

Funding Process & Governance

Background

Following the publication of the [Mulvey Report, Dublin North East Inner City - Creating a Brighter Future](#), a Programme Implementation Board was established in June 2017 to drive implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report. Led by Independent Chairperson Jim Gavin, the Board comprises community and business stakeholder representation, and Government departments and agencies with statutory responsibility for delivery of key services. The NEIC [Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027](#), published in October 2024, refocuses the Initiative's strategic objectives for three years and further builds on the priorities and actions of the Mulvey Report and the [NEIC Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023](#).

The Programme Implementation Board is supported by five Subgroups reflecting the priority workstreams identified in the NEIC Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027, with each Subgroup assigned a range of time-bound actions. The five Subgroups comprise key stakeholders from across the statutory, commercial, community and voluntary sectors, with a member of the Programme Implementation Board selected to chair each Subgroup.

- Subgroup 1 – Enhancing Policing
- Subgroup 2 – Maximising Educational, Training and Employment Opportunities
- Subgroup 3 – Supporting Children, Young People, and Family Wellbeing
- Subgroup 4 – Enhancing Community Wellbeing and the Physical Environment
- Subgroup 5 – Improving Community Health, Wellbeing and Recovery

The Board is supported in its work by a Programme Office located in the Dublin City Council Offices on Seán McDermott Street.

Core Funding Principles

A number of core funding principles should be adhered to by the Programme Office, Subgroups, the Budget Group and the Programme Implementation Board:

- All funding must be subject to final approval by the Programme Implementation Board - the role of the Subgroups and Budget Group is to evaluate and make recommendations to the Board for approval.
- There must be a sound basis and clear record of the funding decision from initial proposal to final approval.
- All funded proposals must have a clear connection to the delivery of actions in the NEIC Strategic Plan / Mulvey Report and must be aligned with the NEIC Vision and Values set out in the NEIC Strategic Plan 2024 - 2027.
- Recipients of funding must ensure probity, accountability and effective use of public funds informed by best practice.
- A strategic approach should be taken when identifying initiatives to be funded.
- The initiatives identified should be sustainable – i.e. there should be the potential to mainstream the initiative if successful [NEIC funding can be used to prove the concept].
- Credit should be given to initiatives that will operate within an integrated framework.

- Credit should also be given to consortium proposals or initiatives that deliver outcomes across multiple services / NEIC Strategic Plan / Mulvey Report actions.
- Initiatives should be quality-focused and add value to the existing service infrastructure in the NEIC.
- Initiatives should indicate how they meet unmet or emerging needs and be outcomes-focused.
- Initiatives should clearly outline (in their application for funding) the metrics / indicators that will be used to measure the outcomes of the initiative and provide detailed feedback to the relevant Subgroup on those outcomes at the end of the funding term and account for their spending.
- Initiatives receiving funding must undertake to regularly update the NEIC Map of Services.
- Organisations receiving funding should explicitly acknowledge NEIC support (e.g. on their website, social media and literature) and should demonstrably support over-arching NEIC initiatives e.g. action against litter / dumping, etc.

Subgroup Role

- Create a Cover Sheet¹ for the relevant funding proposal.
- Scrutinise funding proposal – rationale, evidence base, value for money and expected outcomes. Seek further information or clarifications and, when necessary, request that proposal be amended.
- In cases where funding is provided for a pilot project or where a proposal might give rise to future funding requirement, the Subgroup should agree the appropriate long-term funding Department/Agency and obtain its views prior to making a recommendation.
- Explore opportunities for the appropriate funding body to fund or part-fund the proposed action or to take on the responsibility as channel of NEIC funds if this is more appropriate.
- Document the Subgroup recommendation for funding in the note of the meeting and on the relevant Cover Sheet and communicate same to the Budget Group including the following detail - body to draw down funding, funding amount and period, activity being funded, expected outcomes and any conditions attached.
- Maintain a role in oversight of the funded activity either by way of formal oversight arrangements, if appropriate, or by review at Subgroup to discuss progress, reported outcomes and learning. The Subgroup may also manage any tender process arising.

Budget Group Role

- The Budget Group (comprising all Subgroup Chairs, a representative from D/RCD and a community representative) will review funding recommendations from Subgroups and ensure the principles have been observed and will have regard to overall balance and consistency of actions funded across the priority areas.
- The Budget Group may refer recommendations back to Subgroups with queries or issues to be addressed. It may also make recommendations for funding but with specific conditions such as limiting period of funding or recommending it be referred to a specific agency following evaluation.

¹ See Appendix 1

- Document the Budget Group recommendation for funding in the note of the meeting and on the relevant Cover Sheet and communicate same to the Programme Implementation Board.

Programme Office role

- Acknowledge receipt of all funding proposals received in the Programme Office and update the requester on the proposal's progress through Subgroup, Budget Group and Programme Implementation Board.
- Advise a requester to seek funding via the Community Grants process if that is more appropriate.
- Forward individual funding proposals (other than those more appropriate to the Community Grants process) to the relevant Subgroup Secretary for consideration by the Subgroup members.
- Draw up a letter/Heads of Agreement setting out in clear terms the amount and purpose of funding and future reporting requirements in terms of evaluation of the work and outcome.
- The Heads of Agreement may, where appropriate, highlight role of the relevant Subgroup in oversight and evaluation. Where a specific Department/Agency has been identified with a specific interest, this may need to be mentioned also.
- The Programme Office will make recommendations to the Board on the audit and reporting requirements to be applied to ensure the process for payments and draw down and accounting is robust, including the requirement for audit checks.

Funding Requests Requiring Urgent Consideration

- In exceptional circumstances, a funding proposal may be required to be considered by a Subgroup in between regular meetings. The Chair of the Programme Implementation Board will decide if a funding proposal falls into this category.
- In such a case, the Secretary of the relevant Subgroup should circulate the proposal and relevant Cover Sheet by email to members of the Subgroup allowing a minimum of 2 working days for their consideration of the proposal.
- If the proposal is approved by the Subgroup, the Subgroup Secretary should forward the proposal and relevant Cover Sheet to the Secretary of the Budget Group. The Budget Group Secretary should then circulate the proposal and relevant Cover Sheet by email to members of the Budget Group allowing a minimum of 2 working days for their consideration of the proposal.
- If the proposal is approved by the Budget Group, the Budget Group Secretary should forward the proposal and relevant Cover Sheet to the Secretary of the Programme Implementation Board. The Programme Implementation Board Secretary should then circulate the proposal and relevant Cover Sheet by email to Board members allowing a minimum of 2 working days for their consideration of the proposal. If Programme Implementation Board approval is secured, funding may then be awarded.
- At each stage of the process if no response is received from Subgroup / Programme Implementation Board members, they are deemed to support the proposal.

ENDS

Appendix 1:

Funding Applications for Consideration by Subgroup/Budget Group/PIB

(To be completed by Subgroups and submitted with supporting documents)

From Subgroup: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐
OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

Title of Project				
Mulvey / Strategic Priority Action that the project addresses				
Mulvey <input type="checkbox"/> 2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Number: Text:				
Short description of the Project to be funded				
Expected outcomes from the Project				
What mainstream avenues were explored for this funding?			Have future mainstream options to sustain this project been identified/explored?	
Was the project previously funded by NEIC Initiative?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
If Yes - enter the funding amount under the applicable year	2016	2017	2018	2019
	2020	2021	2022	2023
What was achieved through this funding?				

FUNDING REQUEST

Name & contact details (incl. email) of the Body for Letter of Offer.	
Timeline the funding covers	
Funding amount sought	

(A) Consideration of Funding Application by the SUBGROUP

Date of Subgroup meeting.	Click or tap to enter a date.
Was Emergency Email Protocol used?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Were clarifications / amendments sought? [If <u>Yes</u> include details]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Recommended to the Budget Group? [If <u>No</u> include details as to why]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Date forwarded to the Budget Secretary	Click or tap to enter a date.
Date forwarded to Programme Office [if not approved by SG/BG].	Click or tap to enter a date.

(B) Consideration of Funding Application by BUDGET GROUP

Date of Budget Group meeting.	Click or tap to enter a date.
Was Emergency Email Protocol used?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Returned to SG for clarifications/ amendments? [If <u>Yes</u> include details]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Recommended to PIB for consideration? [If No/ In Principle include details]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In Principle <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Date forwarded to PIB Secretary.	Click or tap to enter a date.

(C) Consideration of Funding Application by PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION BOARD

Date of PIB meeting.	Click or tap to enter a date.
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Was Emergency Email Protocol used?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Returned to SG for clarifications/ amendments? [If Yes include details]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Approved by PIB? [If No/ In Principle include details]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In Principle <input type="checkbox"/> Details:
Funding & Letter of Offer to be issued by:	NEIC Programme Office <input type="checkbox"/> D/RCD <input type="checkbox"/>