

Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday 17th November 2025

Location: The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine. **Present and Absentees:** List of Attendees detailed below on pages 7-9.

1.	Welcome / Apologies / Minutes & Matters Arising	Karen Yates		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Apologies noted as per attendance record attached to Minutes.			
2.	CFTF Subgroups - Update	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	N/A			
3.	CFTF Stakeholder Engagement	Hazel King (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#1.	HK asked DD to send link for CFTF YouTube video to board members to share.	DD		
4.	CFTF Board Governance	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	CFTF Board agree final CFTF Vision, Vision statement, Positioning statement, and Principles.	HK		
5.	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks

#2.	CFTF Team to revise the draft CFTF sifting, scoring and assessment process for emerging projects and programmes along with the makeup of the CFTF internal assessment panel and share with the CFTF board members for final sign off	TH/HK		
	CFTF Board Members to review the initial sift of CFTF emerging concepts and send any comments to the CFTF team by COP Wednesday 19 th Nov.	TH/HK		
6.	DONM & AOB	Karen Yates		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Next meeting 7.00pm Thursday 27 th November 2025 Council Chamber	KY		

Red  Not yet commenced
Yellow  In Progress
Green  Complete

1	Welcome / Apologies Matters Arising	
.		
	KY chaired the meeting in the absence of GMK. Apologies noted & minutes shared and agreed. KY asked board members to declare any conflicts of interest for todays meeting agenda. Nil response.	
2	CFTF Subgroups Update	Deputy Chairs TH (SIB)
.		
	TH updated the board on the joint subgroup meeting held on 6 th November where the subgroups reviewed emerging principles and added detail on potential partnerships, capital or revenue spend and potential budgets for projects.	
3	CFTF Stakeholder Engagement	TH (SIB)
.		
	TH updated the board on Stakeholder engagement noting that most had finished except for meetings with statutory bodies and community associations.	

	HK updated the board on communications in GB absence, noting all the surveys had been closed except for two being used by the community associations. She advised of 1911 survey responses roughly 13% of the population of Coleraine. HK asked DD to send link for CFTF YouTube video to board members to share.	
4	CFTF Board Governance	TH (SIB)
	HK shared a final draft of CFTF Vision statement noting that it was discussed at the last CFTF Board meeting but not enough members attended for the board to vote at that time, and it was agreed to bring it to this meeting for board members to vote on. <i>Coleraine - a vibrant, historic riverside town to experience, invest in, and call home.</i> CFTF Vision statement discussed and agreed. HK shared CFTF draft positioning statement, discussions were had, and it was slightly altered and agreed by the board as below. <i>Celebrating Coleraine's position as a key regional hub within the Regional Development Strategy 2035, with a strong vibrant and attractive town that supports jobs, services, wellbeing, recreation and places for people to live, study, work and visit. It promotes regional balance and is well placed to attract investment and connect with nearby towns through an integrated transport system, helping to drive innovation and business development, and embrace opportunities presented by technology and green growth.</i> HK shared CFTF draft CFTF visioning statements discussions were had and amended and agreed as detailed below. <i>Coleraine is a thriving and inclusive hub rooted in heritage, driven by community, and strategically positioned as a connected hub to the Causeway Coast and a vibrant destination in its own right.</i> <i>Coleraine is home to many communities – we celebrate the diversity of our community – we promote equality, inclusion and cohesion, and recognise the importance of intersectionality in our planning.</i> <i>Our vision celebrates Coleraine's rich history and cultural legacy, from its ancient origins as Ireland's earliest settlement to its role as a modern regional centre.</i> <i>Coleraine's character is shaped by its historic streets, iconic landmarks, and the River Bann, which flows through its heart. Linking the town to its harbour and the stunning coastline beyond brings development opportunities which enhance the future vitality in our place and the transformative role of our regeneration plan.</i>	

- *We aspire to create a town centre that blends tradition with innovation - where heritage buildings are revitalised, public spaces are animated by arts and cultural events, and local sports thrive alongside new opportunities for living, leisure, recreation and wellbeing.*
- *Coleraine will champion sustainability and environmental stewardship, ensuring that growth respects our natural assets, and builds our green economy.*
- *As a hub for learning, enterprise, and creativity and building on our Project Kelvin link, Coleraine will attract investment, foster business development, and provide a platform for talent and innovation. (Atlantic Link Enterprise Park/ Campus)*
- *We build on our strengths as a university town rather than a town with a university*
- *We advocate for improved infrastructure (power, water, sewage, transport, digital) & planning that is fit for purpose.*

HK shared final draft of CFTF principles noting that the principles had already been agreed but the headings were to be reviewed and agreed at this meeting, discussions were held and principles agreed as detailed below.

<i>Our Place</i>	• <i>Our plan will focus on Coleraine as a whole - our town centre, our river and harbour, our people and our neighbourhoods and surrounding areas</i> • <i>Together with our partners, we will advocate for improvements to things that matter to local people, like health, education, housing, jobs, transport, arts sport, the environment, culture, accessibility, safety and poverty, recognising that all these issues are connected and affect each other</i> • <i>We will not just stop at what we can do, we will go beyond what we can do and advocate for change where it is needed to help us reach our ambitions</i> •
-------------------------	--

	<i>Inclusive Voices</i>	• <i>We will help local people to have a real say in decisions that affect them and play a key role in shaping Coleraine and its future</i> • <i>We will enable voices that aren't always heard or are easy to ignore, so that places feel welcoming, diverse, inclusive and reflect community aspirations</i> •	
	<i>Working Together for Lasting Impact</i>	• <i>We believe that real change happens when people work together.</i> • <i>By joining forces, sharing ideas and resources, and focusing on common goals, local communities in Coleraine alongside public, private and voluntary sector organisations can make a difference together</i> • <i>This approach will maximise existing assets, tackle tough problems and make improvements that last - helping everyone feel proud of where they live</i>	
	<i>Fresh Innovative Thinking</i>	• <i>Coleraine is a place where fresh ideas can grow</i> • <i>We will encourage creative thinking, try new approaches, embrace new technologies and advocate for investment in vital infrastructure which can help transform where and how we live, work and play</i> • <i>Co-creating with local groups, businesses, and government will help us support early ideas, attract additional funding and bring real improvements to the town and its neighbourhoods</i>	

	Openness, Fairness and Trust	• <i>Our aim is to build trust, pride, and a sense of ownership in local change</i> • <i>We will keep people informed by being open, clear and honest in our communications - listening, sharing updates, celebrating progress and showing the differences being made</i> • <i>We will make decisions about priorities and funding fairly and transparently, so people can trust the process and see that communities in Coleraine are truly benefiting</i>	
5	CFTF Concept Prioritisation Process	Therese Hogg,	
	TH shared details on proposed assessment process for CFTF. Discussions held on sifting emerging concepts, plan on a page preparation, sifting plan on a page projects, and scoring of projects. Proposed scoring assessment process shared, and discussions held on make up of CFTF Internal Assessment Panel. TH held a discussion on delivery, evaluation & monitoring and shared draft of scoring assessment for projects and programmes that pass sifting.		
	Scoring criteria	Description	
	Strategic Fit & Business need	Alignment with CFTF themes, and provides holistic fit and synergy with other strategies	
	Potential Value for Money	Optimises public value (social, economic and environmental), in terms of the potential costs, benefits and risks	
	Potential Affordability	Can be funded from available sources of finance and aligns with revenue constraints	

	Potential Achievability	Is likely to be delivered given the organisation's ability to respond to the changes required, and matches the available skills required for successful delivery
	Potential Deliverability (Capacity and Capability)	Matches the ability of potential suppliers required to deliver the services and is likely to be attractive to supply side
VG suggested that potential achievability and deliverability be moved up and possibly reweighted. KY suggested that the CFTF Team revise the draft sifting, scoring assessment process along with the makeup of the CFTF internal assessment panel and share with the CFTF board members for final sign off. Agreed by the CFTF Team. TH shared details for draft of initial sift for CFTF concepts, noting that it would be shared to the board members by email with their review to be submitted by Wednesday evening.		
6	DONM & AOB	Chair
KY noted the date of next meeting as Thursday 27th November but with the possibility of a Teams meeting on 24th or 25th November to review submission. HK advised the board of a meeting with MHGLC where they had been advised that MOU for investment plans would not be for 10 years, but for each of the investment periods, initially 4 years, then 3 years and a final one of 3 years. Guidance given by MHGLC that each investment plan to be taken as a distinct plan with no overlap. KY brought meeting to a close at 7.07pm.		

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Chair			
Professor Gerry McKenna	GMK	0	Independent
Board Members			

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
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
Ian Donaghey	ID	1	Chairman Coleraine BID, Harbour Commissioner
Jayne Taggart	JT	1	Enterprise Causeway
Duane Farrell	DF	0	The Honourable The Irish Society
Mark Lennox	ML	1	Northern Regional College
Victor Gault	VG	1	Ulster University
Mark Alexander	MA	0	NI Housing Executive
Graeme Stevenson	GS	0	Arts Council NI
Caitlin Bond	CB	1	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	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

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
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	1	Department for Infrastructure
Ann Marie Orr	AO	1	Tourism Ireland
Esther Dobbin	ED	0	Tourism NI
Justine Daly	JD	1	MAG Advisor Department for Communities
Yvonne McManus	YMM	1	PSNI
Council Officers			-
Niall McGurk	NMG	0	Head of Prosperity & Place
David Wright	DW	0	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	0	Communications
Total		27	