



9 December 2020

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A remote meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 14 December at 6.30 pm.**

All Members are asked to attend the meeting via "Zoom".

To ensure social distancing it is only possible to facilitate 11 Members in the Council Chamber. The calculation for this is done by d'Hondt plus the Independent Member (4 DUP, 2 UUP, 2 Alliance, 1 SDLP, 1 Sinn Fein, 1 Independent). The Members present in the Chamber will also access the meeting via Zoom. This does not affect the voting rights of all Members.

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held remotely on Monday 30 November, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Tuesday 1 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Wednesday 2 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND WATER
- 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 11.1 Application for Grant of an Entertainment Licence (Annual Licence) McArts Fort Bar and Grill, 162 Antrim Road, Glengormley, BT36 7OZ
 - 11.2 Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill
 - 11.3 Working Group Minutes of Retail & Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Team

- 11.4 Strategic Economic Working Group Minutes
 - 11.5 Enterprise Support Initiatives
 - 11.6 Lough Neagh Partnership
 - 11.7 Rural Development Programme Update
 - 11.8 Disposal of Land at 53 Forthill Drive, Newtownabbey
 - 11.9 Town Centre Recovery – Additional Funding Award
 - 11.10 Committee for Communities - Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill
 - 11.11 Department for Infrastructure - Notice of Opinion relating to Planning Application Reference LA03/2018/0605/O – Section 54 Application to vary Planning Conditions attached to Outline Permission U/2009/0405/O for a Major Urban Extension in Ballyclare including the Northern Section of the Ballyclare Relief Road
 - 11.12 Potential Additional Funding to Councils to Support Vulnerable Households and Communities in the Event of a Non Negotiated Outcome at the end of the EU Exit Transition Period
- 12 ITEMS FOR NOTING
- 12.1 Motion – Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
 - 12.2 Motion – Ards and North Down Borough Council
 - 12.3 Carnmoney Cemetery
 - 12.4 Department for the Economy Project Stratum - Update
- 13 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
- 13.1 Residual Waste Treatment Project
 - 13.2 Contract for Provision of Mechanical Plant Improvements at Antrim Forum & Sixmile Leisure Centre
 - 13.3 Disposal of Land at 131 Shore Road for Social Enterprise
 - 13.4 Pay Tapering Policy

14 MOTION

Proposed by Councillor M Magill

Seconded by Aldermen P Brett, L Clarke, M Girvan, J Smyth and Councillors J Archibald, A Bennington, M Cooper, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, P Hamill, L Irwin, V Robinson and S Ross.

"This Council recognises the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic; expresses our thanks for their commitment to and care for our community and will write to the Health Minister Robin Swann MLA asking him to administer a "thank you" payment of at least £500 as a practical demonstration of our gratitude."

15 MOTION

Proposed by The Mayor, Councillor J Montgomery

Seconded by Alderman P Brett

"In recognition of the historic milestone of 40 years of service to Council by Alderman Dr Fraser Agnew MBE, this Council express its gratitude and congratulations and undertakes to mark the occasion in an appropriate way."

16 MOTION

Proposed by Councillor B Webb

Seconded by Deputy Mayor, Councillor N McClelland, Aldermen F Agnew, P Brett and M Cosgrove

"Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council sends congratulations to Mayor Brigitte Peterson on her election as Mayor of our sister city of Gilbert. We look forward to strengthening our links with Gilbert in the coming years and to welcome Mayor Peterson to our Borough in the near future."

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020**

10 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

Members are advised that representatives of Northern Ireland Water will be in attendance to provide a presentation updating Members on the Utility Regulator's recommended level of funding and how this will deliver on infrastructure investment plans for the Council area, subject to the funding being made available from Government.

Dr Stephen Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, and Mr David McCullough, Head of Wastewater, will be joining the meeting via Zoom.

11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1 EH/EL/162 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (ANNUAL LICENCE) McARTS FORT BAR AND GRILL, 162 ANTRIM ROAD, GLENGORMLEY, BT36 7OZ

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
John Moore	McArts Fort Bar and Grill 162 Antrim Road Glengormley BT36 7OZ	Singing, music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind Monday to Sunday 10am to 11pm Number of persons 100	EL162	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, all new applications must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against Officers' recommendation, then Members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote will be taken.

Operating hours
Monday to Sunday 10 am to 11pm

RECOMMENDATION: that an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) is granted to the applicant John Moore, 162 Antrim Road, Glengormley, BT36 7OZ with the condition that the entertainment is provided 10am to 11pm.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Agreed and Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

11.2 G/MSMO/008 Vol 2 CRIMINAL JUSTICE (COMMITTAL REFORM) BILL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Assembly requesting Members' views/comments on the content of the Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill by Friday 15 January 2021.

Information regarding the Bill can be obtained from the Assembly's website <http://nia.me/4b5> or can be provided on request by emailing committalreformbill@niassembly.gov.uk.

A copy of the letter is **enclosed** for Members' information.

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

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.3 ED/GEN/015 WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF RETAIL & TOWN CENTRE RE-OPENING MOBILISATION TEAM

Members are advised that The Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team met on Thursday 17 September 2020. This Forum facilitates collaborative working between local businesses from across the Borough, the Council and Central Government Partners. The Forum informs joint recovery plans aimed at building consumer confidence, driving footfall and delivering best practice in accordance with Central Government guidance. An Action Plan informs the collective activities of the Forum and is updated following each meeting and referred back to the Council for consideration as an enclosure to the minutes.

Representation on each Team consists of Party Group Leaders and representatives from businesses, shopping centres, central government and stakeholder organisations. The Team is supported by Council Officials from Economic Development, Environmental Health and Health and Safety.

A copy of the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group meeting held on 19 November 2020 is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group dated 19 November 2020 be approved.

Prepared/Approved by Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

11.4 ED/ED/173 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The Strategic Economic Development Working Group met on the 23 November 2020 to consider strategic economic development and tourism matters, review the outcomes achieved through the investment made by the Council to date and to consider priorities going forward as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact.

A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 23 November 2020 is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the 23 November 2020 be approved.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

11.5 ED/GEN/006 ENTERPRISE SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Members are reminded that the Council has a statutory responsibility for new business start-up and entrepreneurship.

Regional Start-Up Support

The 'Go for It' programme offers regionally consistent support to entrepreneurs, helping them to develop a business plan. It has been running since September 2017 across all Council areas and the current programme will complete on 31 March 2021. The Programme is managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on behalf of all Councils, and is delivered by Enterprise NI through their network of Local Enterprise Agencies. As Members will be aware, funding has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund and Invest NI (totalling 80% of eligible programme costs) to deliver a new regional programme for the period 1 April 2021–31 March 2023 and procurement for a delivery agent is currently underway. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will continue to manage the programme on behalf of all Councils.

The Council has an annual statutory job creation target of 80 jobs to be created as a result of participation on a Regional Start-up Initiative. Officers are pleased to report that 106 jobs were created in the 2019-20 year through the Programme. It is anticipated that Council will meet its statutory job target for the 2020-21 year by the end of March 2021, despite the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the numbers entering the programme, in particular in quarter 1 during the first major lockdown.

Business Start Coaching

To help entrepreneurs convert their 'Go For It' business plan into a trading business, Council has in place a coaching and support programme which offers up to 5 hours of business coaching and a bursary of up to £200 to support the set-up of businesses in the Borough. This programme is unique to Antrim and Newtownabbey and is delivered through a partnership of Antrim Enterprise Agency, Mallusk Enterprise Park and LEDCOM. The original timescale for the programme was completion by 31 March 2021 with a target of 108 entrepreneurs. Participants benefit from both coaching and bursary support. To date, 41 entrepreneurs have benefited from coaching support, with 19 applying for the bursary.

Officers are extending the programme timeline to support participants whose start-up plans have been adversely impacted by COVID-19. The programme will be extended to 30 September 2021, maintaining the same overall budget and targets.

Other Enterprise Initiatives

Officers are currently exploring other initiatives to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, in particular to young people. There are two primary

elements to this; high-street recovery and the promotion of entrepreneurship to Primary 6 pupils and young people aged between 13 and 18 years old.

High-street recovery: The significant impacts of COVID-19 on the retail sector will potentially create opportunities for new retail start-up businesses within our town centres. As part of the Council's strategic economic recovery plans Officers are exploring options for the development of workspace. To add value to this Officers are working with local stakeholders to formulate a specific retail start-up programme that would commence 2021/22 and include accredited training, support with the identification of suitable property, lease negotiation, a promotion and marketing support package and a seed grant for any necessary refurbishment or rental of the retail space. This will be designed to help mitigate any future increase in vacancy rates. A further report will be tabled to Council as the initiative is developed further.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship (targeting Primary 6 Pupils): Due to the current restrictions, it was not possible to host our highly successful schools enterprise initiatives, which are normally held in November and to which all primary and post primary schools in the Borough are invited to take part in. In lieu of these, Young Enterprise has a tailored programme which will deliver a virtual Business Challenge Programme to Primary 6 pupils across the Borough. The Challenge will include Business Volunteer videos, virtual presentations and a challenge to design a new juice carton packaging, with a competition running across the Borough for pupils in participating schools. This programme is anticipated to reach a minimum of 400 pupils and will commence the Council's Career Passport Programme. It will run during the remainder of the current school year, from January through to June 2021 and the estimated cost, including time and materials is £6,000.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship (targeting post-primary age pupils): It is also proposed to deliver up to two Access Enterprise programmes across the Borough. This is an accredited enterprise programme (OCN Level 1 in Vocational Skills) which targets young people, aged 13-18 through youth settings, to explore self-employment through a mixture of theory and practical application, including taking a product to market. This programme will also run during the remainder of the current school year, from January – June 2021 and can be delivered virtually or face-to-face depending on the requirements of the youth setting and the restrictions in place at the time. The cost to deliver the two programmes is £5,000 and it is expected to benefit 15 participants.

RECOMMENDATION: that:

- i) the update on statutory job targets and the new Go for It Programme is noted;**
- ii) the Business Start Coaching Programme extension to 30 September 2021 be noted; and**
- iii) the Primary School Business Challenge Programme and Access Enterprise Programmes be delivered at a total cost of £11,000 within the next**

calendar year, provision for which exists in the Economic Development Budgets.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Strategic Director Economic Development & Planning

11.6 ED/CD/040/VOL 2 LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP

Members are reminded that a decision was taken at the June 2018 Council meeting to approve the Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement with funding of £22,000 to be provided per annum for 3 years commencing 1 April 2018, subject to satisfactory performance.

Lough Neagh Partnership provides an annual report outlining the progress made on each of the projects/activities below;

1. Landscape Partnership Project
2. Destination Management Plan
3. Marketing and Promotion of Lough Neagh
4. Lough Neagh Cycle Trail
5. Lough Neagh Community Trust
6. Lough Neagh Cooperation Project
7. Group Farm Scheme
8. Lough Neagh Food Programme
9. Tourism Strategy – general
10. LNP Strategy
11. Monitoring and Performance

The existing three year funding agreement expires on 31 March 2021. The progress report for the final year is to follow after 31 March 2021 but performance to date has been satisfactory. The enclosed details some of the partnership's achievements throughout the current 3 year funding period. In addition to agreed outputs within their Letter of Offer the Lough Neagh Partnership has assisted the Council in securing £50,000 DAERA funding for tourism cluster projects, is contributing content input to the interpretive display in The Gateway and has supported the establishment of new businesses and enabled heritage survey work at Antrim Steeple site in partnership with Queen's University Belfast.

Lough Neagh Partnership has sent a letter to the Chief Executive a copy of which is enclosed requesting early consideration of future funding to help them prepare for the next financial year.

Key areas of concentration for Lough Neagh Partnership and the Landscape Partnership Project over the new funding period will be:

- Supporting implementation of the Council's Tourism Action Plan in the areas of:
Leisure Development:
 - Developing tourism experiences
 - Joint marketing campaigns including the development and distribution of visitor information at locations of higher footfall
 - Supporting the promotion of Council's funding for industry specific product development
 - Group travel offers through engagement with specialist operators

- Assist with consultations and initial feasibility assessments for future project proposals in the vicinity of Lough Neagh (eg. Cranfield Holy Church and Well)
- Support the development of Council facilitated events and festivals
- Signage, Interpretation and use of Technology
 - To improve connectedness and public perception through effective wayfinding
 - To maximise footfall at Antrim Castle and Gardens, Heritage Sites and Lough Neagh through the development and promotion of visitor experiences.
 - The identification of funding and support with facilitating projects aligned to the Lough. This includes support with the Mid Ulster District Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council tourism cluster project being supported by DAERA.

It is proposed that in line with the existing Service Level Agreement, funding of £22,000 per annum be provided for 3 years to the end of March 2024 subject to satisfactory annual performance and budget availability.

Lough Neagh Partnership has invited the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister, Mr Edwin Poots MLA, to visit some local schemes which they have supported over the past few years. This will primarily concentrate on Environmental Group Farm Schemes, Management and Conservation. It is provisionally scheduled for 27 January and depending on COVID-19 restrictions this may conclude with a lunch at The Boathouse restaurant at The Gateway. As the Sculpture, Interpretive Display and Environmental Improvement works in the vicinity of The Gateway are only scheduled to conclude at the end of March 2021 it is anticipated that the Minister will attend a separate launch event in the Spring.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- I. the Service Level Agreement be approved with funding of £22,000 provided per annum for 3 years commencing 1 April 2021, subject to satisfactory annual performance and budget availability;**
- II. the visit arranged by Lough Neagh Partnership for Minister Edwin Poots MLA be noted.**

Prepared by: Karen Steele, Tourism, Town Centre and Regeneration Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

11.7 ED/ED/005 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Members are reminded that GROW South Antrim Limited is responsible for delivering the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 across the Borough to include grant aid funding to support rural businesses, community organisations and village renewal projects and for working in cooperation with other Rural Development clusters across Europe. GROW South Antrim has a contract with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for £2,140,000 of programme funds. The full allocation of funding has been awarded to 77 projects, 64 of whom are complete. The majority of funding (46 projects) was awarded to business projects and the Letters of Offer indicate 115 new full-time equivalent jobs will be created in the Borough as a result of the investment.

In support of the programme delivery, Council has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with DAERA to provide administrative and advisory support to GROW South Antrim. The SLA commenced on 1 April 2016 and is due to expire on 30 December 2020. The administration budget is 22% of the programme funds, so £470,000 which provides a permanent staff team of 2.3 full-time equivalent officers in the Economic Development Section of Council. The estimated monthly cost of this resource is £7,500 per month.

Council has a contract with GROW South Antrim Limited to provide these administrative services to them for the same period as the SLA with DAERA.

DAERA has acknowledged that the Programme will not be complete by the end of December 2020, citing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as a principal reason for this. GROW still has 13 live projects and the final projects are now due to complete by 30 June 2021, with claims processing expected to take place thereafter. Monitoring of projects is underway, with 60 Post Project Evaluations still to be completed.

Taking account of revised project end dates, DAERA has issued an extension to the Service Level Agreement between DAERA and Council and the contract between Council and GROW South Antrim Limited from 31 December 2020 to 31 March 2022. A copy of DAERA's letter and the extensions are **enclosed**. DAERA has indicated that the extension to the SLA is for a time extension only and that no additional administration funds will be paid under the contract. At present, it is anticipated that funding income to support the administration of the programme will be exhausted in May 2021. This creates a small administrative funding gap for the completion of the existing programme to June 2021 but more concerning is the unknown time lag between the end of the current programme and any replacement programme.

In mid-2019 DAERA corresponded with GROW to express that they were beginning to formulate the successor programme to the existing Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Subsequent to that the Council contributed to a consultation workshop in January 2020. To date there has been no further information regarding the successor programme received from DAERA. The proposed support measures and the delivery models have previously been dependent on Council delivery. The Director of

Economic Development and Planning has written to DAERA's Director of Rural Affairs, Mr Paul Donnelly seeking an update on the new programme and consideration of an interim administrative support.

Members will be aware of the Ekosgen report commissioned by SOLACE and approved in November 2020, provides a framework for the delivery of successor funding past the end of the existing EU Structural Funds entitled The Shared Prosperity Fund. This report includes details regarding the delivery of the current Rural Development Programme and the key elements of delivery for a successor programme.

It is not clear as yet what the Shared Prosperity Fund will provide for Northern Ireland and there is concern that this will not sustain the levels of EU Structural Funds provided to date.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members approve the contractual and Service Level Agreement extensions

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Strategic Director Economic Development & Planning

11.8 CE/GEN/017 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 53 FORTHILL DRIVE, NEWTOWNABBEY

Members are advised that a D1 form, a copy of which is enclosed, has been received from Land and Property Services regarding land declared surplus by the Department for Infrastructure Roads at 53 Forthill Drive, Newtownabbey.

Officers have reviewed the information provided and have not identified a need for this asset.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council does not express an interest in this land.

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

11.9 ED/GEN/015 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY – ADDITIONAL FUNDING AWARD

Members will be aware of the ongoing programme of work to support the recovery of town centres, urban areas and rural villages, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department for Communities in tandem with the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has agreed to provide an additional £1.7m to support Council grant schemes under this Programme. The additional funding to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is £73,000 (letter **enclosed**) shared across urban and rural areas.

Overall the NI Executive Programme, has now allocated a total of £19.3m to help Councils to make their town and city centres a safer environment for everyone. This includes £12m from the Department for Communities, £5m from the Department for Infrastructure and £2.3m from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

With respect to Antrim and Newtownabbey, through the Town Centre and Retail Recovery Working Group established by the Council an action plan has been produced which details the specific initiatives to be delivered. This includes Revitalisation Grants of £1,000 to assist businesses with their individual needs. 90 applications have been received to date in the most recent call for applications in urban areas outside town centres and villages, against an indicative budget of £120,000.

It is proposed that the additional money received be directed towards this grant fund and that following a review of current applications the fund remains open on a rolling basis post-Christmas for all areas (town centres, urban areas outside town centres and villages) and all eligible customer facing sectors across retail, tourism, private healthcare and financial and professional services. Similar to the previous funding programmes, the grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Delegated authority was granted to the Chief Executive at the November Council meeting for the issuing of Letters of Offer. It is proposed that this will be extended to this scheme with a report to be brought back to Council for noting in January.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (i) the additional funding award be accepted and utilised as outlined;**
- (ii) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to approve the awards.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

11.10 CE/GEN/079 COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES - LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Correspondence has been received from the Committee for Communities, setting out a call for written evidence on the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill. The deadline for written evidence is Monday 14 December 2020

A comprehensive response to the Bill (**enclosed**) has been prepared by NILGA which covers the key issues.

RECOMMENDATION: that the response to the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill provided by NILGA is approved and in addition, that Members may respond on an individual or party basis as appropriate.

Prepared by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

11.11 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE - NOTICE OF OPINION RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE LA03/2018/0605/O – SECTION 54 APPLICATION TO VARY PLANNING CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO OUTLINE PERMISSION U/2009/0405/O FOR A MAJOR URBAN EXTENSION IN BALLYCLARE INCLUDING THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE BALLYCLARE RELIEF ROAD

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has written to the Council to advise that it has issued a Notice of Opinion that approval should be granted to the Section 54 application (variation of conditions) outlined below (copy of the DfI letter and the accompanying Notice of Opinion **enclosed**).

Application Reference:	LA03/2018/0605/O
Proposal:	Application to vary condition 3 (Phasing Plan), condition 10 (occupation of dwellings), condition 29 (Environmental Management Plan), condition 21 (cycle infrastructure), condition 40 (landscaping details) and condition 42 (Landscape Masterplan) and non-compliance with condition 4 (Phasing Plan), condition 9 (access arrangements), condition 11 (road drainage), condition 16 (TAS approval), condition 17 (geotechnical approval), and condition 18 (road safety audit) of planning permission U/2009/0405/O for major urban extension to include: residential neighbourhood, northern section of Ballyclare Relief Road, local centre, central park and other open spaces, equipped children's play areas and ancillary works.
Location:	Lands adjacent to the north-west of Ballyclare including lands bounded by Cogry Road/Rashee Road north of Ross' Avenue/Clare Heights and north east and west of Ballyclare Rugby Club.
Applicant:	Ballyclare Developments Ltd

Full details on the above application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

As previously reported to the Council this application forms one of a number of linked applications submitted to DfI in relation to a major urban extension in the western part of Ballyclare that was approved by the then Department of the Environment in 2011 under the Article 31 Major Development procedure.

The Department has previously issued Notices of Opinion (NOP) to the Council to approve the following linked applications: LA03/2018/1011/RM, LA03/2018/0601/O and LA03/2019/0149/O which related to the development approved under U/2006/0377/O for lands between the Templepatrick Road and the Doagh Road, Ballyclare as well as a small area to the north of the Doagh Road (see map attached for Area A). These were reported to the April 2019 meeting of the Council where it was resolved not to request a hearing into the NOPs on these applications.

The Department subsequently issued approval to the above applications and as Members are aware work is now underway on Phase 1 of the development. This includes delivery of the first phase of the Ballyclare Relief Road between the Templepatrick Road and the Doagh Road together with associated housing development, although these most recent approvals maintained a stipulation that none of the housing or other buildings proposed in Phase 1 of the development can be occupied until the first phase of the road link is completed.

The current application relates to the remainder of the development planned for the western part of Ballyclare previously approved by the then Department of the Environment in 2011 under application reference U/2009/0405/O (see map attached for Area B). In essence it comprises the majority of the area between the Doagh Road and the Rashee Road and includes the land necessary to deliver the northern section of the Ballyclare Relief Road. The amendments to the conditions attached to the original outline permission proposed under the current application seek to replicate the phasing plan for the entire area already agreed by virtue of the aforementioned Section 54 approvals granted by the Department in 2019 as well as some technical changes to other conditions to reflect current circumstances. Importantly a stipulation is maintained that no further housing approved in this area should be occupied until the remainder of the proposed Relief Road linking the Doagh Road to the Rashee Road is completed.

Following earlier consultation by the Department on this application, and the other associated applications, the Council had agreed not to provide a corporate view and this position was subsequently conveyed to the Department in writing.

Having now issued its opinion that approval should be granted to this last Section 54 application the Department, as with the previous applications, has written to the Council to ascertain if it wishes to request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission on the current application. It should be noted that the Department has also written to the applicant in similar fashion.

If a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission is requested by the Council or the applicant, the Department must take into account the report of this hearing. However, the final decision in relation to the application will rest with the Department.

Members may also wish to note that a Section 54 application cannot vary any conditions relating to when reserved matters shall be submitted or the time within which development shall commence. As such it should be noted that the original outline permission (and the Section 54 application if approved) is due to expire on 6 January 2021 unless a valid application for reserved matters is submitted by this time. As a consequence, should the Members agree to seek a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission on this particular Section 54 application, it would not be possible for the

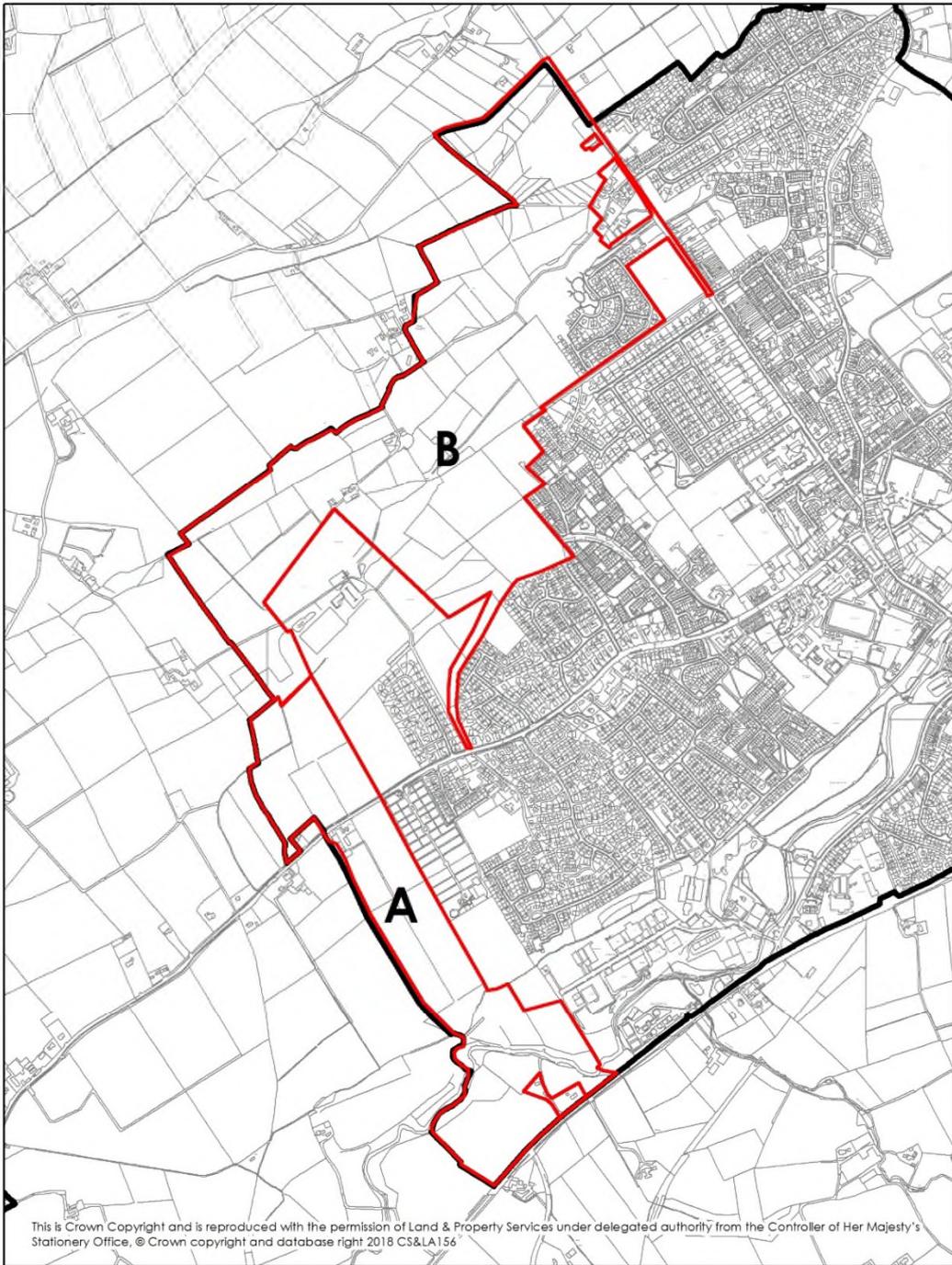
applicant to seek to implement it through the submission of reserved matters to the Council and the application would become redundant.

On foot of the NOP now received there are in effect only two options available to the Council in responding to the Department:

1. To request a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission on the Department's Notice of Opinion; or.
2. To note the Department's Notice of Opinion and advise that the Council will not be seeking a Hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission.

In relation to the previous Notice of Opinions on the linked Section 54 applications issued by the Department at this location, and as indicated above, the Council has to date noted these and resolved not to request a hearing on the applications.

The Council's instructions are requested



Location Map

Application Reference:
LA03/2018/0601/F and LA03/2018/0605/F



- A LA03/2018/0601/F Site Boundary
- B LA03/2018/0605/F Site Boundary



11.12 CP/CD/354 POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COUNCILS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE EVENT OF A NON-NEGOTIATED OUTCOME AT THE END OF THE EU EXIT TRANSITION PERIOD

Officers have received recent correspondence from DfC (enclosed) regarding the possibility of funding to support vulnerable households and communities in the event of a Non-Negotiated Outcome at the end of the EU Exit Transition Period.

The specific areas recommended for support include:

- Financial Vulnerability
- Economic Connectivity
- Workforce

It is proposed that Councils would distribute the funding to local community and voluntary groups via the existing Community Support Programme. This may include food distribution, fuel clubs and community health and wellbeing services.

There is no indication from DfC as to the scale of any potential funding and it is therefore not possible to advise on a maximum award per group. Officers would recommend that as a first response, subject to sufficient budget availability, an initial grant of up to £2k should be offered to the list of groups at enclosure 2. This is the same list of groups that officers are currently working with in relation to DfC additional funding for food support.

Officers would work with the groups on how to identify vulnerable households and communities linked to the EU exit and what mitigations are possible. Top up awards could be offered subject to ongoing need and available budget. If the initial budget were insufficient to support £2k per group officers would reduce the offer accordingly.

In addition and subject to remaining budget availability, officers would create an open call for any groups not on the enclosed list who could support households and communities made vulnerable as a result of the EU exit. Awards of up to £1k could be offered with opportunities to re-apply if need persists and available budget allows.

DfC have indicated that Councils can request that reasonable administration costs can be covered. Based on this it is recommended that officers work with DfC officials to charge a 5% administration cost to any forthcoming awards of grant funding.

The Community Support Plan has previously been rural proofed and screened for Equality Impact.

More recently DfC has indicated that Council will received a Letter of Offer for £31,852.74 for a Volunteering Fund aligned to the previously agreed Christmas and New Year Support Fund. Given that volunteering costs are already eligible within the Christmas and New Year Support Fund it is

proposed to discuss this opportunity with groups and where applicable issue revised Letter of Offer to the existing recipients:

- 37 Community and Voluntary Groups (enc 2)
- 8 FareShare Groups (enc 3)
- 2 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships (Grange and Rathcoole)
- 18 Areas at Risk recipients (enc 4)

Members are requested to advise officers if any further groups should be added to these lists of grant recipients.

This will increase the value of the awards to distribute the available £31,852.74 to support the costs of recruiting, training and deploying volunteers. The value of the uplift will be in the region of £500 but may vary depending on the level of uptake.

There is also an indication from DfC that further funds could be available for distribution before the end of March 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (i) the Council manages and delivers the proposed additional funding through the existing Community Support Programme;**
- (ii) such funding be targeted at the most vulnerable households and communities;**
- (iii) any potential funding be allocated on the basis of the existing Community Support Programme model and the proposals outlined above;**
- (iv) the Volunteering Fund of £31,852.74 is distributed as outlined above; and**
- (v) Officers have delegated authority to develop similar methods of grant distribution should additional funding become available for urgent spend.**

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

12.1 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council and requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's consideration of this Motion.

A copy of the letter is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

12.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Ards and North Down Borough Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council and requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's consideration of this Motion.

A copy of the letter is enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Ards and North Down Borough Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

12.3 PK/CEM/017 CARNMONEY CEMETERY

A request has been received from a community group called R City, which works with young people. They have a parents group which is looking for ways they can help the community but during the COVID-19 restrictions they have been limited in what they can do.

The request is to set up an area at the cemetery on Sunday 20 December from 10am to 2pm from which they will offer tea and coffee, chat with people and provide practical help cleaning/clearing graves. There will be a mix of adults and young people in attendance.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

12.4 ED/GEN/013 DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY (DFE) PROJECT STRATUM - UPDATE

Members will be aware that the contract to deliver Project Stratum has been awarded to Fibrus Networks Ltd by the Department for the Economy.

Project Stratum will deliver a full fibre, gigabit-capable broadband infrastructure to over 76,000 (primarily rural) premises across Northern Ireland by March 2024, of which 4,932 premises are estimated to be located within the Council area boundaries.

This is a transformational project which will improve the lives of citizens and the productivity of businesses across Northern Ireland. Once the full site list is available, officers will make this available to Members for inspection. Under the Fibrus model approved by the Department, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area is scheduled to be addressed from summer 2023.

There has been a significant level of interest from elected representatives, businesses and members of the public, mainly seeking to know if and when the project will improve broadband services in their area or to their premises.

A portal has been established by Fibrus Networks to provide this key information throughout the deployment phase of the project. Details of the deployment plan are now available on the portal and a premises checker will be added over the coming weeks. The portal - www.HyperfastNI.com - is now operational and will be updated and expanded as the project progresses.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning