



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF  
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL CHAMBER  
ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor M Brady
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen – L Boyle and S Ross  
Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, M Ní Chonghaile and S Wilson
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillors – R Lynch, T McGrann, V McWilliam, A O'Lone and L Smyth
- Non Committee Members (Present)** : Alderman L Clarke  
Councillors – H Magill and B Webb
- Non Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillors – A Bennington, S Flanagan and R Foster
- In Attendance (In Person)** : Fionnuala French, The Executive Office (EVAWG)  
Claire Archbold, The Executive Office (EVAWG)  
Jane McCarthy, The Executive Office, (EVAWG)
- Officers (Present)** : Director of Community Development – U Fay  
Head of Community Development – R McKenna  
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick  
Community Development Manager - S Buchanan  
IT Change Officer – A Cole  
Member Services Officer – C McIntyre

## CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

### 1 APOLOGIES

Alderman McGrath

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.1 – Councillor Wilson

Item 6.1 – Councillor Cooper

### 3 PRESENTATION

#### 3.1 CP/CP/243 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (EVAWG)

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this presentation by Fionnuala French (Head of Grants Delivery), Claire Archbold (EVAWG Director) and Jane McCarthy (Strategic Communications & Engagement Lead) from The Executive Office (TEO) was to provide Members with an update on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework and Action Plan (circulated).**

##### 2. Background

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

The EVAWG Strategic Framework had been 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 had agreed its draft Programme for Government for 2024 to 2027 with EVAWG being one of the nine priorities.

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 had already been provided.

##### 3. Previous Decisions of Council

It had been agreed at the November 2024 Community Development Committee that the Council would work in partnership with TEO in relation to the delivery of the EVAWG Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

Members' queries were addressed by Ms French and Ms Archbold in relation to funding criteria.

In response to a Member's query, the Director of Community Development assured that social media channels would be used to promote the issues in anticipation of the holiday season when related incidents are prevalent.

The Chairperson thanked representatives from TEO for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

**the presentation be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development*

#### **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

##### **4.1 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.**

###### **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 had been approved by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Groups who applied for a small grant were 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 should be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards were 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 budget allocation for the 2024/25 Community Small Grants Programme was £20,000.

During the month of November, three applications had been received and assessed by Officers, with three applications totalling £3,000 recommended for approval; details had been circulated for Members' information.

#### 5. Summary

It was proposed to award three Small Grant 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 Lynch and agreed that

**the three Small Grant applications requesting a total of £3,000 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator*

### 4.2 **CP/CD/445 THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024**

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to update Members on the successful recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024.**

#### 2. Background

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service had been established in 2002 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II and was the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer-led groups that had made an outstanding impact in their local community.

Following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022 the Awards were suspended, however, it was announced in February 2023 that the scheme would continue as the King's Award for Voluntary Service with an annual announcement of winners to be made on the King's birthday on 14 November.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

It had been approved at the August 2023 Council meeting that five organisations be nominated for the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024. The groups nominated were as follows;

- All About Us – ASD Teens
- Queenspark Women's Group
- Monkstown Village Initiatives
- Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society
- The Breakaway Group

#### 4. King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024

On 14 November 2024 the second recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service were announced with 22 groups from Northern Ireland successful including the five organisations nominated by the Council; All About Us – ASD Teens, Queenspark Women's Group, Monkstown Village Initiatives, Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society and The Breakaway Group. These were the only groups from County Antrim to be successful with almost a quarter of all successful recipients coming from the Borough.

#### 5. Financial Implication

As for previous recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service, it had been proposed that the Council should support the delivery of a celebration event for all five groups to be formally presented with their awards by the Lord Lieutenant early in 2025.

Provision of £10,000 for the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024 had been made in the 2024/25 Community Development budget.

#### 6. Summary

The King's Award for Voluntary Service was the highest honour awarded to volunteer-led groups that made an outstanding impact in their local community.

Five organisations from the Borough had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024 and were the only organisations from County Antrim to have been successful.

It was proposed that Council support the delivery of a celebration event for all five groups early in 2025.

In response to Members' concerns over individual celebration events, the Director of Community Development agreed to provide further information for consideration at a future Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

**the item be deferred and a report brought back to a future Committee.**

*ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator and Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development*

### 4.3 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 November 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

#### 2. Background

The role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group was to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group was set out as follows:

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

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

#### 3. Previous Decision of the Council

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

#### 4. Working Group Meeting

The Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 13 November 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall; the minutes of the meeting were circulated.

In response to a Member's query on funding for the event, the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events agreed to circulate associated figures. The Director of Community Development advised that figures were also available within the papers of the September Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

**the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 November 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

*ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events and Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development*

#### **4.4 CP/PCSP/127 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION – HOUSING RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR LEGISLATION**

##### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' instructions in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment consultation on proposals to amend existing housing-related Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation.**

##### **2. Introduction/Background**

The Department for Communities (DfC) along with the Department for Justice (DOJ), undertook a public consultation of ASB proposals which ran from 28 November 2023 until March 2024; an extension was provided until 05 April 2024 for a small number of organisations.

##### **3. Key Issues**

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from DfC advising of a consultation of an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on previously consulted proposals to amend existing housing-related anti-social behaviour legislation.

As part of the analysis, process a number of concerns were raised in respect of the impact of the proposals on Section 75 categories.

The consultation document and associated survey were available on the DfC website; <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/equality-assessment-consultation-anti-social-behaviour-housing-proposals>

The consultation would run until 03 February 2025.

Members' instructions were requested as to how they wished to respond.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

**Members respond on an individual or party political basis.**

*ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development*

#### 4.5 CP/CF/008 BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT GROUP – FUNDRAISING EVENT REQUEST

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek approval from Members for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14 February 2025 and to apply for a licence to sell and consume alcohol at this event.**

##### 2. Introduction/Background

Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group had made a request to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event in Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14 February from 8pm to 11pm; this type of event had been permitted with Council approval.

The group had also requested permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at their event. The consumption and sale of alcohol was permitted with agreement by Council if the relevant licence had been obtained by the event organiser.

The proposed event would be ticketed, with a maximum of 60 people permitted at the event. The Casino games would be supplied and operated by a professional Casino provider. The proceeds from the event would help fund an educational and historical project for young people, including a trip to the Somme.

##### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Council had approved a number of previous similar requests to serve and sell alcohol at functions in community facilities.

It had been agreed at the September 2024 Community Development Committee that Steeple Veterans Flute Band be granted permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at Parkhall Community Centre for an event in October and it was also agreed that Steeple Defenders Flute Band be granted permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol also at Parkhall Community Centre for their events being held in October 2024.

##### 4. Financial Position/Implication

Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group operated the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement and managed all bookings and income generated at the centre.

##### 5. Governance

Under clause 15.4 section 8 of the group's SMA conditions, the group must request prior approval of the Council for the Centre to be used for gaming.



Under clause 15.4 section 9, the group must request prior approval of the Council for the consumption and sale of alcohol at the Centre.

The group was required to submit a risk assessment and insurance in advance of the event.

#### 6. Summary

A request had been received from Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025 and to apply for an alcohol licence to sell and consume alcohol at this event.

The Council's approval was required in relation to the holding of a 'Casino' type event and the application for an alcohol licence.

In response to a Member's concern over financial impacts of a 'Casino' type fundraising event, the Head of Community Development agreed to provide further information to a future Committee.

The Director of Community Development confirmed to a Member that the revised terms and conditions for all facilities had been brought to the Committee in September 2024 and were effective from 1 October 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

**the request from Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold an event in The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025, including permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at the event, be approved. It was further agreed that a report be brought back to a future Committee on the financial impacts associated with holding a 'Casino' type fundraising event.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator and Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development*

#### 4.6 CP/CP/237 WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee meeting held on 20 November 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

##### 2. Introduction/Background

A motion to establish a stand-alone 'Women's Sub Committee' made up of female representatives of the Council to discuss and promote women's issues, build the skills and confidence of local women and to encourage

women to become more involved in local politics, was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting.

### 3. Previous Council Decision

The Terms of Reference for the Women's Sub Committee were approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee and provided the framework for the meetings.

### 4. Working Group Meeting

The Women's Sub Committee met on 20 November 2024; the minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Smyth

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

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

## **4.7 CP/GR/171 ASYLUM SEEKERS – FULL DISPERSAL FUNDING**

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval on the 2024/25 Full Dispersal funding plan to The Executive Office (TEO).**

### 2. Background

The Executive Office (TEO) Full Asylum Dispersal funding was intended to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers and promote integration within the Council area.

Through funding support in 2023/24, a scoping exercise was completed to inform programme content, with the wider purpose being to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers in the Council area.

Following the conclusion of the previous programme, there were areas which required ongoing support to maintain the established support networks and to continue with meaningful activities designed to assist integration.

### 3. Previous Decisions by Council

TEO Refugee Integration Funding Letter of Offer of £50,000 for the delivery of the Refugee Integration proposal 2024/25 had been approved at the September Community Development Committee.

TEO Memorandum of Understanding for Asylum Full Dispersal funding 2023/24 of £88,478 was approved at the Community Planning Committee in April 2023.

### 4. Financial Position/Implication

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from TEO inviting Councils to submit Full Dispersal funding plans to provide support to individuals seeking asylum placed within their Council areas by 22 November 2024.

The funding allocation to support the work in Antrim and Newtownabbey for 2024/25 was £38,914. This had been allocated using a baseline funding amount of £15,000 plus £23,914 based on the percentage of people seeking asylum in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Officers had developed and submitted a Full Dispersal funding plan to TEO by the deadline; the proposal was circulated for Members' information.

### 5. Summary

TEO invited the Council on 11 November to submit a funding plan to provide support for asylum seekers placed within the Borough. An allocation for 2024/25 of £38,914 had been provided to the Council for the delivery of the plan.

The Full Dispersal plan had been developed to reflect the offer of funding from TEO.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**the draft 2024-25 Full Dispersal funding plan to The Executive Office be retrospectively approved.**

*ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager*

## 4.8 **AC/EV/007 ENCHANTED WINTER GARDEN 2025**

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to increase ticket charges for the Enchanted Winter Garden event in 2025.**

## 2. Background

The Enchanted Winter Garden event had been delivered annually in Antrim Castle Gardens in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The event operated over 19 evenings and attracted in the region of 120,000 visitors from across Northern Ireland and beyond. Historically the number of residents attending the events accounted for approximately 25% of the total attendees.

## 3. Previous Decisions of Council

At the February 2020 Community Planning Committee meeting ticket charges of £5 per adult, £3 per child and £14 for a family of four were approved for the event in 2020.

At the Council meeting in September 2021, it was agreed to increase ticket charges by £1 for the adult and child tickets. For the 2021 Enchanted Winter Garden event ticket charges of £6 per adult, £4 per child and £18 for a family of four applied. Officers had made a recommendation for ticket charges of £8 per adult, £5 per child and £22 for a family of four.

At the April 2022 Council meeting it was agreed to apply ticket charges of £7.50 per adult, £5 per child and £22 for a family of four and it was also agreed to explore methods to enable residents to avail of a 'ticket price freeze'. It was subsequently agreed at the July 2022 Council meeting that two-tier pricing apply to the event in 2022 with ticket charges as follows:

Residents: £6 per adult £4 per child £18 family of four  
Non-Residents: £7.50 per adult £5 per child £22 family of four

At the Community Planning Committee in February 2023 ticket charges for the 2023 event were approved as follows:

Residents: £6 per adult £4 per child £18 family of four  
Non-Residents: £10 per adult £7 per child £30 family of four

At this meeting it was also agreed to increase the budget for the event lighting installation by £50,000 for the next three-year period.

The 2023 ticket charges had remained unchanged for 2024 as contained in the Council Events Plan for 2024/25 which had been agreed at the September 2024 Community Development Committee including dates, ticket fees and estimated budgets.

## 4. Enchanted Winter Garden Ticket Charge Proposals for 2025

The ticket charges for residents who wished to attend Enchanted Winter Garden had not been increased since 2021 despite an increase in the cost of goods and services of 20% between 2021 and 2024 and were currently £6 per adult, £4 per child (under 2's free) and £18 per family of four.

Non-resident ticket charges for the event had increased from £7.50 per adult, £5 per child and £22 per family of four in 2022 to their current rates of £10 per adult, £7 per child and £30 per family of four.

It had been reported to the September 2021 Council meeting that Officers had carried out price benchmarking with other similar events delivered locally and in Scotland with the following findings:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Toddler</b>	<b>Family</b>
Glenarm Castle Christmas Magic	£20	£25	Under 1 £6	N/A
Christmas at Hillsborough Castle	£19.50	£13.50	N/A	£62 for four
The Enchanted Forest Pitlochry	£22	£12	Under 3's free	£60 for four
Enchanted Winter Garden	£5	£3	Under 2's free	£14 for four

Officers had once again carried out price benchmarking both against other Council events and a range of other events similar in scale and experience to Enchanted Winter Garden with findings as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Toddler</b>	<b>Family</b>
Glenarm Castle Christmas Experience	£25 (Sun – Thurs) £27.50 (Fri – Sat)	£30 (Sun – Thurs) £32.50 (Fri – Sat)	Under 1 £7.50 (Sun – Thurs) £8.50 (Fri – Sat)	N/A
Christmas at Hillsborough Castle	£20.20	£10.10	N/A	N/A
The Enchanted Forest Pitlochry	£27.50	£14.75	Under 3 free	£76.00
Malahide Castle and Gardens	£20	£28	Under 1 £15	
National Trust – various	£22.50	£16.00		£74.00
SkyPark at Carlingford	€20	€20	Under 3 free	
Spinning Yarns Mossley Mill	£6			
Pumpkin Patch Mossley Mill		£6		
Garden Show Ireland 2025	£12.00 (Concession £10.00)	N/A		
Christmas Pantomime Cinderella TATM	£16.50	£16.50		

It had been presented to the Corporate Workshop on 22 October 2024 that an increase in ticket charges for the Enchanted Winter Garden in 2025 had the potential to generate an additional £160,000 net income in 2025/2026.

The proposed charges for the 2025 event presented were as follows:

Residents: £8 per Adult, £6 per Child, £25 per Family of four

Non-Residents: £12 per Adult, £10 per Child, £40 per Family of four

## 5. Finance

As the scale of the event had developed over the years, so had the costs for the event. The expenditure budget for the event had also been impacted significantly in the post-COVID years by supplier cost increases as a result of inflation and also the post pandemic operating context.

The financial model for the event operated on the basis that the ticketing income and other secondary income streams cover all of the event costs and generate a surplus, which supports the delivery of the Council's annual programme of free events to residents, the costs of which had also been increasing significantly for reasons outlined.

The numbers attending the event had been maintained in the region of 120,000 since 2021/2022. This had been achieved in part by the continuous improvement of the event experience such as the additional investment in lighting approved in 2023. Any reduction in the cost of delivering the event could only be achieved by reduction in the creative content with costs of infrastructure, staffing, logistics, traffic management etc fixed which risks reducing the quality of the event experience and therefore reputation of the event, ticket sales and therefore income.

The event as it stands was estimated to generate £1.6 million additional direct expenditure into the Borough. This figure had been calculated using the Tourism NI recognised formula of each day visitor to an area being worth £18 in direct spend and using this figure against 75% of the 120,000 visitors who come from outside the Borough.

## 6. Summary

The Enchanted Winter Garden Event had been delivered annually by the Council since 2015 with ticket charges introduced in 2017 to support the expansion of the event. When compared with both the Council's own events and other similar Christmas event experiences, ticket charges had remained at a low level.

As the event had evolved, the financial model had become more challenging and Officers intended to expand the usual post-event review scheduled for early 2025 to examine in detail this financial operating model. However, in order to assist the estimate-setting process, Members were asked to consider the proposed ticket charges for the event in 2025 in order to inform the Department's estimate setting process.

In response to Members' queries relating to pricing, the Director of Community Development drew Member's attention to comparable prices at other events. The Director of Community Development advised that an in-depth review would be carried out early in 2025 in relation to ensuring continued value for money.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

**(a) An increase in admission tickets for Residents to £8 per adult, £6 per child and £25 per family of four with Under 2's free for Enchanted Winter Garden 2025 be approved.**

**(b) An increase in admission tickets for Non-Residents to £15 per adult, £10 per child and £45 per family of four with Under 2's free for Enchanted Winter Garden 2025 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development*

## 5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 5.1 CP/GEN/019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SECTION - PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to update Members on the various minutes of the Partnership Meetings led by the Community Development Section which had been held in recent months.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The quarterly update Partnership Minutes as listed below could be viewed in the electronic folder called "Partnership Minutes for Members Information" on I pads.

<b>Community Development</b>		
<b>File Ref</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Name of Partnership</b>
D/Gen/91	-	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/CSP/48	26/06/24	Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	04/06/24	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/DP/67	24/09/24 19/09/24	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
	-	Joint Cohesion Group
CP/GR/43	TBC	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**the update on Partnership Minutes be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.2 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 the Community Development Directorate for Quarter 2 April 2024 to September 2024 had been circulated for Members' information.

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

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.3 PT/CI/060 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024/25 PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) QUARTER 2**

### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report Quarter 2 for the Community Development Directorate be noted.**



## 2. Background

Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 put in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 was approved in June 2024. This set out a range of robust performance targets, along with six identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

## 3. Previous Decision of Council

As agreed at the August 2023 Council meeting, quarterly performance reports would be presented to the relevant Committee.

## 4. Key Points

The second quarter performance progress report for Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events, Community Development and Marketing, Communications and PR was circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

**the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report (Community Development Directorate) Quarter 2 be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## 5.4 **PT/CI/065 BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25, BI-ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT**

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members to note the performance progress against the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate.**

### 2. Background

Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 put in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

Specifically, the duties in the Act related to Section 84(1), 85(2) and 85(9) whereby the Council had a statutory duty to make arrangements to:

- Secure continuous improvement;
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards had been met.

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate had been approved in March 2024, with a subsequent agreement to provide performance updates against the Business Plans every six months.

### 4. Key Points

A six-month performance update on the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate, as of September 2024, was circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour  
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

**the performance progress update against the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## 5.5 **AC/EV/027 ST PATRICK'S DAY 2025**

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to update Members on planned activities for St Patrick's Day 2025.**

### 2. Introduction/Background

Annually the Arts and Culture team organised events to mark St Patrick's Day. Typically, these included family activities in different locations around the Borough, and a theatre production or concert at the Theatre at The Mill.

### 3. Activities planned for 2025

The focus of the Council's activities in 2025 would be a concert given by The Rapparees in the Theatre at The Mill on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2025. The Rapparees were a popular Belfast-based band who played a distinctive style of folk and traditional music. Tickets for this concert were priced at £14 including booking fees.

In addition to this, two free family fun days would be held from 12.00pm – 4.00pm at Mossley Mill and at the Old Courthouse Antrim on Saturday 15 March 2025. The event at Mossley Mill would include crafts, music, dance and entertainment, while the Old Courthouse event would focus on traditional myths and legends from across Ireland and beyond. This event would be facilitated by Tale Time Stories and would be focused on young audiences aged between 3 and 10.

Additionally, an exhibition of heritage Irish dancing dresses would be held in Mossley Mill from 14 March – 13 April 2025, which would be free of charge.

#### 4. Financial Position/Implication

A budget of £5,000 had been allocated in the 2024/25 estimates to cover the costs of these events.

#### 5. Summary

The Council would mark St Patrick's Day 2025 with events in Antrim and Newtownabbey, including a St Patrick's Day concert by the Rapparees, family fun days and an exhibition of heritage Irish dancing dresses.

The Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events agreed to investigate the inclusion of an Ulster Scots element to the planned activities and answered Members' queries in respect of the concert event artist, budget and venues.

A Member suggested that it would be helpful for Members to be aware of other events which had been planned by local Community Groups for St Patrick's Day who had been in receipt of Council grant funding.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted and that the inclusion of an Ulster Scots element within the planned activities for the event be approved.**

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

### 5.6 **CP/CD/474 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2024**

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to update Members on the successful recipients of the IPB Pride of Place Awards 2024.**

#### 2. Background

The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland, recognised the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live. The 2024 Pride of Place Awards were held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 2 November 2024.

#### 3. Previous Decisions of Council

It had been agreed at the April 2024 Community Planning Committee that the Council nominate two groups to take part in the 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards competition namely:

- Listening Ear (Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates category)
- Sensory Kids (Community Youth Initiatives category)

#### 4. IPB Pride of Place 2024

On 2 November 2024 the annual IPB Pride of Place Awards took place at the Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan and was attended by Councillors Gilmour, Councillor McWilliam and Officers.

Sensory Kids were winners of the Community Youth Initiative Category and Listening Ear received a Certificate of Recognition under the Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates Category.

#### 5. Summary

The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland, aimed to recognise the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live.

The Council nominated two groups from the Borough for the 2024 Awards with Sensory Kids winning the Community Youth Initiative Category.

Proposed by Councillor Smyth  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

### 5.7 **CP/CP/186 COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUP**

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Community Planning Working Group report.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Dr Johann Gallagher's report "*Towards Programme of Support for Community Planning*" (March 2019) set out proposals which could strengthen Community Planning.

The report's recommendations identified four themes:

1. Scope of Community Plans;
2. Communications and Community Involvement;
3. Use of Data and Evidence;
4. Leadership, Performance and Resources.

To consider those recommendations, the Department for Communities (DfC) convened the Community Planning Working Group and wider Reference Group, including representatives of Councils, Departments and Community Planning partners.

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

It had been approved at the December 2020 Community Planning Committee that Officers would represent the Council on the Reference Group established to inform the Community Planning Working Group.

### 4. Key Issues

Correspondence (circulated) had been received from DfC regarding the final Community Planning Working Group report on actions to improve and support Community Planning (circulated).

The report was presented to the PSG/SOLACE Engagement Forum at its meeting on 15 October.

The report included a 'RAG' status, together with a concise summary for each action.

### 5. Governance

Whilst the Community Planning Working Group had completed its task, the Department's secretariat function, which supported the Community Planning Working Group, would continue to monitor these areas and would follow up on outstanding actions reporting to the PSG/SOLACE Engagement Forum under its standing item for community planning.

### 6. Summary

The Community Planning Working Group had been established to develop actions to improve and support Community Planning.

DfC had issued a final report on the status and update of each of the 35 improvement actions identified by the Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**the Community Planning Working Group Report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

- 7.1** In response to a Member's query, the Director of Community Development agreed to review how PCSP related activities could be further promoted on Council's social media channels.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

**PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

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

**6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

Having declared an interest in Item 6.1, Councillor Cooper left the Chamber at this point.

**6.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CF/008, CP/CD/278 & CP/CD/279 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – SERVICE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval that the Service Management Agreements with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group, Monkstown Community Association and Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd to operate Community Facilities in partnership with the Council at an annual cost of £105,000 were renewed until 31 March 2028.**

**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 Pavillion

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

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Community Group</b>	<b>Contract Period</b>
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 March 2025

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

The Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month period, commencing on 1 January 2024, had been approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

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, had been approved at the November 2024 Community Development Committee.

It had been approved at the October 2021 Council meeting that the Service Management Agreements for Monkstown Community Association and Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd be extended for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

### 4. Financial position

The Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff, included an annual grant of £15,000 from the Council with the Group retaining all income generated.

The Service Management Agreement with Monkstown Community Association and Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd to operate Monkstown Jubilee Centre and The Sovereign Complex respectively, includes an annual grant for each group of £45,000 from the Council with the Groups retaining all income generated.

The 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 other insurances (contents, public liability and employer's liability).

The current Service Management Agreements (SMAs) with all three groups would expire on 31 March 2025. It had been proposed to renew the Service Management Agreements for all Centres for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31 March 2028, subject to annual review, as outlined in the table below:

Facility	Community Group	Proposed Contract Period	Support Grant (per annum)
Monkstown Jubilee Centre	Monkstown Community Association	1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028	£45,000
The Sovereign Complex	Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd	1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028	£45,000
Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff	Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group	1 Jan 2025 to 31 March 2028	£15,000

This would enable all three groups to continue to provide vital services to the community at a significantly lower cost to the Council when compared with the cost of operating facilities by the Council.

#### 5. Governance

Officers would continue to work with the Groups to manage the Service Management Agreements including the performance of the Groups and conduct monthly centre visits. A template of the Service Management Agreement had been circulated for Members' information.

#### 6. Summary

Three Community Facilities were currently operated under Service Management Agreements with community organisations running the facilities in partnership with the Council.

It had been proposed to renew all three existing Service Management Agreements with community organisations for a further three-year period until 31 March 2028 at a total cost of £105,000 per annum.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**(a) the Service Management Agreement for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff to 31 March 2028, with an annual support grant of £15,000, be approved.**

**(b) the Service Management Agreement for Monkstown Community Association to operate Monkstown Jubilee Centre to 31 March 2028, with an annual support grant of £45,000, be approved.**

**(c) the Service Management Agreement for Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd to operate The Sovereign Complex to 31 March 2028, with an annual support grant of £45,000, be approved.**



*ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development*

Councillor Cooper returned to the Chamber at this point.

## **6.2 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CP/243 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (EVAWG)**

### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for proposals relating to the use of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) funding provided to the Council by The Executive Office (TEO).**

### **2. Introduction/Background**

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

The EVAWG Strategic Framework had been 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 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 had already been provided.

It had been reported to the November meeting of the Committee that the Council had been asked to work in partnership with the TEO in relation to both:

- Momentum Funding of £50,0000 to be spent by the end of March 2025 and
- A Change Fund of £110,000 to deliver a grant programme to support groups and organisations in the Borough deliver projects in 2025/2026, which support EVAWG (this funding would be subject to TEO achieving business case approval).

### **5. Previous Decisions of Council**

It had been agreed at the November 2024 Community Development Committee that the Council would work in partnership with TEO in relation to the delivery of the EVAWG Strategic Framework and Action Plan with details in relation to funding arrangements to be brought back to a future meeting.

## 6. EVAWG Funding Proposals

### (a) Momentum Funding

Officers from across Council Directorates had worked together to develop an outline EVAWG Momentum Funding Action Plan which had been circulated for Members' information. The plan needed to be delivered by the end of March 2025 and intended to support both the work of the Council in this area and existing work which would take place in the Community. The Action Plan would culminate in a conference planned for 6 March 2025 titled 'Accelerate Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls' to be held in Theatre at The Mill as the Council's headline International Women's Day event.

### (b) Change Fund

TEO were hoping to offer the Council £110,000 for 2025/26 to deliver a Change Fund community grant programme, which would support groups and organisations operating in the Borough deliver projects which support EVAWG (funding still subject to final business case approval).

The Change Fund was intended to mobilise grassroots action, support innovative delivery and maximise the impact of community led initiatives. Projects supported by the Change Fund must include a focus on Outcome 1 of the EVAWG Strategy:

- Changed attitudes, behaviours and culture – so that everyone in Society understood what violence against women and girls was, including its root causes and plays an active role in preventing it.

Funded projects must demonstrate how project proposals would increase awareness and understanding of what violence against women and girls was, including its root causes.

In addition to Outcome 1, projects could also demonstrate how their project proposals contributed to Outcomes 2 and/or 3 as follows:

Outcome 2 – Healthy, respectful relationships – everyone in society was equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

Outcome 3 – Women and girls felt and were safe everywhere – organisations and institutions across government and society embedded the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they did, so that women and girls felt and were safe everywhere.

It was proposed to open the Change Fund for application on 6 January 2025 and to close it on 31 January 2025 with recommendations for funding to be brought to the February Community Development Committee meeting.

The Change Fund community grant funding programme would offer funding in tiers as follows:-

- Tier 1 – Grants up to £1,500
- Tier 2 – Grants up to £10,000
- Tier 3 – Grants up to £25,000

In terms of who could apply to the fund, applications would be accepted from community and voluntary sector organisations who were not-for-profit organisations and supported a wide range of social, environmental and economic outcomes. Organisations could be registered charities and eligible organisations would include not only community groups but also sports, youth, arts and faith organisations as examples.

Projects must be delivered in the financial year 2025/2026.

#### (c) Finance

TEO had awarded the Council £50,000 to deliver the 'Momentum Fund' Action Plan by the end of March 2025. They had also indicated that the Council was anticipated to receive £110,000 to deliver a 'Change Fund' community grant programme in 2025/2026. There were no financial implications for the Council.

#### (d) Governance

The 'Momentum Fund' Action Plan had been developed by a cross departmental officer working group and been agreed with TEO for delivery by the end of March 2025.

It was proposed to deliver the 'Change Fund' as part of the Council's community development grant programme, adapted to meet the EVAWG specific outcomes as identified by TEO. The grant fund would open on 6 January 2025 and close on 31 January 2025 with recommendations for funding to be reported to the Community Development Committee in February 2025.

A detailed outline of how the Change Fund would operate was circulated for Members' information.

#### (e) Summary

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) was one of the priorities of the Programme for Government and the Council had agreed to work in partnership with TEO in relation to the delivery of the EVAWG Strategic Framework and Action Plan. TEO was providing Momentum Funding for delivery of projects by the end of March 2025 and additional funding for 2025/2026 for delivery of a 'Change Fund' community grant programme. Proposals for the delivery of both funds had been outlined.



A template tenancy agreement had been circulated for Members' information.

## 5. Summary

There were a number of rentable offices in the Community Facility Buildings. From 1 October, all tenancy agreements had been charged at £[REDACTED] per sq. m that included rental costs, service charges and utilities.

Based on the proposed tenancy agreement, the annual rental income would be £[REDACTED] per annum with an annual inflationary increase to be applied.

Proposed by Alderman Ross  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

**lease of the multi-purpose room in Lilian Bland Pavilion to Queens Park Women's Group for 12 months from 1 March 2025 at the agreed rent be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator*

### **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Alderman Boyle 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 7.48pm.

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**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.***