



MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CPSP) MEETING
HELD IN BANBRIDGE CIVIC BUILDING CHAMBER ON THURSDAY 29 MAY 202 AT 10.12AM

- PRESENT:** Colette Rogers (Chair) PHA
- OFFICIAL PARTNERS:** ABC Council Elaine Gillespie (Vice Chair)
 ABC Council Cllr Bróna Haughey
 DfC April Dalzell
 Invest NI (Chair - Place Board) Ethna McNamee
 Millennium Court (Chair – CVSP) Geraldine Lawless
 NIFRS Dermot Rooney
 NIHE (Vice Chair - Place Board) Sinead Collins
 SRC Tracy Rice
 DoH, SPPG Merrisa McGeary
 PSNI Adam Corner
 Craigavon & Banbridge Donna Stewart
 Volunteer Bureau (Vice Chair
 Shared Leadership & Community
 Engagement Sub-Committee &
 CVS Panel)
- APOLOGIES:** SHSCT Paula Tally
 ABC Council Cllr Joy Ferguson
 ABC Council Jonathan Hayes
 NIHE (Chair– Shared Leadership
 and Community Engagement
 Sub Committee) Catherine McFarland
 SHSCT Elaine Wilson
 Craigavon Foodbank / CVSP Chris Leech
 Steering Group (Vice Chair -
 Tackling Poverty and Social
 Exclusion Sub Committee)
 SHSCT Gerard Rocks
 ABC Council Paula Wilson
 ABC Council Charlene Stoops
 ABC Council Ruth Allen
 EANI Paul Crooks
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager, ABC Council
 Lissa O'Malley, Place and Strategic Projects Manager, ABC Council
 Emma O'Carroll, Community Planning and Evidence Officer, ABC Council
 Laura Wylie, Links Counselling / CVSP Steering Group (Vice-Chair Promoting Good Mental Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee)
 Martin Stevenson, Salvation Army CVSP Steering Group (Vice-Chair Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee)
 Alison Beattie, Business Support Manager, ABC Council
 Jennifer McKibben, Project Officer, ABC Council
 Nicola Wilson, Head of Economic Development, ABC Council

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair, Colette Rogers, welcomed all present to the meeting, noting the meeting was quorate and could therefore proceed.

Colette 'checked in' with everyone, acknowledging stresses and pressures and thanked everyone for their time today.

The Chair outlined the business: signing off the community plan, after extensive consultation. And secondly starting to review our actions. In addition there are updates from our sub-committees and other initiatives.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Ferguson, ABC Council, Jonathan Hayes, ABC Council, Catherine McFarland, NIHE (Chair – Shared Leadership and Community Engagement Sub Committee), Elaine Wilson, SHSCT, Chris Leech, Craigavon Foodbank/ CVSP Steering Group (Vice Chair – Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion Sub Committee), Gerard Rocks, SHSCT, Paula Wilson, ABC Council, Charlene Stoops, ABC Council, Ruth Allen, ABC Council, Paul Crooks, EANI.

NOTED.

1.3 Introductions

All Members present briefly introduced themselves. In addition, the Chair acknowledged and welcomed those for which it was their first meeting of the Partnership including: Merrisa McGeary, DoH SPPG, April Dalzell, DfC, Tracy Rice, SRC, Adam Corner, PSNI and Sarah McMillan, ABC Council.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting on 16 April 2024.

Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 26 September 2024 previously circulated.

At the end of the meeting Dermot Rooney approached the minute taker to make note that he was down as both an attendee and an apology at the last meeting. He confirmed his attendance, and this was noted and amendment to minutes was made.

AGREED: by consensus, the minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership meeting on meeting on 26 September 2024, be confirmed and signed off as a correct record.

3. CPSP SUB-COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATES

- **Report CPSP–25-01**

Place Board

Ethna McNamee, Invest NI, gave a brief overview of the work of the Place Board since the last CPSP meeting. There are now plans for Armagh, Banbridge and Dromore, the Dromore Place Plan was launched in the first week of May. A lot of work has been done behind the scenes, looking at sustainability, education etc, to make business more sustainable. There is some exciting work going on in regards to the growth deal in this region.

Sinead Collins, NIHE delivered a presentation to Partners on the Dromore Place Plan. A copy can be found at **Appendix 1**. Sinead congratulated the team on their work on the plan and successful launch and noted that Lissa O'Malley and Jenny McKibben from the council won a NILGA Award for their work on the Place Plans.

Lissa O'Malley, ABC Council delivered a presentation to Partners on discovery work to date on a Craigavon Urban Area (CUA) Place Plan. A copy can be found at **Appendix 1**.

The CUA SWOT analysis is currently a working document and can be shared with partners. Partners are encouraged to contact the Community Planning Team if they feel there is anything to add.

There was discussion on the rationale for developing a Craigavon Urban Area Place Plan rather than three separate plans for Lurgan, Portadown and Bronllyw. The possibility was raised that one plan for the three areas could make each individual area feel left behind. Whilst one overarching plan will allow for completion in a much shorter timeframe and will consider strategic linkages and themes across the geographical area, there is scope to produce a separate document for each town. The plan will also capture what is unique and distinctive for each of the three places. Partners agreed the importance of effective and consistent communication between Partners and local stakeholders during the development of the Craigavon Urban Area Place Plan.

During discussion of the above item, Nicola Wilson joined the meeting at 11.05am.

Shared Leadership and Community Engagement Sub-Committee

Donna Stewart, Craigavon Banbridge Volunteer Bureau guided Partners through the key elements of the report previously circulated. Partners have committed £87,470 for the partnership's Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting grants programme. Applications opened on the 30th of April for 5 weeks.

The target amount for the funding pool is £120,000 to allow for an increase in applications from last year and to fund at least 70% of projects that attend the decision events. Jennie Dunlop thanked partners for their contributions to date.

Partners to consider whether they make any further contribution to the funding pool for this year and whether they can help out at any of the three decision events.

The Chair in conclusion of this update noted the difference the money makes which is not always large amounts can make a difference. Furthermore, unlike many other projects PB gives young people some responsibility to make a difference in their community by being able to apply once 8 years old.

AGREED:

- Partners to continue to promote the programme to local groups.
- Partners to let the Community Planning Team know if they can help at any of the three decision events.
- Partners to let the Community Planning Team know if they are in a position to make any further contributions to the PB funding pool.

Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion Sub-Committee

Martin Stevenson, Salvation Army, gave an update to the TPSE sub-committee. The sub-committee met in December and has started work to review their actions under the three anti-poverty themes of: Prevent, Respond and Sustain.

Martin has also been involved in the work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy for NI, which will be going out for public consultation during the summer. The co-design group he is part of have produced their own piece of work on the issue that can be shared with Partners.

The Chair thanked Martin and stated that that the Partnership could look at the consultation as individual organisations and as a collective.

5. NEW LOCAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

▪ Report CPSP-25-02

In order to accommodate attendance at another meeting, this agenda item was brought forward.

Nicola Wilson, ABC Council thanked the Chair and updated Partners about the New Local Economic Partnership. It was noted that the Terms of Reference were included in the meeting papers and membership includes a representative from the Community Planning Partnership. It was highlighted that in October 2024 the Department for the Economy (DfE) launched a Sub-Regional Economic Plan with an aim of more regional balance across NI, rising from criticism in the past that it had been Belfast focused. This involves the setting up of Local Economic Partnerships.

Discussion ensued as to the development of Local Economic Partnerships and that every council has been tasked to make partnership that will deliver within their area, to unlock economic opportunity, whilst harnessing the skills of everyone to come up with the new ideas and identify barriers. The project has a fund of £4.5 million from the Department for the Economy and this is for a 3-year period up to March 2028. All funding projects need to be approved by the Department, but this is the first time that funding will fall to local partnerships.

During the discussion it was confirmed that this new Local Economic Partnership would be an opportunity to deliver against some of the objectives set out in the Place Plans if the partnership were to agree that the Place Plans meet the criteria and are a good vehicle and this could also strengthen the case to DfE for funding.

The Chair thanked Nicola Wilson for bringing the update to the partnership and acknowledged the opportunity for the community planning partnership to be involved.

Ethna McNamee, Invest NI, noted that she will be in attendance to observe and support process. The Minister has been clear that working from the top down hasn't worked in the past, so it is now in the hands of Local Economic Partners. Furthermore, there are some things that speak to local economic challenges but also a wide range of challenges. Consultation around the Place Board highlighted a lot around inactivity and exclusion specifically within the Borough. Therefore, the new partnership doesn't sit neatly within the community planning structure we currently have so there is need for a wider discussion.

The Chair advised that the chairs groups would meet to consider the most appropriate member to join the new Local Economic Partnership as the CPSP won't meet again until November.

AGREED: by consensus that:

- A representative from the Chairs would attend the first meeting on the 9th June 2025.

- To ensure not to miss an opportunity and to ensure all things align through this period of Action Planning, at the next Chairs Meeting it will be agreed who will attend the LEP from the Community Planning Partnership.

Comfort break given at 11:34am. At this time, Nicola Wilson, ABC Council retired from the meeting.

4. ABC COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

Comfort break finished and reconvened meeting at 11:45am

The Chair introduced the agenda item and noted to the work of CVSP and the challenge of maintaining members due to the voluntary nature. Handover to Chair of CVSP Geraldine Lawless, Millenium Court and Vice Chair, Donna Stewart, Craigavon Banbridge Volunteer Bureau to provide the update.

Geraldine Lawless advised that over the last few months four new members of CVSP have been elected. A meeting is to take place with Eleanor, Shared Leadership Facilitator and the panel including new members as to what they want to do going forward and where to best align themselves with ongoing actions of the wider partnership. Donna Stewart, added that they were looking forward to welcoming the new members to the Panel and supporting them as they come it and to the new ideas they will bring.

The Chair noted at board level thanks for the ongoing work of the CVSP.

6. SOUTHERN SHADOW AREA INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIP BAORD (AIPB), INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

The Chair welcomed Merrisa McGeary, SPPG, Department of Health, to provide an update on the Southern Shadow AIPB. Partners were advised that in relation to Southern AIPB, they are ahead of the boards in other areas as the test AIPB took place here. The test landed on a frailty project as decided and agreed upon by the AIPB board. Discussions are still ongoing with mental health and cardiovascular, which were also identified as priorities on the Southern Trust area. The Southern AIPB is a positive partnership, the test brought out some of the potential problems and key learning, yet positive energy is found in the group to move forward. Tim McClelland is the ABC Councillor representative. It was suggested that Council's Age Friendly Officer would have an important contribution to make to the Frailty Project.

Partners were encouraged to identify the links with the Place Plans and looking at early intervention and prevention to ease pressures on Emergency Departments. There is importance on working collectively to support older people to remain well, which falls into the hands of the Partnership and not just the Trust, so collaborative approach is essential.

Further discussion highlighted the value of the people on the ground and the importance of the Partnership listening to real life stories, and in doing so the impact this will have on the partnership. The timing of the AIPB moving forward aligns with a potential refresh of the Age Friendly Strategy which could support a preventative approach to frailty.

The Chair noted that given the work that has gone into AIPB from partners, there is now a clear piece of work that can be invested in, be successful and be excited about. There is optimism about what can be achieved when AIPB and CPSP work together to ensure alignment without replication. There is excitement in attending meetings, working together in the background, yet being able to see the actions start to flow through, whilst being ahead of AIPB in other areas by already completing the test although a painful journey.

It was also noted that a new GP within the Trust is very willing to engage and the new Chief for the Trust has experience in England with AIPBs. Discussion was added relating to the regional Integrated Care System Forum, identifying Allison McCullough as the Solace NI member.

The Chair in closing of this agenda item noted that if further information was required, it would be available through either Paula Tally, SHSCT, Geraldine Lawless, Millenium Court, or herself, Colette Rodgers, PHA.

During the above update, Lissa O'Malley re-joined the meeting at 11:53am

7. REVIEW OF CONNECTED: A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR ABC 2017-2030

▪ Report CPSP-25-03

The Chair brought the decision item that it is recommended that the Partnership approve the review of the 'Connected: A Community Plan for ABC 2017-2030'. It was added that this would be subject to any minor editorial amends at the design state, and its associated equality and rural impact assessment.

Emma O'Carroll, ABC Council gave an overview on the changes that have been implement to the plan. It was added that all these changes had been agreed by consensus throughout the consultation the consultation resulted in no substantive changes.

The Partnership were notified of a photograph to be taken at the end of the meeting to launch the review. It was asked at this stage that the Partnership are not to share the reviewed plan until final editorial changes are made. Thanks, was given to the Partnership for their help throughout the review process and to Emma O'Carroll for her work throughout staffing challenges and the extra workload burden that was taken on, to allow the Partnership to keep moving forward with the review.

AGREED: by consensus that:

- The partnership approve the review of *Connected: A Community Plan for ABC 2017-2030* subject to any minor editorial amends at design stage, and its associated equality and rural impact assessments.

8. CPSP ACTION PLAN

Jennie Dunlop, ABC Council delivered a presentation on the Partnership's Action Plan. It was noted that the context has changed from 2022 when post-covid priority was on people's mental health and wellbeing. The wider partnership landscape presents now a lot of new opportunities and new members. It was communication that there not anticipation of any great change to the subcommittees at present, as the existing set up is working really well and the work they are doing is vital.

It was put to the Partnership the proposal of hoping to get agreement on an outline process on doing this work. It was proposed over the next few weeks to meet with the chairs separately and identify how it will work best for them, with acknowledgment of the timeline that the Partnership is working to and the work that must be completed in that time.

AGREED: by consensus that:

- The CPSP endorse the proposed process for the Review of the CPSP Action Plan

Jennie outlined the workshop part of the meeting and split the Partners into groups focused on the three themes and the actions in the current plan. A summary of the feedback captured is detailed below in **Appendix 1**.

Jennifer McKibben, ABC Council and Camila Arevalo, QUB withdrew from the meeting 12:31pm.

9. IRISH TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION CALL FOR SITES

Verbal update given from Sinead Collins regarding the NIHE call for sites. Earlier this year NIHE wrote out to encourage stakeholders to assist to identify sites for Irish Traveller Accommodation. It was noted that the NIHE Chief Executive is willing to present to the partnership, as sourcing appropriate sites requires a partnership approach.

Discussion ensued to give clarification on the terms of temporary and serviced sites and how there are parking and facilities at serviced sites, that tend to be occupied by longer term tenants, however there is a shortage across NI. A lot of work is currently going on in Craigavon and there is a lot of work to be done looking wider and across the Borough. The goal presented was to find a couple of well placed sites to service ongoing needs and that are safe for the families that are going to be there.

10. AOB

No other business.

11. CLOSE

Date of next meeting will be in November 2025.

Partners noted that the date of next meeting will be in November 2025 at which point the Action Plan will be completed for sign off. It was further noted that the Statement of Progress will also be considered at the next meeting. This is a large piece of work and partners are to expect contact between this meeting and the next regarding this matter.

The business having been completed; the meeting concluded at 1.09pm.