



5 October 2022

Chairman: Councillor J Gilmour  
Vice Chairman: Alderman J McGrath  
Committee Members: Alderman P Michael  
Councillors – P Bradley, M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper,  
P Dunlop, R Lynch, N McClelland, T McGrann,  
V McWilliam, V Robinson, L Smyth and M Stewart

Dear Member

**MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Planning Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 10 October 2022 at 6.30 pm**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui Dixon'.

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA  
**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:**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 APOLOGIES**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

### **4 PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Firmus Energy

### **5 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

5.1 Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff Polling Station Request

5.2 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2022/2023

5.3 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2022

5.4 PBNI Draft Corporate Plan Consultation

5.5 Renewal of Lease Whiteabbey Community Group

5.6 Community Christmas Toy Scheme

5.7 Arts and Heritage Grant Aid

5.8 Cost of Living Crisis – Support Initiatives

5.9 Equality and Diversity Working Group Minutes

5.10 Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice – Elmers Big Trail

5.11 Good Relations Grant Aid

### **6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6.1 Developing Women In Community Programme Phase 2

6.2 Areas at Risk Update

### **7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

7.1 Mossley Pavilion Tenancy Request – CORE Community Group

7.2 Social Supermarkets Pilot 2022-23

### **8 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

## **REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022**

### **4 PRESENTATIONS**

#### **4.1 G/MSMO/017vol3 PRESENTATION BY FIRMUS ENERGY**

Members are reminded that at the Council Committee Meeting on Tuesday 30 August 2022, Members agreed to receive a presentation by firmus energy. Members are advised that a presentation from Paul Stanfield, Director of Sales, Marketing & Customer Services will be provided via Zoom.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.**

## 5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 5.1 CP/CD/345 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYDUFF – POLLING STATION REQUEST

Members are advised that correspondence has been received **enclosed** from The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland indicating the possibility of an unplanned Northern Ireland Assembly Election, which if called could be held on either 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland have requested the potential use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for use as a polling station if an election is called on either of the identified dates.

**RECOMMENDATION: that, subject to a Northern Ireland Assembly Election being called, the request for use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station on either 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved.**

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

**5.2 CP/CD/440 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME  
SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2022/2023**

Members are reminded of the Small Grants Programme, which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2022/23 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to the receipt of a Group Constitution, List of Committee Members, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts and a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all other appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

During the month of September, 3 applications totalling £3,000 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below:

<b>Group Name/Project Promoter</b>	<b>Project Description/Title</b>	<b>Pass/Fail</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
CORE New Mossley	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Room Hire and Annual Insurance	Pass	£1,000	<b>£1,000</b>
Friends Through Stroke Support Group	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Room Hire, Equipment, Seasonal Social Events	Pass	£1,000	<b>£1,000</b>
McIlroy Court Residents Association	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Seasonal Social	Pass	£1,000	<b>£1,000</b>
<b>Total</b>			£3,000	<b>£3,000</b>

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Small Grant applications outlined above be approved at a total cost of £3,000.00.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

### 5.3 CP/TD/001 SCHOOL UNIFORM RE-USE SCHEME 2022

Members are reminded that the 2020 Pilot School Uniform Re-Use Scheme was approved at the February 2020 Council meeting. The scheme ran again in 2021 with over 7000 good quality school uniform items and over 650 families being supported across the Borough.

The 2022 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme opened in June 2022 and closed at the start of September 2022. Due to demand this year all schemes continued to make uniform items available beyond the initial timeframe identified, to mid-September.

A total of 9 local schemes representative of each DEA participated in this year's scheme as outlined below:

DEA	School Uniform Scheme Provider
AIRPORT	A Safe Space to be Me: Crumlin Hub
ANTRIM	Oasis in partnership with CFC Church
BALLYCLARE	St John's Church of Ireland
DUNSILLY	TIDAL – Toome House
GLENGORMLEY URBAN	Carnmoney Presbyterian Church Community Relations Forum Fit Moms & Kids
MACEDON	Listening Ear – Dunanney Centre
THREEMILEWATER	Monkstown Village Centre

Additionally, there were two separate Uniform Events with any donations going to the Trussell Trust Food Banks held as follows:

- Mossley Pavilion on 26<sup>th</sup> July
- Christian Fellowship Church Antrim on 2<sup>nd</sup> August

The Scheme reported the following outcomes:

- 7000+ Items of good quality school uniform items were donated
- 955 families/children were supported with pre-loved uniform items
- A total of £102 was donated during the Mossley Pavilion event, which has been donated to the local Foodbank

Developments in 2022

- An online catalogue was successfully piloted with Listening Ear and the Christian Fellowship Church. This allowed families to view items online and phone or email to pre order.

As the School Uniform Scheme continues to evolve to meet local community needs it is proposed that the areas below be developed for 2023:

- Officers work to expand the service and provide support for new schemes across all DEA's
- The number of schools providing own scheme has significantly increased and it is proposed to promote these schemes alongside community schemes to benefit families
- Exploration of funding opportunities to support schemes.
- Development of an Online Catalogue as part of all schemes.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the proposals for the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme for 2023 be approved.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, Tackling Deprivation Coordinator

Agreed by: Stef Buchanan, Community Planning Manager & Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning



## 5.4 CP/PCSP/075 PBNI DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Probation Board for Northern Ireland **enclosed** regarding the Public Consultation which is currently live, on their Draft Corporate Plan for 2023-2026. The Plan sets out the strategic direction for the organisation over the next three-year period, with the identification of four strategic priorities:

- **Our People** - we will develop, support and empower our staff to improve service delivery
- **Our Services** - we will deliver an effective, quality statutory probation service to reduce reoffending
- **Our Funding** - we will prioritise our budget to maximise service delivery
- **Our Partnerships** - we will develop our partnerships to help make our communities safer

Members can download the Corporate Plan consultation document from <https://www.pbni.org.uk/publication/probation-board-northern-ireland-draft-corporate-plan-2023-26>

The consultation is open until 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, responses can be submitted via email to [info@probation-ni.gov.uk](mailto:info@probation-ni.gov.uk) or alternatively arrangements can be made to speak to people about their feedback and views on the draft Plan.

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual, or party political basis.

**Members' instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.5 CP/CD/451 RENEWAL OF LEASE WHITEABBEY COMMUNITY GROUP

Members are advised that the lease with Whiteabbey Community Group, for the land on which their community centre is situated is now up for renewal.

The building which is owned by the group was opened in 2006 and provides a base for the group to deliver its wide and innovative programme of social, cultural, educational and recreational activities for which they received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June 2022.

In October 2014 the Council approved and provided financial assistance for an extension to the rear of the existing facility and this opened to the public in 2016 enabling increased community use.

In June 2022 further approval was given to the group for the development of a Community Garden Project in association with Clanmill Housing Association and Connswater Homes. Financial assistance for the project totalling £30,000 has already been secured from the Department for Communities.

In order to facilitate the group in the future delivery of its community development programme it is proposed that a further 10-year lease be drawn up with the group to include:

- The land on which their existing community facility is situated including the extension
- Additional land to facilitate the delivery of the community garden project being funded by DfC.

A site map outlining the boundary of the area to be leased is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION: that a new 10-year lease be drawn up with Whiteabbey Community Group for the land and facilities situated at Glenville Road, Whiteabbey.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.6 CP/CD/426 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TOY SCHEME

Members are reminded that the delivery of a pilot Community Christmas Toy Scheme was approved at the September 2021 Council Meeting.

Following the successful delivery of the pilot in 2021 it is proposed to run a similar scheme in 2022 through the following partnerships: Community & Voluntary Organisations, Habitat for Humanity (NI) through Pop Up Shops and the Council's Recycling Centres supported by Habitat for Humanity NI.

The Pop Up Shops work on the basis that pre-loved good quality toys are donated and then available for purchase at a very low cost. The scheme provides support for those experiencing financial pressures, whilst also promoting the 'reuse' message within the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. Funds raised at the Pop Up Shops are then donated to local foodbanks.

Community and Voluntary Organisations will be contacted to establish interest in participating in the 2022 Christmas Community Toy Scheme. Any who wish to participate will be supported with a grant of £200 to purchase storage containers and other items.

Preloved toys can be donated at the Council's 5 Household Recycling Centres (HRC's)

- Newpark
- Bruslee
- Crumlin
- O'Neill Road
- Craigmore

This will be delivered in partnership with Habitat for Humanity NI.

Habitat for Humanity NI will deliver two 'Pop Up Toy Shops' with a selection of the toys donated to the HRC's available to purchase at a very low cost as follows:

- Muckamore Community Centre - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 10am – 3pm
- Dunnaney Centre, Rathcoole - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 10am – 2pm

The Community Planning and Waste Management sections will work in partnership to deliver and promote the Christmas Community Toy Scheme 2022.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- a) delivery of the Christmas Community Toy Scheme in 2022 as outlined be approved.**
- b) a report on the number of Community and Voluntary Organisations participating in the scheme, including grant funding recommendations, will be brought back to the November Committee Meeting.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, Tackling Deprivation Co-Ordinator

Agreed by: Stef Buchanan, Community Planning Manager & Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Plannin

## 5.7 AC/GEN/037 ARTS AND HERITAGE GRANT AID

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

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 or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

The grants are delivered on a rolling funding programme linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year is exhausted. One application has been 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:

<b>Group / Individual</b>	<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Funding Purpose</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Mr Sean Mackey	Participation in specialist training or study	Undertaking an MA Cinematography at the National Film and Television School. The MA Course starts in January 2023 and lasts for 2 years.	100%	£500

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Arts and Heritage Grant Award be approved.**

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Planning

## 5.8 CP/CP/207 COST OF LIVING CRISIS – SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Members are reminded that the Council is committed to supporting the most vulnerable in local communities and is currently engaged in a number of support programmes and initiatives including;

- Oil Stamp Saving Scheme
- Keep Warm Packs
- Muddy Boots Experience
- Concessionary Leisure Membership
- School Uniform Re Use Scheme
- Development of a Social Supermarket
- Slow Cooker Programmes
- Period Poverty Initiative

Members are also reminded that it was reported at the August Council Meeting that the Mayor had asked Officers to develop additional initiatives to complement existing programmes. These initiatives are aimed at increasing public access to community programmes during the autumn and winter, in locally accessible Council facilities including community centres, arts and cultural venues and leisure centres.

This will provide opportunities for residents to access warmth and engage socially for the benefit of their health and wellbeing.

Officers have established a Working Group comprised of Community Planning, Arts and Culture, Leisure, Environmental Health and Marketing Officers.

It is proposed the programme will be launched in late October 2022 providing residents with an opportunity get active, learn new skills, socialise and gain some valuable knowledge by attending information sessions supported by the Council's Community Planning partners NIFRS, NHSCT and PSNI.

Funding opportunities have been explored to support schemes, with applications of 3 x £4,000 funding submitted to Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership. It is also proposed to support the development and delivery of this service that £1,000 per DEA is made available to purchase refreshments and or other relevant items.

Programmes representative of each DEA will be established in locations as outlined below:

<b>DEA</b>	<b>Location</b>
AIRPORT	Crumlin LC
ANTRIM	Muckamore Community Centre Stiles Community Centre Old Courthouse Theatre
BALLYCLARE	Ballyclare Town Hall
DUNSILLY	Neillsbrook Community Centre

GLENGORMLEY URBAN	Lilian Bland Pavilion
MACEDON	Dunanney Community Centre
THREEMILEWATER	Mossley Pavilion

This proposed extensive programme of activities will target children, adults and older residents and include:

- Exercise Activities
- Healthy Eating Programmes
- Tea Dances
- Arts and Crafts
- Music Lessons
- Family Movies
- Young People's Activities
- Interactive Learning Workshops
- 'Winter Woollies' Knitting Challenge
- Home Safety Information
- Mindfulness and Wellbeing Programmes

Alongside these activities, Officers will also continue to develop and promote a number of initiatives aimed at providing some relief from the ongoing cost of living crisis.

As part of this initiative a scoping exercise to identify all similar opportunities being delivered by other organisations such as churches, libraries, schools etc has been carried out. This information will be added to details of the Councils programme and a full listing of all activities in all locations across the Borough will be published in hard and soft copy for ease of access. The programme planner will be shared with Members ahead of the launch of the Programme to support local promotion.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed community programme of activities across 7 DEAs with a budget of £7,000 be approved.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, Tackling Deprivation Coordinator

Approved by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.9 CP/GR/055 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

A copy of the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group meeting held on 27 September 2022 are enclosed for Members consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group on 27 September 2022 be approved.**

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning



## 5.10 AC/EV/024 NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDRENS HOSPICE – ELMERS BIG TRAIL

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Community Planning Committee in February 2022 that the Council would be an 'official sponsor' of Elmer's Big Trail and provide £35,000 in sponsorship. It was also agreed at this meeting to host Elmer's Big Trail in the Borough from 2 to 4 September with this farewell event held in Antrim Castle Gardens the only opportunity to experience this unique art installation outside of Belfast. One benefit of the Council being an 'Official Supporter' sponsor of the trail was that the Council had its own Elmer sculpture, the art sculpture designed. At the Committee in February it was agreed to avail of the opportunity to permanently acquire the Council's Elmer through auction at a cost of between £3,000 and £7,000. This auction was held at Crumlin Road Gaol on Wednesday 5 October 2022. Following the Mayor's nomination it was attended by Councillor Billy Webb and Officers. The Council's Elmer was acquired for £6,700.00 'Elmer' is located permanently at Mossley Mill. Elmer's Big Trail consisted of 70 individual 'Elmer's' which were located across Belfast from 20 June to 31 August 2022 before the farewell event in Antrim Castle Gardens.

As an 'Official Supporter' the Council received the following benefits:

- High profile as one of five official supporters alongside U105, Castlecourt, Wild at Art and Flynn
- Marketing and Brand Exposure – the Council logo was present on all 70 large sculpture plaques
- Bespoke product/service activation through the Elmer Belfast app and Elmer related events. This included a £5 family voucher for the Council's leisure facilities which could be downloaded when visiting the Council's Elmer Sculpture.
- Enhanced relationship with key stakeholders including other Elmer supporters

The final total of funding raised by this initiative to mark the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice's 21st Anniversary hasn't been calculated yet as funds raised at the auction will be included. However, they expect the total to be significant.

The farewell event at Antrim Castle Gardens attracted 4,000 visitors and raised a total of £20,000 on its own.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the update be noted and the location of the Council's 'Elmer' at Mossley Mill on a permanent basis be approved.**

Prepared by: Mark McGrann, Tourism Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 5.11 CP/GR/160 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID

Members are reminded that the 2022/23 Good Relations Action Plan submitted to The Executive Office, includes a budget of £20,000 for the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme.

The aim of Good Relations Grant Aid Programme is to improve day to day relationships by encouraging everyone to treat others fairly and encouraging a society in which all cultures and traditions are understood, respected and accepted.

Members are advised that applications are required to score higher than 50% to be deemed successful. One application was received in September 2022, scoring above the 50% threshold requesting a total amount of £2,500.

A summary of the application received, the proposed award recommendation overview of the assessment and funding details is enclosed for Members' consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION: that that the Good Relations grant aid application outlined be approved at a total cost of £2,500.**

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### 6.1 CP/CP/212 DEVELOPING WOMEN IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMME PHASE 2

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Department for Communities in relation to their Developing Women in the Community Programme – Phase Two.

The Department has identified Macedon as the District Electoral Area eligible for the delivery of the programme. The programme was launched on 3 October 2022 with an open call on the Department for Communities website.

The programme will target women of all ages, it will provide an opportunity for participants to partake in a volunteering role in their community and develop a small programme. Family support provision will be a key element of the programme.

The programme modules will include:

- Confidence and self esteem
- Communication
- Personal Development
- Self-awareness Community
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Role of women in community safety
- Role of women in peacebuilding Families
- Role of Women in families

**RECOMMENDATION: that the update on Developing Women in Community Programme PHASE 2 be noted.**

Prepared by: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6.2 CP/TD/002 AREAS AT RISK UPDATE

Members are reminded 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.

Members are reminded that funding for the 2022/2023 Programme was approved at the February 2022 Community Planning Committee. The 2022/2023 Funding is allocated as outlined:

	DfC Contribution <b>2022/23</b>	Council Contribution <b>2022/23</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Newtownabbey AAR	£66,750 TBC	£60,170	<b>£126,920</b>
Antrim AAR	£0	£111,210	<b>£111,210</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£66,750</b>	<b>£171,380</b>	<b>£238,130</b>

### **Newtownabbey AAR Projects Funded 2022/23**

- The Areas at Risk Newtownabbey Project covers Carnmoney, Monkstown and Mossley.
- The contribution committed by the Council in 2022/23 to the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Projects is **£60,170**
- The contribution committed by Department for Communities in 2022/23 remains the same as previous years at **£66,750**
- Project plans are subject to Council approval following submission of Project Proposals by Groups.

### **The funding has been allocated as follows:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>ANBC £</b>	<b>DfC £</b>
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
Holly Bank 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 2022/23**

- The Antrim Areas at Risk Project covers Farranshane, Ballycraigy and Steeple
- The contribution committed by the Council to the Antrim Areas at Risk Projects in 2022/23 is **£111,210**.
- Project plans are subject to Council approval following submission of Project Proposals by Groups.

#### **The funding has been allocated as follows:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>ANBC £</b>
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
Farranshane Community Trust	5,000

Members are reminded that at the Council Meeting in November 2020 the proposal to move to a competitive application process for Areas at Risk 2021/22 was referred back to the Community Planning Committee.

With the impact of COVID-19 creating additional pressure on the community and voluntary sector at this time and with a planned review of Neighbourhood Renewal and Areas at Risk to be undertaken by the Department for Communities (DfC), it was agreed to defer the Council's review of Areas at Risk until after the DfC review is completed. As a result it was agreed that the 2020/21 and subsequent programmes would run as in previous years.

The DfC People and Place Review commenced on 19 May 2022 using the principle of co-design. The next locality working group meeting is scheduled for 11 October 2022. It is anticipated that the first tangible programme delivery changes will be effective in 2023/2024.

Areas at Risk projects and programmes are currently managed through a combination of onsite monitoring visits, mid-year and end of year monitoring reports. The delivery of Areas at Risk projects were impacted by COVID in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 but all projects are now operating fully again for the 2022/2023.

Project monitoring and programme support visits are being conducted by the Tackling Deprivation Co-Ordinator and documented on the Grant Manager system.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted**

Prepared by: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

