



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON 11 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor M Brady
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen – L Boyle, J McGrath and S Ross
Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, R Lynch, V McWilliam and S Ward
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillors – J Gilmour, T McGrann, A O'Lone, L Smyth and S Wilson
- In Attendance (In Person/Remote)** : Declan Rogers, Group Commander - Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)
Peter Melarkey, Assistant Group Commander – NIFRS
Andrew Park, Associate Director - Grant Thornton NI
- In Attendance (Remote)** : Ryan Thompson, Area Commander – NIFRS
- Officers Present** : Director of Community Development – U Fay
Head of Community Development – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
Conor Cuning - DEA Engagement Manager
ICT Change Officer – A Cole
Member Services Officer – C McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the November meeting of the Community Development Committee and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor M Ní Chonghaile

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.4 - Councillor J Gilmour

Item 4.9 – Councillor P Dunlop

Item 5.2 – Alderman L Boyle

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 CP/CP/196 NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PUBLIC CONSULTATION – COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation was to provide Members with information on the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service consultation on its Community Risk Management Plan.

2. Background

A presentation (circulated) was delivered by Declan Rogers and Peter Melarkey of NIFRS.

Members' queries were addressed in respect of the proposed Community Risk Management Plan.

The Chairman reminded Members that the public consultation would close on 9 January 2025. He thanked Mr Rogers and Mr Melarkey for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Boyle left and returned to the Chamber during Item 3.2.

3.2 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation was to provide Members with an update on the Community Planning – Data Analysis Baseline Report.

2. Background

An initial review of Council's Community Plan for the period 2027 to 2023 was carried out in 2024. The review assessed the change in the indicators over this period to understand the impact of the interventions of the Community Plan.

As part of the recent review of the Community Plan, Officers engaged the services of Grant Thornton to identify robust indicators, which could be used to provide a more robust evaluation of the impact of the Community Plan going forward.

3. Community Planning Data Analysis Baseline Report

Grant Thornton had identified seventy seven indicators for the evaluation of the revised Community Plan and had provided a comprehensive report of baseline position for each of the seventy seven indicators.

Andrew Park from Grant Thornton provided a presentation (circulated) to the Committee on the Community Planning Data Analysis Baseline Report, which included DEA specific findings.

Members' queries were addressed in relation to the data highlighted in the presentation. It was advised that the breakdown of the data requested was available on the Health Inequalities Report which would form part of the overall Report provided by Grant Thornton.

In response to a Member's suggestion to review the Health Intervention Action Plan in order to allow qualifying residents to access the scheme more quickly, the Director of Community Development confirmed that she would pass this to the Director of Parks & Leisure Operations as it was a leisure services issue.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the presentation be noted and shared with Members via Flux.

ACTION BY: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the updated draft 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 and that the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 23 October 2024 be approved.

2. Introduction/Background

The Community Planning Partnership was responsible for leading the Community Planning process in the Borough. The Community Planning Partnership was established in 2015 and was made up of Elected Members and representatives of each of the Community Planning statutory partners. The Community Planning Partnership meet twice annually.

Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here' for the Borough set out a shared vision and agreed outcomes for the area up to 2030. This was achieved by working collectively with other partners involved, through a Community Planning Partnership. The plan was first approved in 2017.

3. Previous Decision of Council

A mid-point review of the 'Love Living Here' Community Plan was approved at the October 2023 Community Planning Committee. This involved data analysis, meetings with other statutory Community Planning Partners to analyse the progress of the Plan to date and assess the continued relevance of the actions of the Plan post the pandemic and in the context of the current cost of living challenges.

The updated draft of Council's Community Plan 'Love Living Here' was approved at the March 2024 Community Planning Committee.

The minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting of 21 March 2024 were approved at the April Community Planning Committee Meeting.

4. 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan

As part of the mid-point review of the 'Love Living Here' Community Plan, the Community Planning Partnership took the opportunity to identify and assess the latest statistical data sources available in order that the updated delivery plan would be evidence based. This resulted in the revised plan having the streamlined actions in the following four thematic areas, which aligned with Council's Corporate Plan:

- PEOPLE
- PLACE
- PROSPERITY
- PLANET

An updated 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 had been developed and a copy was circulated for Members' information. The updated plan was considered and agreed at the Community Planning Partnership meeting on Wednesday 23 October 2024.

The Community Planning Partnership would continue to monitor and report the progress of the delivery plan using an outcomes-based approach highlighting areas of best practice.

5. Partnership Minutes

The third Community Planning Partnership meeting of Council term was held in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill on Wednesday 23 October 2024. At the meeting, the minutes of the Partnership meeting of 21 March 2024 were approved and these were circulated for Members' information. The draft minutes of meeting on 23 October 2024 were also circulated for Members' approval.

6. Governance

At Council's Annual Meeting in May 2023, it was agreed that Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of Council to be allocated using d'Hondt and the Chair of the Community Planning Committee also be the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership.

Officers would report the performance against the updated Delivery Plan bi-annually at the Community Planning Partnership and a Statement of Progress would be completed every two years and reported to the Department for Communities.

7. Summary

An updated 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 had been developed and the performance of the Plan would be reported bi-annually at the Community Planning Partnership.

The Plan was approved at the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 23 October 2024 and the draft minutes were circulated as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

- (a) the draft 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 be approved; and**
- (b) the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 23 October 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Councillor Ward left and returned to the Chamber during Item 4.2.

4.2 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval on the draft minutes of DEA Member Engagement Group meetings.

2. Introduction/Background

The DEA Member Engagement Groups were an established part of the Community Planning engagement framework.

3. Previous Council Decision

The updated Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings were approved at the March 2023 Community Planning Committee and provided the framework for the meetings.

The minutes of the June 2024 DEA meetings were approved at the September 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Key Update

DEA Member Engagement Group meetings had recently taken place and draft minutes for the seven meetings were circulated for Members' information. These would be formally adopted at the next meetings of the DEA groups.

The meeting schedule was set out below:

Community Planning Section – DEA Member Engagement Group Meetings		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
CP/CP/168	1 October 2024	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/169	3 October 2024	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/170	9 October 2024	Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/171	10 October 2024	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/172	15 October 2024	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/173	16 October 2024	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/174	24 October 2024	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

5. Governance

The next round of DEA Member Engagement Meetings were scheduled to take place in February 2025.

A Member sought clarity regarding the role of DEA Engagement groups. The Director of Community Development advised that the Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement groups were revised in March 2023 with work currently being undertaken to further review Working Group Terms of Reference.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

the draft minutes of DEA Member Engagement Group meetings be approved as true and accurate reflections of the meetings.

ACTION BY: *Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager*

4.3 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS' FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 2 2024-25 performance report.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum aims to relieve poverty, advance education and promote the preservation and protection of health among seniors (50+) in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and its environs.

They provide facilities and programmes in the interests of social welfare for the education, recreation and leisure time for senior citizens. Officers had continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the April 2024 Community Development Committee, it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 through a service level agreement for the 2024/25 financial year to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum. Officers had continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA and NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement and performance of this Group.

It was also agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report be provided to the Community Planning Committee, from September 2022 onwards.

The 2024/25 Quarter 1 Performance Report was approved at the September Community Development Committee and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum had been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Planning budget. Other Community Planning partners also confirmed their financial commitment to continue to support this group as outlined below:

Community Planning Partner	Financial contribution to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum 2024/25
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

A Service Level Agreement between Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum for 2024/25 had been developed.

5. Governance

Officers would continue to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners to manage the Service Level Agreement and performance of this Group. A quarterly performance report was provided to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum 2024-25 Quarter 2 Report was circulated for Members' information and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers could confirm that Quarter 2 targets had been met.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 2 2024-25 performance report be approved.

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

4.4 CP/113/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the THRIVE Project Quarter 2 2024-25 performance report.

2. Introduction

The Thrive Project is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee to provide £25,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRIVE Project, with a quarterly performance report brought to future meetings of the Committee.

The 2024/25 Quarter 1 Performance Report was approved at the September Community Development Committee and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position

It was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to THRiVE for 2024/25 subject to a quarterly performance report being provided.

5. Governance

Elected Members from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA were nominated to serve on the THRiVE Board at the Annual Council Meeting on 3 June 2024 with Councillor Gilmour and Councillor Mallon nominated for their respective DEAs to serve on the Board.

Officers would continue to work with the THRiVE Project and Community Planning partners to manage the performance of the Project. Quarterly performance reports would continue to be reported to the Community Development Committee.

A presentation on the THRiVE Project was made to the October Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Quarter 2 Report and further information was circulated (5 enclosures) for Members' information and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers had been advised that Quarter 2 targets had been met.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the THRiVE Project Quarter 2 2024-25 performance report be approved.

ACTION BY: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

4.5 CP/GR/194 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT PROGRAMME 2024-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the Good Relations Grants Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Good Relations Grants Programme provided financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to £2,000 towards activities, events and programmes that aligned with the aims of Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

The Good Relations Grants Programme opened for applications on 4 October 2024 and would close on 6 January 2025.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

The Good Relations Grants Programme was approved at the September 2024 Community Development Committee as part of Council's revised Good Relations Action Plan 2024-25.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The total budget for the 2024/25 Good Relations Grant Programme was £16,000 in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets.

All Good Relations Grant would be assessed against eligibility criteria and a scored assessment process. Applicants would be required to score a minimum of 50% for an application to be recommended for approval.

During the month of October, two applications were received and assessed by Officers, with one application totalling £2,000 recommended for approval. The project details were circulated for Members' information.

All proposed awards would be subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation was in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

5. Summary

It was proposed to award one Good Relations funding award to the successful applicant as outlined.

Good Relations Grants would remain open until 6 January 2025, with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a monthly basis.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

Good Relations Grant application requesting a total of £2,000 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relation Coordinator

4.6 **CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with the minutes from the PEACEPLUS Partnership Annual General Meeting and Full Partnership held on 29 October 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council. As such, the minutes of the following PEACEPLUS Partnership meetings below

were circulated for consideration:

- Annual General Meeting minutes 29 October 2024
- Full Partnership meeting minutes 29 October 2024

3. Governance

The DUP nominating officer had also advised that, with immediate effect, Councillor Mark Cooper would be replacing Alderman Stephen Ross on the PEACEPLUS Partnership for the remainder of the term of Council.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

the PEACEPLUS Annual General Meeting and Full Partnership Meeting, as detailed, be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meetings and the update to the DUP membership on the PEACEPLUS Partnership be noted.

ACTION BY: Julia Clarke, Peace Programme Co-ordinator

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provided financial assistance to groups within 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 Council in October 2014 as part of Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Groups who apply for a small grant would not be 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 would be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards would be subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation was in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

The total budget for the 2024/25 Community Development Grant Aid Programme, including the Small Grants Programme was £1,073,448 in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets.

During the month of October, two applications were received and assessed by Officers. Both applications totalling £1,989.95 were recommended for approval and details were circulated for Members' information.

5. Summary

It was proposed to award two Small Grant funding awards to the successful applicants as outlined.

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

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the two Small Grant applications requesting a total of £1,989.95 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.8 **AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 10 October 2024, and the spring 2025 Theatre Programmes.

2. Background

The role of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel was to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service to enable it to deliver Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030. The specific role of the Panel was set out as follows:

- To advise Council on the programming of arts and cultural activity throughout the Borough
- To provide advocacy for the arts and cultural sector
- To provide Council with an insight into current issues affecting arts and culture throughout Northern Ireland
- To represent the arts and cultural community both locally and regionally
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from specific genres for the benefit of the ongoing development of arts and culture in the Borough

The Panel was made up of one Elected Member from each Political Party and 12 non-elected independent members who were actively involved in the arts and culture sector. The Panel would meet four times each year and report to the Community Development Committee.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The establishment of the Borough Arts and Cultural Panel for Council term was approved at Council meeting in June 2023.

4. Advisory Panel Meeting

The Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel met on 10 October 2024 in Mossley Mill. The draft minutes of this meeting and the Theatre Programmes for Spring 2025, which were presented at the meeting, were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel of 10 October 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and the Spring 2025 Theatre Programmes be approved.

ACTION BY: Katherine Gardiner, Arts and Theatres Manager

4.9 **CP/CC/009 MUCKAMORE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP SENSORY GARDEN REQUEST**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for Muckamore Community Playgroup to develop a sensory garden on Council land at Muckamore Community Centre.

2. Introduction/Background

Muckamore Community Playgroup had been using Muckamore Community Centre for 46 years. They currently booked the Centre Monday-Friday during the academic year.

There was an outdoor area enclosed and accessed directly from the Centre, which the Playgroup utilise for education and horticultural activities. The outdoor space was originally created 20 years ago with funding that the Playgroup secured and included a soft safety play surface, fencing, wall and landscaping.

Muckamore Community Playgroup had requested permission to develop a sensory garden on land owned by Council at the rear of the Centre.

3. Previous Decision of Council

A similar request for development of an outdoor garden was made by Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to use Council land adjacent to Ballyduff Community Centre. This was approved at a Council meeting on 30 August 2022.

4. Key Issues

A request had been received from Muckamore Community Playgroup, for the development of a sensory garden project on land owned by Council at the rear of the Centre. An aerial map of the Muckamore Community Centre land, with the outdoor area highlighted, was circulated for Members' information.

The aim of the project was to promote education, health, and wellbeing through environmental and horticultural activities.

The proposed project included removal of rotted raised flowerbeds, levelling the existing ground, installation of artificial grass, play bark and a sensory garden with wildflower space, sensory boards and raised planting beds. There would be no issues of displacement with the proposed project.

5. Financial Implication

The Playgroup had secured £3,500 of funding from the Education Authority to fund the project. There would be no cost to Council for this project.

6. Governance

It was proposed that the group would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the outdoor area and that a licence was granted by Council to Muckamore Community Playgroup to permit this development and manage the maintenance of the outdoor space.

7. Summary

A request had been received from Muckamore Community Playgroup, a long-term booker at the Muckamore Community Centre, for the development of sensory garden on land owned by Council at the rear of the Centre.

The Playgroup had secured external funding for the proposed project, so there would be no cost to Council and had agreed to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the area.

It was proposed by the Group that a licence be granted by Council to Muckamore Community Playgroup to permit this development and manage ongoing maintenance of the redeveloped outdoor space.

Proposed by Councillor Smyth

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the proposed development of the sensory garden by Muckamore Community Playgroup at the Muckamore Community Centre, at no cost to Council, be approved and the Group be granted a licence for this project.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

4.10 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-2030 and that the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 17 October 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

The issue of poverty and its impact on the life choices of citizens had always been of concern to Council, however the cost of living crisis which followed the COVID 19 pandemic sharply increased focus on the issue of poverty and how to provide practical support to address this challenge.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was approved at Council Meeting in January 2024 that a cross-party steering group be established to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough.

The establishment of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group aimed to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy creating a single guiding strategic framework that provided, but was not limited to:

- Agency for residents
- Fostering of economic empowerment
- Maximising stakeholder partnership opportunities
- Enhancing social inclusion
- Improved access to essential services for residents

4. Anti-Poverty Strategy - Key Issues

The Group of Elected Members and Officers had met monthly since the Group was established and had focused their work on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the period 2024 to 2030 to support Council's Corporate Strategy and Community Plan.

The Group had heard testimony from a range of others experienced in the field of anti-poverty work which had helped inform thinking. The draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024 to 2030 had been developed as a result of listening to

best practice and the views of the Elected Members and was circulated for Members' information.

The draft strategy was underpinned by five key pillars:

1. Employment and Skills Support
2. Families and Wellbeing Support
3. Energy Support
4. Food Support
5. Financial Support

Each pillar had a set of practical actions set against it. Delivery of the actions would require a joined-up approach within Council and across sectors operating in this area. Council would act as a conduit in relation to delivery of anti-poverty actions in the Borough.

In order to deliver the Strategy, it was proposed that a Borough-wide stakeholder group be established representative of the five pillars and also include those of lived experience of poverty as well as support organisations supporting poverty intervention work.

The Group met on 17 October 2024 and agreed to the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-2030. They also agreed that the Group would meet quarterly going forward with Officers to report progress of the Strategy at the quarterly meetings.

The minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting of 17 October 2024 were circulated for Members' information.

5. Summary

Following a Motion to Council in January 2024, an Anti-Poverty Steering Group was established. The Group had agreed a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough for 2024-2030, which would ensure a collective focus on this priority issue and support delivery of the Corporate and Community Plans.

In order to take this strategy forward, it was proposed to establish a Poverty Stakeholder Group representative of all stakeholders, including those with lived experience. The Steering Group would continue to meet quarterly to monitor the performance of the strategy.

In response to a Member's request that the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy be a 'working/living document' and subject to change as required, the Director confirmed that the Strategy would be a 'live plan' and data driven in order to target those actions effectively, thereby using Council's resources more efficiently.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

(a) The draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-2030 be approved;

- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group on 17 October 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Councillor Burbank left the Chamber during Item 4.11.

4.11 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to make a call for one-year applications to the Community Festival Fund Grant Aid Programme 2025/26 from 2 December 2024 – 6 January 2025, with an allocated budget of £30,000.

2. Background

As part of Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme, community and voluntary organisations could apply for community festival funding to support the delivery of community events.

A community festival was defined as a series of events with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period. It was developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents. Community festivals were about participation, involvement, inclusion and the creation of a sense of identity and were important in contributing to the social well-being of a community. The fund was available to properly constituted community, voluntary and charitable groups based in the Borough.

A budget of £107,870 was included in the draft 2025/26 Arts and Culture estimates for community festival grant funding. In addition, a contribution of £27,700 was anticipated from the Department for Communities (DfC) Community Festival Programme but was yet to be confirmed. If this contribution was realised, the total budget available for the Community Festival Fund category of the Community Development Grant Aid programme in 2025/26 would be £135,570.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The revised Community Development Grant Aid Programme was approved by the Community Planning Committee in September 2022. As part of this, groups were able to seek funding for up to three years for festivals funded through the Community Festival Fund.

At the February 2023 Community Planning Committee, thirteen applications were approved for Community Festival Fund grants. Following a second call, a further nine applications were approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

At the April 2024 Community Planning Committee, two applications were approved for Community Festival Fund grants.

Of the twenty two applications approved for funding in 2023/24, seventeen were eligible for year 3 funding totalling £97,000. Both applications approved for funding in 2024/25 were eligible for year 2 funding totalling £8,570. In total, £105,570 had already been committed to Community Festival Fund projects for 2025/26, leaving a balance of £30,000 in the draft 2025/26 budget.

Details of all those community festivals approved for year 2 and year 3 funding in 2025/26 were circulated for Members' information.

4. Community Festival Funding 2025

Given the existing commitments to year 2 and year 3 festival funding and the ongoing review of all grant funding programmes being carried out as part of the establishment of the Grant Funding Hub, it was proposed to make one call for applications to the Community Festival Fund Grant Aid Programme for 2025/26. It was proposed to open this call on 2 December 2024 and to close on 6 January 2025, reporting the recommendations to the March 2025 Community Development Committee. It was further proposed that these applications would be for one year only, with a budget of £30,000 to fund any applications.

Should demand exceed this available budget, Officers would rank applications on score and make funding recommendations based on the highest scoring applications, making this funding programme a competitive process.

5. Financial Position

In each of the past six years, applications to the Community Festival Fund had exceeded budget, and the Community Planning Committee had approved overspend to accommodate demand as the table below illustrates:

Year	Budget	Grants approved
2019/20	£79,600	£102,873
2020/21	£80,000	£92,438
2021/22	£80,000	£76,708
2022/23	£80,000	£116,528
2023/24	£80,000	£134,275
2024/25	£127,700	£115,565
2025/26 proposal	£135,570	£105,570 already committed with additional £30,000 available for single year festivals

To accommodate year 2 and year 3 commitments from the 2023/24 and 2024/25 funding rounds and create a single-year funding budget of £30,000 for 2025/26, a budget of £135,570 including the anticipated DfC contribution of £27,700 was included in the 2025/26 budget estimates.

The budget had increased by 70% since 2019/20, from £79,600 to the £135,570 estimated for 2025/26. Given this increased level of investment, the available budget for 2025/26 could not be exceeded. The Community Festival Fund would be reviewed in its entirety as part of the ongoing review of grants in relation to the establishment of the Grant Funding Hub with proposals to be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

6. Summary

As part of the Community Development Grant Aid Programme, groups have been able to apply for three years' funding from the Community Festival Fund since 2023/24. A commitment had already been made to provide funding to 19 groups in 2025/26 from the 2023/24 and 2024/25 funding rounds, totalling £105,570.

A budget of £135,570 was proposed for inclusion in the 2025/26 estimates, with £30,000 currently unallocated. It was proposed to make a call for one-year only applications to the Community Festival Fund 2025/26 from 2 December 2024 – 6 January 2025 and to report recommendations back to the March 2025 Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the proposal to make a call for one-year only applications to the Community Festival Fund Grant Aid Programme 2025/26 from 2 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – QUARTER 2 APRIL 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide financial performance information at period 6 (April 2024 – September 2024) for the Community Development Directorate.

2. Introduction/Background

As agreed, quarterly budget reports would be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports would be available to all Members.

3. Summary

Budget reports for Community Development Directorate for Quarter 2 April 2024 to September 2024 were circulated for Members' information.

The overall financial position of Council would be presented to the Policy & Governance Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 G/MSMO/2/VOL2 CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BY THE ALLIANCE PARTY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of the change in nomination to the Community Planning Partnership by the Alliance Party.

2. Introduction

Members would recall agreeing at the Annual Meeting in May 2023 that 10 Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of Council by the d'Hondt method.

At this meeting, the Alliance Party nominated Councillor Neil Kelly and Alderman Lewis Boyle to the Partnership.

3. Key Issue

The Alliance Party Nominating Officer had now advised that, with immediate effect, Councillor Julie Gilmour was to replace Councillor Kelly on this Partnership for the remainder of the term of Council.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the change in nomination to the Community Planning Partnership by the Alliance Party for the remainder of the term of Council be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 CP/CP/242 NORTHERN HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FUNDING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the offer of Northern Healthy Lifestyles funding from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

2. Background

The Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership were offering funding for sport and

physical activity projects aimed at targeted groups. Projects must contain promotion of one or more of the following initiatives to support the prevention and reduction of obesity within the Northern Trust area:

- Breastfeeding
- Food/Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Food sustainability
- Healthy lifestyle

3. Key Issues

Officers had developed a project to align to the funding priorities. The EmpowerHER programme was a participatory budgeting initiative, which meant that local people decide how public funds would be used in their area.

Groups could apply for funding for a project, which aimed to improve women's health in their DEA. As part of the application process, applicants would be invited to submit a short video outlining the details of their proposal.

All applicants that met the funding criteria would have their video posted online before the wider community were invited to vote for the proposal they wished to see delivered in their local community.

The application process opened on 7 November 2024 and would close on 24 November 2024.

4. Financial Position/ Implication

Correspondence had been received from NHSCT confirming that Council had been offered Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership funding of £4,000 for 2024/25.

Ten projects in total would be funded with awards up to a maximum of £400 to support an individual project. A minimum of one project per DEA, based on the number of votes received, and the three best-placed runners up would be awarded financial support.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper

Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 **CP/CP/231 SPORT NI FUNDING**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Sport Northern Ireland Community Planning Investment Programme.

2. Background

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), one of Council's statutory Community Planning partners advised that rates of participation in sport and physical activity vary with those most inactive coming from the most deprived and minority communities, which included:

- Women and girls
- People with disabilities
- Children and young people (especially 11 to 18 years)
- Older people over 65
- Ethnically diverse communities
- LGBTQ+ communities
- People in areas of greatest need
- People in rural areas

3. Previous Decision of Council

In February 2024, funding from SNI totalling £26,300 was accepted by Council to deliver a Physical Activity 'Junior Community Outreach Programme'.

4. Key issues

Correspondence circulated had been received from SNI, inviting Expressions of Interest from Councils for funding for sport and physical activity projects, which promoted increased participation from those who are most inactive.

Projects must support the delivery of the community plan, delivery of sport and physical activity in each Council area and must be completed by 31 March 2025.

A key outcome of 'Love Living Here' Council's Community Plan was that 'Our Citizens enjoy Good Health and Well Being' and Council promoted access to and participation in sport and physical activity in order to achieve this outcome.

Officers from the Community Development and Leisure Sections would submit an Expression of Interest to SNI by their deadline of 25 November 2024 indicating desire to participate in this programme, accompanied by a project outline for a programme, which targeted participation in sport and physical activity.

The project would be based within local communities targeting areas of greatest need. It would be cognisant of the Community Planning ethos of co-production, working closely with community planning partners. The project would seek to take advantage of partnership working with local

sports clubs with a view to offering participants a pathway to continue their sporting journey well beyond the lifespan of the project.

Monitoring and evaluation would be built into the project framework to ensure lessons could be learned for any future investment, as well as celebrating any success.

A report on the outcome of this application would be brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee.

5. Financial Position/Implication

SNI sought to invest between £30,000 and £50,000 to a maximum of four Council areas in the coming months and as more funds become available this could be expanded upon. If the project was approved for funding, there would be no cost to Council for this project.

6. Summary

SNI were inviting Expressions of Interest from Councils for funding for sport and physical activity projects which promoted increased participation from those who were most inactive.

Officers would submit an Expression of Interest to SNI by their deadline of 25 November 2024 indicating a desire to participate in this programme accompanied by a project outline for a programme which targeted participation in sport and physical activity which would support the delivery of the Community Plan.

A report on the outcome of this application would be brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

*Councillor Burbank returned to the Chamber at Item 7.
Councillor Cooper left and returned to the Chamber during Item 7.*

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

- 7.1 The Director of Community Development responded to a Members' queries in relation to the re-scheduling of a market in Ballyclare and the location of the urban market in Antrim. She advised that there was currently a review being undertaken of how Council delivers markets and a paper would be brought to a future committee on an improved way forward.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

- 7.2 The Director of Community Development and Head of Community Development both provided assurance that an independent or single party Member would be invited to attend the Somme Visits going forward.

NO ACTION

- 7.3 A Member congratulated Officers on the success of the Pumpkin Patch event held at Mossley Mill.

NO ACTION

- 7.4 The Deputy Mayor congratulated Gillian Randall on her achievement of being highly commended at the 2024 Local Government Chronicle Awards (LGC) held in Liverpool on 5 November 2024.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease at this point.

Alderman Boyle left and returned to the Chamber during Item 6.1.

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN-CONFIDENCE CP/CP/243 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (EVAWG)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the request from The Executive Office (TEO) to work in partnership in support of local activity to help end violence against women and girls, including proposals for funding to deliver such support.

2. Introduction/Background

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) was one of the Programme for Government priorities and TEO had been mandated to coordinate a cross sectoral response that was intersectional and delivers across the whole of government and society in Northern Ireland.

The EVAWG Strategic Framework was developed by TEO with a public consultation exercise on the Strategic Framework and Action Plan carried out between July and October 2023.

On 5 September 2024, The Executive agreed its draft Programme for Government (PfG) for 2024 to 2027 with Ending Violence Against Women and Girls one of the nine priorities of the PfG.

The EVAWG Strategic Framework 2024 – 2031 was then launched by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on 16 September following a Ministerial Statement to the Assembly. A copy of the Strategic Framework was circulated for Members' information.

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Proposed by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

the request from The Executive Office to work in partnership in relation to delivery of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan be approved with details in relation to funding arrangements to be brought back to a future meeting.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

6.2 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CF/008 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYDUFF – SMA UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members’ approval that the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff was extended until 31 March 2025, and to provide Members with an update on the quarterly performance of the Group.

2. Introduction/Background

There were nine Community Facilities, including Mossley and Lillian Bland Pavilions managed by the Community Development Section as follows;

- Greystone Community Centre
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- Dunanney Centre
- Mossley Pavillion
- Lillian Bland Pavilion

Three Community Facilities were operated under Service Management Agreements with community organisations running the facilities in partnership with Council. Details of the Service Management Agreements are listed for Members' information.

Facility	Operator	SMA Period
Monkstown Jubilee Centre	Monkstown Community Association	1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025

The Sovereign Complex	Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd	1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025
Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff	Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group	1 Jan 2024 to 31 st Dec 2024

3. Previous Decision of Council

On completion of the Community Centres Capacity Building Programme, it was approved at the September 2023 Community Planning Committee that Council enter into a Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff, for an initial 12-month trial period, including provision of an annual fee of £[REDACTED].

The Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff which commenced on 1 January 2024, was subsequently approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

The 2024 Quarter 1 Performance Report was approved at the May Community Development Committee and was based upon performance measures in the Service Management Agreement, all of which were met.

4. Financial position

The Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month trial period, included an annual grant of £[REDACTED] from Council with the Group retaining all income generated. Council was responsible for maintenance and servicing of the building, waste collection, grass cutting of the outside area and insurance for the building and the Group was responsible for electric, gas, water and all insurances (contents, public liability and employer's liability).

5. Governance

Officers would continue to work with the Group to manage the Service Management Agreement including performance of the Group and had conducted monthly centre visits during the period as part of this and the Quarters' 2 and 3 performance reports, which were circulated for Members' information. Officers were content that all targets had been met.

As the Group had demonstrated its capacity to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff, it was proposed that the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group, including a grant of £3,750, was extended until 31 March 2025 to align all three Service Management Agreements to the same period, in line with Councils financial year.

A further report would be brought to a future Community Development Committee in relation to the renewal of all three Service Management Agreements from 1 April 2025 onwards.

6. Summary

The Quarterly Performance Reports showed that the number of block bookings per week had increased over the period from 6.25 to 11. In addition, the number of attendances on a weekly basis had increased from 115 to 584, with five additional volunteers now involved in the operation of the facility. The Group had advised that they generated £ [REDACTED] income from bookings during this period.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

(a) the extension of the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff to 31 March 2025, be approved; and

(b) the quarterly performance reports for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group for the Service Management of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff, be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

6.3 **IN CONFIDENCE** FI/PRO/TEN/544 HIRE OF FUNFAIR EQUIPMENT AND INFLATABLES FOR EVENTS

CONTRACT PERIOD -10 DECEMBER 2024 – 30 NOVEMBER 2026 (WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain approval for the appointment of suitably qualified and experienced organisations to provide amusements and inflatables at Council events.

2. Introduction/Background

Council organised a large number of public outdoor events and celebrations, varying in nature, scale and requirement. Many of these events included the provision of funfair equipment and/or inflatables for use by the public. For events where the service provider was permitted to charge the public, the service provider would pay a fee to Council. At events where the funfair equipment and/or inflatables are free of charge to the public, Council would pay the rates detailed in the tender. The approximate contract spend was £ [REDACTED] per annum, however, Council would receive an income of approximately £ [REDACTED] per annum.

This tender was comprised of two lots as detailed below:

- Lot 1 – Funfair Equipment
- Lot 2 – Inflatables

This tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on 13 September 2024. One tender response was opened via the eSourcingNI Portal on 15 October 2024 and referred to the evaluation panel for assessment. The tender was evaluated on a two stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience, management systems and practices, operation, inspection, and testing of equipment, emergency procedures, set-up and set-down timescales, and declarations and form of tender. The tender met the requirements of Stage 1 of the evaluation process and proceeded to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tender was evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. The tender met the requirements of this stage and proceeded to the next stage of evaluation.

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality & Commercial Assessment

The tender was evaluated on the basis of service provision at a sample event (25%), capacity and capability of the organisation (15%), social value(10%), and cost (50%). The recommendation was as follows:

LOT 1 – Funfair Equipment

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 50%)	Cost Assessment (out of 50%)	Total % Score	Estimated Cost for Core Items for a 2, 4, and 6 hour event* (£) (excl. VAT)
G Force Amusements Ltd	■	■	■	£ ■

LOT 2 – Traditional Amusements

Supplier	Quality Assessment (out of 50%)	Cost Assessment (out of 50%)	Total % Score	Estimated Cost for Core Items for a 2, 4, and 6 hour event* (£) (excl. VAT)
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G Force Amusements Ltd	■	■	■	■
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While there was only one tenderer for each lot, the prices were in line with market rates and the Officers were content that they represent value for money.

*For the purposes of evaluation, a core list of items was defined for each lot and costs for a 2 hour event, 4 hour event and 6 hour event were sought. The estimated costs for all core items included a price for each of these time periods for every piece of equipment. Where required, Officers would call-off the contract and select specific items from the tendered lists for each lot depending on the nature and requirement of the event. Therefore, actual contract spend was anticipated to vary from the costs used for the purposes of evaluation.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch
 Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

having achieved the scores detailed above, G Force Amusements Ltd be appointed for each lot at the tendered rates for the period 10 December 2024 – 30 November 2026, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months, subject to review and performance.

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
 Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.11 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.