

<p>Title of Report:-</p> <p>Update on Strategic Growth Partnership – October 2020</p>	<p>Officer Presenting:</p> <p>Strategic Business Manager</p> <p>Author: Strategic Projects Officer</p>
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1. Purpose of the report / key recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee with an update on the most recent meeting of the Derry City and Strabane District Strategic Growth Partnership (Community Planning Partnership) – held virtually on Thursday 22 October 2020.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report and the background papers to the meeting available at the hyperlink detailed in 3.13 below.

2. Background.

- 2.1 In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, Derry City and Strabane Strategic Growth Partnership digitally launched its '*Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan – Our Community Plan*' - in November 2017.
- 2.2 The Strategic Growth Plan (Community Plan) is governed by the "Strategic Growth Partnership" which includes representatives from all Statutory and Support Partners, Elected Representatives and Local Community Planning Chairs, Private and Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.
- 2.3 The Strategic Growth Partnership provides the strategic direction for the development, implementation, delivery, monitoring and review of the strategic and local Community Plans for Derry City and Strabane District Council.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Due to COVID-19 restrictions and in adherence to Public Health guidance the 13th meeting of Strategic Growth Partnership/Community Planning Partnership for Derry City and Strabane District was convened virtually via WebEx on Thursday, 22 October 2020 and live streamed via the council's [YouTube channel](#).

- 3.2 At the 22 October meeting members received an update from the CE on the ongoing impact of COVID-19. This included a focus and discussion on the current statistics both regionally and locally, Public Health Regulations currently in place, multiagency collaboration in relation to engagement and enforcement, and business advice and support available.
- 3.3 The CE also appraised members on the ongoing progress towards a City Deal, providing a comprehensive update in relation to City Deal/Strategic Growth Projects, outlining progress with regard to funding, projects, and strategic business case development.
- 3.4 Dr Danielle McCarthy, Senior Lecturer, Institute for Global Food Security, Queens University provided members with an update on Project Daire and potential COVID recovery Health Foundation funding.
- 3.5 The SGP had previously received a presentation on the findings of Project Daire in February 2018. At that time the project demonstrated that feasible adaptations to the wider school food environment, implemented in 18 schools in the Derry and Strabane region, through dedicated commitment of principals, teachers, caterers and higher education providers, had a positive impact on children's knowledge, attitude and dietary behaviours. QUB are keen to continue the work of Project Daire and are in the process of implementing an Engaged Research Seed Funded project to co-produce a Food School concept. This will involve a number of 1:1s with some of those in the Partnership to begin to develop ideas for a mutually beneficial sustainable Food Concept programme. Dr McCarthy advised that she and QUB colleagues would connect with individuals via email in the coming weeks to ascertain people's capacity to get involved.
- 3.6 In relation to the potential Health Foundation funding Dr McCarthy reported there has been a delay in any funding decisions due to the considerable interest in the programme. Consequently, this has led to a delay in the assessment process and in informing applicants of a decision regarding their application. A decision on the application outcome is expected in early November.
- 3.7 Dr McCarthy also updated members on the potential for some partnership based PhD studentship opportunities to explore practical ways to support access to healthy, sustainable home food environments for families living in areas of social deprivation. Information relating to these Collaborative Studentship Applications (CAST) was circulated to members following the meeting.

- 3.8 Members also received a number of presentations relating to key actions detailed within the Environmental Outcome of the Strategic Growth Plan.
- 3.9 Council's Director of Legacy provided an update on the work of Council in Implementing a Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy, highlighting the need to Increase the understanding of the Green Agenda across all functions of Council and adapt internal systems and processes across all business functions to incorporate the Green Agenda.
- 3.10 Members also received a presentation from Council's Climate Programme Manger updating the partnership on Council's climate change actions. Including information on the Climate Adaptation Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Climate Emergency Pledge & Action Plan, North West Multi Agency Climate Emergency Working Group, Regional Energy Strategy and, NW Climate Action Plan.
- 3.11 The Partnership also approved the Community Engagement Strategy, (attached as Appendix I) developed in partnership with Community Places as part of the ongoing participation in the Carnegie UK Trusts 'Embedding Wellbeing in NI' project. Members endorsed the approach and models of engagement detailed within the strategy as models of best practice for all future community engagement in relation to the Strategic Growth and Local Area Growth Plans going forward.
- 3.12 Members also endorsed a report detailing the ongoing implementation of the various other work streams being undertaken as part of the Partnerships participation in the Carnegie UK Trusts 'Embedding Wellbeing in NI' project. This includes '*YOUth Making it Happen*', the first youth focused Participatory Budgeting project in NI to be co-designed by young people; The ongoing delivery of a Shared Leadership for delegates of the SGP, delivered by the Centre for Effective Services (CES); and, the development of co-production approaches to community planning and, creation of resources and materials for the benefit of all the Community Planning Partnerships, including the publication of the resource paper by Community Places for Community Planning Partners – '[*Representation of Community and Voluntary Sector in Community Planning.*](#)'
- 3.13 Members are advised that the Strategic Growth Partnership meeting was well attended by a range of senior statutory and support partners, political leaders

and local community planning chairs. All background papers to the meeting can be viewed on the [Partnership's website](#).

- 3.14 The next meeting of the Strategic Growth Partnership is scheduled to take place on 26 February 2021.

4. Financial and other implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial and/or other implications arising from this report.

5. Key recommendations.

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.