



10 June 2026

Committee Chair: Councillor H Magill

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor A O'Lone

Committee Members: Aldermen - J McGrath

Councillors – M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper, P Dunlop,
J Gilmour, L Kirkpatrick, R Lynch, T McGrann, V McWilliam,
M Ní Chonghaile, M Stewart 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 15 June 2026** at **6.30pm**.

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 and 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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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 15 JUNE 2026**

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 COMD/CD/002 PEACEPLUS – OUR SHARED BOROUGH ‘WEAVE INITIATIVE’ UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the PEACEPLUS Programme 4: Our Shared Borough ‘WEAVE Initiative’ delivered by the Community Development Section.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the PEACEPLUS Programme is a €1.1bn cross-border funding programme created to strengthen peace and prosperity within and between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. PEACEPLUS is the successor programme to both Peace IV and INTERREG VA. The Council is one of 17 Peace Partnerships across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

Members are reminded that the aim of Theme 1 ‘Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities’, is to unite communities and help them rebuild and learn from a difficult past. Under Theme 1 and Investment Area 1.1 ‘Co-designed Local Community Action Plans’, Local Councils across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties were invited to submit applications to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to secure funding to deliver against the actions identified in each Local Community Action Plan.

The Council has secured £4.4m to deliver programmes and projects in the Borough until December 2028. Delivery of the Antrim and Newtownabbey PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan is being managed by the Community Development Directorate within Council.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

Members are reminded that it was reported to the February 2025 Community Development Committee that Council had received a Letter of Offer from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) offering €5,103,757 (approx. £4.4m) towards delivery of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Co-designed PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

Members are also reminded that an update on PEACEPLUS Programme 4: ‘Our Shared Borough’ was approved at the June 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. ‘Our Shared Borough’ WEAVE Initiative

The WEAVE Initiative (We Educate, We Empower, We Engage) forms part of the PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan, under Strand 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities, Programme 4: Our Shared Borough.

Supported by an investment of £445,658.09 through the PEACEPLUS Programme, the Initiative is designed to build community capacity, strengthen collaborative working and provide strategic support for sustainable development across the sector. It is structured around nine key threads as follows:

- **Thread 1: We Connect: A Digital Governance Resource & Support Hub** - a one-stop shop that provides community groups with the support they need to manage efficiently in a rapidly evolving world.
- **Thread 2: A Grant Finder Platform** - providing transparency, support and efficiency in identifying and accessing funding opportunities.
- **Thread 3: A Community and Voluntary Quality Assurance Programme** - raising standards and building trust across our sector.
- **Thread 4: The Development of 7 DEA Local Community Development Plans** - ensuring progress is rooted in local priorities and tailored to meet local needs.
- **Thread 5: The Business of Running a Successful Community Facility** - supporting sustainable infrastructure for long-term sustainability.
- **Thread 6: Ignite and Inspire** - supporting participants on the Bonfire Management Programme with skills, capacity building and leadership development.
- **Thread 7: A Suite of Community Capacity Building Programmes** – identified through local need which will focus on training, engagement and developing local leadership.
- **Thread 8: The Establishment of A Borough Wide Community Forum** – to connect, strengthen and support local groups while enabling a collective voice for the community.
- **Thread 9: The Development of A Community Support Plan** – to provide a strategic, long-term framework for inclusive growth.

5. Key Issues

The Community Services Coordinator will deliver a presentation to update to the Committee on the progress of the 'WEAVE Initiative' to date, and future delivery

6. Finance

The budget for the Programme 4: 'Our Shared Borough' element of the Action Plan is €512,506.80 (£445,658.09) and is based on real-life costs for staff, office and administration, external expertise and services, travel and accommodation and equipment.

There are no cost implications associated with this report.

7. Governance

The 'Our Shared Borough' programme elements are managed and delivered by the Community Development Section via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with

the PEACEPLUS Partnership and regular performance reports will be brought to the PEACEPLUS Partnership and Community Development Committee.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that

- (a) the presentation and progress update on the PEACEPLUS Programme 4: Our Shared Borough 'WEAVE Initiative' be noted and**
- (b) regular updates on this Initiative be brought to future meetings of the Committee.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

3.2 CP/CD/201 SERVICE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing work being carried out in relation to a service review of the Council's Community Facilities

2. Introduction/Background

The Council owns 11 Community Facilities, 8 of which are managed by the Community Development Section as follows.

- Greystone Community Centre
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- The Dunannee Centre
- Lillian Bland Pavilion

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

3. Previous Decision of the Council

Members are reminded that at the Community Development Committee in April 2026 in response to a query from a Member about levels of use of the Council's community facilities officers advised that a report with analysis of current community centre use would be brought back to a future Committee.

Members are also reminded that an update on the Community Facilities Expression of Interest process was noted at this Committee in April.

4. Key Issues

A report on the operational performance of community centres use for April 2025 to March 2026 is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The Head of Community Development will deliver a presentation to the Committee outlining ongoing work being carried out in order to improve and modernise service delivery and operational performance across all Council owned community facilities.

5. Finance

There are no cost implications associated with this report.

6. Governance

It is proposed to provide regular updates to the Committee on this ongoing work.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (c) the presentation and operational performance update on community facilities be noted and**
- (d) regular updates on this ongoing work be brought to future meetings of the Committee.**

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 PT/CI/066 BUSINESS PLAN 2025/26, PERFORMANCE REPORTING TEMPLATE QUARTER 4

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members to approve the Business Plan 2025/26, Quarter 4 Performance Reporting Template for the Community and Culture Directorate.

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.

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

- Secure continuous improvement
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards are met.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In June 2025 the Council approved a strategic performance framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2025/26.

4. Business Planning

Business planning plays a vital role in the Council's performance management and delivery processes. It offers a more efficient and cohesive approach to monitoring and evaluating performance while improving overall visibility.

The purpose of Directorate Business Plans is to:

- Demonstrate how each of the Directorates are supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faces.
- Illustrate how Directorates are aligning resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold Directorates accountable to ensure they are delivering for the Council and its residents.

Business Plans Quarter 4 Performance Reporting Templates for the Community and Culture Directorate 2025/26 are **enclosed** at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 for approval.

5. Financial Position/Implications

As agreed, as part of the Council's rate setting process

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Business Plan 2025/26 Quarter 4 Performance Reporting Template for the Community and Culture Directorate be approved.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.2 AC/GEN/062 SENTRY HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to renew the lease agreement with the Sentry Hill Community Garden Group for 10 years from 1 July 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Sentry Hill Historic House was acquired by the legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council in 1997. In 2006, a section of land on the site was developed as a community garden allowing local community groups to lease raised beds for a small fee and to grow a range of crops and flowers. 'Sewing Seeds', a social economy enterprise established in Newtownabbey in 2006, took on responsibility for the management of the garden and was superseded in 2008 by a Community Garden User's Forum.

In 2017, the plot holders established the Sentry Hill Community Garden Group as a formally constituted group aiming to 'provide an educational and recreational resource in the form of a community garden where members can cultivate their own produce in an effort to promote social wellbeing and improve their quality of life'. The Sentry Hill Community Garden has proved to be an important social resource, which has helped build social cohesion and inclusion and has provided much added value to the site.

Funding was obtained through the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22 to expand the garden area to include another 40 beds and provide an accessible area and facilities.

3. Previous Decision of Council

A Service Management Agreement between the Council and the Sentry Hill Community Garden Group was approved by the Operations Committee in June 2018.

Approval was given to convert this Service Management Agreement to a Lease Agreement for 6 years from June 2020 at the October 2019 Community Planning and Regeneration Committee.

4. Key Issues

The current lease of the Community Garden expires in July 2026, and the Group are keen to renew this for a further period. To assist them in applications for external funding and provide security for future planning and development it is proposed that the lease be renewed for a period of 10 years on the same terms as the current lease with the group paying a peppercorn rent for the land. The Group have also requested that maintenance responsibility for the tool sheds and polytunnels move from Council to the Group.

The draft proposed lease is **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Financial Position

The renewal of the lease for the Community Garden will have no significant financial implications for the Council.

6. Summary

An agreement to lease a portion of land at Sentry Hill Historic House to the Sentry Hill Community Garden Group has been in place since 2018, and the most recent lease agreement expires in July 2026. The group has indicated its desire to sign a new lease agreement for a further 10 years.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the lease agreement with the Sentry Hill Community Garden Group be renewed for a further 10 years on the present terms with responsibility for maintenance of the tool sheds and polytunnels transferring from the Council to the Community Garden Group.

Prepared by: Philip Magennis, Culture and Events Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.3 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 13 May 2026 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 May 2026 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 13 May 2026 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 13 May 2026 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.4 ACTE/ED/TOU/064 RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SHAFTESBURY ESTATE OF LOUGH NEAGH LTD

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to negotiate a renewal of the lease agreement currently in place with the Shaftesbury Estate of Lough Neagh Ltd for the land used as a slipway into the lough at Cranfield.

2. Introduction/Background

The bed and shore of Lough Neagh have been owned by the Earl of Shaftesbury's estate since the 1800s. Since 1998 an agreement has been in place with the Estate which permits the Council to lease the ground used by the Cranfield slipway and jetty for an initial fee of £225 per annum rising to £275 per annum today. The original agreement expired in 2019, and since then it has rolled over every year with payments continuing to be made to the Estate every six months.

Following the Council's decision to demolish the remains of the jetty and refurbish and extend the slipway, a new lease agreement is now required before discussions can begin with the Estate to secure the necessary permissions for the project to begin.

A separate lease agreement with the Estate relating to the waste dredged from the bed and soil of Lough Neagh in connection with the Cranfield jetty support posts has been in place since 1985. As the decision has now been taken to remove the remains of the jetty, it is not anticipated that this second agreement will be renewed.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the February 2026 Committee it was agreed that the Cranfield Jetty preferred option of removal of the existing jetty and refurbishment and extension of the existing slipway to 8m x 20m be approved and that progress of the Cranfield Jetty project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme be approved including completion of a final business case (including detailed design, planning and procurement) also be approved.

4. Key Issues

Any new lease agreement would remain substantially the same as the existing lease, except that references to the jetty would be removed. It is also possible that the Estate would ask for a modest increase to the £275 per annum fee currently paid by the Council.

Once a new agreement is in place, discussions will begin to secure permission for the capital development work to the slipway.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The cost of leasing the land at Cranfield is included in the 2026/27 revenue budgets.

6. Summary

In order to begin discussions with the Shaftesbury Estate of Lough Neagh Ltd to secure permission for the capital work to the Cranfield slipway and jetty to begin, a renewed lease agreement is needed for the ground covered by the slipway. It is not anticipated that this agreement will be substantially different to the existing lease.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the commencement of negotiations for the renewal of the lease agreement currently in place with the Shaftesbury Estate of Lough Neagh Ltd for the land used as a slipway into the lough at Cranfield be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.5 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for 6 Community Festival Fund grants for 2026 to 2028.

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 to the Community Development Committee in February 2025, and the proposed changes to the Grant Aid programme approved.

A key change to Community Festival Funding was that Groups can now seek funding for either one or two years, with 80% of the annual budget being given to multi-year applications. Calls are made annually for single year applications, while multi-year applications open at the end of every two-year cycle.

At the Community Development Committee in February 2026, 12 applications for funding totalling £39,880 for 2026-27 and 2027-28 were approved. A second call for applications was also approved.

At the Community Development Committee in March 2026, a proposal to move £12,547 from the Community Festival Fund budget to the oversubscribed Tourism Event Grant budget was approved.

4. 2026-2028 Community Festival Fund Proposals

A second call for Community Festival Fund grant applications for 2026-27 and 2027-28 opened on 2 March and closed on 30 April 2026. A total of 7 two-year funding applications for 2026-28 and 2 one-year funding applications for 2026-27 were received. 6 two-year applications, totalling £19,990 achieved the required pass threshold for funding, details of which are **enclosed**.

5. Financial Position

A budget of £135,270 is included in the 2026-27 Culture budget for Community Festival grant funding, comprising an estimated contribution from the Department for Communities (DfC) of £27,700 and a Council contribution of £107,570.

Following the transfer of £12,547 to the Tourism Event Grant budget and funding commitments of £8,750 awarded as part of previous multiyear funding, the revised gross budget is £113,973.

The financial position is outlined in the table below:

Call Number	No. of applications recommended of funding	Amount awarded	Budget remaining
1	12	£39,880	£74,093
2	6	£19,990	£54,103

6. Summary

Following a second call for applications in March 2026, 7 applications were received for two-year Community Festival grant funding for 2026-28 and 2 applications for one-year funding were received for 2026-27.

The required threshold for funding was achieved by 6 applicants seeking a total of £19,990 in 2026-27 and £19,990 for 2027-28. When added to the commitments previously approved, a budget of £54,103 would remain for the 2026-27 Community Festival fund.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

(a) the 6 successful Community Festival applications for funding totalling £19,990 for 2026-27 and 2027-28 be approved; and

(b) a third call for applications be opened on 6 July 2026 and close on 14 August 2026.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture, and John Balmer,
Director of Finance

4.6 AC/GEN/037 CULTURAL GRANT AID AND BURSARY PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a Cultural Grant award.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme is to provide support to constituted groups and individuals based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote Cultural activities and projects. Funding is available for projects which develop artistic talent and knowledge, showcase the arts and promote participation and inclusion, celebrate shared heritage, and contribute to the understanding of minority languages and cultural diversity.

Cultural groups may apply for grants for:

- Eligible costs involved in running a cultural event (with a maximum award of £1,000)
- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Course fees for group members to attend an event or course or undertake training (with a maximum award of £500)

Individuals may apply for bursaries for:

- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage (with a maximum award of £500)

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries Programme was approved by the Community Development Committee in November 2025.

4. Application for 2026-2027 Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries 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	Proposed Amount Awarded
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Monkstown Community Association	Cultural Group - Costs relating to the production of a cultural product, an exhibition in relation to the 110 th anniversary of the Somme	The purchase of two Tommy figures, one male and one female, as part of a remembrance display to commemorate the 110th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Funding has also been requested for hospitality costs associated with this commemoration event. The criteria for this grant programme states that retrospective applications will not be considered; the approval of this grant is therefore subject to confirmation by the applicant that the exhibition will take place from July 2026.	£500
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5. Financial Position

The budget available for the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme in 2026-2027 is £33,000. £7,300 has already been committed for applications within the 2026-2027 financial year, and if the above application is approved a balance of £25,200 would be left for the remainder of the year.

6. Summary

One Cultural grant application has been received for £500 to support Monkstown Community Association with the production of an exhibition in relation to the 110th anniversary of the Somme.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the grant award for £500 be approved.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

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

Approved by: John Balmer, Director of Finance and Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.7 AC/GEN/083 THEATRE AT THE MILL DAYTIME OPENING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Theatre at the Mill to close when not in use during the day, and to relocate art exhibitions to the reception area of Mossley Mill where they will be available to a wider audience.

2. Introduction/Background

The Theatre at the Mill is currently open to the public from 10am until 4pm Monday to Friday, as well as evenings and weekends when a performance or event is taking place. Eight staff members, working on rota patterns, are currently based in the theatre's offices.

Historically, the reason for opening the theatre during these daytime hours was to facilitate in person access to the box office, but since the creation of the Culture Hub in 2021 the theatre box office has been largely virtual during office hours with almost all bookings taken online or over the phone. The facility to book in person exists at each of the Council's three theatres when they are open for performances and over 7 days per week at Antrim Castle Gardens.

In addition, daytime opening gives public access to the artwork exhibited in the lower ground floor of Theatre at The Mill. In practice, however, very few people (typically fewer than five per week) visit exhibitions outside performance times.

In recent years the theatre has experienced incidents of antisocial behaviour during the school holidays which have been difficult to control because the front of house areas are not permanently staffed. This antisocial behaviour has resulted in some damage to the public areas including a number of occasions of flooding in the washrooms.

3. Key Issues

Given the low number of visitors to the exhibitions outside performance times, the ongoing issue of antisocial behaviour in the theatre and the desire to reduce electricity and gas consumption across Council venues, it is proposed to close the theatre during the daytime whenever there is not a performance or event taking place. It is also proposed to relocate exhibitions from the theatre lower foyer to a dedicated space in the Mossley Mill reception area where they will benefit from significantly increased footfall and interest.

If approved, this approach would mitigate the risk of serious damage to the theatre caused by antisocial behaviour and could save up to 20% of the current cost of heating, lighting and cleaning the theatre (potentially up to £30,000 per annum) without impacting customer service.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Although it is difficult to accurately estimate the savings that this move would make to the heating, lighting and cleaning of the theatre, it is anticipated that a

cost reduction of between £15,000 and £30,000 per annum would be achievable.

5. Summary

It is proposed to reduce daytime opening of Theatre at The Mill as outlined and move art exhibitions from the theatre lower foyer to Mossley Mill reception. This has the potential to reduce operating costs by significant amounts in heating, lighting and cleaning costs and would mitigate against the ongoing risk of damage to the theatre caused by antisocial behaviour whilst also exposing art exhibitions to a wider audience.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposal for the Theatre at the Mill to close when not in use during the day, and to relocate art exhibitions to the reception area of Mossley Mill where they will be available to a wider audience be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.8 AC/GEN/037 CULTURAL GRANT AID AND BURSARY PROGRAMME – UPDATED GUIDANCE NOTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a clarification amendment to the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme guidance notes.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary programme is to provide support to constituted groups and individuals based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote Cultural activities and projects.

Funding is available for projects which develop artistic talent and knowledge, showcase the arts and promote participation and inclusion, celebrate shared heritage, and contribute to the understanding of minority languages and cultural diversity.

Cultural groups may apply for grants for:

- Eligible costs involved in running a cultural event (with a maximum award of £1,000)
- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Course fees for group members to attend an event or course or undertake training (with a maximum award of £500)

Individuals may apply for bursaries for:

- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage (with a maximum award of £500)
- The Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme budget also contains provision for up to 30 Irish Language / Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursaries, and for the annual Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme awards.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The current Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme was approved by the Community Development Committee in November 2025.

4. Key Issues

Following a number of recent questions from potential applicants, it is proposed to amend the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme guidance notes to provide greater clarity about who can apply for grants, and what the purpose of each grant category is. It is also proposed that the maximum award for groups

wishing to apply for support to attend and participate in cultural events or courses is raised from £500 to £1,000, while maintaining the £500 maximum award for individuals.

The proposed amended guidance notes for this grant programme are **enclosed** for Members' information, and the revised table showing the award categories is as follows (section 1.3 detailing who can apply for these grants is also included here for reference):

Category	Key notes/Purpose of Application	Who can apply	Maximum award
Cultural Groups*	Eligible costs involved in running an event with clearly defined cultural objectives and expected outcomes (infrastructure costs, facilitation costs, room/venue hire, equipment hire, marketing and promotion)	Any group meeting the criteria outlined in section 1.3	£1,000
	Eligible costs associated with the production of a cultural publication or the staging of a temporary cultural exhibition	Any group meeting the criteria outlined in section 1.3	£500
	Contribution to costs associated with the attendance and participation by a group in a cultural event (either by invitation or qualification); or specialist training courses, events or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage	Any group meeting the criteria outlined in section 1.3	£1,000
Individual Bursaries*	Eligible costs associated with the production of a cultural publication or the staging of a temporary cultural exhibition	Any artist or cultural practitioner meeting the criteria in section 1.3	£500
	Contribution to costs associated with the attendance by an individual at a cultural event (either by invitation or qualification on the basis of individual merit); or specialist training courses, events or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage	Any artist or cultural practitioner meeting the criteria in section 1.3	£500
	Contribution to costs associated with the study,	Any individual meeting the criteria	£250

	promotion and development of minority languages relevant to Northern Ireland other than Irish and Ulster-Scots	outlined in section 1.3	
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** Please note that individual bursaries will only be considered from applicants who are not attending and participating in a cultural event, course or programme as part of a group. If more than one individual from a group wishes to apply for support for the same event or project, this must be done through a single application under the Cultural Groups category.*

Who can apply?

Any individual residing in the Borough, or group based in or operating in the Borough.

Groups

A group must;

- Be democratically accountable through regular public meetings.
- Hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Be properly constituted and include a decision-making process and aims and activities that are acceptable to the Council (a copy must be submitted with the application).
- Be managed by a publicly elected committee; the office bearing positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer must be held as a minimum.
- Demonstrate a fair and equitable ethos through their established aims and objectives in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998).
- Demonstrate that proposed activities are not a duplication of other activities.
- Produce an annual statement of independently verified or certified accounts, or a bank statement for new groups only.
- Agree to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's monitoring, evaluation, and training procedures if required.

5. Financial Position/Implication

There are no financial implications resulting from this proposal.

6. Summary

Following a number of recent questions from potential applicants, it is proposed to amend the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme guidance notes to provide greater clarity about who can apply for grants, and what the purpose of each grant category is. It is also proposed that the maximum award for groups wishing to apply for support to attend and participate in cultural events or courses is raised from £500 to £1,000, while maintaining the £500 maximum award for individuals.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed clarification amendments to the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme guidance notes be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.9 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME - SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2026-27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the Community Development Small Grants Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provides financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to £1,000 towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Small Grants Programme, was approved by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for the wider Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Programme within the same financial year.

Small Grants are assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request, or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

The total budget for the 2026-27 Community Development Small Grant Aid Programme is £20,000.

During the months of February, March, April and May, 14 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 12 applications totalling £10,923.58 recommended for approval, details of which are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award 12 Small Grants to the successful applicants as outlined. The Community Development Small Grants will remain open as a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a quarterly basis.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 12 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £10,923.58 be approved.

Prepared by: Kerry Brady, Grants & Funding Officer

Agreed by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance and Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: John Balmer Director of Finance and Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.10 CP/CF/006 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYDUFF – POLLING STATION REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the Electoral Office Northern Ireland to use the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Thursday 6th May 2027 as a polling station.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the next NI Assembly and Local Council elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2027.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland have previously requested the use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station for Local Council, NI Assembly and UK General Elections.

Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group (BCRG) currently operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement with the Council.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was approved at the June 2024 Community Development Committee that the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff was used as a polling station for the 2024 UK General Election on 4 July 2024.

Members are reminded that the Community Centre is operated under a Service Management Agreement with BCRG. The group are responsible for managing bookings at the facility and Council Officers have been in touch with the group about the request.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence has been received **enclosed** from The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland regarding the next NI Assembly and Local Council elections, which will be held on Thursday 6 May 2027.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland has requested the use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station on Thursday 6 May 2027.

5. Financial Position/Implication

BCRG currently operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement with the Council and any remuneration received from The Electoral Office for this request will be paid directly to BCRG.

6. Summary

Correspondence has been received from The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland requesting the use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station for the NI Assembly and Local Council elections on Thursday 6th May 2027.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request from Electoral Office Northern Ireland to use the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Thursday 6th May 2027 as a polling station be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.11 CP/CF/009 LILIAN BLAND PAVILION – FREE USE REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the free use of Lilian Bland Pavilion by the Community Relations Forum for a one-off community event in September 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

The Community Relations Forum is a community-based charity in Newtownabbey that uses community development and good relations to support residents in the area. The Community Relations Forum aim to promote good community relations by encouraging honest and open dialogue enabling people to have a better understanding of and respect for each other's view

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that approval was given at the June 2025 Committee for a revision to the Community Development Pricing Policy, which now requires all free use requests to be brought to the Committee for decision.

4. Request for Free Use

The Community Relations Forum have requested the free use of the Lilian Bland Pavillion for a one-off event, The Great Glengormley Get Together, on Saturday 12th September 2026.

The Great Glengormley Get Together is a free, annual family fun day run by the Forum in Lilian Bland Park which includes entertainment, stalls and music. The event helps bring residents and communities together, promoting good relations.

The community benefits of this event will include:

- Promotion of positive community engagement
- Positive uses of Council parks, open spaces and facilities
- Creation of community connection between all ages through a varied event
- Provision of accessible information and experiences for the community including, community safety, good relations and mental health
- Promotion of community and voluntary infrastructure and services from within the borough

This free event aligns with the Council's Community Plan by promoting inclusion, strengthening community connections, and encouraging greater participation in community and good relations activities across Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The Community Relations Forum have requested free use of the Lilian Bland Pavillion rather than paying the community rate on the basis that they operate on limited grant funding and donations which are prioritised toward delivery of the event. They have no available funding to hire a venue, nor are there

alternative facilities within their local Glengormley community that are suitable to host an event of this nature.

5. Financial Position/Implication

If this request is approved, the potential lost income from a community booking would be £147.

6. Summary

A request has been received from Community Relations Forum for the free use of Lilian Bland Pavilion on Saturday 12th September 2026 to facilitate the annual Great Glengormley Get Together event.

The Community Relations Forum have requested the free use of the Lilian Bland Pavilion on Saturday 12th September 2026 to facilitate the annual Great Glengormley Get Together event.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request from the Community Relations Forum to have free use of the Lilian Bland Pavilion on Saturday 12th September 2026 for the Great Glengormley Together be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.12 CP/CC/012 RATHENRAW COMMUNITY CENTRE – SUMMER SCHEME FREE USE REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members that Rathenraw Youth Scheme in Antrim is given permission to use Rathenraw Community Centre free of charge for their two-week Summer Scheme from 20 – 31 July 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Rathenraw Youth Scheme makes regular bookings at Rathenraw Community Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The group is a keyholder for the Community Centre.

Rathenraw Youth Scheme also deliver an annual Summer Scheme, established over 25 years ago. This year the scheme is scheduled to take place over two weeks from 20 July to 31 July, Monday to Friday 10am-3pm.

The Summer Scheme will accommodate 100 Juniors and 80 Seniors. The Youth Scheme has requested free use of Rathenraw Community Centre, as a keyholder, for the delivery of the two-week Summer Scheme.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that permission for free use of Rathenraw Community Centre for the delivery of the 2025 Summer Scheme was previously provided to Rathenraw Youth Scheme at the May 2025 Community Development Committee.

Members are reminded that approval was given at the June 2025 Committee for a revision to the Community Development Pricing Policy, which now requires all free use requests to be brought to the Committee for decision.

4. Request for Free Use

Rathenraw Youth Scheme has requested free use of Rathenraw Community Centre, as a keyholder, for the delivery of the two-week Summer Scheme.

The community benefits of this Summer Scheme will include:

- Promotion of positive community activities for young people
- Positive use of Council facilities
- Promotion of learning and wellbeing through a varied activities and programming
- Promotion of community and voluntary infrastructure and services from within the borough

This Summer Scheme aligns with the Council's Community Plan by promoting inclusion, strengthening community connections, and encouraging greater participation in community activities.

The Rathenraw Youth Scheme have requested free use of the Rathenraw Community Centre rather than paying the community rate on the basis that they operate on limited grant funding which are prioritised toward delivery of the Summer Scheme. They have no available funding to hire a venue, nor are there alternative facilities accessible within their local community that are suitable to host a Summer Scheme.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The waiver of community hire charges for the two weeks scheme represents potential lost income of £1,267.50. However, the groups keyholder status alleviates the need for additional staff expenditure to facilitate this booking. The Centre is unlikely to be booked by any other group.

6. Summary

Rathenraw Youth Scheme have requested free use to Rathenraw Community Centre for their two-week Summer Scheme, from 20 – 31 July 2026. Approval of this request alleviates the need for any expenditure on additional staff costs.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Rathenraw Youth Scheme is given permission to use Rathenraw Community Centre free of charge, as a keyholder, for their two-week Summer Scheme from 20 July – 31 July 2026.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.13 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS' FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum Quarter 4 2025-26 performance report.

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 which was approved at Committee in March 2025.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that at the March 2025 Community Development Committee it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 through a service level agreement for the 2025/26 financial year to the 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.

The 2024/25 Quarter 3 Performance Report and Service Level Agreement for 26/27 were approved at the March 2026 Community Development Committee and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised provision of £15,000 in financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum has been provided for in the 2025/26 Community Planning 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

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 is provided to Officers for the purposes of performance management.

6. Summary

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum 2025-26 Quarter 4 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Members are advised that the Quarter 4 targets have been met.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2025-26 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community and Culture

4.14 CD/TD/107 ELEVATE - COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND RESILIENCE FUND

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Programme awards being recommended for 2026-28.

2. Background

The Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund is available to financially support areas identified as the most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA's) of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM), excluding Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in the Borough.

The programme is partially funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) as part of existing Areas at Risk (AAR) arrangements for Carnmoney, Mossley and Monkstown areas only.

Neighbourhood Renewal areas which are already in receipt of monies through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme are not eligible for this funding.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was approved at the September 2025 Community Development Committee that the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund be launched as a competitive open grant call for multiyear funding for 2026-28 for organisations working within identified areas of deprivation, excluding Neighbourhood Renewal areas which are already in receipt of monies through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

At the March 2026 Community Development Committee, 11 applications, totalling £186,994.50 for 2026-27 and £190,442.13 for 2027-28 were approved for funding. One applicant withdrew their application in April 2026.

Members are reminded that the offer of Areas at Risk funding for 2026-2027 totalling £76,395.38 from the Department for Communities was approved at the May 2026 Community Development Committee.

4. 2026-2028 Elevate – Community Renewal and Resilience Fund Proposals – Call 2

A second call for the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund for 2026-27 and 2027-28 opened on 3 April and closed on 15 May 2026.

A total of 5 two-year funding applications for 2026-28 were received, with 3 applications, totalling £134,400 achieving the required pass threshold, details of which are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Financial Position

The contribution committed by the Council in 2025-26 to the Newtownabbey AAR Projects was £60,170, a similar allocation is included in the 2026-27 Community Development budget.

The contribution committed by the Council in 2025-26 to the Antrim AAR projects was £111,210, a similar allocation is included in the 2026-27 Community Development budget.

A Letter of Offer has been received from DfC confirming their 2026-27 contribution to the project with a funding award of £76,395.38.

The 3 grant applications recommended for approval total £67,200 for 2026-27 and £67,200 for the 2027-28 financial year. If the 3 applications are approved, there would be a remaining budget of £10,709.88 for 2026-27 and £10,403.25 for 2027-28.

6. Summary

Following a second call for applications in April 2026, 5 applications were received for the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund 2026-28 and assessed by a panel of officers.

The required threshold for funding was achieved by 3 applicants seeking a total of £67,200 for 2026-27 and £67,200 for 2027-28 with a remaining budget of £10,709.88 for 2026-27 and £10,403.25 for 2027-28.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 3 successful Elevate – Community Renewal and Resilience Fund applications, totalling £67,200 for 2026-27 and £67,200 for 2027-28 be approved.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

Agreed by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance and Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: John Balmer, Director of Finance and Governance and Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.15 COMD/CD/005 CAPITAL PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT GRANT FUND PROGRAMME 2026-2027

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to proposed financial awards under the second call for Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Programme

2. Background

The Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Programme provides financial assistance to support groups within the Borough that have been established for at least 10 years to update, enhance and improve their community facilities or equipment, providing they can clearly evidence need, particularly where financial need is limited from other funding sources.

A pass threshold of 60% applies to applications to the Programme and groups are not required to demonstrate match funding. Members should also note that proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund was approved by Council in October 2023 with a further update including the outcome of the Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing exercises approved at the March 2024 Community Planning Committee.

At the November 2025 Community Development Committee delivery of the 2026/27 Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund Programme was approved.

At the Community Development Committee in March 2026 it was agreed to fund 2 Capital Premises and 3 Equipment Grant awards to the successful applicants totalling £38,172.92 leaving a budget of £81,827.08.

It was also agreed that a second call for the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Programme would open on 03 April and close on 15 May 2026.

4. 026/27 Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Programme

The Second Call for applications to the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund opened on Friday 3 April 2026 and closed on Friday 15 May 2026. To support applications to this programme, Officers delivered three grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to all groups upon request. The opportunity was promoted on the Council's social media channels.

A total of 21 applications were received and assessed by a panel of Officers with 13 applications (3 Capital Premises and 10 Equipment) totalling £79,376.70 achieving the 60% pass threshold, details of which are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Financial Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget available for Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund is £120,000 with an initial indicative allocation of £45,000 for premises and £75,000 for equipment.

Under the first call for applications £23,750 was awarded under the Capital Premises Grant Fund and £14,377.92 awarded under the Equipment Grant Fund leaving an indicative remaining budget of £21,250 for Capital Premises and £60,622.08 for Equipment.

Under the second call for applications 13 applications (3 Capital Premises and 10 Equipment) totalling £79,376.70 achieved the required threshold for funding. If these recommendations are approved, the remaining budget will be £2,459.38.

6. Summary

The Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Programme approved by the Community Development Committee in November 2025 opened for a second call for applications on 3 April 2026 and closed on 15 May 2026.

It is proposed to award 13 Grant awards, at a total cost of £79,376.70.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 13 successful applications for funding under the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund totalling £79,376.70 be approved.

Prepared by: Kerry Brady, Grants and Funding Officer

Agreed by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance & Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: John Balmer, Director of Finance & Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.16 CP/CP/224 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES: WARM HEALTHY HOMES FUND CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members instructions in relation to the Department for Communities public consultation on the Warm Healthy Homes Fund.

2. Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) is undertaking a consultation and seeking views on the proposed Warm Healthy Homes Fund, a new energy efficiency scheme aimed at supporting low-income households experiencing, or at risk of, fuel poverty across Northern Ireland

The Warm Healthy Homes Fund is intended to become the Department's primary long-term intervention for tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency in private sector homes, including owner-occupied and private rented properties. The proposed scheme will replace the existing Affordable Warmth Scheme from April 2027.

3. Key Issues

Members' are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from DfC advising of a consultation on The Warm Healthy Homes Fund seeking views on proposals to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy costs and support better health outcomes through a "whole-house, fabric-first" approach.

This approach prioritises improvements to insulation, ventilation and the overall thermal efficiency of homes before considering heating upgrades or renewable technologies.

The DfC wishes to hear from a wide range of interested persons and organisations. The consultation documents and associated survey are available online via the Departments website. The consultation follows stakeholder engagement undertaken during 2024 and seeks views on the proposed delivery model and operational framework for the Fund.

The consultation period opened on 27 May 2026 and will close on 19 August 2026. Responses received outside of this timeframe will not be considered by the Department.

The Department has also advised that consultation events will be held in Belfast, online and Omagh during June 2026 to provide stakeholders with opportunities to discuss the proposals and help shape the final scheme design.

Members are advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

4. Summary

The DfC has launched a public consultation on the proposed Warm Healthy Homes Fund. Input is welcomed from all interested parties. The consultation closes on 19th August 2026. Full details and documentation can be accessed via the Department's website.

Members are advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

5. Recommendation

Members' instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.17 CP/CD/435 SOCIAL SUPERMARKET AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2026/2027

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to continue to deliver a Social Supermarket in the Borough in partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey and a Family Support Programme in partnership with Save the Children.

2. Introduction/Background

Social Supermarkets are community driven shops which support those living in food poverty. They supply low-cost food sourced from the charity FareShare NI and donations from local businesses. The aim of a Social Supermarket model is to offer a longer term and sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to address the root causes of poverty rather than simply providing food.

The initial process to develop a Social Supermarket for the Borough commenced in June 2022 with a Consultant carrying out a feasibility study which included stakeholder engagement, focus groups, meetings with Elected Members and best practise visits with a view to designing a viable Social Supermarket model for the Borough.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was reported at the May Community Development Committee that the Council was awarded an allocation from the Department of Communities (DfC) of £547,702.32 towards the delivery of the Community Support Programme in 2026/27. Financial assistance up to £171,864.89 was allocated for the delivery of the Social Supermarket Programme.

It was agreed at the Community Development Committee in October 2025 that the continuation of programmes in partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey through Service Level Agreement to deliver a Social Supermarket in 2025/2026 including funding of £136,678.40. It was also agreed to continuing engagement with Save the Children to deliver the complimentary Family Support Programme in 2025/2026, including funding of £20,000.

4. Performance Review 2025/2026

The following statistics have been provided by CAAN and Save the Children in relation to the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme in 2025/2026:

Social Supermarket (April 2025 to March 2026)

- 373 Adults, 223 Children, 307 Households supported through the SSM.
- £115,005 food vouchers allocated
- 307 Benefit checks completed
- 82 clients offered 1-1 tailored advice and support on Budgeting & Debt advice

- 233 clients linked into other services
- 78 Clients referred from 33 referral partners. In addition, clients are signposted to CAAN for SSM support.
- 88% of people accessing service felt they were better off in the longer term for the help they received
- £633,000 generated for clients.

Family Support Programme (April 2025 to March 2026)

- 124 families supported
- 238 children supported
- £32,280 of vouchers and early learning support packs provided

5. Financial Position/Implication

The total budget for the 2026/27 Social Supermarket programme is £171,864.89. It is proposed to retain £17,186.49 (10%) for administering this grant fund, and it is proposed that the remaining £154,678.40 be allocated to CAAN and Save the Children for the delivery of the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme in 2026/27.

6. Equality and/or Rural Screening Requirements

As part of the Council's responsibilities to identify and address potential Section 75 implications and promote equality of opportunity and good relations as required by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programmes have been subject to Section 75 Equality Screening and have been screened out for the need of an Equality Impact Assessment. The Council carried out an Equality Screening on these programmes which was reported to Committee in June 2025.

In addition, the Rural Needs Act places a duty on public authorities and local Councils to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs screening exercise was carried out for the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programmes which was reported to Committee in June 2025.

7. Governance

Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey have been engaged through procurement of the Generalist Advice Contract, which includes provision for contract variations. Save the Children have previously been engaged through a Letter of Offer, which includes funding conditions.

Members are reminded that all funding awards are subject to satisfactory monitoring and evaluation.

8. Summary

Both the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme have been very successful and provided significant support to families and individuals across the Borough during a time of need.

Given the performance review outcomes, it is proposed to continue both programmes in their current form as follows:

- Funding of £134,678.40 to be allocated to CAAN to deliver the Social Supermarket for the Borough in 2026/27.
- Funding of £20,000 to be allocated to Save the Children to continue to deliver the Family Support Programme in the Borough.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- (a) the ongoing engagement of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey to deliver a Social Supermarket in 2026/2027 including funding of £134,678.40 be approved.**
- (b) the ongoing engagement of Save the Children to deliver the complementary Family Support Programme in 2026/2027 including funding of £20,000 be approved.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.18 CP/CP/231 SPORT NI – GET ACTIVE NI FUNDING PROGRAMME 2026-27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to submit a funding application to the Sport Northern Ireland Get Active NI Programme 2026/27.

2. Background

Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI), one of Council's statutory Community Planning partners, has launched the Get Active NI Programme 2026/27 in partnership with the London Marathon Foundation. The programme aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity, reduce inequalities and strengthen collaboration between sport, health, community and voluntary sectors.

The programme focuses on supporting those who face the greatest barriers to participation, including:

- Women and girls
- Children and young people
- People with disabilities
- Communities experiencing high social need
- People living in rural areas.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that an offer of financial assistance from Sport NI totalling £48,370 for the Community Planning Investment programme was approved at the January 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. Key issues

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from Sport NI, advising that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is eligible to apply for funding of up to £36,000 through the Get Active NI Programme 2026/27.

Sport NI has invited applications from all District Councils for funding through the Get Active NI Programme.

The programme has been designed to support the delivery of Community Planning priorities through increased participation in sport and physical activity, with a particular focus on underrepresented and less active groups.

A key outcome of 'Love Living Here' the Council's Community Plan is that 'Our Citizens enjoy Good Health and Well Being' and the Council promotes access to and participation in sport and physical activity in order to achieve this outcome. Officers from the Community Planning and Leisure Sections will submit application to Sport NI by their deadline of Friday 21 August 2026.

The project will be based within local communities targeting areas of greatest need. It will be cognisant of the Community Planning ethos of co-production,

working closely with community planning partners. The project will seek to take advantage of partnership working with local sports clubs with a view to offering participants a pathway to continue their sporting journey well beyond the lifespan of the project.

Monitoring and evaluation will be built into the project framework to ensure lessons can be learned for any future investment, as well as celebrating any success. A report on the outcome of this application will be brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee.

5. Financial Position / Implication

Sport NI has advised that the maximum funding available to the Council under the Get Active NI Programme 2026/27 is £36,000.

If the project is approved for funding, there will be no cost to the Council for this project.

6. Summary

Sport NI has opened a call for applications under the Get Active NI Programme 2026/27. The programme seeks to increase participation in sport and physical activity amongst underrepresented and inactive groups and is aligned to Community Planning objectives.

It is proposed that officers will submit an application to SNI by their deadline of Friday 21 August 2026 for a programme which targets participation in sport and physical activity which supports the delivery of the Community Plan.

A report on the outcome of this application will be brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the submission of an application to Sport Northern Ireland's Get Active NI Programme 2026/27 for funding of up to £36,000.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.19 CCS/CPRM/020 FILMING POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for an update to the Filming Policy which governs Councils response to any requests to film on Council-owned or Council-managed land and property.

2. Introduction and Background

The Council recognises the positive contribution film production can make to the local area, both economically and culturally.

Filming activities have the potential to promote the Borough as a destination, encourage local business, and enhance civic pride by showcasing the Borough's unique character, heritage, and landscape.

This policy establishes a clear, safe, and consistent framework for managing filming on Council-owned or Council-managed land and property. It ensures that all filming activity is conducted responsibly and in a way that protects residents, staff, and public assets.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The policy was first approved by the Policy and Governance Committee in February 2019, it has been reviewed regularly, however not updated since this time.

4. Policy

A draft updated Filming Policy is **enclosed** for Members' information. The policy aims to:

- Provide a clear application process to film on Council property / land
- Outline documentation, notice periods and approvals required
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation, health and safety standards, and Council procedures
- Protect the Council's reputation and minimise disruption to residents and businesses and other services

5. Financial Position/Implication

There are no direct financial implications arising from this Policy

6. Governance

The Policy is reviewed biannually, and any changes required will be taken through the Community Development Committee for approval.

7. Equality and Screening

As part of the Council's responsibilities to identify and address potential Section 75 implications and promote equality of opportunity and good relations as required by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Audit and Strategy has been subject to Section 75 Equality Screening and have been screened out for the need of an Equality Impact Assessment. A copy of the Section 75 Equality Screening Form is **enclosed** for Members' information

In addition, the Rural Needs Act places a duty on public authorities and local Councils to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs screening exercise completed and is **enclosed** for Members' information.

8. Summary

The Filming Policy was last updated in February 2019 and has been amended to provide a clear, safe, and consistent framework for managing filming on Council-owned or Council-managed land and property. It ensures that all filming activity is conducted responsibly and in a way that protects residents, staff, and public assets.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that the updated Filming Policy and the accompanying Rural Needs Impact Assessment and Section 75 screening be approved.

Prepared by: Jeanette McIntyre, Head of Marketing Communications & PR

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.20 CP/CP/224 NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST DRAFT CARER STRATEGY 2026-2031

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' instructions in relation to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust public consultation on the Draft Carer Strategy 2026-2031.

2. Introduction

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) are undertaking a consultation and are seeking the views on the proposed Draft Carer Strategy 2026–2031 which sets out the Trust's vision, priorities and commitments for supporting unpaid carers over the next five years.

Census 2021 data indicates that there are over 56,000 unpaid carers living within the Northern Trust area.

The current regional policy framework, *Caring for Carers* (2006), has informed support for carers for almost two decades. While progress has been made, engagement with carers and stakeholder organisations has identified a need for a refreshed local strategy which reflects the changing needs of carers and the challenges currently experienced across health and social care services.

3. Key Issues

Members are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from NHSCT advising of a consultation on the Draft Carer Strategy 2026–2031 seeking views on proposals for supporting unpaid carers.

The draft strategy has been developed in recognition of the vital contribution made by carers to the health and wellbeing of the population and acknowledges the increasing demands placed upon carers across all age groups. The strategy aims to improve how carers are identified, involved, informed and supported throughout their caring journey.

The development of the Strategy has been informed through an extensive programme of engagement undertaken between 2024 and 2026, including carer surveys, Carer Listening Forums, stakeholder workshops, engagement with the Carer Pathway Steering Group, Barnardo's Young Carer Service and wider consultation events. Feedback from carers and young carers identified six key themes:

- Identification
- Carer Health and Advocacy
- Information
- Communication
- Navigation
- Transitions

These themes have informed the strategic priorities contained within the Draft Strategy.

The NHSCT wishes to hear from a wide range of interested persons and organisations. The consultation documents and associated survey are available online via the Trust's website.

The consultation period opened on 27 February 2026 and will close on 30 June 2026.

Members are advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

4. Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

The Trust has completed an Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment in respect of the Draft Strategy. Both assessments identified the importance of consulting widely with carers and representative organisations to ensure that the final strategy reflects the needs of all carers, including young carers, older carers and those living in rural communities.

5. Summary

The NHSCT has launched a public consultation on the proposed Draft Carer Strategy 2026–2031. The draft Strategy sets out the Trust's commitment to improving outcomes and experiences for unpaid carers and young carers across the Northern Trust area.

Input is welcomed from all interested parties. The consultation closes on 30 June 2026. Full details and documentation can be accessed via the Trust's website.

Members are advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

6. Recommendation

Members' instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

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 I pads.

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91	-	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/DP/67	20.01.2026 31.03.2026	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/CSP/48	24.09.2025 28.01.2026	Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	14.01.2026 01.04.2026	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
CP/GR/43	28.11.2025	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

3. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Wendy Donaldson, Business Support Supervisor

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5.2 CP/CP/224 DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS – TIMMS REVIEW OF PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the latest update from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) regarding progress on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), including details of the ongoing Call for Evidence and the next phase of engagement and evidence-gathering activity.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department for Work and Pensions has issued a further stakeholder update from the co-chairs of the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), outlining progress to date and opportunities for individuals and organisations to contribute to the Review.

On 19 March 2026, DWP launched the Timms Review Call for Evidence, inviting disabled people, individuals with long-term health conditions, organisations across the UK, and those with relevant expertise or interest to submit views and evidence.

The Call for Evidence remains open until 28 May 2026.

The Review aims to ensure that PIP reflects the lived experience of disabled people and continues to support independence, participation, and wellbeing. The Review Steering Group has emphasised the importance of engaging widely and using a range of participation methods to ensure diverse perspectives are heard.

The Department for Communities (DfC) will continue to engage with stakeholders locally throughout the Review process.

3. Key Issues

Call for Evidence

The Call for Evidence represents the first stage of a wider programme of engagement and evidence gathering. Responses received will inform the Steering Group's developing thinking and policy analysis.

Recognising that no single method will capture all perspectives, the Steering Group has agreed a six-part evidence and engagement programme designed to enable participation in ways that best suit individuals and organisations.

Six-Part Evidence and Engagement Programme

The programme will include:

Call for Evidence

Currently underway, gathering written submissions from stakeholders and the public.

- **Existing Data and Research**

Consideration of qualitative and quantitative research from government, the disability sector, and academic experts to ensure recommendations are grounded in established evidence.

- **New Quantitative Survey Research**

A representative UK-wide survey commissioned through the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to address evidence gaps and provide additional insight.

- **Workshop in a Box**

Resources will be developed to enable organisations to host their own workshops, supporting collection of in-depth feedback on lived experiences of disability and PIP.

- **Evidence Sessions with Experts**

Targeted engagement sessions involving individuals with lived experience and relevant professional expertise.

- **Deliberative Events**

A series of events planned across the UK later in 2026 to test ideas, explore policy trade-offs, and refine recommendations.

The Steering Group considers this mixed-method approach essential to building a comprehensive evidence base and ensuring the Review reflects a wide range of perspectives.

Forward Programme

The Steering Group has begun work on its priority themes and continues to review existing evidence relating to PIP.

- Summer 2026: Early findings from engagement activity expected to inform policy analysis and emerging recommendations.
- Autumn 2026: Anticipated period of recommendation testing and refinement.

Further updates and detailed information will continue to be shared as the Review progresses.

Full details of the co-chairs' update and accessible versions of materials (including BSL, Easy Read and audio formats) are available via GOV.UK. [The Timms Review: Co-chair Update, April 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

4. Summary

The Department for Work and Pensions has provided a further update on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment.

Key developments include:

- The Call for Evidence remains open until 28 May 2026.
- A comprehensive six-part engagement and evidence-gathering programme has been established.

- Opportunities are being created for individuals, organisations, and experts to contribute through multiple participation routes.
- Early findings are expected during summer 2026, with recommendation development continuing into autumn 2026.
- The Department for Communities will maintain ongoing engagement with stakeholders as the Review progresses.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the latest update from the Department for Work and Pensions regarding progress on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5.3 CP/PCSP/70 APPOINTMENT OF POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the appointment of the PCSP Chairperson for 2026-2027

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the Justice Act 2011 states that the position of Chairperson of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership is held by an Elected Member for a period of 12 months, or for a period ending with the reconstitution date. The Justice Act also states that position is held in turn by each of the 4 largest parties represented on the Council immediately after the last local general election. The position of Vice-Chairperson is held by an Independent Member, appointed by the Independent Members.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023 that 10 Members be appointed to PCSP for the term of Council allocated using the d'Hondt method and that the Chairperson be appointed for a period of 12 months at a time and in turn by each of the 4 largest parties following the election.

4. Appointment of PCSP Chairperson

Members are reminded that Councillor Julie Gilmour, Alliance Party, was appointed to the position of PCSP Chairperson at the Community Development Committee in May 2025 for a period of 12 months. The Ulster Unionist Party as the fourth largest party are now allocated this position for 2026/27.

The Ulster Unionist Party nominating officer has advised that Councillor Leah Kirkpatrick is their nomination for the position of Chairperson of the Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP for 2026-27 with the 12-month term commencing on 01 June 2026.

5. Summary

An Elected Member holds the position of Chairperson of the PCSP for a period of 12 months, or for a period ending with the reconstitution date.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, 10 Members were appointed to PCSP for the term of Council, allocated using the d'Hondt method with the Chairperson to be appointed annually and in turn by each of the 4 largest parties following the election.

Councillor Leah Kirkpatrick of the Ulster Unionist Party has been nominated for the position of PCSP Chairperson for 2026/27 as they are the fourth largest party represented on the Council. This appointment will commence on 01 June 2026.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the appointment of Councillor Leah Kirkpatrick to the position of Chairperson of the PCSP for 2026/2027 be noted.

Prepared by: Ciara Jemphrey, PCSP Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5.4 COMD/MCPR/002 MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND PR PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with detailed performance data relating to the Marketing, Communications and PR service delivery.

2. Introduction

The Council's Marketing, Communications and PR Section of the Community and Culture Directorate manages external communications, marketing, public relations, graphic design services, and the Council's websites.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the Communications Strategy was approved at the January 2026 Community Development Committee.

Members are further reminded that it was agreed by the Committee in February to receive quarterly performance reports in line with the schedule below:

- June – Report on the previous January to March period
- September – Report on the previous April to June period
- December – Report on the previous July to September period

At this meeting a report on performance for the period April 2025 to December 2025 was provided and Members were advised that an annual performance report would also be brought to each June meeting.

4. Performance Measurement

A Marketing, Communications and PR report for January 2026 to March 2026 is **enclosed** for Members' information, with the annual report for the period April 2025 to March 2026 also **enclosed**. These performance reports provide detailed analysis of marketing, communications and PR performance for both periods. The Communications Strategy commits to the continuous evaluation of the Council's communications to assess impact and inform the development of service delivery within an evolving communications landscape.

Social Media

Social media engagement is particularly high in Northern Ireland with over 80% of the population actively using social platforms and 99% of adults accessing services provided by Meta, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

The Council manages a range of social media channels and tailors its communications to specific audiences on each platform.

The social media section of the report provides detailed analysis of Social Media performance for the period January 2026 to March 2026 for the Council's main corporate channels. Highlights are summarised below:

Metric	Number	Notes
Number of Followers	69,569	Corporate sites – an increase of 979 followers in Quarter 4
Number of Posts	768	Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, LinkedIn
Impressions	4,069,405	Opportunities to View

Highlights from the report for the period April 2025 to March 2026 are shown below:

Key Performance Statistics

Number of followers	69,569
Number of social media posts	3,599
Impressions	15,533,096
Audience Growth Rate	7.5%

Members are advised that the Marketing Communications and PR Team also manage 15 additional social media accounts which include Enchanted Winter Garden and Home and Garden Show Facebook and Instagram accounts. Across all channels (6 Corporate and 15 others) there are 163,571 followers in total.

Social media continues to be a highly effective means of communication and the digital nature of this form of communications provides real time data about the performance of each post as presented in the report enclosure.

Media Relations

The Marketing Communications and PR team engages in media relations both proactively and reactively. This is a key part of the Council's public relations (PR) function, focusing specifically on the media as a channel to reach broader audiences through trusted sources.

The media section provides detailed analysis of Media performance for the period January 2026 to March 2026 with highlights summarised below:

Metric	Number/value	Breakdown / Notes
Total Press Releases Issued	39	Average 13+ per month
Total Mentions	1.2K	Online: 626 · Print: 564 · Radio: 29 · TV: 10

Metric	Number/value	Breakdown / Notes
Total Reach	437.5M	

Highlights from the report for the period April 2025 to March 2026 are shown below:

Key Performance Statistics

Total Press releases issued	173
Total mentions:	5.8K
Total reach	1.5billion
Advertising Value Equivalent	£34,252,992

Media reach and value measures have been provided by **NIMMS** a professional media analysis company, which applies robust methodologies to assess coverage across all channels and time periods. This determines both potential reach and estimated value, based on the cost of equivalent paid advertising.

5. Finance and Governance

The delivery of the external communication function is resourced within the Marketing Communications and PR Section of the Directorate. Revenue budgets are utilised for specific campaigns to amplify both social media and media coverage through paid advertisement.

6. Summary

A Marketing Communications and PR performance report for January–March 2026 and for April 2025 to March 2026 highlights key outcomes for the Section across social media and traditional media activity. Quarterly performance reports will continue to be submitted to the Committee as scheduled with an annual report also being presented to the Committee in June 2027.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Marketing, Communications and PR performance reports for January to March 2026 and April 2025 to March 2026 be noted.

Prepared by: Jeanette McIntyre, Head of Marketing Communications and PR

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

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