

### **Trustees Annual Report**

The Trustees, who are also Directors for purposes of company law, are pleased to present their annual report together with financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act 2006 purposes. The Trustees confirm that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities; Statement of Recommended Practice which applies to charities in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

### **Chairperson's Report**

Over the past year, West Belfast Partnership Board have worked to ensure that we have achieved our organisational aims and objectives, as outlined in our strategic plan. The board members, senior management team and staff have delivered in innovative ways against our goals ensuring that contracts to provide services to the community and to drive regeneration have been carried out to a very high standard and have been of benefit both to the local community we serve and city-wide. We continue to work in partnership with a wide range of statutory, community, public and private agencies towards our goals of social, economic, and physical regeneration in west Belfast, improving community relations and peace building.

I wish to acknowledge the work of our board members, in providing strategic leadership to West Belfast Partnership Board and thank them for the voluntary effort and commitment that they have demonstrated throughout the year - particularly the Chairs of our sub-committees in Finance, Audit and Risk; Housing, Environment and Planning; Health; Economic Development; Education and Neighbourhood Renewal. In addition, I wish to thank our funders, sponsors and partners for their ongoing support and our staff for their work and achievements in delivering our goals for economic, social, physical and community renewal.

### **Structure, Governance & Management**

#### **Governing Document**

West Belfast Partnership Board is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 17 February 1998 (and subsequently updated 16/05/99 and 23/9/13). West Belfast Partnership Board is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. West Belfast Partnership Board is a membership organisation with 20 members each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up, and 5 consultative observers.

#### **Appointment of trustees**

The Chairperson and the Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as set out in its governing document. New Trustees are recruited on the relevance of their professional skills and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. The Partnership's recruitment of Board members is built around openness, transparency and ensuring that west Belfast citizens are represented. As part of the recruitment process, they are made aware of a Trustees' legal obligations and good practices under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plans and recent financial performance of the charity (see induction and training).

#### **Trustee induction and training**

All new Board Members, serving as Directors or Observers receive guidance from the Chief Executive Officer and/or Chairperson along with a comprehensive induction pack including guidance on good

practice in charity governance, governing document and sub-committee terms of reference, minutes of meetings, account, and other documents to provide the necessary information to Board members in carrying out their duties in accordance with law and good practice.

**Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions.**

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Board normally meets quarterly. As part of its structure, the Partnership operates additional thematic sub-committees that report and recommend to the Board, covering Finance, Audit and Risk, Economic Development, Neighbourhood Renewal, Strategic Health and Well-being, Education, Housing, Environment and Planning - each with written terms of reference. A Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity including management of a staff team. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment, and direct charitable activities.

**Relationships with related partners**

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

**Risk Management**

Our approach to the management of risk is informed by the need to ensure that the risks inherent in the pursuit of our objectives are understood, will be manageable if realised and that appropriate mitigation measures are planned or in place. West Belfast Partnership Board maintain a risk register which is analysed and updated on a bi-monthly basis. Responsibility for the management of risk is carried by named individuals in our risk register.

Highest level risks which have a bearing on West Belfast Partnership Board's capacity to achieve its strategic and operational objectives are managed directly by the senior management team. West Belfast Partnership Board Finance, Audit and Risk Committee have played an active role in reviewing and monitoring the risk register during 2022-23, assessing the major risks to which the charity is exposed, those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to the major risks.

**Maintaining High Standards**

West Belfast Partnership Board yearly undertake the ISO 9001: 2015 process and achieved the ISO in the reporting period. ISO is the internationally recognised standard for Quality Management Systems (QMS) and provides a framework and set of principles that ensure a common-sense approach to the management of the charity and satisfaction for service users and stakeholders, including funders. Legal compliance. Understand how statutory and regulatory requirements impact your organisation and its customers.

**Principal Activity and Statement of Public Benefit**

West Belfast Partnership Board aims "To involve those who live or work in West Belfast in driving the social, economic and physical regeneration of the area for the benefit of those who live in West Belfast and to contribute to, and benefit from, the development of the city as a whole".

The Charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following: -

- (1) To promote urban regeneration and community development in the City of Belfast (the "area of benefit") and the redevelopment and revitalisation of West Belfast and its environs by all or any of the following means:

- (a) design, promote, implement and evaluate strategies and develop and carry through action plans concerned with improving the economic, social, cultural, health and well-being, and environmental life of the inhabitants of the area of benefit;
  - (b) promote study and research, set priorities, and develop and influence policy and practice in the fields of urban regeneration community development and health and well-being.
  - (c) engage with, promote co-operation among, and establish strategic partnerships between groups, organisations and agencies in the voluntary and community, statutory and private enterprise sectors;
  - (d) provide a forum for the discussion and debate of urban regeneration, community development and related issues and raise public awareness of these matters;
  - (e) provide strategic and practical support to community and voluntary groups in the area of benefit.
- (2) Promote integrated services for children and young people to facilitate connectivity and the planned delivery of services and programmes.
- (3) Promote and facilitate the raising of educational achievement and opportunities for lifelong learning.
- (4) Promote good community relations, religious and racial harmony, social cohesion and equality and diversity.
- (5) Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

During this period West Belfast Partnership Board has continued to provide a comprehensive range of services to the West Belfast community and to other disadvantaged communities in Belfast which have had a positive impact and we have met all our charitable objectives. We have continued to implement and review our strategic plan under a range of key priorities and objectives.

For detail of our achievements and performance this year please see our annual report:  
[Layout 1 \(westbelfast-partnership.com\)](https://www.westbelfast-partnership.com)

#### **Plans for the Future**

West Belfast Partnership Board was established in 1998 to act as a representative body to promote and support the regeneration of West Belfast. Over the past 25 years the Partnership has worked with community, statutory, political, and business interests committed to improving the lives of those living in West Belfast and to getting a better deal for West Belfast, its people, and places.

As a broadly based representative regeneration body, the Partnership has delivered in the fields of economic development, tourism, job creation, education, health and wellbeing, the environment and planning and children and young people. We have responded to need and opportunity through building an innovative and creative collaborative partnership approach. Over the period 2022-23 we have delivered effectively against our priorities and the contracts we have undertaken from the Departments of Communities, Department for Education, Public Health Agency and Belfast City Council, which are detailed in our Annual Report.

As we move forward, we shall continue to deliver on our Strategic Plan 2022-30 which builds on our successful track record and reflects the both the challenges and the ambition, skills, and creativity of the west Belfast people.

West Belfast Partnership Board Strategic Plan 2022-30 sets out the Partnerships vision, purpose, values, and priorities. While the Partnership seeks to respond to need it is aware of the need to balance expectations with resources and has prioritised its work identifying those issues /areas where it leads, others where it will offer support and other areas where it will hold a watching brief.

### **Financial Review**

#### **Reserves Policy and Ongoing Concern**

West Belfast Partnership Board Reserves Policy is to maintain a sufficient level of reserves to enable operating activities to be maintained for a period of at least 3-6 months in the event of major funding streams ending. The reserves policy also takes account of covering costs in the event of closure, to cover redundancies, rents, and fees that are due including auditors. It also takes account of potential risks and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

WBPB maintain unrestricted reserves if accrued should be used for the purposes which meet the aims and objectives of WBPB. The Board should note the amount of unreserved funds quarterly and the level of reserves are monitored and reviewed by the Board quarterly.

#### **Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statement**

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the West Belfast Partnership Board for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statement in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**West Belfast Partnership Board**  
**Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ending 31 March 2023**

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The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

**Statement as to disclosure to our Auditors**

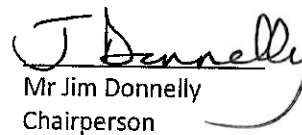
Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- each trustee has taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

**Auditor**

O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
are deemed to be re-appointed under Section 487 (2) of the Companies Act 2006

Signed by order of the Trustees

  
Mr Jim Donnelly  
Chairperson

12 October 2023