

## Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Location:** Council Chamber Cloonavin, Coleraine. **Present and Absentees:** List of Attendees detailed below on pages 4-5.

1.	Welcome / Apologies / Minutes & Matters Arising	Karen Yates		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#1	Matters Arising: DJ confirmed that Elected Members have full voting rights on the CFTF Board.	DJ		
2.	CFTF Project Scoring & Prioritisation Process	TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
#2	Proposals from Board members to update the initial sift and score of project concepts were approved.	HK		
#3	The CFTF 6 Concepts were approved and now become the 6 CFTF Investment Priorities as detailed in the minutes..	HK		
#4	Plan on a Page concept approved by the CFTF Board	TH		Template currently being finalised.
#5	The Board approved the updated CFTF sifting and scoring process subject to updates as per Board members comments.	TH		
#6	CFTF Assessment panels format approved.	HK/TH		

<b>3.</b>	<b>CFTF 10 year Vision &amp; Regeneration Plan Submission &amp; Key Decisions Required</b>	<b>TH (SIB)</b>		
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>#7</b>	The CFTF Board approved the submission questions which were reviewed during the Board meeting. These can no be submitted to MHCLG on the 28 <sup>th</sup> November.	HK		
<b>#8</b>	Subject to minor updates as per the Board discussions, the CFTF Board approved the draft CFTF 10 Vision & Regeneration Plan which was reviewed during the Board meeting. This document can now be submitted to MHCLG on the 28 <sup>th</sup> November.	HK/TH		
<b>4.</b>	<b>DONM &amp; AOB</b>	<b>Chair</b>		
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 5.30pm (Refreshments) meeting start 6.00pm, Council Chamber, Cloonavin			

**Red**  Not yet commenced  
**Yellow**  In Progress  
**Green**  Complete

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome / Apologies Matters Arising</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KY chaired the meeting in the absence of GMK. Apologies noted &amp; minutes shared and agreed.</li> <li>• KY asked board members to declare any conflicts of interest for todays meeting agenda. Nil response.</li> <li>• Count of voting members completed and confirmed by KY that there are enough voting members to meet quorum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Matters Arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was an outstanding query linked to Elected Members voting on the CFTF Board and whether there was a conflict of interest when they then were required to vote in the council chamber. DJ (CCGBC CE) confirmed that the 6 Elected Members who sit on the CFTF Board have full voting rights on the Board, and this will not affect any voting required in the council Chamber.</li> </ul>

2.	CFTF Project Scoring & Prioritisation Process	KH & TH (SIB)
	<p>HK shared feedback received from board members re the initial sift of the 6 CFTF concepts.</p> <p><b>NA proposed the following updates:</b>            Concept 1: meets the requirements of Increase employment levels &amp; higher paid jobs and Increase education attainment levels &amp; apprenticeships as if we are wanting to create a thriving Innovative Coleraine then these would be requirements to enable that.            Concept 2: meets the Employment Domain as having/not having a home is often a barrier to getting a job.</p> <p><b>YB proposed the following updates:</b>            Concept 4: proposed Income Domain should be included as more visitors /tourist to the area and indeed more residents using the river will result in more jobs and income.            Concept 5: proposed Infrastructure domain should be included as our people/inclusivity (everyone) benefits from better infrastructure, employment and income from for example commercial development.</p> <p>These proposals were both approved by the Board.</p> <p>KY asked the board to approve the 6 Concepts now become CFTF Investment Priorities detailed below – this was approved by vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment Priority 1: Integrating Ireland’s Earliest Settlement, Natural Assets, Harbour, and Cultural Experiences into a Thriving Blueway and improve Health and Wellbeing for all.</li> <li>• Investment Priority 2: Investing in communities by doing things differently, tackling intergenerational challenges, promoting equality, and fostering pride in place.</li> <li>• Investment Priority 3: Creating a Thriving Innovative Coleraine open to all.</li> <li>• Investment Priority 4: Housing – safe, sustainable, accessible, connected and thriving neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• Investment Priority 4: Shaping the Workforce of Tomorrow Through Smart Innovative Investment.</li> <li>• Investment Priority 6: Infrastructure is the backbone of thriving towns - without it, housing, leisure, cultural, and commercial developments cannot succeed.</li> </ul> <p>TH provided an update on the refined initial sifting for Stage 1b for projects &amp; programmes noting the increased score for project delivery            TH updated the board on the plan on a page concept and proposed that a plan on a page would be completed for every one of the emerging projects and programmes as part of the sifting and scoring.</p>	

KY asked the board members to vote on approving the proposed initial sift stage 1b for projects & programmes, and this was approved by the Board.

TH shared the proposed Stage 2 Emerging Scoring Projects & Programmes.

- PM asked if there was a need for strategic fit again as this appears to be duplication.
- GC noted that the scoring for projects with match funding secured should score higher. A smaller number of projects with match funding was a better outcome.
- BO'B noted that he was in agreement with the proposed amendments.

KY asked the board if they were happy with the concept of the Plan on a Page and the proposed changes to the assessment process and these were then agreed by board.

TH shared the revised proposed format for the CFTF assessment panels advising that they would like all CFTF Board Members to be trained to sit on the panels,

**ASSESSMENT PANEL MEMBERS:**

- Panel for each Concept / Investment Pillar.
  - Proposed same Panel Members (including up to 3 Board Members) involved in both the sifting and scoring of projects for consistency.
  - Minimum of 5 members to ensure balanced decision-making (consider independent Panel Member).
  - Gender balance / S75 balance.
  - Representatives with range of knowledge and skills (e.g Community, Business, knowledge of regeneration, funding compliance, and local economic priorities.)
  - Provision of training for panel members (i.e. whole Board trained).
  - Experience in project appraisal and risk assessment.
  - Chairperson appointed for each panel to lead discussions and ensure fair process.
  - Panel supported by CFTF Team, CCGBC to record decisions and maintain documentation.
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- It was noted that managing conflicts of interest would be very important when establishing the panels. HK noted that the councils dedicated grant funding unit should be able to provide support to the Board in this respect and had existing processes in place for managing conflicts and confidentially etc
  - DJ noted that the panels should have no more than 4-5 panel members maximum.

	The Board approved this approach.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>CFTF 10-year Vision &amp; Regeneration Plan Submission &amp; Key decisions required</b>	<b>TH (SIB)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HK advised that the CFTF Board Members are required to sign off on the CFTF Plan Submission.</li> <li>• HK shared draft CFTF Regeneration Plan Submission Questions to be uploaded to MHGLC portal on 28<sup>th</sup> November.</li> </ul> <p>KY asked board members to approve the CFTF regeneration Plan Submission Questions, this was approved by the Board.</p> <p>TH shared the draft CFTF 10-year Vision &amp; Regeneration Plan Submission noting this document had been shortened from the draft document previously shared to board members, she advised that changes can be made to this document until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, discussion held by board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BO'B proposed that stakeholder engagement should be referenced heavier in the submission to reflect the level of engagement which was undertaken.</li> <li>• TH highlighted the need to include safety and security.</li> </ul> <p>KY asked CFTF Board Members to vote on approving the draft CFTF 10-year Vision &amp; Regeneration Plan, this was approved.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>DONM &amp; AOB</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December @ 6.00pm in Council Chamber Cloonavin.	

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
<b>Chair</b>			
Professor Gerry McKenna	GMK	0	Independent
<b>Board Members</b>			
Karen Yates	KY	1	Causeway Chamber Commerce
Rob Skelly	RS	0	Harbour Commissioner

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Inspector Bjorn O'Brien	BOB	1	PSNI
Elaine Donnelly	ED	0	Coleraine Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (Chair)
Ann McNickle	AMN	0	Causeway Rural & Urban Network,
Jonny McKane	AMK	0	Council of Churches
Ian Donaghey	ID	1	Chairman Coleraine BID, Harbour Commissioner
Jayne Taggart	JT	0	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	1	NI Housing Executive
Graeme Stevenson	GS	0	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	0	Coleraine Equality Forum
<b>Local MP</b>			
Gregory Campbell	GC	1	MP
<b>Elected Members</b>			
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	0	Coleraine DEA (Teams)
Councillor Russell Watton	RW	1	Coleraine DEA
Councillor John Wisener	JW	1	Coleraine DEA
<b>MLAS's Observers</b>			
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

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
<b>Departmental Observers</b>			
Rhonda Williamson	RW	1	Department for Communities
Alan Keys	AK	0	Department for Infrastructure
Ann Marie Orr	AO	0	Tourism Ireland
Esther Dobbin	ED	0	Tourism NI
Justine Daly	JD	1	MAG Advisor Department for Communities
Yvonne McManus	YMM	0	PSNI
<b>Council Officers</b>			-
Niall McGurk	NMG	1	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
<b>SIB</b>			-
Hazel King	HK	1	CFTF PM
Therese Hogg	TH	1	Community Engagement (SSU)
Gavin Boyd	GB	0	Communications
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	