



5 March 2025

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 10 March 2025 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 5.20

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/GR/119 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY YOUTH VOICE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with an update on Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Voice.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Youth Voice is a participation structure to allow young people in a Council area to voice their opinions and ideas, participate in consultations and ensure that key issues were brought to the attention of the Council.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded that approval for the establishment of a Youth Voice structure for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough in partnership with the Education Authority was approved at August 2021 Council meeting and further updates provided at Community Planning Committee on 8 December 2021 and 30 May 2022.

4. Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Voice

Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Voice has recruited a second cohort of members, and recruitment remains open on a rolling basis. The presentation outlines the development of Youth Voice, key milestones, and engagement strategy for 2025-26.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/CP/237 WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee meeting held on 5 February 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

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

3. Previous Council Decision

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

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Women's Sub Committee met on 5 February 2025; the minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development

4.2 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 12 February 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Background

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

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

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

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the February 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 12 February 2025 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 12 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 27 February 2025, the Summer 2025 Theatre Programmes, and the amended Advisory Panel Constitution.

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 in a Constitution, which includes the following objectives:

- 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 up to 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. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the January 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Advisory Panel Meeting

Members are advised that the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel met on 27 February 2025 in Mossley Mill. As part of this meeting, the Panel's Constitution was reviewed and amended. The draft minutes of this meeting, the Theatre Programmes for Summer 2025 which were presented at the meeting, and the amended Constitution are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel of 27 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, and the Summer 2025 Theatre Programmes and the amended Advisory Panel Constitution also 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

4.4 AC/GEN/004 ELECTED MEMBERS' MEETING ROOM BOOKING POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for two amendments to the Elected Members' Meeting Room Booking Policy.

2. Introduction/Background

The Elected Members' Meeting Room Booking Policy sets out the conditions under which Elected Members may use meeting rooms and event spaces in Council facilities for both party political and constituency business. The main principles outlined in the policy are that:

- All spaces are available at no cost to Elected Members (subject to availability) for constituency meetings as well as large issue-based meetings (which must be open to all residents and Members)
- Spaces in Arts and Culture facilities, including both Civic Centres and Ballyclare Town Hall are available for use by Elected Members at standard hire charge for single party political use
- Spaces in the Council's Leisure Centres and Community Facilities cannot be booked for single party political use
- All costs for hospitality are chargeable and must be booked in advance

The table following summarises the availability of facilities for both types of use by Elected Members:

Type of Elected Member Booking	<u>Cultural Facilities</u>	<u>Community Facilities</u>	<u>Leisure Facilities</u>
Constituency Business (Free of Charge)	✓	✓	✓*
Single Party Political Use (Standard Charges Apply)	✓	✗	✗

****Requests to book large spaces in leisure facilities for constituency business require the approval of the Chief Executive.***

See **enclosed** document for specific details of the facilities and specific spaces which are covered by the Policy.

3. Previous Decision of Council

A meeting Room Booking Policy for Arts and Culture Facilities was approved at the Council meeting in June 2015. A revised Elected Members' Meeting

Room Booking Policy was approved at the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting in June 2019, and an updated policy was subsequently approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee meeting.

4. Policy amendments

Following discussion with the Mayor's office, the policy has been amended to reflect the longstanding arrangement that the Mayor may book an available room free of charge in any of the arts, culture and civic facilities for an event that he or she is attending or hosting in their capacity as Mayor, if the Mayor's Parlour is not considered suitable. Such bookings are at the discretion of the Mayor.

The prices for Elected Members to hire for single party political use have also been updated in the policy document to reflect the revised hire fees approved for 2025/26 at the January 2025 Community Development Committee.

The amended policy is **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

The Elected Members' Meeting Room Policy has been amended to reflect the longstanding arrangement that the Mayor may book an available room free of charge in any of the arts, culture and civic facilities for an event that he or she is attending or hosting in their capacity as Mayor, if the Mayor's Parlour is not considered suitable. The prices for Elected Members to hire arts, culture, and civic facilities for single party political use have also been updated in the policy document to reflect the revised hire fees approved for 2025/26 at the January 2025 Community Development Committee.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that two amendments to the Elected Members' Meeting Room Booking Policy be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.5 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for three Community Festival grant funding awards for 2025/26.

2. Background

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

A community festival is defined as a series of events with a common theme, 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.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a presentation on the Community Development Grant Aid Programme was made by officers to the Community Planning Committee in September 2022, and the proposed changes to the Community Development Grant Aid programme approved. A key change to Community Festivals Funding was that Groups could seek funding for up to three years for established festivals, to allow them to plan ahead for future years and to reduce the administrative burden of having to submit annual funding applications.

The first set of three-year funding agreements, covering 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 was approved at the February 2023 Community Planning Committee, and applications resulting from a second call covering the same three year period were approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

The second set of three-year funding agreements, covering 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 was approved at the April 2024 Community Planning Committee. Two applications were approved, which, when added to the year 2 grants approved the previous year, resulted in funding commitments of £115,570 for 2024/25.

A recommendation to open a one-year only call for 2025/26 was approved at the November 2024 Community Development Committee, and this call was made from 2 December 2024 until 6 January 2025.

As part of the wider review of grant funding, a recommendation that multi-year Community Festival Grants should be restricted to two years rather than three from 2026/27, with single-year grants also available alongside multi-year

grants, was approved at the February 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. 2025/26 Community Festival Fund Proposals

In total, six single-year funding applications for 2025/26 were received between 2 December 2024 and 6 January 2025, with three applications totalling £17,750 achieving the required pass threshold, details of which are enclosed.

5. Financial Position

A budget of £107,870 is included in the 2025/26 Arts and Culture budgets 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.

The three grant applications recommended for approval total £17,750. In addition, funding commitments totalling £115,570 are already in place for 2025/26 for previously approved multi-year funding agreements. If the three applications are approved, the total funding commitment for 2025/26 would be £133,320.

6. Summary

In total, six applications were received for single-year Community Festival grant funding for 2025/26 and assessed by a panel of officers. Three applications totalling £17,750 have achieved the required threshold for funding. When added to the multi-year commitment of £115,570, the total funding commitment for community festival funding in 2025/26 is £133,320, with an available budget of £135,570.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the three successful community festival applications for funding totalling £17,750 be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

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

Arts grants are available for projects under the following categories:

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

Heritage grants are available for projects under the following categories:

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

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

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

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

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

Group / Individual Name	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Proposed Amount Awarded
Association of Ulster Drama Festivals	Arts Support for Groups - the delivery of an event or festival, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public.	<p>The Association of Ulster Drama Festivals was formed in 1949 to promote the celebration of live theatre and encourage professionally-judged competitions for amateur theatre companies.</p> <p>The Association stages a One-Act and a Full-Length Final Festival annually, with the winner of the One-Act Final going on to represent Northern Ireland in the annual British Final. Both the One-Act and the Full-Length Festival have been held in the Borough's theatres for the past 12 years.</p> <p>The Association has applied for grant funding of £1,500 to assist with the organisational costs of staging the 71st Ulster Drama Festival at the Courtyard Theatre in May 2025. These costs include set transportation, marketing, festival trophies, adjudicator fees and programme printing.</p> <p>The Drama Festival will bring to the Borough the very best in live competitive amateur drama with professional adjudication.</p>	70%	£1500

5. Financial Position

The budget available for Arts and Heritage Grants in 2024/2025 is £14,000. Grants totalling £3,907.50 have been previously approved by the Committee,

and the total amount proposed for the above award is £1,500. If approved, this would leave a balance of £8,592.50 to fund any future applications in the current financial year.

6. Summary

An Arts and Heritage Grant Aid application has been received from The Association of Ulster Drama Festivals to assist with the cost of staging the 71st Ulster Drama Festival at the Courtyard Theatre in May 2025.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Arts and Heritage Grant funding award as detailed, totalling £1,500, be approved.

Prepared by: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.7 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the provision of £15,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum.

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 the 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

It was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee 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.

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 2025/26 Community Development budget. Other Community Planning partners have 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 2025/26
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

A draft Service Level Agreement between Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum for 2025/26 has been developed and is **enclosed** for Members approval.

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 will be provided to Officers for the purposes of performance management.

6. Summary

Members are advised a revised Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum for 2025/26 has been developed with the provision of £15,000 financial assistance.

Other Community Planning partners have also confirmed their financial commitment to continue to support this group.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the provision of £15,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum be approved.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Service Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the provision of £25,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority (EA) on behalf of the THRIVE Project.

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 Planning Committee, to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to Thrive for 2024/25. It was previously agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report on The Thrive Project be provided to the Community Planning Committee from September 2022.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised provision of £25,000 has been made in the 2025/26 Community Planning budgets in order to continue to provide support for the THRIVE project.

It is anticipated that other Community Planning partners funding proposals, subject to confirmation of funding, will be in line with previous years funded allocations which are outlined below.

FUNDER	AMOUNT
DE/DOJ	£118k
EA	£34k
ANBC (Proposed)	£25k
NHSCT	£25k
PHA	£50k
TEO	£25k
Barnardo's	£49k
TOTAL	£326k

A draft Service Level Agreement between Council and Education Authority (THRIVE Project) for 2025/26 has been developed and is **enclosed** for Members approval.

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 submitted to Officers for the purposes of performance management.

6. Summary

Members are advised that a revised Service Level Agreement for 2025/26 has been developed for Members approval.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that provision of £25,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRiVE Project 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

4.9 CP/TD/107 AREAS AT RISK FUNDING 2025/26

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval on proposed funding awards for the Areas at Risk Programme 2025/26.

2. Introduction/Background

The Areas at Risk (AAR) programme is delivered across six Super Output Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Historically the Newtownabbey AAR programme is part funded by the Department for Communities (DfC), whilst the Antrim AAR programme is fully funded by the Council. Confirmation of DfC funding for 2025/26 is yet to be received but is anticipated to be at same levels as previous years.

3. Previous Council Decision

Members are reminded that at the January 2021 Community Planning Committee, Members were advised that DfC planned to undertake a review of Neighbourhood Renewal and Areas at Risk and it was agreed that the Council review of AAR be deferred until after the DfC review findings are published. DfC have indicated that programme changes can be expected to be communicated in the 2025/2026 funding year with implementation planned for 2026/2027 funding years.

4. 2025/26 Programme

Council Officers have proactively engaged with Areas at Risk organisation's in Antrim and Newtownabbey and invited them to apply for 2025/26 funding via the Online Grant Management platform.

It is anticipated that funding proposals will be in line with previous years funded programmes.

5. Financial Position

The anticipated Areas at Risk Funding for 2025/2026 is set out below:

	DfC Contribution 2025/2026 TBC	Council Contribution 2025/2026	Totals TBC
Newtownabbey AAR	£66,750 TBC	£60,170	£126,920
Antrim AAR	£0	£111,210	£111,210
Totals	£66,750	£171,380	£238,130

Newtownabbey AAR Projects 2025/26

- The Areas at Risk Newtownabbey Project covers Carnmoney, Monkstown and Mossley.

- The contribution committed by the Council in 2024/25 to the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Projects was **£60,170**, a similar allocation has been included in the 2025/26 Community Development budget.
- A Letter of Offer from DfC to confirm their 2025/26 contribution is anticipated for the same amount.
- Based on previous years funding the awards below are proposed for 2025/2026 subject to confirmation of funding from DfC.

Organisation	ANBC £	DFC TBC £
Monkstown Community Association	15,500	9,500
Monkstown Community Forum	12,650	4,750
Monkstown Boxing Club	10,200	4,750
Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown	1,000	5,000
Hollybank Primary School, Monkstown	13,820	4,750
Hollybank Pre-school, Monkstown	2,500	2,500
Carnmoney Presbyterian Church	2,500	22,500
New Mossley Presbyterian Church Youth Club (DAM Project)	2,000	13,000

Antrim AAR Projects Funded 2025/26

- The Antrim Areas at Risk Project covers Farranshane, Ballycraigy and Steeple.
- The contribution committed by the Council in 2024/2025 was **£111,210**, a similar allocation has been included in the 2025/26 Community Development budget.
- Based on previous allocations the following awards are proposed for 2025/2026:

Organisation	ANBC £
St Joseph's Nursery School Steeple Nursery School	16,500
Antrim Enterprise Agency	6,000
St Joseph's Primary School	12,980
Ballycraigy Primary School	16,000

Parkhall Primary School	14,420
Muckamore Parish Development Association	14,810
Rathenraw Youth Scheme	8,500
Antrim Grammar School	6,500
Inter-Estate Partnership	10,500
GEMS NI	5,000

6. Summary

The AAR Programme is delivered across six Super Output Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Newtownabbey Programme is historically part funded by DfC. The anticipated budget for 2025 / 2026 is £238,130. The Confirmation of DfC funding for 2025/26 is yet to be received.

Areas at Risk organisations have been invited to apply for 2025/26 funding, in line with previous years funded programmes.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Areas at Risk Programme for 2025/26 be approved subject to confirmation of anticipated funding from the Department for Communities.

Prepared by: Stacey Myles, Neighbourhood Renewal Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.10 ACTE/ED/TOU/062 TOURISM EVENT FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for five Tourism Event grant funding awards for 2025/26.

2. Background

Historically, Council has supported the delivery of large-scale tourism events in the Borough by external organisations through a Corporate Events Sponsorship Scheme. As part of the work associated with the establishment of the Council's Grant Funding Hub, this support is now delivered through an annual Tourism Event grant fund.

The Tourism Event fund provides grants of up to £15,000 to organisations who are able to clearly demonstrate economic and reputational benefits to the Council area by attracting large numbers of visitors to their event. These benefits would typically include bed nights / accommodation spend, ancillary spend such as hospitality, local retail and visitor attractions, and positive media / social media coverage that increases the attractiveness of the Council area as a visitor destination.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the January 2025 Community Development Committee it was agreed that the Tourism Event Grant Funding Programme, which provided up to £15,000 to support the delivery of tourism events in the Borough, be approved and opened on 1 February 2025 for applications with a closing date of 27 February 2025.

4. 2025/26 Tourism Event Grant Fund Proposals

In total, five funding applications for 2025/26 were received between 1 February 2025 and 27 February 2025, with all five applications totalling £75,000 achieving the required pass threshold. Application details are **enclosed**.

5. Financial Position

A budget of £115,600 is included in the 2025/26 Arts and Culture budgets for Tourism Event grant funding. If the five applications are approved, a balance of £40,600 will remain: it is recommended that a second call is made from 1–31 July 2025 with any further applications reported to the September Committee.

6. Summary

In total, five applications were received for Tourism Event grant funding for 2025/26 and assessed by a panel of officers. All five applications, totalling £75,000, have achieved the required threshold for funding, and a budget of £115,600 is included in the 2025/26 estimates.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (a) the five successful Tourism Event grant applications for funding totalling £75,000 be approved, and**
- (b) a second call from 1-31 July 2025 is approved, with any further applications brought to the September Committee**

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.11 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS PLAN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed Council events plan for 2025/2026.

2. Introduction/Background

The Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events team is responsible for the delivery of the Council's events programme, which includes both directly managed events, and support for third-party events funded through the Council's Tourism Event Grants such as SuperCup NI and the Pipe Band Championships in the Borough.

The annual events managed directly by the Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events team attract more than 185,000 attendees each year, with thousands more taking part in one-off events such as the VE Day 80th Anniversary (2025), Armed Forces Day (2024), the King's Coronation (2023) and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2022). The third-party events supported by the Council account for thousands more visitors to the Borough and the economic benefits this brings.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Council Events Plan is brought to the Committee every six months. Members are reminded that the previous Council Events Plan update and associated costs to the Council were approved at the Community Development Committee in September 2024.

4. Council Events September 2024 to March 2025

Highlights of the events delivered since the last Committee report in September 2024 include:

- **Halloween at the Junction**, 26-27 October 2024 (delivered by The Junction Retail and Leisure Park and supported with £15,000 of tourism funding from the Council): The Junction's annual Halloween family fun and artisan markets weekend attracted 28,000 visitors with positive anecdotal feedback.
- **Spooked Out at V36**, 26 October 2024: as in previous years, all 8,000 places for the Council's flagship Halloween event were booked out in advance. A high-quality evening of amusements, entertainment and fireworks were provided, with the event delivered within budget.
- **Threemilewater Pumpkin Patch at Mossley Mill**, 26-30 October 2024: this event, held for the first time in Civic Square and the Old Museum, sold more than 1,100 tickets making it more successful than the previous three years combined. The event was delivered within budget.

- **Enchanted Winter Garden at Antrim Castle Gardens**, 29 November – 21 December 2024: more than 98,000 people attended the 2024 Enchanted Winter Garden, and despite the loss of income resulting from the cancellation of two of the 19 nights of the event because of Storm Darragh, the event was delivered just 0.4% over budget. The event gained a 79.1% satisfaction rating among visitors surveyed against a corporate key performance indicator target of 80%, and many of the suggested improvements will be incorporated into the 2025 event.

In addition to the above events, the Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events team also delivered a successful programme of Christmas performances at the Theatre at the Mill, with the audience numbers of almost 15,000 exceeding pre-Covid levels for the first time. Agreement has been reached with the producers of the two Christmas Shows - Belfast Actually and Cinderella – to return to the Theatre at the Mill with two new Christmas productions in 2025. Both Christmas productions were delivered within budget.

A weekend of activity for St Patricks Day 2025 is planned for the bank holiday weekend in March, with activity taking place in both Antrim and Newtownabbey.

5. Council Events in 2025/26

Details of the proposed events to be delivered in 2025/26 are **enclosed** for Members' information. Members are asked to note the following proposed changes to previous years' programmes:

- **Antrim Live:** for the past two years the Sixmile Festival has incorporated Antrim Live, Party in the Park and an outdoor concert in Antrim Castle Gardens over the course of a weekend in August. In 2025 the timing of Party in the Park will move, and it will become a VE day-themed event on Sunday 11 May. Given that the Party in the Park infrastructure will already be in place for this event, it is recommended that Antrim Live also moves to the Spring, and takes place on Saturday 10 May in Antrim Castle Gardens.
- **VE Day 80th anniversary:** as approved at the February Community Development Committee meeting, this will be a three-day commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, incorporating a Beating the Retreat, beacon lighting and flag raising ceremonies, exhibitions focusing on the holocaust and the World War II, and a VE Day-themed Party in the Park.

In addition it is proposed, given anticipated demand, to provide up to 100 street party packs to local community groups on a first come first served basis for their own local street parties. A budget of £10,000 has been identified to fund this additional VE Day 80 activity.

- **Ballyclare May Fair:** a number of new elements are proposed for the 2025 May Fair, including a community youth football competition run in partnership with SuperCup NI, which will involve the participation of youth

team coaches from a Premier League team and from teams in Northern Ireland.

- **Garden Show Ireland:** the 2025 Garden Show Ireland will have a new Show Ambassador – renowned horticulturist and celebrity TV gardener David Domoney. David will formally launch this year's Garden Show at a special event at the Old Courthouse Theatre on the evening of 3 April and will also mentor 40 community groups who will compete to design a series of miniature gardens at Garden Show Ireland.
- **Shoreline Festival:** prior to Covid, the Shoreline Festival was run as a free concert and family fun day at Jordanstown Loughshore Park immediately after the Whiteabbey Village Fair. Shoreline will return in 2025 as a one-day event with music, animation and family entertainment on Sunday 24 August, following the Whiteabbey Village Fair on Saturday 23 August.
- **Spinning Yarns:** the annual one-day festival of colour, creativity and craft has grown in popularity year-on-year, and consequently it will become a two-day event in 2025, with even more talks, demonstrations and workshops alongside craft stalls and family entertainment.
- **Enchanted Winter Garden:** a provision of up to £30,000 for new, additional lighting displays has been included in the 2025/26 budget estimates, and the Council's lighting contractor has agreed to match fund this. Following an exercise to compare Enchanted Winter Garden's opening dates to other comparable events in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, it is also proposed to run the 2025 event until Saturday 3 January, subject to the agreement of contractors.
- **St Patrick's Day and Irish Language Week:** it is planned to develop the delivery of a more integrated week of cultural activity in March 2026 drawing on St Patrick's Day traditions from communities of all backgrounds including the newcomer community. It is proposed that a combined programme for St Patrick's Day / Irish Language Week 2026 will be overseen by the Arts and Culture Advisory Panel which is comprised of Elected Members from each political party as well as non-elected volunteer members with arts and culture expertise, and which reports into the Community Development Committee.

6. Finance/Governance

The proposed Council Events Plan for 2025/26 includes dates, ticket fees (where applicable) and estimated costs. Provision for these events has been made in the 2025/26 budget estimates.

7. Summary

The Council delivers a range of events year-round and across the Borough as well as hosting and supporting a number of events delivered by external event organisers. An update on the plan is brought to the Committee in

March and September. Officers will continue to keep the Events Plan under review.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council Events Plan for 2025/26, including dates, ticket fees and estimated budgets, be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.12 CP/CD/464 THE KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to a request to assist Community Group representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in either Buckingham Palace on 7 or 20 May or the Palace of Holyroodhouse on 1 July 2025.

2. Background

Members are reminded of the five local groups; All About Us – ASD Teens, Monkstown Village Initiatives, Queenspark Women's Group, Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society and The Breakaways who were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in November 2024.

In February 2025 Presentation and Celebration Events for two of the five groups were hosted by the Council, with the remaining three events planned to take place on 26 and 28 March 2025.

There is an established precedent that recipients of this award are then invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace or The Palace of Holyroodhouse.

3. Previous Council decision

Members are reminded that the provision of financial assistance, for two representatives from each of the two groups awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2023, of up to £225 per person to attend a Royal Garden Party was approved at the April 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Request for Funding

All five groups have informed Officers that they have been invited to send two representatives to a Royal Garden Party in either Buckingham Palace on 7 or 20 May 2025 or The Palace of Holyroodhouse on 1 July 2025.

5. Financial Implication

The total approximate cost per person for flights, transfers and accommodation for one night is £300 per person and it is proposed that Council contributes up to a maximum of £225 per person, similar to last year to support groups to attend.

Provision for the total cost of £2,250 has been allocated within the 2025/26 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

Two representatives from all five groups who were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2024 have been invited to attend a Royal Garden

Party in either Buckingham Palace on 7 or 20 May or the Palace of Holyroodhouse on 1 July 2025.

The total cost per person is approximately £300 and it is proposed that Council provides financial assistance of up to a maximum of £225 per person similar to last year.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that financial assistance up to a maximum of £2,250 for five groups awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2024 to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in May or the Palace of Holyroodhouse in July 2025 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

4.13 AC/GEN/078 THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH WORKING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the minutes from the Duke of Edinburgh Working Group meeting held on 27 February 2025.

2. Background

Members are reminded that the Duke of Edinburgh Working Group operates as a Working Group of Council.

3. Previous Council decision

Members are reminded that it was approved by the Council in April 2021 that a permanent memorial to Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip be placed in Antrim Castle Gardens and that the creation of an annual bursary scheme, to benefit young people be developed.

An outline of the bursary scheme was reported to the Community Planning Committee in November 2021 with the final Bursary Scheme agreed by the Working group at its February 2022 meeting and approved at the March 2022 Community Planning Committee.

4. Financial Implication

Provision of £25,000 has been made in the Community Development Directorate 2025/26 revenue budgets for the delivery of the 2025 Duke of Edinburgh Legacy Bursary Scheme.

5. Governance

A Duke of Edinburgh Working Group was established in August 2021. As such, the minutes of the following Working Group meeting,

- Working Group Minutes 27 February 2025

are **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

6. Summary

The Duke of Edinburgh Working Group operates as a Working Group of Council. The draft minutes from the Working Group meeting on 27 February 2025 are provided for Members approval.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Duke of Edinburgh Working Group Meeting, as detailed, be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Kerry Brady, Community Support & Governance Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.14 CP/CF/004 PARKHALL COMMUNITY CENTRE – STEEPLE DEFENDERS FLUTE BAND ALCOHOL REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a Flute Band to apply for an alcohol licence to sell and consume alcohol in Parkhall Community Centre at a fundraising event on 12th April 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that Steeple Defenders Flute Band have made a request to hire Parkhall Community Centre on Saturday 12th April 2025 12 noon -11.30pm. This will include a number of local bands playing and entertainment such as Garth Brooks tribute act.

The band have requested permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at their event. The consumption and sale of alcohol is permitted with agreement by Council if the relevant licence is obtained by the event organiser.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Steeple Defenders Flute Band were granted permission at the September 2024 Community Development Committee to apply for an alcohol licence to sell alcohol in Parkhall Community Centre for an event on Friday 18th October 2024.

Members are advised a number of previous similar requests to the Council seeking permission to serve and sell alcohol at functions in community facilities have been approved.

Out of hours bookings for the hire of Community Facilities have been reviewed and additional charges to facilitate these booking requests were included in the schedule of charges in 2025/26. The 2025/26 hire of Community Facilities schedule of charges were approved at the January Community Development Committee.

4. Financial Position

Members are advised under the 2025/26 Community Facilities pricing policy bookings will be charged at standard rate for the duration of their booking as the request is outside normal opening hours. The Steeple Defenders Flute Band will be charged £431.25.

5. Summary

A request has been received by Steeple Defenders Flute Band to apply for an alcohol licence to sell and consume alcohol in Parkhall Community Centre on Saturday 12th April 2025.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request from Steeple Defenders Flute Band to apply for an alcohol licence to sell and consume alcohol in Parkhall Community Centre on Saturday 12th April 2025 be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved 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 is to update Members on the various minutes of the Partnership Meetings led by the Community Development Section which have been held in recent months.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that the quarterly update Partnership Minutes as listed below can be viewed in the electronic folder called “**Partnership Minutes for Members’ Information**” on ipads.

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91	12.09.24	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/DP/67	01.10.24	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/DP/67	07.11.24	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
CP/GR/43	23.08.24 26.04.24	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the update on Partnership Minutes be noted.

Prepared by: Wendy Donaldson, Clerical Officer

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.2 PT/CI/060 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024/25 PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) QUARTER 3

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report Quarter 3 for the Community Development Directorate be noted.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts 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 will be presented to the relevant Committee.

4. Key Points

The third quarter performance progress report for Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events, Community Development and Marketing, Communications and PR is **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report (Community Development Directorate) Quarter 3 be noted.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

5.3 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with copies of minutes from the Northern Ireland Housing Council for 12 December 2024 and 9 January 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Council providing copies of the minutes of their meetings of 12 December and 9 January 2025, which are **enclosed** for Member's information.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that at the Community Development Committee in January 2025 the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council meetings held on 12 September, 10 October and 14 November 2024 were noted.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council of 12 December 2024 and 9 January 2025 be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Any Other Relevant Business (AORB) may be taken at this point.