gault	VG	0	Ulster University
Mark Alexander	MA	1	NI Housing Executive
Graeme Stevenson	GS	0	Arts Council NI
Caitlin Bond	CB	0	CCGBC Youth Forum
Charlie Smyth	CS	0	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	1	Coleraine DEA
Alderman Yvonne Boyle	YB	1	Coleraine DEA
Councillor Tanya Elder	TE	1	Coleraine DEA (Teams)
Councillor Russell Watton	RW	1	Coleraine DEA
Councillor John Wisener	JW	1	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	0	Department for Communities
Alan Keys	AK	0	Department for Infrastructure
Ann Marie Orr	AO	0	Tourism Ireland
Esther Dobbin	ED	1	Tourism NI
Justine Daly	JD	1	MAG Advisor Department for Communities
Yvonne McManus	YMM	1	PSNI

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
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	0	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	0	Communications
Total		26	