

East Belfast: The Future

March 2012

Conference Report



Conference Report

Introduction

Attended by over 110 delegates the Conference, held in the Park Avenue Hotel on 9th March 2012, was an opportunity to be reminded of the many positive stories to be told about East Belfast and the energy and enthusiasm there is for the future development of this part of the city. And, more importantly no shortage of ideas! This Conference Report contains many of these – captured on the day.

Background

East Belfast Partnership (EBP) and East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) have been working closely together over many years to provide much of the context for locally based regeneration and community development. Over recent years there has been a significant increase in the volume of work that has been taking place in East Belfast to regenerate and develop the area. While projects such as the Connswater Community Greenway, Skainos and Templemore Avenue School have received a lot of focus there are many other notable projects that have been developed that have had a positive impact on local communities. East Belfast the Future was an attempt by EBP and EBCDA to applaud those who have contributed so far to the task and try to capitalise on the wealth of ideas in the area on how to build on the progress to date.

Conference Format

Exhibition

To acknowledge the extent of current work, time and space was provided during the conference to give local organisations the opportunity to display the work that they do.



The impressive exhibition that emerged from this offer, allowed over local groups to set out their achievements and network with others. The exhibition created a great buzz in advance of the formal event.

Speakers

Mervyn Gibson, EBP Chair & EBCDA Board Member provided the welcome and introduced the **First Minister & East Belfast MLA, Peter Robinson** and the **East Belfast MP, Naomi Long** who set the scene for the event. Both speakers expressed their pleasure at the high level of interest the conference had generated and spoke enthusiastically about the work that is taking place across the area to improve the quality of life for residents. They also highlighted the importance of the 'can do' attitude that was establishing East Belfast as the part of the city where good things happen and people work closely together.

The keynote presentation '**The decline and rise of East Belfast**' was delivered by Dan Gordon who managed to 'run through' a total of 53 slides in a very short space of time – mainly photographs though!

The early slides illustrated many familiar scenes of dereliction on the main routes into the city centre and in particular the area around Holywood Arches where there is ample evidence of the impact of poor planning. The remainder of the presentation focussed on the many new buildings that have emerged across the area including the Holywood Arches Health Centre, Eastpoint at Dundonald, new Community Buildings such as the Micah Centre and Hanwood, new schools at Ashfield, Orangefield, Grosvenor and Ravenscroft and the many new shops and restaurants that have injected extra life into some of our communities.



A reminder if we needed it, of how important it is for all the sectors to work together if we are to achieve sustainable regeneration and remembering always that people need to be at the centre of our plans – *‘it’s not the buildings that really matter but the positive things that can happen in them’*

Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council was next in line to outline the Belfast City Council vision for East Belfast; as part of their recently published draft Investment Programme 2012 – 2015. He spoke highly of his experience of working with East Belfast Partnership and encouraged groups in the area to continue to take a lead in setting the agenda for BCC in this part of the city.

Key challenges facing East Belfast

Maggie Andrews Partnership Manager introduced the final interactive session by highlighting the key issues impacting on the lives of people living in the most disadvantaged places in east Belfast; poor levels of educational attainment, lack of employment opportunities and skills that match employers needs, the health inequalities that persist in the area and the high profile challenges of the interface and community cohesion.

Participants were asked to spend 45 minutes visiting five ‘stations’ around the conference hall – each dedicated to an issue. Their task was chat to some of those currently engaged in working on these issues and to leave their ideas and comments on a large poster. Amid lots of activity and energy a wide range of interesting and sometimes challenging comments emerged. **These are fully recorded in Appendix 1 (Page 15-24).**

Maurice undertook, on behalf of East Belfast Partnership and East Belfast Community Development Agency, to take some time to reflect on the ideas emerging from the conference, talk to key stakeholders and encourage them to include these ideas in their thinking and



planning going forward.

Maurice Kinhead Chief Executive of EBP concluded the conference by reminding everyone that the success of the event was due to the interest and enthusiasm we all share about the future of East Belfast. As people have seen, there has been lots of progress but there is clearly more we can do: particularly if we all work together. Given the energy in the room; that will not be a problem.

What we are doing

Community Cohesion – a key area of concern was the need to make better connections between groups and communities and not only recognise where there are already good skills but use them to help others. The role of young people was regarded by many as particularly important, not just in relation to community cohesion.

Some of the issues raised in this area have been at the centre of recent discussions with Belfast City Council, the Housing Executive, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast Education & Library Board and Belfast Regeneration office as they collaborate to deliver a more coherent range of services in the interface area.

Other groups such as the Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership and East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) are taking steps to offer more opportunities for groups to share good practice and work more closely together to develop new ideas and projects. An autumn series of master classes are being planned and are targeted at community workers across the area.

A series of 6 conversations have taken place within the Neighbourhood Renewal Area to develop new projects, involving 40 local stakeholders. Topics have included community



infrastructure, education, community relations, mental health, community safety and healthy living. Various new programmes of work and collaborations have arisen from these conversations.

Since the Conference, the Community Development Workers Forum, which has been in existence for many years, has been given a 'new lease of life' and we plan to maintain this by ensuring that the agenda stays relevant to current concerns and issues

EBCDA are working to develop a joint volunteer strategy, which will help support groups to develop their work and access new skills

EBP and EBCDA are also arranging a conference specifically targeted at young people between the ages of 14 and 25 for the autumn of this year to hear their views on, and ideas for the future of East Belfast, subject to funding being available. It is anticipated that a small organising group of local young people will be established to take this forward.

Employability – again the challenges for our young people were highlighted by many participants; particularly those young people not in Education, Training or Employment (NEETS). The youth conference mentioned earlier will be useful in identifying the types of programmes and support that are likely to increase the confidence of these young people. We expect that developing career pathways, exploring creativity and improving access to facilities, services and support will feature on the conference programme

More employer focussed issues that were raised have been passed directly to the local Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) officials and we are also planning to explore how Business in the Community could assist in taking these forward.

It was suggested that we need job clubs in community centres and more local workshops and advice for those seeking work. This issue is to be taken up with DEL and Belfast City Council.



Several of the issues raised were already on the agenda of the Economic Renewal sub group of the Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership – looking at bursaries, work placements, improving the training offer, and improving links between schools, colleges, employers, local training providers and those seeking work. The employer Contact Manager in DEL for east Belfast has now agreed to participate in the Economic Renewal group which should lead to better channels of communication

A series of ‘one off’ events are planned to improve connections – the first will take place in August to connect and align all those organisations targeting NEETS in the area.

A visit to the new BMC e3 campus at Springvale, involving local training providers, public representatives, and schools is scheduled for September to ensure that key local influencers are aware of the Training and Further Education offer on this site.

Since the conference, EBP and EBCDA:

- Have requested the addition of several new opportunities for inclusion in the new BCC Investment Strategy, as emerging Partnership projects such as Templemore Avenue Baths and Titanic People
- Have identified a new programme - Hospitality and Retail Training (HARTE) which is being ‘rolled out’ in East Belfast by GEMS through local partners – targeted at long term unemployed. Two 9 week programmes are planned in this year
- Are working to develop a joint volunteer strategy, which will include a strategy to volunteer specialists in areas such as counselling (EBCDA)
- Has become involved in a citywide project aimed at developing creative industries locally with the other Area based Partnerships linking to the work currently underway in BCC (EBP)



Health - There were a number of concerns about isolated older people and how projects could be better joined up in East. Consideration needs to be given to including older people in developing services addressing health issues such as dementia, but also mobility and general homecare maintenance to ensure a better quality of life.

Transport and mobility issues are currently being addressed via the 6 Older People's forums across the city. Engage with Age supports East Senior's forum.

This work is being taken forward by a number of organisations. Engage with Age has successfully gained funding from the BIG Lottery Fund's Reaching Out Connecting Older People Programme for a 4 year project called HOPE – Hubs for Older People's Engagement.

Engage With Age, in partnership with community, voluntary and statutory organizations working with older people, aims to address issues facing older people such as loneliness, isolation and social exclusion across the city.

The RECALL project, funded by BIG Lottery and managed by Oasis: Caring in Action based in Castlereagh Street, is helping improve the quality of life for older and vulnerable people in east and south Belfast. Working with health and community partners, the services includes the Good Morning telephone advice service, listening and befriending scheme and home safety checks.

Oasis has also launched a new home cleaning and maintenance business which will help to create much needed employment in the area. Oasis Maintenance and Cleaning will offer repairs to the home, basic plumbing, joinery, DIY, garden maintenance as well as cleaning at competitive rates.

Belfast City Council is exploring how Belfast could be an Age friendly city.



Physical Activity- featured highly in the health section with a request for better coordination of physical activity opportunities, using our parks and leisure centre better, improving cycle paths and using sport more to tackle health issues.

EBP are working on a mapping of physical activity space and current activities which will connect with Active Belfast's city wide mapping. This will highlight gaps and provide opportunities for more coordinated approach to physical activity. A resource of collated information will be developed.

EBP's Connswater Community Greenway project will increase physical activity through the improved infrastructure of cycle and walking paths. The project will encourage more outdoor physical activity as it will provide better access for local people to green and open spaces.

The Queen's University PARC (Physical Activity and the Rejuvenated Connswater) will advise on and implement a number of interventions following conversations with local community representatives to encourage more physical activity in the space available. (www.communitygreenway.co.uk)

There will be 9 new outdoor gyms across the city within the next year – 2 in east – Orangefield Park and Mountforde, provided by Active Belfast.

Upgrading cycle paths is the responsibility of DRD who have now been advised of the concern raised at the event.

EBP's physical activity coordinator is developing established walking groups and developing new groups.

The importance of connecting physical activity to healthy eating was also raised by people



commenting on the economic activity section. There are several strands of work within EBP and EBCDA that are seeking to create a new programme of work in this area:

- There are conversations happening currently within the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme to develop projects that link physical activity with growing for food and healthy eating
- A number of organisations offer courses and information on healthy eating such as Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Health Improvement Team
<http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/livewell/HowCanWeHelp.htm>

There is a need to raise the awareness of available drugs and alcohol services in east to address abuse, reduce dependency and inform the community:

- In the near future EBP Health Strategy Group will be organising an information session with service providers presenting current and new services
- The need for health champions for east was recognised as important and this idea will be explored by EBP health strategy group
- The Forum for Action on Substance Abuse (FASA) is in the process of extending their services to east Belfast – consultation is taking place to determine the final activity

Economic inactivity- Almost all the issues raised under economic inactivity are on the agenda of the Economic Renewal sub group of the Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership who are looking particularly at young people and employability. There was some concern over the impacts of Welfare Reform, accessing help and advice for those who can not work and people working without pay.



Following a Welfare Reform information session held earlier this year, EBCDA, East Belfast Independent Advice Centre (EBIAC) and EBP have organised further briefing sessions, exploring additional ways to provide advice and have directed concerns to relevant agencies. More information is available via their website www.adviceni.net

Airport noise levels - Belfast City Airport has withdrawn their application to extend their runway but are still seeking permission to remove the "seats for sale" restriction from the Planning Agreement. This request can be viewed on the planning web site. www.planningni.gov.uk A public examination is scheduled for late August or September 2012

The link between mental well being and work readiness was made by several contributors; this issue is widely recognised and will continue to be a specific focus within any new employability initiatives



EBP and EBCDA along with others have been committed to ensuring that where possible apprenticeships are created within local capital projects – both are contributing to a citywide debate on the issue of ‘Social Clauses’

Education- An Education strategy for east was produced by EBP in 2010 covering a wide range of issues including low levels of education attainment, the impact of falling rolls and the need to develop a learning culture in some of our most disadvantaged communities. Parental involvement in education was recognised as the most important factor and a programme of support for parents was developed and submitted to OFMDFM/Atlantic Philanthropies for funding.

Unfortunately attempts to have this work funded have been unsuccessful. Despite this EBP and Inner East Youth Project have combined forces to deliver a small programme of work with parents with funding from the Integrated Education Fund. This will fund a series of workshops for local parents which will take place before September – to develop interest in getting better connected to schools and to produce a suite of leaflets which answer some of the questions/concerns about education. It is hoped that this may act as a catalyst for achieving funding for a more ambitious project.

Issues about career advice, job related skills training and school visits to ICT companies etc. are being taken up by the EBP economic sub group.

Some interested individuals including EBP staff and public reps have met to discuss how to improve the vocational, practical, creative work experience of young people at school

Early Years investment was highlighted especially to support young parents, vulnerable families, improve health visiting service:



- These areas of concern are already on the agendas and action groups of Belfast Outcomes group which has community members from east participating. More information is available at <http://www.cypsp.org/cypspapers/BelfastOutcomesGrouppresentation21%20March12.pdf>

Anything else- This section contains many interesting suggestions some of which link in to many of the actions detailed above – building strong partnerships, making sure there are links between Neighbourhood Renewal, the Social Investment Fund and other funding streams, collaborative approaches to service delivery etc. These are all at the forefront of existing work in EBP and EBCDA and will remain a priority.

Other suggestions such as building the creative industries, adding to the Arts offer in east, developing creative spaces and using our existing facilities more effectively also resonated with recent work that has been outlined above. The East Belfast Arts Festival in early September with its high profile Van Morrison concert on the 8th September will, we hope, go a long way to declare our intent to establish local arts events as a key offering for residents and visitors. For more information www.eastbelfastartsfestival.org

There were also many new ideas – weekend markets, building on our diversity, a cookery school, letting young people paint and build more, social media training etc. It will take time to take all of these on board and it looks like we will be doing our level best to get Mary Portas to help us with the retail offer in east!

Finally - It is clearly not possible for every idea that was suggested at the Conference to be taken forward but EBP and EBCDA will continue to weave as many of these ideas as possible



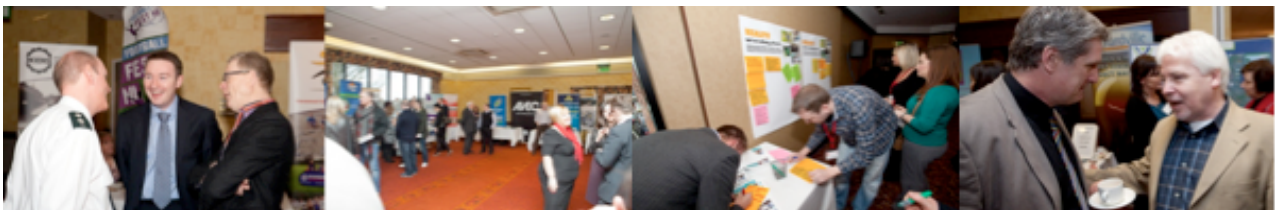
into our future plans. We would encourage all those who participated in the Conference to get involved where possible and bring your individual passion to delivering progress in east Belfast.

It has been our privilege to share your enthusiasm for new things and we will endeavour to continue to provide support. Please keep in touch!

For more information on any of the follow up work that has been outlined in the report please contact us via one of the following links:-

East Belfast Partnership www.eastbelfastpartnership.org

East Belfast Community Development Agency www.ebcdca.org



Appendix 1

Conference Comments

Community Cohesion Comments

Connectivity

Outer East and Inner East need to be connected

Switch off your TV and get involved in something creative

Community Participation

Enable communities to take ownership of their areas – help them and empower them to realise their potential

It is a challenge to get people in communities to participate

Great having the structure but you need the people

There are still barriers for people who want to do positive things

Good Relations and Integration

Projects and strategy required for integration of the Roma community

Racist attacks in East Belfast is an issue

Bring excluded groups into the process – equal opportunities for all East Belfast people

Provide support and information for cultural minorities coming into the area

In Holland and France + diverse cities community cohesion is good when more investment is in people + tolerance

Community cohesion through a Bill of Rights for NI

Involving Young People

Better youth facilities

Youth organisations need to involve young people in consultation about issues that affect them

Creating opportunities and activities for young people in the area – Braniel

Believe in young people – promote their positive contribution to community

Funding

Longer term funding needed

Funding should be joined up - organisations, government departments + local delivery

Better funding for local government to meet and mingle with all kinds of groups

Sharing good Ideas

Support good practice in area – Street by Street project

Share resources, skills

Look at our existing community surveys & solutions

Actively support each other – stop what's mine is mine and I'm not telling you!

Great Partnership working with local community group and organisations in our area via Knocknagoney Area Forum

Miscellaneous

Support East Belfast Arts Festival – with gender equality

Terra Nova can help promote positive multi culturalism In East Belfast through the arts

Visit a church you are not familiar with

A new structure where we can work from & create these opportunities and facilities

Forums with actions – not talking shops

Education Comments

Addressing under achievement

Address the under achievement of black Africans who are living in East Belfast (19% of black Africans have no qualifications)

Educational under achievement at all ages

Challenge schools over educational under achievement

Cater for young people slipping through gaps – one size doesn't fit all

School to work issues

More school visits to ICT companies

Need to improve career advice – current poor service – particularly for new industries

Better job related curriculum for ICT skills at school

Better ways of learning – work related, practical work experience for young people

Parents /Family Learning

Need to address educational needs of the family as well as young people – improve confidence/skills @home

More flexibility in delivery of courses for single parents ... needs to fit into childcare arrangements

Parent friendly schools – involve community

Kids under too much pressure

More resources to encourage pre- school storytelling (reading)

Building aspiration

Need to develop a learning culture in Belfast

It's also about attitude

Motivation/ Leadership /Mentors

Identify local champions who can advocate on the issue – think big

People involved should believe in change and support others that do

In school issues

Arts development /resources should be available from primary school

More integration of global education at primary school level

Young people have to keep adapting to the way they are taught – 11+ is an example

Schools should adopt good model as e.g. Ashfield Boy's success. Non selective: v. good school

School to work issues

More school visits to ICT companies

Need to improve career advice – current poor service – particularly for new industries

Better job related curriculum for ICT skills at school

Better ways of learning – work related, practical work experience for young people

More education for parents to identify where future jobs are – ICT, Renewables

Focus on NEETS

Education Policy

Do away with student fees. How can working class communities become empowered through education ?

ESA must be up and running ASAP

Do not hesitate to close failing schools. Poor management needs changed sooner Ask the teachers for their opinion

We need a plan for primary education in Inner East Belfast

We need a new school on the Newtownards Road

We need Long term objectives – stop changing the system

Transfer tests!!

Educate all ages!! Use non formal opportunities to evidence learning

Miscellaneous

Education important for older age group – guidance essential to promote this

Support Art Festival

A youth club for young people from Ashmount/Belmont/Sydenham/Hollywood Road/Inverary/Circular Road

Templemore Baths, Fight obesity, Health & Fitness education, Teaching, Rehab

Improve Spelin

Gender equality

Use new teachers for community homework clubs (employment and education)

Employability Comments

Engaging Employers

Top 10-20 firms with best profits in NI must invest in people – schemes and training

Employers should work closely with colleges to provide placements/ work experience

Top 10 NI + top 50 best firms must invest to deal with unemployment issue

Everyone who has a job in this area should work positively and believe in change – not feather their own nests

Accessibility & Information

Job search website for east Belfast including provision of training providers, posts available

Investment programme document written so that ordinary people can understand it – no complicated jargon! Needs to be young people friendly

Be clearer about how the bursaries and employment opportunities for young people will work – make them understood

Job clubs in local community centres helping advice – CV's opportunities, computer suites required & facilitators

Establish a directory of service provision

Make process for apprenticeships easier

Young People

Tackle young people under achieving academically

Lack of info on NEETs is worrying

Invest money into projects reaching marginalised youth

Why did YTP stop?

Have workshops and advice clinics to help build young people's confidence and interview skills, offer training facilities in local community centres

Young enterprise – how can we channel our young people's talents? Not just academic

Provide opportunities to tackle youth unemployment

Someone needs to ask young people what they want/need? And what is the issue with current FE provision?

Need different thinking to engage NEETs – using less formal procedures – sport, fashion, creative industry and build in 'the value of learning'

Employment Opportunities

Refurbish HMS Caroline for job opportunities training and skills for young people

Have kiosks on the Greenway as this would create jobs and give Belfast a more European feel

Promote more diverse employment opportunities. Traditional route was the Shipyard /Shorts - New employment in the Arts, Media etc

Templemore Baths – restoration of facilities leads to additional jobs.

An Enterprising East Belfast

Enterprise education delivered by LEAs - including case studies of local entrepreneurs (to show local success and inspire)

Improve Connections / Co-ordinate Current Provision

*Job start up relating to tourism businesses
e.g. titanic souvenir shop, east Belfast tours, baked goods*

Resurrection of EB Employability working group – linking employers, training organisations and government

A joint volunteer strategy

Invest in community education – young people not prepared to take step to BMC

Start the creative apprenticeships available

Co-ordinate an east Belfast strategy between groups rather than duplication

Use a tested model of getting disadvantaged jobs such as supported employment

A Holistic Approach

More Drug and alcohol counselling and treatment to help get people back to work

Reduce dependency and support people with mental health issues so they can keep a job

Create a culture of ambition – belief that people can get jobs

Highlight benefits of employment – not just money – health etc

Skills Development vs Skills Requirements

Teaching courses leads to employability, apprenticeships programme may be launched

Foster creative industries, professional arts in EB and use these organisations to teach new and transferable skills to young people

Need to focus on – technology skills, renewable skills where jobs growth is

Use the skills of retired older people to train younger people

Equality & Inclusion

Gender equality training

Equal approach – Bill of Rights for NI

Gender equality/ Womens Tec

Training opportunities for all young people – employability through diversity, equality

Councils and Government should spend even more to develop lifelong learning to address inequalities in East Belfast

Health Comments

Physical Activity

More 3G Football pitches run as social enterprises by schools and community groups

Co-ordinate physical activity for youth, all ages, in East. Work with community, voluntary and all health agencies

Copy the extra fitness provisions in Stormont and put these in the other local parks

Introduce 'Fit to work' job clubs - get job assistance followed by football etc.

Open parks more and outside gym for all – with roof!!

Cycling – keep good cycle route into the city – use Dee Street – Odyssey route to make that easy

Stop putting up wire and fences in east Belfast – to exclude people from open parks and spaces.

Great potential to tackle health issues via sport. E.g. NI Street League, midnight soccer. Knock on effect on community relations, employment, skills, routine, confidence etc.

Templemore Baths – restoration of building at risk, meets BCC health and well being core objectives, community led, offers teaching and learning to improve employability, primary leisure provision for east Belfast

Older People

Better quality meals on wheels for older people

Isolation & mobility issues impacting on the quality of their lives – can't clean the one room they live in!!

Early dementia is a problem as people are unable to recognise their own support services – need referred from GP/health care professionals

Link to Ulster Museums 50+ live and learn projects

Develop respect and value for older people – they have a contribution to make

Older people huge asset – involve at every level

We need joined up planning and projects to tackle isolation

Practical low cost solutions to supporting older people not just in their own homes but own community

Why should older people leave their own communities for care?

Drugs and Alcohol

Major health issues with young people – drug and alcohol abuse is getting worse

More workshops within the community i.e. drugs and alcohol abuse

Drug and alcohol treatment – reduce dependency, abuse, self harm. Alcohol related diseases need reduced

Healthy Living

Effects of Belfast City Airport on local community health and well being such as - sleep deprivation in children effects their concentration in school. Senior citizens etc.

More breakfast clubs in schools, dedicated cycle paths, encouraging cafes to supply healthier food

Merge healthy living with physical activity and education on single issue 'Health Campuses'

We want to help young mums prepare good food – how do we finance this?

Economic Inactivity

Economic inactivity – question definition. Many community people spend hours 'working without payment'

More help and advice for people who can't work

More resources made available for skills and qualifications for young people

Anything Else Comments

New Events/Activities

Weekend market – Lower Newtownards Road

Facebook and Twitter training

Have a cross cutting project i.e. cookery school – addresses Healthy East, Qualifications, Employment, Tourism

Retail and the wider economy

Map of social enterprise in EB - what we do to support each other (i.e. buy and sell from each other)

Build on social economy opportunities

Rates for Social Economy businesses – any relief?!

More affordable child care for working families

Bring Mary Portas to East Belfast to advise on retail marketing

Concern over development of more big supermarkets e.g. Tesco on Castlereagh Road - leads to job losses for local business, dereliction. Loss of community, profits leaving East Belfast

Develop the Arts in East

Invest in Castlereagh Arts funding – it is tiny

Arts incubation space

Support Arts Festival

Have a place where East Belfast can have it's own gigs e.g. Tennant's Vital, Belsonic or build a new arena

Strand Cinema

Balance involvement in Arts with excellence. Like the Olympic model we can foster participation + world class outlets in creative industries in E Belfast

A creative space – not just performance but development + incubation for creative sector – music, theatre, writing, visual arts, digital media, crafts etc.

Let young people paint and build more: urban arts/sports funds

We have lots of performance spaces in Belfast so incubate creative work in EB & put it into the Mac, The Lyric and The Grand Opera House

Link EB to creative industry targets in new programme for govt. @ community level @ professional level

Tourism

Tourism Focus in East

Remember that cultural tourism has a strong role to play – both community & professional

CS Lewis East Belfast trail – signs and info at key locations with directional signs on route. Low cost, high yield

Tourism & links with business – community business -> spring fair etc. -> far reaching effects

Price of Titanic Project for visitors £35 for family, £9.50 for concession =V. Expensive, especially for poorer people!

Exploit the industrial architecture – Mills etc

Anything else!

Bill of Rights for NI

More funding to utilise local resources

Why is BCC cutting children/young people's thematic monies by £70K?

Homelessness/housing crisis – 8% increase in homelessness last year, 22% increase due to breakdown of private rent. Hostels at maximum capacity. Need for an emergency plan.

Be the first to cure baldness

Gender equality training!!

Build upon diversity as a core process for a strong social economy

Better Collaboration

Greater alignment between community needs and statutory provision (avoid duplication)

Build on collaborative approaches to service delivery

Strong partnerships

Need to connect Inner and Outer East more

Greater inclusion of Ballybeen in EB Planning and development in all areas

Links between Neighbourhood Renewal, SIF and other funding streams

The Built environment

Defend the Dee Street to Odyssey cycle route into the city – don't forget sustainable transport when looking at connectivity

Build on physical structures and facilities e.g use of schools and churches

Concern with restrictions and timeframe for approving new planning applications

New Community Centre & for Braniel to be more involved in East Belfast activities

Templemore Baths- core to the 'spine' of EB, building community values- past, present and future!