

Coleraine Future Town Fund Board Minutes

Date of Meeting: Thursday 26th March 2026

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

1.	Welcome / Apologies / Minutes & Matters Arising	Gerry McKenna		
	Actions	NMcS, JMCA	Status	Remarks
	DD to share a link to the 360 tour of the town centre with Board members.	DD		
2.	Review and agree CFTF Plan on a Page	TH/HK (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	The template for CFTF Plan on a Page development has been agreed.	TH/HK		
3.	Board Funding Priorities Linking to Vision & Ambition	HK TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	CFTF team to review the Local Economic Partnership funding model to align proposed match funding contributions from the private sector.	HK/TH		
4.	Governance	HK TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	1 st CFTF monitoring return to be signed off by the board at the next board meeting in April.	HK		

5.	Enabling Projects Update: Co-design/Co-Production	HK TH (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Board members to promote up coming co-design workshops to their networks and contacts.			
6.	Update on CFTF 10-year Vision & regeneration Plan submission to MHCLG	HK TH(SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	Press release to be issued to announce endorsement of the CFTF Regeneration plan by MHCLG.	HK/GB		
7.	Comms & Marketing update	HK (SIB)		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	CFTF Board members to add to the communications programme and promote any press announcement through their respective networks and contacts.	ALL		
8.	DONM & AOB	Chair		
	Actions	Lead	Status	Remarks
	DONM Thursday 23 rd April 2026 Council Chamber Cloonavin. Noting later starting time of 7.00pm			

Red Not yet commenced
Yellow In Progress
Green Complete

1.	Welcome / Apologies Matters Arising	Chair
	<p>GMK chaired meeting welcoming members in the chamber and online, apologies noted, minutes from previous meeting shared and agreed.</p> <p>GMK asked if any members had any conflicts of interest to declare regarding tonight's agenda, nil response.</p> <p>GMK advised the board members of an upcoming MAG review to take place on 20th April in the town centre, noting the MAG review panel will be chaired by Mr Ciarán Mackel, an architect and highly experienced in leading MAG review panels.</p> <p>GMK asked NMcS to demonstrate how the GIS team will provide support to the CFTF Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMcS shared a presentation advising that the GIS (Geographical Information System) team had been working with the CFTF team initially to map out the CFTF Funding Boundary, then demonstrated the mapping application including 61 different layers, noting that data can be collected in real time. He advised as the CFTF is further developed, the GIS team can use drone footage alongside an existing 360 walking tour of the town centre to really bring projects to life. The GIS system is also able to create funding dashboards for reporting on grants and mapping projects. • JMcA gave a demonstration of the GIS system for CFTF. • VB questioned if this information would be made public. • NMcS replied that data could be shared if it was non sensitive. • RW noted the large number of vacant and derelict properties. • ID questioned how the real time data would be sourced? • NMcS advised they were working with the councils town & villages team and data will be updated as and when. • GMK noted that the information provided would be invaluable to the board. • HK noted that it is currently a work in progress and there are plans to further develop the public facing 10 year Vision and Regeneration Plan using the Storyboard features of the GIS system which will provide information online on CFTF projects and funding in real time. The information which is mapped by the GIS team has a key role to play to support decision making by the Board. • KY added that it was very impressive and a useful tool for the board to use. <p>Action: DD to share a link to the 360 tour of the town centre with Board members.</p>	
2.	Review and agree CFTF Plan on a Page	TH (SIB)
	<p>TH shared the 4 updates to the draft plan on a page document discussed at the last board meeting, which had been updated to include the Coleraine Masterplan, Social Value, Programme for Government and the Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy as suggested by board members.</p> <p>Plan on Page document agreed by board members.</p>	

3. Board Funding Priorities Linking to Vision & Ambition	HK TH (SIB)
<p>HK presented a confidential report to update the board members on a CFTF task & finish group which proposed a portfolio level funding split of the overall CFTF budget across key funding priorities, setting out proposed funding envelopes for each of the three Pride in Place objectives, as well as outlining proposed match funding contributions from the community and voluntary sector, the private sector, and public bodies.</p> <p>A Portfolio level funding split can be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine how much funding goes to each priority • Ensure no single theme dominates unless intentionally designed • Guide fairness, consistency and long-term balance • Shape the overall portfolio before individual projects are selected <p>Whilst CFTF can support a wide range of activities, the projects that will make the biggest and most visible difference to Coleraine are those that achieve three priority outcomes at once:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transform the look and function of the town centre (physical change) 2. Bring people back to live, work, visit, and spend time in Coleraine (footfall plus activity) 3. Strengthen community participation, cohesion, and confidence (social impact) and tackle deprivation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA questioned if the figures allowed for change in the future? • TH agreed that they would and could be kept under review. • JT questioned the private sector contribution and asked if it would be the same for a small local SME and a large multinational company, noting that the proposed match funding contribution from the private sector as affordability will be key for small businesses. • GMK noted this was a very valid point and would be a board decision. • HK advised that this was up for discussion by the Board. • KY suggested cross referencing with LEP and their grant funding model. • GMK asked the board members if they were happy in principle with the proposed approach. This approach was agreed by board, with the CFTF team to review the LEP grant funding model. 	
4. Governance	HK TH (SIB)
<p>HK updated the board on the monitoring requirements required by MHCLG advising that the team took part in a webinar hosted by MHCLG outlining what information should be collated and submitted. MHCLG have requested that details of capacity funding activities, projects delivered, projects planned, neighbourhood board details, forecast capacity spend, forecast programme delivery spend along with outputs should be uploaded onto the MHCLG online portal by 30th of April. She advised that the monitoring return should be signed off by the board before submission and in order to meet this timescale this should be completed at the next board meeting in April. She added that the forecast spend was up to October 2026.</p> <p>Action: 1st CFTF monitoring return to be signed off by the board at the next board meeting in April.</p>	

5.	Enabling Projects Update: Co-design/Co-Production	HK TH (SIB)
<p>HK gave the board a brief update report on the CFTF enabling projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riverside Blueway – Phase 1 Scoping and Strategy Report – contract awarded 2. Multi-Sport and Well Being Initiative-Scoping and Strategy Report – currently out to tender. 3. Coleraine Town Centre Task & Finish Group Established to agree the various scopes, approaches, and delivery routes to support the CFTF Board to identify opportunities to incentivise, re-purpose and maximise the use of vacant and under-used buildings and assets across Coleraine town centre. The MAG review will have a key role to help inform any proposed town regeneration project. 4. Community Enabling Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Ambition Co Design workshops have taken place on 4th Feb, 2nd March, 19th March, 25th March, with a further event planned for 22nd April (includes best practice and bench marking). • To collate the relevant information to inform “Plan on Page”. • To agree the various scopes, approaches, and delivery routes to support the CFTF Board to identify opportunities to raise ambition and identify potential projects and programmes for communities in Coleraine. • Commission any feasibility studies required, engagement with statutory partners. • Aligned with CCGBC new community development strategy. <p>RW advised of the DfC Shaping Sustainable Places programme and a potential vacancy scheme and would update the board on timeframes.</p> <p>RW noted the importance in housing and advised of a housing association scheme in Abbey Street completed with 20 more people now living in the town centre.</p>		
6.	Update on CFTF 10-year Vision & regeneration Plan submission to MHCLG	HK TH (SIB)
<p>HK updated the board on the 10-year plan submission to MHCLG advising that a letter had been received and circulated to board members that strongly endorsed the CFTF plan, she added that a press release is planned to celebrate and maximise opportunities and raise awareness.</p> <p>HK advised that the MOU for the next 4 years would be received in the next few weeks and that a further press release including a photocall with the local MP was being planned.</p> <p>Action: Press release to be issued to announce endorsement of the CFTF Regeneration plan by MHCLG</p>		

7.	Comms & Marketing Update	HK (SIB)
<p>HK gave the board an update on communications noting that the CFTF website had been updated to include Pride in Place and had photos from various events added, with the hope of using the website as an ongoing key source of information for the wider public. She also advised that the CFTF team would develop a pipeline of news stories and announcements which would be issued throughout the year at key milestones to keep the public informed and up to date.</p> <p>HK noted that the CFTF survey draw would take place tonight after the board meeting with 6 winners to be drawn.</p> <p>HK advised of plans for an interview with the Chair to be published in local papers and would like to see promotion of early-stage project concepts.</p> <p>HK advised that a public facing online (GIS) version of the 10-year Vision & Regeneration plan would be launched later in the year with projects, programmes and dashboard for reporting outputs and funding alongside a summary document. This can be updated in real time.</p> <p>Action: GMK asked board members to add to the communications programme and promote any press announcement through their respective networks and contacts.</p>		
8.	DONM & AOB	Chair
<p>GMK advised that he would be unable to attend the meeting on 30th of April and asked that a change be considered to 23rd of April, agreed by board.</p> <p>GMK noted that due to a clash of time, DJ has requested that future CFTF Board meetings start at 7.00pm, agreed by board.</p> <p>AMK noted her apologies for the CFTF Board meeting on 23rd April.</p> <p>GMK drew 6 winners for the CFTF Prize Survey Draw, with each winner receiving a £50 voucher to be spent locally.</p> <p>DONM Thursday 26th April 2026 @ 7.00pm in Council Chamber Cloonavin.</p> <p>GMK brings meeting to an end at 19.42</p>		

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
Chair			
Professor Gerry McKenna	GMK	1	Independent
Board Members			
Karen Yates	KY	1	Causeway Chamber Commerce
Rob Skelly	RS	0	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	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	0	Coleraine Equality Forum
Local MP			
Gregory Campbell	GC	0	MP
Elected Members			
Councillor Philip Anderson	PA	1	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

Contact Name	Code	Attendance	Organisation
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	0	Tourism Ireland
Esther Dobbin	ED	0	Tourism NI
Justine Daly	JD	0	MAG Advisor Department for Communities
Yvonne McManus	YMM	0	PSNI
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	0	Chief Executive
Des Donnelly	DD	1	Secretariat to CFTF Board
Shane Mathers	SM	0	Principle Planning Officer
Julienne Elliott	JE	0	Town and Village Manager
Nial McSorley	NMS	1	GIS
Jayne McAleese	JMA	1	GIS
Garry Mullan	GM	1	Community Planning Officer
SIB			
Hazel King	HK	1	CFTF PM
Therese Hogg	TH	1	Community Engagement (SSU)
Gavin Boyd	GB	0	Communications
Total		22	