



6 November 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 11 November 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 5.20pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

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2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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7. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2024**

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 is to provide Members with information on the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service consultation on its Community Risk Management Plan.

2. Background

Members are advised that a presentation (**enclosed**) will be delivered by Declan Rogers T/Group Commander CRMP NIFRS.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

An initial review of the 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 can 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 have identified 77 indicators for the evaluation of the revised Community Plan and have provided a comprehensive report of baseline position for each of the 77 indicators.

Andrew Park from Grant Thornton will provide a presentation (**enclosed**) to the Committee on the Community Planning Data Analysis Baseline Report which will include DEA specific findings.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

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

Members are reminded that the Councils Community Plan 'Love Living Here' for the Borough sets out a shared vision and agreed outcomes for the area up to 2030. This is 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

Members are reminded that 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 the Councils Community Plan 'Love Living Here' was approved at the March 2024 Community Planning Committee.

Members are also reminded 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

Members are advised 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 has resulted in the revised plan having the streamlined actions in the following 4 thematic areas, which align with the Council's Corporate Plan:

- PEOPLE
- PLACE
- PROSPERITY
- PLANET

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

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

6. Governance

At the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2023 it was agreed that Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of the 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 will report the performance against the updated Delivery Plan bi-annually at the Community Planning Partnership and a Statement of Progress will be completed every 2 years and reported to the Department for Communities.

7. Summary

An updated 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 has been developed and the performance of the plan will 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 are enclosed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended 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.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Development

4.2 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

The DEA Member Engagement Groups are 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 provide 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 have recently taken place and draft minutes for the seven meetings are **enclosed** for Members' information, these will be formally adopted at the next meetings of the DEA groups.

The meeting schedule is set out below:

| Community Planning Section – DEA Member Engagement Group Meetings | | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| File Ref | Date of Meeting | Name of Partnership |
| CP/CP/168 | 01 October 2024 | Airport DEA Member Engagement Group |
| CP/CP/169 | 03 October 2024 | Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group |
| CP/CP/170 | 09 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 are scheduled to take place in February 2025.

6. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is 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 have continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that 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 have 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.

Members are also reminded it was 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 is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum has 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 has been developed.

5. Governance

Officers 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 is provided to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum 2024-25 Quarter 2 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers can confirm that Quarter 2 targets have been met.

7. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is 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

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

Members are also reminded that the 2024/25 Quarter 1 Performance Report was approved at the September Community Development Committee and is 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 03 June 2024 with Cllr Gilmour and Cllr Mallon nominated for their respective DEA's to serve on the Board.

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

Members are reminded that a presentation on the THRIVE Project was made to the October Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Quarter 2 Report and further information is enclosed (5 encls) for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers have been advised that Quarter 2 targets have been met.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the THRiVE Project Quarter 2 2024-25 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

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

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

3. Previous Decisions by Council

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

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget for the 2024/25 Good Relations Grant Programme is £16,000 in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets.

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

During the month of October 2 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 1 application totalling £2,000 recommended for approval. The project details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

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.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award 1 Good Relations funding award to the successful applicant as outlined.

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

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Good Relations Grant application requesting a total of £2,000 be approved.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relation Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.6 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

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

As such the minutes of the following PEACEPLUS Partnership meetings below are **enclosed** for consideration,

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

3. Governance

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

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of 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.

Prepared by: Julia Clarke, Peace Programme Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.7 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 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 October 2 applications were received and assessed by Officers, both applications totalling £1,989.95 are recommended for approval, details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award 2 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 Development Committee on a monthly basis.

6. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is 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

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

- To advise the Council on the programming of arts and cultural activity throughout the Borough
- To provide advocacy for the arts and cultural sector
- To provide the 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 is made up of one Elected Member from each Political Party and 12 non-elected independent members who are actively involved in the arts and culture sector. The Panel meets four times each year, and reports to the Community Development Committee.

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

4. Advisory Panel Meeting

Members are advised that 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, are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended 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.

Prepared by: Katherine Gardiner, Arts and Theatres Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that Muckamore Community Playgroup have been using Muckamore Community Centre for 46 years. They currently book the Centre Monday-Friday during the academic year.

There is 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 includes a soft safety play surface, fencing, wall and landscaping.

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that 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 the Council meeting on 30 August 2022.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised that a request has 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, is **enclosed** for Members' information.

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

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

5. Financial Implication

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

6. Governance

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

7. Summary

A request has 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 the Council at the rear of the Centre.

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

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

8. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.10 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-2030 and have the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 17 October 2024 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 has always been of concern to the 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

Members are reminded that it was approved at the 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 provides, but is 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 have been meeting monthly since the Group was established and have focused their work on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the period 2024 to 2030 to support the Councils Corporate Strategy and Community Plan.

The Group have heard testimony from a range of others experienced in the field of anti-poverty work which has helped inform thinking. The draft Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024 to 2030 has been developed as a result of listening to best practice and the views of the Elected Members and is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The draft strategy is 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 has a set of practical actions set against it. Delivery of the actions will require a joined-up approach within the Council and across sectors operating in this area. The Council will act as a conduit in relation to delivery of anti-poverty actions in the Borough.

In order to deliver the strategy, it is 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 will 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 are **enclosed** for Members' information.

6. Summary

Following a Motion to the Council in January 2024 an Anti-Poverty Steering Group was established. The Group has agreed a draft Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough for 2024-2030, which will 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 is proposed to establish a Poverty Stakeholder Group representative of all stakeholders including those with lived experience. The Steering Group will continue to meet quarterly to monitor the performance of the strategy.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended 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.**

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development

4.11 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is 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 the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme, community and voluntary organisations can apply for community festival funding to support the delivery of community events.

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

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that 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, 13 applications were approved for Community Festival Fund grants. Following a second call, a further 9 applications were approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

At the April 2024 Community Planning Committee, 2 applications were approved for Community Festival Fund grants.

Of the 22 applications approved for funding in 2023/24, 17 are eligible for year 3 funding totalling £97,000. Both of the applications approved for funding in 2024/25 are eligible for year 2 funding totalling £8,570. In total, £105,570 has 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 are enclosed 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 is proposed to make one call for applications to the Community Festival Fund Grant Aid Programme for 2025/26. It is proposed to open this call on 2 December 2024 and close on 6 January 2025, reporting the recommendations to the March 2025 Community Development Committee. It is further proposed that these applications are for one year only with a budget of £30,000 to fund any applications.

Should demand exceed this available budget, officers will 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 have exceeded budget, and the Community Planning Committee has 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 is included in the 2025/26 budget estimates.

The budget has 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 cannot be exceeded. The Community Festival Fund will 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 has 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 is proposed for inclusion in the 2025/26 estimates, with £30,000 currently unallocated. It is 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.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended 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.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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 is 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 will be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports will be available to all Members.

3. Summary

Budget reports for Community Development Directorate for Quarter 2 April 2024 to September 2024 are **enclosed** for Members' information.

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

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

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 is to inform Members of the change in nomination to the Community Planning Partnership by the Alliance Party.

2. Introduction

Members will 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 has now advised that, with immediate effect, Councillor Julie Gilmour is to replace Councillor Kelly on this Partnership for the remainder of the term of Council.

4. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Governance

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.3 CP/CP/242 NORTHERN HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FUNDING

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

Members are advised that the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership are 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

Members are advised that Officers have developed a project to align to the funding priorities. The EmpowerHER programme is a participatory budgeting initiative, which means that local people decide how public funds are used in their area.

Groups can apply for funding for a project, which aims to improve women's health in their DEA. As part of the application process applicants will be invited to submit a short video outlining the details of their proposal. All applicants that meet the funding criteria will have their video posted online before the wider community are invited to vote for the proposal they wish to see delivered in their local community.

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

4. Financial Position/ Implication

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from NHSCT confirming that the Council has been offered Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership funding of £4,000 for 2024/25.

Ten projects in total will 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 will be awarded financial support.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.4 CP/CP/231 SPORT NI FUNDING

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

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

- 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 the Council to deliver a Physical Activity 'Junior Community Outreach Programme'.

4. Key issues

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from SNI, inviting Expressions of Interest from Councils for funding for sport and physical activity projects, which promote 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' the Council's Community Plan is that 'Our Citizens enjoy Good Health and Well Being' and the Council promotes access to and participation in sport and physical activity in order to achieve this outcome.

Officers from the Community Planning and Leisure Sections will 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 targets participation in sport and physical activity.

The project will be based within local communities targeting areas of greatest need. It will be cognisant of the Community Planning ethos of co-production, working closely with community planning partners. The project will 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 will be built into the project framework to ensure lessons can be learned for any future investment, as well as celebrating any success.

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

5. Financial Position/Implication

SNI are seeking 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 can be expanded upon. If the project is approved for funding, there will be no cost to the Council for this project.

6. Summary

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

Officers will 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 targets participation in sport and physical activity which supports the delivery of the Community Plan.

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

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development