

## Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

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

**Location:** Large Conference Room Cloonavin

**Present and Absentees:** List of Attendees detailed below on pages 7&8.

1.	Welcome / Apologies / Minutes & Matters Arising	Professor Gerry McKenna		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
a	Declarations of interests	Officers		Noted
b	Conflict of Interest Both forms are available should anyone require either.			Board members to contact Dessie Donnelly
c	Each Elected Member to confirm to the Board at the next meeting in May where they have decided to use their vote (CFTF Board or Council Chamber).			
2.	Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) – Launch announcement	Hazel King (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	CFTF Board to note the new PfN programme important dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22 April 2025:</b> CFTF Board confirm finalised membership and any proposals to alter their place boundaries.</li> <li>• <b>Spring 2025 to winter 2025:</b> CFTF Board submit their Regeneration Plan to MHCLG for assessment and approval.</li> <li>• <b>From April 2026:</b> Programme delivery funding released to local authorities, and delivery phase begins.</li> </ul>			
3.	Establishing the CFTF Board	Hazel King (SIB)		
b	The CFTF Board agreed to retain the current membership of the CFTF Board which meets the updated PfN guidance.			

	The Board also agreed that the four subgroups as previously established will be retained, and their remit updated to reflect the new PfN programme objectives and additional cross cutting funding interventions.			
<b>4.</b>	<b>CFTF Board Procedural Business</b>	<b>Hazel King (SIB)</b>		
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
a.	Officers to investigate proposed updates to the CFTF boundary map and report back to the CFTF Board at next Board meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 in order that confirmation of the funding boundary map can be submitted to MHCLG by 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025.  Proposals from the Board to include additional areas in the CFTF funding boundary map – Mountsandel Fort & Wood, The Fish Passes and Lock gates at the Cutts and Somerset Forest, The Cranagh area and Castleroe.	Council Officers		
b.	Board members to confirm any final changes to the CFTF Board Terms of Reference by 1 <sup>st</sup> April and approve the final version at the online meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 in order that the Board terms of reference can be submitted to MHCLG by 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025.			
<b>5.</b>	<b>Developing the Vision and 10-year investment plan</b>	<b>Therese Hogg (SIB), Gavin Boyd (SIB)</b>		
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
a.	Officers to review programme and make a request to MHCLG for a Feb/March 2026 submission date of the CFTF Regeneration Plan.	SIB/Council Officers		
b.	CFTF new branding proposals to be prepared for the May board meeting.	SIB		
<b>6.</b>	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>Professor Gerry McKenna</b>		
	<b>None</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>

<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<b>5pm Thursday 10th April 2025 on teams – online meeting to review CFTF funding boundary map proposals</b>  <b>Advance notice of next in person CFTF Board meeting – 2.30pm Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Council Offices Cloonavin (to include walk about of Coleraine Town centre &amp; boat trip on the River Bann – full timings and details to follow.</b>	

Red  Not yet commenced  
 Yellow  In Progress  
 Green  Complete

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome / Apologies/Matters Arising</b>
	<p>GMK welcomed everyone. The Chair noted the apologies listed on Pg 7&amp;8. Minutes from the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were agreed by consensus.</p> <p>GMK reminded all present about completing a Declarations of interest, and if relevant Conflict of Interest documents. Both forms are available from the Board secretariat should anyone a copy.</p> <p>HK confirmed response had been issued to Dr Tracey in relation to his correspondence about acute hospital provision in the area, and a meeting suggested, awaiting response.</p> <p>DJ advised that Councillors could decide independently where they wish to vote – either the CFTF board or Council Meeting. Cllr R Watton stated he would be voting at Council meetings. Councillors to confirm at the next CFTF Board meeting of their individual decision on this matter.</p> <p><b>Action: Elected Members to confirm their individual decision on where they will vote (CFTF Board or Council Chamber) by the next Board meeting in May.</b></p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Plan for Neighbourhoods – Launch announcement</b>
	<p>GMK advised that the anticipated prospectus had been received from the UK Government, hence the need for this meeting to be scheduled. He passed over to HK to provide an update on the new Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) guidance.</p>

HK advised that Overarching Programme Goals were now:

- Building thriving Places
- Strengthening communities
- Taking back control

There is a focus on revitalising local areas, fighting deprivation, co-operative placemaking, not just about physical assets, it's about people taking collective action to improve their towns.

There is an increased list of investment interventions, and the original three were:

- Transport
- Safety & security
- Housing

The new additional interventions are:

- Work, productivity and skills
- Cohesion
- Health & Well being
- Education & Opportunity

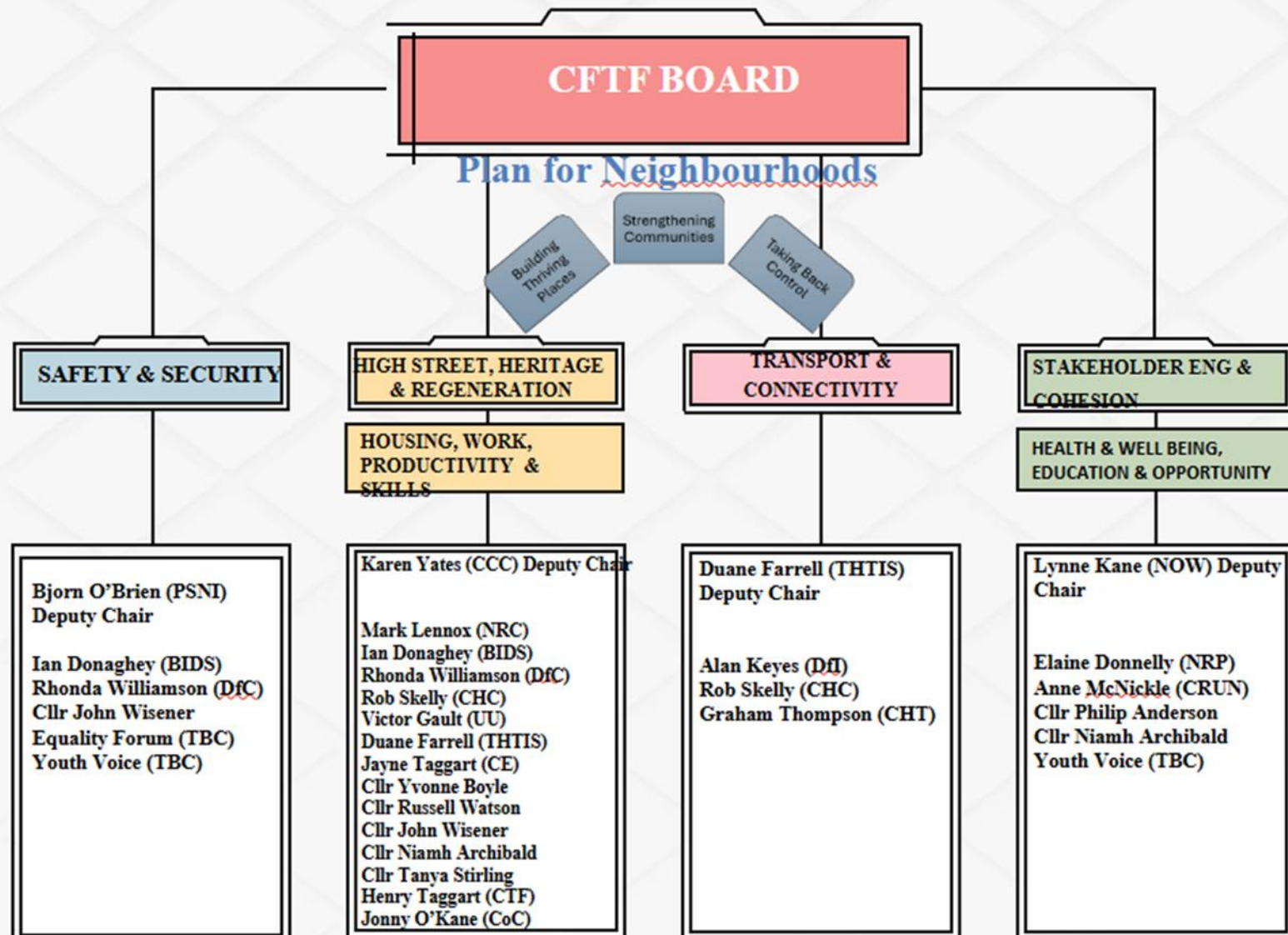
It was noted that as the updated prospectus applies to the whole of the UK, some elements of the new interventions will not fall within the remit of the Board, with other local community infrastructure in place already with a focus on a number of the interventions.

Confirmation has been received from a meeting with the MHCLG Policy representatives that there is no need to change the name from the Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF). The Board is responsible for co-producing the 10 Year Regeneration Plan, which constitutes a 10-year vision and 4-year investment plan, to improve the physical and social infrastructure of the local community. Partnership is integral to the successful delivery of the plan and the Board needs to consider how it will integrate and work alongside existing community infrastructure.

**Action: Board to note key PfN important milestone dates below:**

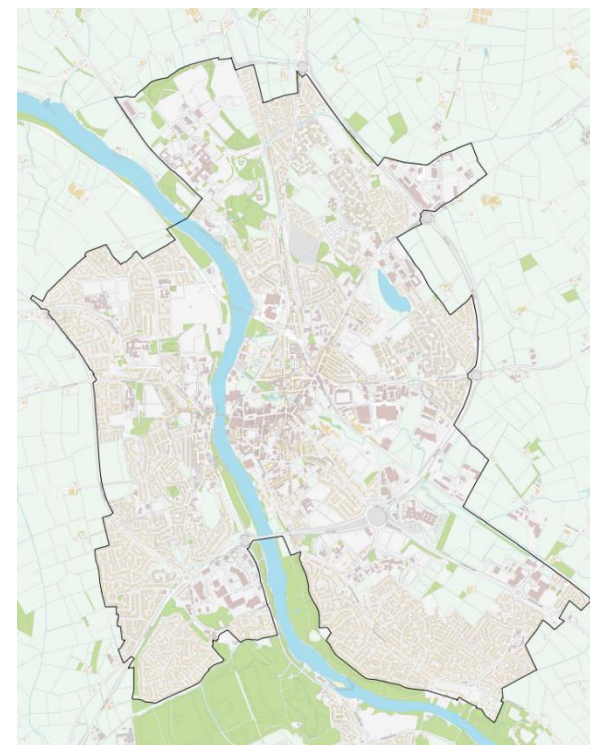
**Overview of Kay Dates & Milestones**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 April 2025: CFTF Board confirm finalised membership and any proposals to alter their place boundaries.</li> <li>• Spring 2025 to winter 2025: CFTF Board submit their Regeneration Plan to MHCLG for assessment and approval.</li> <li>• From April 2026: Programme delivery funding released to local authorities, and delivery phase begins.</li> </ul>		
<b>3.</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Establishing the CFTF Board</b></td><td><b>Hazel King (SIB)</b></td></tr> </table> <p>The new PfN programme guidance advised that the Board had an opportunity to review and refresh the skills, knowledge and expertise of the existing Board to see if any updates were required based on the updated programme requirements and wider list of interventions. The Council and the Chair (GMCK) reviewed the board and confirmed it does still fully reflect the requirements of the programme, therefore it was proposed that the CFTF Board membership does not change. This also includes the make-up of the four subgroups which will also be rolled into the new updated PfN programme.</p> <p>Query from Councillor YB re inclusion of the Coleraine Multi-cultural Group in the CFTF. HK confirmed that this group would be invited to participate in the CFTF sub-groups.</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  <b>It was agreed that the current make-up of the CFTF Board as the skills, knowledge and expertise of the existing members still meets the updated PfN guidance.</b>  <b>The four subgroups will be retained, and their remit updated to reflect programme objectives and additional PfN interventions.</b></p>	<b>Establishing the CFTF Board</b>	<b>Hazel King (SIB)</b>
<b>Establishing the CFTF Board</b>	<b>Hazel King (SIB)</b>		



Projects do not have to cover all interventions, important that the Board focuses on key priorities only, and endeavour not to duplicate.

	<b>4. CFTF Board Procedural Business</b>	<b>Hazel King (SIB)</b>
	<p><b>4a: CFTF Funding Boundary Map</b></p> <p>GMcK advised that the new guidance requires a review of the Coleraine default funding boundary map provided by MHCLG. Effectively funding can only be spent on projects which fall within the boundary.</p> <p>HK advised on the updated guidance from MHCLG on the funding boundary map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The data packs will be released in Spring 2025 and will assist places in building an evidence base. The data packs will, set out a suite of metrics linked to the three objectives of the programme intended to give places a strong starting evidence base. However, unlike last time, they are not intrinsically tied to the boundary process</li> <li>• If places wish to request a change to the boundary, they should do so by providing a strong rationale and the MHCLG team will assess any request and approve/reject.</li> <li>• Strongly advised not to take anything out of current boundary.</li> <li>• If any changes to boundary map MHCLG will confirm made as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Any changes to the boundary must be contiguous.</li> <li>• Changes cannot incorporate another townland (population or settlement).</li> <li>• Important to note that any changes to this boundary are not changes to the official town settlement boundary and are only regarded as boundary changes for purposes of this funding. Projects must align with current NAP designations for this area.</li> </ul> <p>A proposal has been received from Mr R Skelly (Coleraine Harbour Commissioners) to include Mountsandel Fort &amp; Wood, The Fish Passes and Lock gates at the Cutts and Somerset Forest.</p> <p>Duane Farrell of The Honourable The Irish Society, declared a conflict of interest and did not take part in this discussion.</p>	



The rationale provided were as follows;

- Mountsandel Fort & Wood – the significant heritage in Coleraine and an important green space that could be improved to the benefit of the whole town.
- The Fish Passes , Lock Gates at the Cutts – this section is significant in heritage and its link to transport along the Lower Bann corridor as the last set of locks between Lough Neagh and the sea, and as the obvious place to install a crossing over the river should such a project be brought forward.
- Somerset Forest – should be included as publicly owned green space- could be developed into a significant recreational and wellness resource for the town and people of Coleraine.

Inspector Bjorn O'Brien proposed that the Board should maximise the potential of the river and include The Cranagh area, Castleroe and the Cutts to maximise river frontage for tourism and growth options.

Discussion arose re some areas were outside the Coleraine DEA, and Officers confirmed they would review suggestions and investigate with the MHCLG policy team and update the Board at a further meeting which will be held online on the 10<sup>th</sup> April for the Board to approve any final updates to the map funding boundary.

Board members advised that suggested areas would maximise heritage, health & tourism potential area, and possibly increase leverage match funding.

**Action – Council Officers to investigate suggested changes to the CFTF funding boundary map as proposed and report back at the next Board meeting which will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> April (via Teams).**

#### **4b: CFTF Terms of Reference**

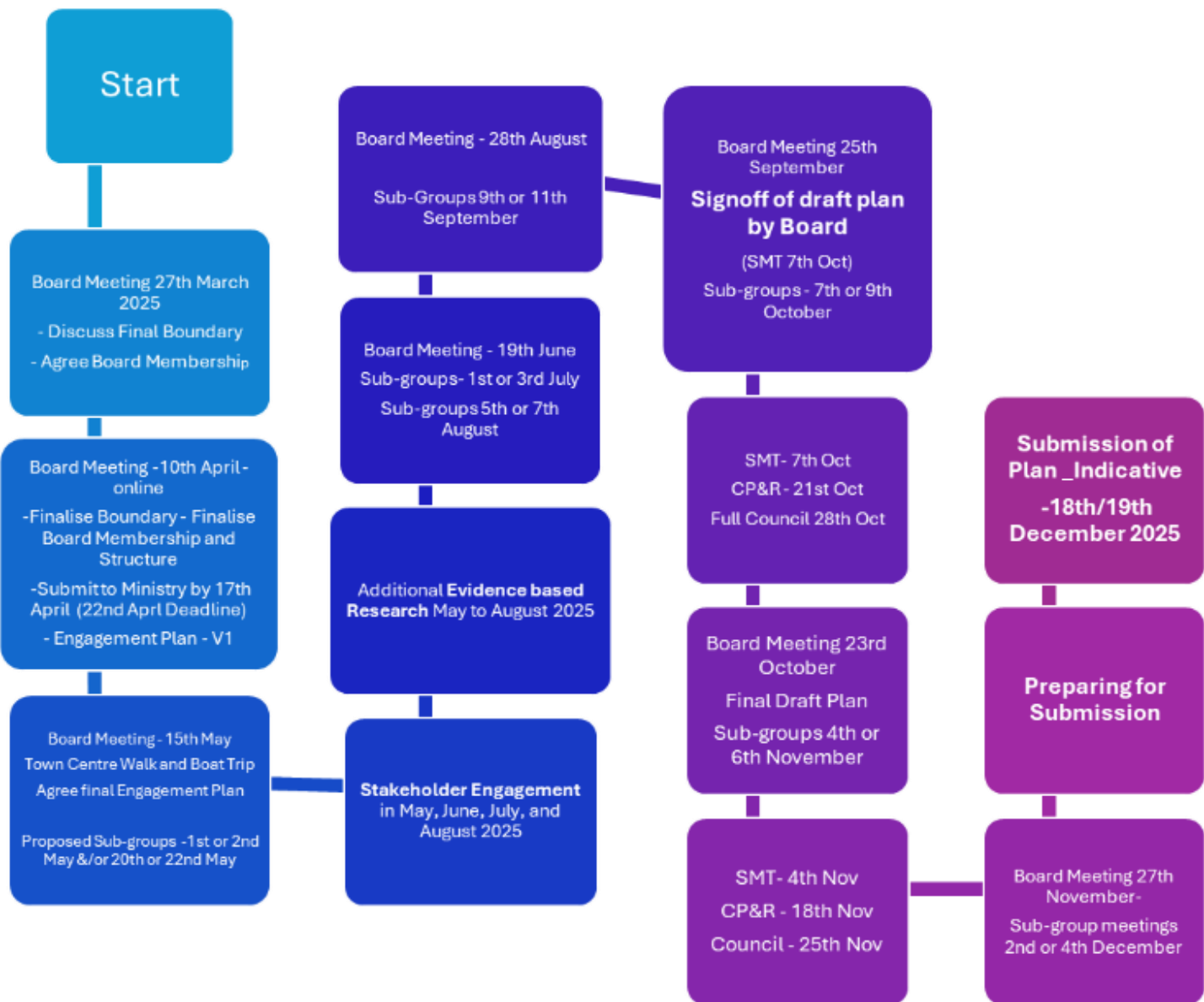
CFTF Board to confirm any final comments by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

CFTF Board to sign off on final Terms of Reference for the Board at online session on 10<sup>th</sup> April in order that these can be submitted to MHCLG by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

**Action: Board members to confirm any final changes to the CFTF Board Terms of Reference by 1<sup>st</sup> April and approve final version on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**



<b>5.</b>	<b>Developing the Vision &amp; 10 Year Investment Plan</b> <b>Therese Hogg (SIB)</b>
	<p>GMcK invited TH to provide an update on community engagement and draft delivery dates for delivery and submission of the Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>TH advised on the proposed timeline with submission date of Winter 2025 - Dec 2025 and provided the programme pathway below:</p>



	<p>Discussion arose on pushing the date of submission to Feb /March 2025 as consultation phase is very ambitious. Consultation in July and August may be challenging, and many need to be extended into September and October may be required. The subgroups will help guide the consultation/engagement and will include focus groups, schools, businesses etc all voices to be heard. The Board felt it would be better done right rather than being rushed so Feb/March 2026 was a more realistic timeframe, especially to accommodate engagement on a draft plan.</p> <p><b>Action: Officers to review programme and make a request to MHCLG for a Feb/March 2026 submission date of the CFTF Regeneration Plan.</b></p> <p><b>5b Communication Plan</b></p> <p>GB advised that officers are still awaiting the brand guidelines, but hopefully they will be received in time for proposals to be brought forward at the May Board meeting. Pipeline communication activities will also be ready.</p> <p><b>Action: Brand proposals to be prepared for the May CFTF board meeting</b></p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Action review, DONM and AOB</b>	<b>Professor Gerry McKenna</b>
	<p>GMK advised the board that the next board meeting will be via teams at 5pm Thursday 10th April 2025, re sign off of final Boundary funding Map.</p> <p>The next full Board meeting will take place on Thursday 15th May 2025, Cloonavin, in person as it is hoped to facilitate a town centre walkabout followed by a boat trip. Further details to follow.</p> <p>GMK thanked the group and brought the meeting to a close at 7.30pm.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	<b>5pm Thursday 10th April 2025 via Teams</b>	

Contact Name	Code	Attendance 27/02/2025	Organisation
<b>Chair</b>			
Professor Gerry McKenna	GMK	1	Independent
<b>Board Members</b>			
Karen Yates	KY	1	Causeway Chamber Commerce
Rob Skelly	RS	0	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	1	Council of Churches
Ian Donaghey	ID	1	Chairman Coleraine BID, Harbour Commissioner
Jayne Taggart	JT	1	Enterprise Causeway
Duane Farrell	DF	1	The Honourable The Irish Society
Graham Thompson	GT	1	Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust Board
Mark Lennox	ML	1	Northern Regional College
Victor Gault	VG	1	Ulster University
Mark Alexander	MA	1	NI Housing Executive (Teams)
TBC			Arts Council NI
Caitlin Bond	CB	1	CCGBC Youth Forum
Charlie Smyth	CS	1	CCGBC Youth Forum
Henry Taggart	HT	1	Coleraine Town Team
Lynn Kane	LK	0	Coleraine Equality Forum
<b>Local MP</b>			
Gregory Campbell	GC	1	MP
<b>Elected Members</b>			
Councillor Philip Anderson	PA	1	Coleraine DEA
Councillor Niamh Archibald	NA	1	Coleraine DEA
Alderman Yvonne Boyle	YB	1	Coleraine DEA
Councillor Tanya Stirling	TS	1	Coleraine DEA (Teams)
Councillor Russell Watton	RW	1	Coleraine DEA

Contact Name	Code	Attendance 27/02/2025	Organisation
Councillor John Wisener	JW	1	Coleraine DEA
<b>MLAS's Observers</b>			
Caoimhe Archibald	CA	0	Sinn Féin Constituency: East Londonderry.
Maurice Bradley	MB	1	Democratic Unionist Party Constituency: East Londonderry
Cara Hunter	CH	0	<u>SDLP East Londonderry</u>
Claire Sugden	CS	0	Independent Constituency: East Londonderry
<b>Departmental Observers</b>			
Rhonda Williamson	RW	1	Department for Communities
Alan Keys	AK	1	Department for Infrastructure
Helen McGorman	HMG	1	Tourism Ireland
Ciaran Doherty	CD	0	Tourism NI
<b>Council Officers</b>			-
Niall McGurk	NMG	0	Head of Prosperity & Place
David Wright	DW	1	Head of Finance
Pat Mulvenna	PMV	0	Director Leisure & Development
David Jackson	DJ	1	Chief executive
Des Donnelly	DD	0	Secretariat to CFTF Board (M Kerr)
<b>SIB</b>			-
Hazel King	HK	1	CFTF PM
Therese Hogg	TH	1	Community Engagement (SSU)
Gavin Boyd	GB	1	Communications
<b>Total</b>		<b>32</b>	