



11 December 2024

**To: Each Member of the Council**

Dear Member

**MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 16 December 2024** at **6.30 pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker, GM MSc  
**Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council**

**For any queries, please contact Member Services:**

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## 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 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 25 November 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operation Committee Meeting of Monday 2 December 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance of Tuesday 3 December 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Wednesday 4 December 2024, 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 Monday 9 December 2024, 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 Monday 9 December 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 10 December 2024, a copy of which is to **follow**.
- 10 NOTICE OF MOTION
- 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION
  - 11.1 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme (RBDGS) Funding Awards
- 12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
  - 12.1 General Car Park Improvements, Refurbishment and New Works – Package 4, Glenwell and Farnley Roads
  - 12.2 Interim Residual Waste Treatment Contract
  - 12.3 Planning Agreement regarding Monkstown Jubilee Community Centre and Monkstown Pavilion and Jubilee Gardens

## 10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Alderman Magill  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke

“That this Council condemns the failure by the Government to prioritise farming families and the rural economy as part of the Autumn Budget; notes with deep concern the decisions to introduce new thresholds for Inheritance Tax and Agricultural Property Relief, which will jeopardise succession planning on farms, create barriers for new entrants to agriculture and discourage investment in many farm businesses; further notes that these policies undermine the aim of increasing food security and promoting more sustainable and efficient farming practices; is equally alarmed that the Chancellor has opted not to ringfence farm support budgets or uplift levels of funding in line with inflation; calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact of these damaging policies on local farms, as well as avoid significant increases in food prices; and further calls on the Minister to work with the Minister of Finance to deliver an early and concrete commitment to farming families that current levels of financial support will not only be maintained but increased in the next financial year”.

## 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 11.1 ED/ED/292 RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME (RBDGS) FUNDING AWARDS

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of funding through DAERA's RBDGS to applicants detailed in Annex 1, subject to satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that in July 2024, it was agreed to deliver a Rural Business Development Grant Scheme through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), alongside all other Councils in Northern Ireland. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's available grant aid budget under this scheme is yet to be confirmed, although it is anticipated that this will be up to £62,000 as per previous years. In addition, a budget of 10% of Letter of Offer value will be provided from DAERA to the Council to administer the scheme.

The key aim of the Scheme is to provide capital grants of up to £4,999 to support micro-businesses located in rural areas with under 5,000 population to invest in new equipment or capital items. The objective of the fund is to enable businesses to remain sustainable or to grow. The maximum grant-funding rate is 50%, with 50% match-funding provided by participating businesses.

As determined by DAERA, the scheme was opened for applications on 16 October until 8 November 2024 for projects to be completed by 14 March 2025. The Department's deadline for issuing successful applicants with project Letters of Offer is 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Due to this deadline, approval is sought from Members pending final assessment and budget allocation.

A total of twenty-four applications were received in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough. To be successful in securing a grant, businesses applying must score a minimum of 65% in their application assessment. The assessment is due to be completed during week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> December by Economic Development Officers. In a number of cases the grant awarded is less than the request as items are not eligible or the grant award is based on the procurement presented.

Detailed in Annex 1 (**enclosed**) are RBDGS applicants and their proposed project costs. Officers will conduct eligibility checks and assessments on each application. This is a competitive grant, where awards will be determined on the basis of merit. Values contained within Annex 1 are subject to change pending satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.

Projects that are deemed ineligible or do not meet the threshold or criteria for the programme will be notified of the outcome and offered business support through other Economic Development programmes where relevant.

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

In July 2024, the Council gave approval to participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), alongside all other Councils in Northern Ireland.

### 4. Financial Position/Implication

There is no direct financial contribution required from the Council. DAERA will provide 10% of the funds awarded through Letters of Offer (for administration purposes) to promote and deliver the programme, which will be managed by the Economic Development Team.

### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that Members approve the Rural Business Development Grants detailed in Annex 1, subject to satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.**

Prepared by: Matthew Mulligan, Economic Development Officer

Agreed by: Michael McKenna, Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development

Approved by: Majella McAllister - Director Economic Development