



9 October 2024

Committee Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle and S Ross

Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, R Lynch,
T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone,
L Smyth, S Ward and S Wilson

Dear Member

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 14 October 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker, GM MSc

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 4.45pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 PRESENTATION

- 3.1 Barnardo's - The THRiVE Project

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Christmas Festivity Programme 2024
- 4.2 Christmas Toy Scheme
- 4.3 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2024/2025
- 4.4 Christmas Celebration Events Fund 2024
- 4.5 The Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2025
- 4.6 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme Overview 2024
- 4.7 Lilian Bland Pavilion – Booking Approval
- 4.8 Somme Visit 2025
- 4.9 Ballyclare May Fair
- 4.10 The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024
- 4.11 Visit Belfast Partnership Renewal
- 4.12 Free Use of Ballyclare Town Hall and The Eyre Studio
- 4.13 Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme
- 4.14 Women's Sub Committee
- 4.15 Community Support Programme Update

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 5.1 PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan
- 5.2 Ulster-Scotch Leid Week 2024

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 Community Facilities – Tenancy Renewals

6.2 Provision of Catering Services at Antrim Castle Gardens Coffee Shop

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2024**

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S – THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with an update on the impact and activity of the collaboration and to outline proposals for development.

2 Background

Members are advised that a presentation will be delivered by Hugh Nelson, Co Chairman of THRiVE.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/CD/480 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY PROGRAMME 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the delivery of the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and Spirit of Christmas Awards.

2. Background

Since November 2018, the Council have been delivering Christmas Lights Switch On Events in each District Electoral Area across the Borough.

The programme at each event encompasses a range of family entertainment to include: Christmas Fun Rides, The Santa Express, Street Entertainment, Festive Food Stalls, Arts and Crafts and a short programme of Christmas Readings, Carols and Music following which the Mayor accompanied by the Schools Competition Winner and Santa switch on the Christmas Tree Lights.

Local School Choirs, Traditional Music Groups, Dance Academies and other local artistes participate in the one and a half hour programme the theme for which changes on an annual basis.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the "Give Our Borough a Gift This Christmas" themed Switch On Programme was approved by the Committee in September 2023.

The programme was delivered live in each DEA and streamed online. In total the programme attracted in excess of 15,000 attendees and 103,632 online views.

4. 2024 Programme Delivery

Officers have started planning for this year's events and having taken into consideration feedback from 2023 the following is proposed for 2024:

- All events to be delivered over the following period: dates are Thursday 21 to Saturday 30 November.
- Times will facilitate traffic management arrangements and ensure young families can enjoy the full experience of the events.
- The switching on of the Christmas Lights will once again take place at the mid-point of the 90-minute programme as opposed to the end in order to facilitate those attending with very young children.
- A programme of family fun entertainment to include: A Children's Pantomime, Live Festive Music, Carols, Switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights, Fun Fair Rides, Festive Food Stalls, Arts and Crafts Activities, The Santa Express and Street Entertainment will be delivered in each DEA.

- A hybrid online viewing offer will continue at a selection of sites in order to facilitate online viewers.
- It is proposed to relocate the venue for the Antrim Switch On Event from Market Square to the Railway Street Car Park. This new location will provide more space for the increase in numbers attending, allow for the introduction of larger fun fair rides and enable provision of a wider variety of food and confectionary retailers. The site also overlooks Alexander Irvine Park where the Christmas tree is located.
- Traditionally the Threemilewater Switch On Event alternates between Mossley Mill and the site at the junction of Jordanstown Road and Devenish Drive in Monkstown. Attendance over the past two years has indicated that the Jordanstown Road/Devenish Drive site is a much more popular venue with attendance last year in the region of 700 people as opposed to 300 people at Mossley Mill in 2022. In light of this it is proposed that the 2024 Threemilewater Christmas Lights Switch On Event takes place at the Jordanstown Road/Devenish Drive Site in Monkstown.

The programme this year will follow a Health and Fitness theme of “Step into the Season” inspired by the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics at Our Festive Big Nights Out.

The dates, times and venues for each of the 7 DEA events are proposed as follows:

Airport DEA - Crumlin Leisure Centre

Thursday 21 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Dunsilly DEA - Randalstown - John Street Car Park

Friday 22 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Glengormley DEA - Lilian Bland Park

Saturday 23 November 2024, 4.30pm - 6.00pm

Macedon DEA - Hazelbank Park

Tuesday 26 November 2024, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Threemilewater DEA – Jordanstown Road/Devenish Drive Monkstown

Wednesday 27 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Antrim DEA – Railway Street Car Park

Thursday 28 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Ballyclare DEA - The Square Car Park

Saturday 30 November 2024, 4.30pm - 6.00pm

It is planned to launch a Kids “Design a Gym Outfit for Santa” Competition. Entries will be judged by the Mayor and the winner in each DEA will receive a prize and assist the Mayor to switch on the Christmas tree lights. An overall winner will be selected from the 7 DEA Winners and the winning Gym Outfit will be professionally made for Santa to wear at each of the Seven Switch On Events.

All events will be advertised and promoted through an electronic and direct marketing campaign to encourage residents to attend the live events or to log on to the live streams.

5. The Spirit of Christmas Awards

In addition, Members' are also reminded of the "Spirit of Christmas Awards" which were launched in October 2021 and continue to prove popular with in excess of 65 nominations received in 2023.

This year it is proposed that a similar competition is delivered with awards being presented under the following 7 categories:

- **Light Up Award** - The wider community working together to create the most outstanding Christmas display or the best lit street, village or town in the Borough.
- **Rockin Around the Christmas Tree Award** - Best programme of festive entertainment within a business or community setting.
- **The Reason for the Season Award** - The most festive school, church or community facility.
- **The Making an Entrance Award** - The best dressed entrance feature or shop front.
- **Traditional Christmas Award** - Recognising acts of goodwill during the festive season.
- **Get Fit and Festive Award** – The best festive initiative, display or event that promotes health and fitness during the festive season.
- **Mayors Award** - Most outstanding Christmas Display or Event in the Borough - Chosen by the Mayor

Nominations for this year's competition will open on Tuesday 12 November and close on Monday 9 December at 4pm. Awards will be presented at a Christmas themed Celebration Event to be held in the Oriel Gallery, Antrim Castle Gardens on Wednesday 18 December 2024.

6. Financial Implication

Members are advised provision of £97,500 for the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and The Spirit of Christmas Awards has been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets.

7. Summary

The proposals for the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and The Spirit of Christmas Awards aim to engage and empower local residents, increase the footfall and revenue in town centres, help create a greater sense of community ownership, civic pride and celebration across the Borough.

Seven Christmas Switch On events, one in each DEA, in the Borough will take place from the 21 – 30 November.

Nominations for the "Spirit of Christmas Awards" competition will open on 12 November and close on 9 December.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and proposals for The Spirit of Christmas Awards be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.2 CP/CD/426 CHRISTMAS TOY SCHEME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the delivery of the Christmas Toy Scheme in 2024.

2. Introduction and Background

The Christmas Toy Scheme was first introduced in 2021 and has operated annually since this time. The scheme supports the upcycling of toys to both support those impacted by cost of living pressures and to promote the 'reuse' message of the Councils Climate Change Action Plan.

The scheme has operated in partnership as follows:

- with community and voluntary organisations
- with Habitat for Humanity (NI) through delivery of a number of 'pop up' shops and
- with the donation of pre loved toys at the Councils Household Recycling Centres.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the Christmas Toy Scheme was first approved by the Council in September 2021 with the delivery of the Christmas Toy Scheme in 2023 approved by the Community Planning Committee in September 2023.

4. Proposals for the Christmas Toy Scheme 2024

It is proposed to operate the Christmas Toy Schemes in 2024 as follows:

- All community groups who supported the scheme in 2023 will be invited to participate in the scheme once again.
- Habitat for Humanity (NI) will deliver two 'Pop Up Toy shops' as follows:
 - Tuesday 3 December 10am-1pm, Muckamore Community Centre
 - Thursday 5 December 10am-1pm, Ballyclare Town Hall
- Preloved toys can be donated to the Councils five household recycling centres.
- A social media campaign will operate in order to encourage donations and promote the Christmas Toy Scheme 2024 as widely as possible.

5. Financial Implication

There are no financial implications arising from delivery of this project.

6. Summary

The Christmas Toy Scheme has operated annually since 2021 and supports those impacted by cost of living pressures whilst also promoting the 'reuse' message.

It is proposed to deliver the event on a similar basis as in 2023.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the delivery of the Christmas Toy Scheme in 2024, as outlined, be approved.

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.3 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the Community Development Small Grants Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provides financial assistance to groups with the Borough of up to £1,000 towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Small Grants Programme, was approved by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's new Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2024/25 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grants be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget for the 2024/25 Community Development Grant Aid Programme, including the Small Grants Programme is £1,073,448 in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets.

During the month of September 4 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 4 applications totalling £3,985.00 recommended for approval, details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award 4 Small Grant funding awards to the successful applicants as outlined.

Community Development Small Grants will remain open as a rolling programme with applications' being reported to the Community Planning Committee on a monthly basis.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 4 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £3,985.00 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.4 CP/CD/478 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION EVENTS FUND 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the Christmas Celebration Events Fund 2024.

2. Background

As part of its Community Development Grant Aid Programme the Council operates a Christmas Celebration Events Fund to assist groups that may wish to develop and deliver Christmas Celebration events in the absence of a Council installed tree and associated switch on ceremony.

Under this fund the Council provides financial assistance of up to £500 per group with no match funding required and for groups wishing to organise a larger scale event a maximum ceiling of £1,000 will be available if the group can secure match funding for the additional £500 (or smaller amount) on a pound for pound basis.

An initial call for applications to this fund opened on Monday 15 July and closed on Wednesday 14 August 2024. 7 Successful applications were approved at the September Community Development Committee.

During the month of September 5 groups who would normally apply to this fund informed Officers that for various reasons they had missed the August deadline and requested that a further opportunity to apply be granted.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in February 2018 to establish an annual Christmas Celebration Events Fund to assist groups who wish to deliver local Christmas switch on events.

At the September 2024 Community Development Committee, 7 applications, submitted by the 14 August deadline, were approved at a total cost of £5,000.

4. Financial Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget for the 2024/25 Community Development Grant Aid Programme, including the Christmas Celebration Events Fund, is £1,073,448.

The five additional requests were received and assessed by a panel of Officers on Tuesday 24 September, a list of which is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The total amount requested from the 5 applications is £4,495 all of which is recommended for funding, subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation.

In addition, correspondence has been received from Bawnmore and District Residents Association informing Officers that match funding totalling £500 has been secured by the group thus entitling them to an additional £500 over and above the £500 already approved in September 2024.

5. Summary

A total of 5 additional requests for financial assistance under the Christmas Celebration Events Fund totalling £4,495 were received by Officers in September 2024.

A further request for additional match funding was received from Bawnmore and District Residents Association totalling £500.

Following assessment, it is proposed that the 6 additional requests for financial assistance under the Christmas Celebration Events Fund be approved at a total cost of £4,995 provision for which exists within the Community Development Grant Aid Budget for 2024/25.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Christmas Celebration Events Fund awards, as outlined at a cost of £4,995, be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.5 CP/CD/481 THE KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the nomination of two Voluntary groups for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2025.

2. Background

Members are aware that the Kings Award for Voluntary Service is the highest accolade given to volunteer groups within the UK to recognise the outstanding work being done in their communities. The award was created in 2002 as the Queens Award for Voluntary Service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queens Accession to the Throne. The Award changed to the Kings Award in 2023 following the Coronation of King Charles III.

Any organisation that has been in existence for a minimum of three years and undertaking voluntary work within their local community, whether social, economic or environmental, can be nominated for this award. To be successful groups must be volunteer led, well managed in terms of governance, financial management and safeguarding, be making a considerable difference to the lives of their beneficiaries and have an outstanding reputation locally.

Over the past three years, the following groups have been successful in receiving the award:

- Mayfield Village Community Association (2023)
- Muckamore Parish Development Association (2023)
- River Bann and Lough Neagh Association (2022)
- Whiteabbey Community Group (2022)
- Monkstown Community Association (2022)
- A Safe Space To Be Me (2021)
- Rathfern Community Regeneration Group (2021)
- Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens (2021)

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that approval for the nomination of 4 groups for the 2024 Kings Award for Voluntary Service was given by Council in August 2023. The four groups nominated were; All About Us – ASD Teens, Queenspark Womens Group, Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society and Monkstown Village Initiatives. The outcome of these nominations will be announced on Thursday 14 November 2024, the day of the Kings Birthday.

4. 2025 Nominations

The deadline for nominations for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2025 is Sunday 1 December 2024 and Officers are proposing that the following two community/voluntary groups be nominated:

Mallusk Community Action Group

Established in 2008 in response to residents' concerns in relation to a number of issues within the village including environmental damage related to the landfill site, road safety concerns, anti-social behaviour and the absence of community facilities.

The groups aim is to create a safe and pleasant environment for the residents of Mallusk and surrounding districts to bring up their families. In order to meet these aims the group currently offers a wide and innovative range of activities for all age groups to include A Baby Sensory Playgroup, Little Kickers Football Sessions, tutoring for those of Primary School Age, Indoor Bowling, Walking Football and Quiz nights.

Over recent years the group have been successful in developing several notable projects including the establishment of a community hub, refurbishment of their community facilities, environmental improvements within the village, seasonal social events, the publication of quarterly newsletter and a number of heritage books, the development of a village heritage trail and a Green Flag Award for Mallusk Cemetery.

Sensory Kids

Established in January 2014 and operating from Unit 58 The Junction, Antrim, the group provides children and young people with a safe and secure environment that will reduce their anxieties and promote their development as well as helping parents to understand and support their children's needs. In addition, the group offer opportunities in volunteering, training, skills development and potential routes to employment in part time admin, professional therapies and technical support.

5. Financial Implication

There is no cost to the Council to nominate the two groups however if the groups are successful in securing the award it is proposed that celebration events up to a maximum cost of £5,000 will be organised and hosted by the Council as in previous years. Provision for two celebration events will be included in the Community Development budget estimates for 2025/26.

6. Summary

It is proposed that Mallusk Community Action Group and Sensory Kids be nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2025.

In addition to the two groups outlined above Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups within their respective DEA's and these should be reported to Officers no later than Friday 1 November 2024.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Mallusk Community Action Group and Sensory Kids be nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2025 and that Members inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 1 November 2024.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.6 CP/TD/050 SCHOOL UNIFORM RE-USE SCHEME OVERVIEW 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2024 and seek approval for the 2025 Scheme proposals.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme was launched in 2020. The Scheme has a two-fold purpose, to relieve financial pressures on local families and to actively contribute to the reduction of items going to landfill, negating the detrimental impact on the environment.

In 2023 10 community-based organisations delivered the schemes with representation from all 7 District Electoral Area's. Collectively over 7,500 good quality pre-loved school uniforms were received helping over 1,000 families.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme was first approved at the February 2020 Council Meeting. The scheme was delivered again in 2021, 2022 and 2023 with over 21,500 good quality school uniform items and over 2,500 families being supported across the Borough.

Members are reminded that an update on the 2023 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme including proposals for rolling out the 2024 scheme were approved at the October 2023 Community Planning Committee:

Proposals for development in 2024 included:

- Further promotion of school uniform schemes as well as recording and collection of data in relation to performance of the schemes.
- Closer work with schools to develop recording of key data including items donated and families supported
- Exploration of funding opportunities to provide additional support to schemes
- Establishment of a School Uniform Providers Network to share best practise and meet biannually
- Development of a 'Back to School' event in August 2024, involving community providers, schools and Community Planning partners to promote the service

Members are also reminded that the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2024, including financial assistance of £200 to each participating group, was approved at the May Community Development Committee.

4. Key Issues

The 2024 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme opened in June and was actively promoted across various channels including Borough Life, Social Media and through correspondence to community organisations and schools.

The Scheme opened for donations from 10 June and closed on 28 June. The Scheme re-opened for uniform collections from 22 July to 02 September.

A total of 10 local schemes representative of each DEA participated in this year's scheme as outlined below:

DEA	School Uniform Scheme Provider
AIRPORT	A Safe Space to be Me: Crumlin Hub
ANTRIM	1 st Antrim Presbyterian
BALLYCLARE	The United Parish -St John's Ballyclare & Christchurch
DUNSILLY	TIDAL – Toome House
GLENGORMLEY URBAN	Carnmoney Presbyterian Church Community Relations Forum Fit Moms & Kids ROC Glengormley
MACEDON	Listening Ear – Dunanney Centre
THREEMILEWATER	Monkstown Village Centre

The School Uniform Re-Use Scheme delivered the following outcomes in 2024:

- Over 4,100 Items of good quality school uniform items were donated to community providers, which is a 45% decrease on donations in 2023;
- Over 1,300 families/children were supported with pre-loved uniform items, which is a 30% increase on families supported in 2023

Members are advised variances in year-to-year performance have been highlighted in evaluations submitted by School Uniform Scheme Providers as well as discussions that have taken place with key stakeholders; primarily local primary and secondary schools as well as Save the Children.

Reason for variations are as follows:

- Schools are now organising their own reuse schemes, this is more likely to be parents/guardians first point of call for donations;
- School Uniform items are now being sold on platforms such as Facebook Marketplace or Vinted rather than being donated.

- Scheme volunteers eluded to the fact that they had made use of surplus uniform stock from 2023 to support more families.

Members are also reminded that Officers have established a School Uniform Providers Network. Actions delivered through this Network included the following:

- The development of a School Uniform Scheme Brand incorporating the strapline. *'Antrim and Newtownabbey School Uniform Scheme – Making Pre-Loved Re-loved.'*
- A targeted communication approach specifically streamlining information relating directly to each scheme
- Partnership working with one of the Community Planning Partners, Libraries NI. Libraries NI worked with the Council as part of a 'Pilot' to act as a donation point for branded P.E. clothing within three branches; Glengormley, Antrim and Ballyclare.
- Two Ready, Set, School events took place in Antrim Forum and Mossley Pavilion in the second week of August. The main purpose of these events was to provide back to school support services for families of school-aged children. School Uniform Scheme providers participated at both events, supplying uniforms as well as using the event as a platform for raising the profile of their individual schemes.

Members are advised an infographic highlighting the key outcomes of the 2024 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme has been developed a copy of which is **enclosed** for Members information.

As the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme continues to evolve to meet local community needs, it is proposed that the areas below be developed for 2025 as follows:

- Building of closer relationships between the Council and Primary and Secondary schools, supporting their schemes as well as building partnerships between schools and the community-based School Uniform Re-Use Scheme Providers.
- Exploration of expanding the scheme to include school bags, and other essential items.

In recognition of the invaluable contribution and support that the Community and Voluntary organisations provide for both families and the Council's Sustainability Action Plan, through the reduction of items going to landfill, it is proposed to invite all 2024 participating organisations to meet the Mayor as part of a celebratory event.

5. Financial Implication

Financial assistance of £200 was provided to each participating group to support groups with administration, promotion and storage. Provision for 10

groups at a total cost of £2,000 was provided within the 2024/25 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

10 local community schemes representative of each DEA participated in this year's School Uniform Re-Use Scheme. 4,100 Items of good quality school uniform items were donated to community providers and 1,300 families were supported with pre-loved uniform items.

It is proposed to invite all 2024 participating organisations to meet the Mayor as part of a celebratory event.

Areas for development of the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme in 2025 have been identified.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that that the update of the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2024 be noted and the proposals for the 2025 Re-Use Scheme be approved.

Prepared by: Claire McAuley, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.7 CP/PV/001 LILIAN BLAND PAVILION – BOOKING APPROVAL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for alcohol to be consumed in Lilian Bland Pavilion on Wednesday 30th October 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that the Newtownabbey-Indian Welfare Association have booked Lilian Bland Pavilion on Wednesday 30th October 2024, 4pm-10.30pm for their annual Diwali celebration event.

In addition, they have requested for individuals attending the celebration to bring and consume alcohol at the event. Alcohol will not be sold or charged for as part of the event. The Council permits the consumption and sale of alcohol with agreement if the relevant licence is obtained by the customer.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are advised that a number of previous requests to the Council seeking permission to consume alcohol at functions in community facilities have been approved.

4. Financial Implication

Members are advised under the current Community Facilities pricing policy bookings will be charged at community rate for the duration of their booking. The Newtownabbey-Indian Welfare Association will be charged £155.

Members are advised the booking request is outside normal opening hours and Officers will consider charges for out of hours bookings in the 2025/26 Community Facilities pricing schedule to be reported to a future Committee.

5. Summary

A booking has been received by Newtownabbey-Indian Welfare Association for their annual Diwali celebration event on 30th October 2024. Additionally, they have requested for individuals attending the celebration to bring and consume alcohol at the event. Alcohol will not be sold or charged as part of the event.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request from the Newtownabbey-Indian Welfare Association to allow individuals attending the celebration event to bring and consume alcohol in Lilian Bland Pavilion on Wednesday 30th October 2024 be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.8 CP/GR/193 SOMME VISIT 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the proposed arrangements for the annual visit to the Somme in 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that a delegation from the Council once again participated in a visit to the Somme Region from 29th June – 2nd July, which marks the 1st July anniversary of the Great War Battle of the Somme. The visit to France and Belgium also included educational visits to key sites where local regiments fought, and individuals from the Borough lost their lives at this time.

The Elected Members in attendance were The Mayor Cllr Neil Kelly, The Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Dunlop, Alderman Lewis Boyle, Cllr Mark Cooper, Cllr Stephen Cosgrove, Cllr Robert Foster and Cllr Helen Magill. The visit was facilitated by experienced historian and former Elected Member Fraser Agnew.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at Community Planning Committee in September 2023 that the Somme Visit be delivered annually as part of the Council's Good Relations Programme.

It was also agreed that the Council delegation to the Somme visit in future years would operate as follows:

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and one Elected Member from each of the Political Parties attend the Somme accompanied by appropriate Officers.

Any other Elected Member who wished to attend could do so at their own expense.

4. Somme Visit 2025

Following a review of the 2024 visit, it is proposed that the core annual content will include the memorial services held on the 1st July at; Thiepval Memorial, Ulster Tower Memorial, and Guillemont Memorial. Additional elements of the programme will be optional subject to logistics.

An overview of the proposed itinerary for 2025 and 2026 is **enclosed** for Member's information.

It is proposed that Group Party Leaders will nominate their Elected Member.

To ensure value for money, as well as securing preferred accommodation, all bookings for the 2025 Somme Visit will be made in this calendar year.

Therefore all attendees, both nominated and those who wish to accompany at their own expense, must be made known to Good Relations Officers by 12pm on Friday 15 November via a confirmation email to:

goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

5. Financial Position/Implication

An allocation of up to £15,000 will be included in the Community Development budget estimates for 2025/26.

6. Summary

Elected Members for the 2025 Somme Visit, itinerary enclosed, are sought from Group Party Leaders, and any other Elected Member who wishes to attend covering their own travel and subsistence costs, should advise Officers of their intention no later than Friday 15 November.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed arrangements for the 2025 annual visit to the Somme be approved.

Prepared by: Jen Cole Good, Relations Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.9 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 11 September 2024.

2. Background

Members are reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group is to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group is set out as follows:

- To advise the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare Community and wider Borough Community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community Development Committee. Membership consists of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who are actively involved in the local community.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 11 September 2024 in Spinning Room, Mossley Mill to review May Fair 2024. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 11 September 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Planning

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.10 AC/EV/015 THE MRS JOAN CHRISTIE CVO, OBE LEGACY BURSARY SCHEME 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024, and seek Members' approval for an amendment to the scheme in 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme was created in 2019 in recognition of the significant work carried out by Mrs Christie during her time as Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim. Each year, the scheme awards:

- Two bursaries of £1,000 to talented young musicians from the Borough to help further their career
- Two bursaries of £1,000 to young volunteers who play an active role in a group in the Borough
- Two bursaries of £1,000 to the groups in which the young people volunteer
- Two bursaries of £1,000 to schools in the Borough for horticulture projects designed for pupils with additional needs

Following an initial shortlisting process carried out by officers, applicants are assessed by a panel made up of an Elected Member from each political party and chaired by Mrs Christie's daughter, Harriet Roberts. The awards are presented at a lunch event at the Theatre at the Mill, and young musicians shortlisted for a bursary are also offered ongoing mentoring opportunities.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024 Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme was approved at the May 2024 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024

Applications for the 2024 Bursary Scheme opened at the start of June and closed at the end of August. 18 applications were received for music bursaries, 6 for volunteering bursaries, and 4 for horticultural bursaries. Following initial shortlisting by officers, the assessment panel met shortlisted applicants at the Courtyard Theatre on 23 September 2024.

Recipients of Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursaries will be announced at a lunchtime event on 8 November 2024 at the Theatre at the Mill.

5. Proposed change to the 2025 scheme

Every year the music bursary is oversubscribed with high-quality applications from young musicians living in the Borough, but the Council's Arts and

Heritage Grant scheme is often underspent. Following discussion with the Elected Members on the Assessment Panel, it is recommended that, subject to the completion of the 2025/26 estimates process, £2,000 is moved from the Arts and Heritage Grant budget to the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme to create an additional two music bursary grants.

6. Financial Position/Implication

The budget for the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024 is £8,000 for the bursaries, with a further hospitality budget of approximately £1,000 for the awards lunch. Provision for this has been made in the 2024/25 Arts and Culture budget.

7. Summary

The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024 received 28 applications, and the assessment panel met on 23 September to agree award recipients. Awards will be presented at a lunchtime ceremony on 8 November 2024.

An amendment to the scheme is recommended for 2025, which would create new bursary opportunities at no additional cost to the Council.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (a) the update on The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme 2024 be noted;**
- (b) an additional £2,000 is allocated to the 2025 scheme to fund two further music bursaries, with this additional budget coming from the 2025/26 Arts and Heritage Grant Aid budget (subject to the outcome of the 2025/26 estimates process).**

Prepared by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.11 ED/TOU/035 VISIT BELFAST PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the renewal of the partnership agreement with Visit Belfast for a further 12 months at the same rate as last year but with a significantly enhanced package of benefits.

2. Introduction/Background

Visit Belfast is the official destination marketing organisation for Belfast and Northern Ireland more generally, with a core purpose to create and service visitors for Belfast and Northern Ireland in order to generate economic benefit and inclusive growth.

In addition to managing the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre on Donegall Square, Visit Belfast also operates a purpose-built Visitor Information Centre at Belfast International Airport, providing tourist information to visitors arriving into Northern Ireland.

Since 2015, the Council has maintained a partnership with Visit Belfast, allowing it access to a wide range of marketing networks and media to promote the Borough. The cost of this partnership has decreased from an initial £20,000 per annum in 2015 to £8,500 in 2023.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In September 2023 the Community Planning Committee approved an annual fee of £8,500 for the Visit Belfast partnership in 2023/24, along with an increase to £10,000 in 2024/25.

4. Benefits of the Partnership

Visit Belfast have proposed a significantly enhanced package of benefits for the next 12 months in return for a partnership fee fixed at the same value as last year. These benefits include:

- the exclusive use of the front-facing digital screen at Belfast International Airport to promote destinations and events across the Borough
- the promotion of at least six destinations in the Borough on the main information screen at Belfast International Airport Visitor Information Centre
- pop-up banners at both Belfast International Airport and the Welcome Centre in Belfast to promote Enchanted Winter Garden, Garden Show Ireland and the Christmas productions at Theatre at the Mill
- a large graphic panel and a pillar wrap at the Belfast International Airport Visitor Information Centre promoting tourist destinations in the Borough
- a display in the Welcome Centre's main 'Christmas' window (directly facing the Belfast Christmas Market) promoting Enchanted Winter Garden

- distribution of Antrim and Newtownabbey Visitor Guides and other printed material at both the Welcome Centre and Belfast International Airport
- promotion of the Council's main annual events through Visit Belfast's social media platforms, which currently have more than 431,000 followers
- destination, event and visitor experience information on all 19 Visit Belfast touchscreen information units across Northern Ireland
- scripted messaging about destinations, events, visitor experiences and accommodation in the Borough delivered by Visit Belfast staff at the Welcome Centre and Belfast International Airport in response to visitor enquiries (NB the airport Visitor Information Centre staff expect to answer approximately 222,000 enquiries this year; the Welcome Centre expects to receive approximately 312,000 visitors and answer an additional 194,000 enquiries remotely)

This proposal, which has been offered exclusively to the Council, represents a cost-effective way of promoting the Borough, its events, attractions and accommodation providers at Belfast International Airport. For comparison, the cost of advertising for 10 seconds on a 60 second loop on one of the airport's digital screens is £52,000 per annum, and the cost of a wall advert is £40,000 per annum.

The proposal also increases the level of promotion for the Borough's flagship events and shows in central Belfast, and this would have a particular benefit for Enchanted Winter Garden and Garden Show Ireland.

5. Financial Position

The proposed partnership fee of £8,500 has been included in the 2024/25 Arts and Culture estimates.

6. Summary

The Council has had a partnership agreement with Visit Belfast since 2015, focused on the promotion of its events, visitor experiences, destinations and accommodation providers, particularly at the Belfast International Airport Visitor Information Centre.

Visit Belfast's proposal for the next 12 months would provide a significantly enhanced package of promotional opportunities at both Belfast International Airport and at the Welcome Centre in Belfast for the same fee as last year.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposal to renewal the partnership with Visit Belfast for a further 12 months at the same rate as last year but with a significantly enhanced package of benefits be approved.

Prepared by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.12 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF BALLYCLARE TOWN HALL AND THE EYRE STUDIO

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the free use of Ballyclare Town Hall and the Eyre Studio in Antrim Castle Gardens by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) each month for the remainder of 2024 and throughout 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

The RNID provides regular free support sessions lasting for two hours at locations throughout Northern Ireland to enable people to make the most of their hearing aids and manage their hearing loss effectively. These sessions are funded by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) of the Department of Health, and are only available in Northern Ireland.

Through these sessions the RNID provides:

- information on how to look after and fit hearing aids
- re-tubing, ear mould cleaning and battery replacement
- hearing checks
- information about coping with hearing loss, equipment and communication tips
- talks on managing hearing loss and hearing health training
- information about other services that can provide support

The RNID have been holding monthly sessions for residents of the Borough in Ballyclare Town Hall since June 2023, and in the Eyre Studio (Antrim Castle Gardens) since January 2024. Each session attracts, on average, between 30 and 50 attendees.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The request for the free use of Ballyclare Town Hall was approved at the full Council meeting in June 2023, and the request for the free use of the Eyre Studio was approved at the Community Planning Committee meeting in December 2023.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The potential loss of income which could be incurred if this free use request is approved would amount to £20 per month for the Town Hall and £60 per month for the Eyre Studio. These sessions would not incur any additional staffing costs as they take place during the standard opening hours of the Town Hall and Eyre Studio.

5. Summary

A request has been made by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) for the free use of the Ballyclare Town Hall and the Eyre Studio in Antrim Castle Gardens for two hours each month for the remainder of 2024

and throughout 2025. This is to allow them to deliver hearing aid use support service sessions free of charge to residents.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request for the monthly free use of Ballyclare Town Hall and the Eyre Studio in Antrim Castle Gardens by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People for the remainder of 2024 and throughout 2025 be approved.

Prepared by: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.13 AC/GEN/037 ARTS AND HERITAGE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for an Arts and Heritage Grant application.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme is to provide support to individuals and constituted groups based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote a range of art forms and heritage projects.

Arts grants are available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production of art work
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of an event or festival, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public
- The attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification

Heritage grants are available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production or development of a heritage product, such as publication or exhibition which must relate to local history
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of a heritage event, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public

To be successful, applicants must score a minimum of 50% in their application and all proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation. The programme operates on a rolling basis linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year is exhausted.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a revised Arts and Culture Grant Aid Programme was approved by the Committee in April 2022.

4. Applications for 2024/2025 Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme

One application has been received and assessed by officers under the appropriate funding category and maximum award available.

A summary of the application is set out below along with the proposed award:

Group / Individual Name	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Proposed Amount Awarded
Theatre 3	Arts Support for groups - the attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	Theatre 3 is an amateur drama group formed in 1984 and based in Newtownabbey, who have previously performed at the Theatre at the Mill and Courtyard Theatre. Earlier this year Theatre 3 was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the British Final Festival of One-Act Plays in Perth, competing against the champions of England, Scotland and Wales. The competition took place in July 2024, and was won by Total Arts Community Theatre from England. The grant application is to help Theatre 3 with the cost of travelling to Perth for the competition, specifically van hire and transport fares.	65%	£1,000

5. Financial Position

The budget available for Arts and Heritage Grants in 2024/2025 is £14,000. Grants totalling £817.50 have been previously approved by the Committee, and the total amount proposed for the above award is £1,000. If approved, this would leave a balance of £12,182.50 to fund any future applications in the current financial year.

6. Governance

Arts and Heritage Grant payments are not usually approved for events that have already taken place. However, Theatre 3 submitted its original application in April 2024 using the application form from the previous grant management system that was replaced on March 31. Officers asked the group to re-submit their application using the new system, but this was not submitted until August. Given that the group submitted its original application in good faith in April, it is recommended that on this occasion approval is given retrospectively for the grant.

7. Summary

Theatre 3, a Newtownabbey-based amateur drama group, has applied for an Arts and Heritage Grant to help with the costs of travelling to Perth to compete in the British Final Festival of One-Act Plays.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Arts and Heritage Grant application for £1,000 be approved.

Prepared by: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.14 CP/CP/237 WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the draft minutes of the Womens Sub Committee meeting held on 18 September 2024 as true and accurate reflections of the meetings (enclosed).

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that a motion to establish a stand alone 'Women's Sub Committee' made up of female representatives of the Council to discuss and promote women's issues, build the skills and confidence of local women and to encourage women to become more involved in local politics was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting and it was agreed the Womens Sub Committee would report through the Diversity Working Group.

3. Previous Council Decision

The Terms of Reference for the Womens Sub Committee were approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Womens Sub Committee Meeting held on 18 September 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Planning

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Planning

4.15 CP/CD/477 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval on the offer of additional Community Support Programme funding from the Department for Communities for the delivery of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund.

2. Background

The Community Support Programme was established in 1975 and is a joint programme involving the Department for Communities (DfC) and local Councils. The programme supports the provision of community centres, local advice services, resource centres, grants to community groups and the employment of community support staff in Councils.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that DfC Community Support Programme financial assistance totalling £479,046.79 for the delivery of the Councils Community Support Programme for 2024/25 was approved at the Community Development Committee in September.

The total amount awarded includes £136,036.40 for Community Support in General, such as Staff Salaries, the Community Development Grant Aid Programme and Community Capacity Building Initiatives, £180,264.61 for Advice Services and £162,745.78 for a Social Supermarket.

4. Community Support Programme - Integrated Advice Partnership Fund

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the DfC inviting Councils to accept a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver an Integrated Advice Partnership Fund 2024/26.

The objective of the fund is to *'Improve the uptake of free, independent regulated debt advice through a collaborative partnership approach'*.

The funding should target local need by working in partnership with the local voluntary and community sector to ensure the delivery of better, more responsive services and better outcomes for communities, through a range of diverse methods that complement the existing NI Debt Advice service administered with our delivery partner, Advice NI.

The types of expenditure that would be considered would include, but not be restricted to, the following:

- Training for paid staff and/or volunteers to improve the quality of debt advice, and reasonable associated expenses (including cover to enable staff to participate);

- Additional infrastructure that will directly benefit debt advice, for example AdvicePro case management software, computers for staff members, computers for clients to tackle digital poverty and debt.
- Additional contributions to the running costs for the provision of debt advice, to extend its scope beyond existing funding streams. This could include, for example, salary costs, volunteer expenses, premises or equipment costs.
- Partnership projects with a focus on maximising debt uptake

5. Financial Implications

Members are advised the Council has received an offer for non-recurrent funding of £91,427.04 from DfC for the costs associated with the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund for 2024/26, at no additional cost to the Council.

The allocations will be provided through the established Community Support Programme arrangements. £59,221.36 will be allocated in the 2024/25 Community Support Programme letter of variance. An additional £32,205.68 will be provided through the Community Support Programme Letter of Offer for 2025/26. There is no requirement for Councils to match fund this provision.

An accounts directive has been agreed with the Department that will allow any funding received in 2024/25 year to be carried over into council reserves for the 2025/26 year with the expressed purpose that it remains ring-fenced for the Integrated Advice Partnership fund.

6. Summary

The Council has received an offer for non-recurrent funding of £91,427.04 from DfC for the costs associated with the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund for 2024/26.

The funding allocations will be provided through the established Community Support Programme arrangements.

It is proposed that the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund is procured through the Council's Generalist Advice contract.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Department for Communities offer of £91,427.04 for the delivery of the Integrated Advice Partnership Fund through the Community Support Programme 2024/26 be accepted.

Prepared by: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5. ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/PP/010 PEACEPLUS LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update regarding the Antrim and Newtownabbey PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that PEACEPLUS is the new €1.1 billion cross-border funding programme created to strengthen peace and prosperity within and between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. PEACEPLUS is the successor programme to both Peace IV and INTERREG VA. The Council is one of 17 Peace Partnerships across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

Members are reminded that Theme 1 'Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities' aims is to unite communities, help them rebuild and learn from a difficult past. Under Theme 1 and Investment Area 1.1 'Co-designed Local Community Action Plans' Local Councils across Northern Ireland and the border counties have been invited to submit applications to the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) to secure funding to deliver against the actions identified in each Local Community Action Plan.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the draft PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community Action Plan, and the outcome of the Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing carried out for the Plan was approved at the March 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from SEUPB confirming the Council's PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community Action Plan was considered by the PEACEPLUS Programme Steering Committee at its meeting on 01 October and the application was approved for grant funding of up to €5,103,757.

A total of nine, large scale, cross cutting programmes have been approved, across the three themes, as follows:

Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital works)

Programme 1: Our Historical Borough	A capital based programme for heritage projects resulting in borough-wide historic connectivity
Programme 2: Our Active Borough	A capital based programme to create new activity based facilities across the borough which

	will encourage our residents to be more active and connected
Programme 3: Our Shared Borough	A capital based programme to enhance community facilities

Theme 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities (Revenue)

Programme 4: Our Shared Borough	A capacity building programme for the community and voluntary sector, designed to identify and form new groups, grow and develop existing groups and support groups in the future
Programme 5: Our Active Borough	An active participation for a range of activities including mainstream sports, emerging sports, arts, culture, music, drama and crafts, mental wellbeing, and volunteering
Programme 6: Our Future Borough	A community skills building programme comprising two strands: 1. Personal Development; 2. Community Education and Learning

Theme 3: Building Respect for All Cultural Identities (Revenue)

Programme 7: Our Historical Borough	A resource programme linked to Programme 1, providing groups and individuals with the skills, accredited training and qualifications, to ensure local ownership of heritage sites, and ensure a professional historical offering across the Borough.
Programme 8: Our Inclusive Borough	An identity programme to promote understanding and acceptance of self and others
Programme 9: Our Future Borough	An international and cross border learning programme to create learning and development opportunities, enhance understanding, tolerance and empathy

A formal letter of offer will be issued once all pre-funding conditions have been met. Members are advised the formal letter of offer will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised the Council's PEACEPLUS application to Theme 1.1, Co-designed Local Community Action Plans has been approved for grant funding of up to €5,103,757, which is approximately £4.3m, subject to all pre-funding conditions being met.

6. Governance

The PEACEPLUS Partnership oversaw the design and implementation of a co-designed process used to inform the development of an over-arching PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the February 2022 Community Planning Committee that the Membership of the PEACEPLUS Partnership was as follows:

- 12 Elected Members nominated by D'Hondt and representative of each DEA;
- 4 Statutory Partners from Education Authority, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Health and Social Care Trust to be nominated by the Statutory Partners;
- 7 Social Partners with one from each DEA appointed by public advertisement and selection process.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership, is governed by a constitution and a Partnership Agreement.

Members are reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council.

7. Summary

Members are advised correspondence has been received from SEUPB confirming the Council's PEACEPLUS application to Theme 1.1, Co-designed Local Community Action Plans has been approved for grant funding of up to €5,103,757, subject to all pre-funding conditions being met.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the update regarding the Antrim and Newtownabbey PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan be noted.

Prepared by: Julia Clarke, Peace Programme Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.2 AC/GEN/067 ULSTER-SCOTCH LEID WEEK 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members about Ulster-Scotch Leid Week 2024.

2. Introduction

Ulster-Scotch Leid Week (Ulster-Scots Language Week) is an annual event that has been run by the Ulster-Scots Agency since 2019. The event celebrates the Ulster-Scots language, history and culture through a diverse and engaging public programme that includes interactive language workshops, storytelling sessions, historical walking tours, and exhibitions.

The Council has participated in Leid week annually since 2019, and plans to take part in this year's event are included in the Good Relations Cultural Awareness Programme alongside similar plans to deliver events showcasing the Irish Language during the Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia festival.

In previous years the Council has participated in Leid Week by offering walking tours of the Whitehouse, Antrim and Ballyclare, as well as music, poetry, history and language workshops for people of all ages. It is anticipated that a similar programme will be developed for this year's Leid Week.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Council's Good Relations Programme 2024/25 Action Plan, including a commitment to participate in the 2024 Ulster-Scotch Leid Week, was approved at the September 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence was received from the Ulster-Scots Agency on 3 October 2024 to say that the 2024 Leid Week would take place from 25-30 November. Officers are now engaging with the Agency to develop and finalise plans.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The budget for the 2024 Ulster-Scotch Leid Week is £2,000. This has been allocated from the 2024/25 Good Relations budget.

6. Summary

The 2024 Ulster-Scotch Leid Week will take place from 25-30 November. As in previous years, the Good Relations team will work with the Ulster-Scots Agency to develop a programme of events celebrating the Ulster-Scots language, history and culture.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Simon Goldrick. Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning