



14 December 2022

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 19 December 2022** at **6.30 pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 28 November 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operation Committee Meeting of Monday 5 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance of Tuesday 6 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Wednesday 7 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 13 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 December 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 10.1 An Award Winning Botanical Borough
- 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING
 - 11.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
 - 11.2 Consultation Report – Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) Delivery Plan 2021 - 2024
 - 11.3 Cost of Living Booklet
 - 11.4 Full Fibre NI Project Update
 - 11.5 Short Term Energy Action Plan

12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 12.1 Strategic Waste Management Update
- 12.2 Minutes of The Governance Meetings of the Levelling Up Fund Project Board Held on 13 and 27 October 2022
- 12.3 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
- 12.4 Glengormley Public Realm Scheme – Glenwell Road Improvements
- 12.5 Cost of Living, Financial Health, Estimates 23/24 Update

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Goodman

Seconded by Councillors – Cushinan, Kinnear, Logue and McGrann

“This council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across the North of Ireland who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite DUP assurances it would be paid in November.

Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British government.

Is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens, many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised.

And therefore calls on the British government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises.”

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Flanagan

Seconded by Councillor Bradley

“This Council acknowledges the great sacrifice of the men and women who served, dutifully and bravely, in the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross, and in this, the centenary year of that organisation and of policing in Northern Ireland, commits to make provision for tangible and lasting commemorative tribute within the Borough.

The council thus invites officers to present an options paper to the relevant committee for consideration.

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 CP/CP/217 AN AWARD WINNING BOTANICAL BOROUGH

Members are advised that the Council's engagement with Diarmuid Gavin has continued since his delivery of the Platinum Jubilee Garden earlier this year. The Council is pleased that Diarmuid has agreed to become an ambassador for Garden Show Ireland both as an advisor and a guest speaker at the event planned for June 2023.

Diarmuid has been a frequent visitor to the Borough over the past few months exploring the many green spaces and parks including the stretch of coastline from Jordanstown to Hazelbank and Gideon's Green as well as the Newtownabbey Way through to Threemilewater Park with the aim of creating something exceptional for our Borough.

He has proposed a unique and distinctive concept – **An Award Winning Botanical Borough.**

This aligns with the People, Place and Prosperity themes which are central to the Corporate and Recovery Plans. The concept will add to the attractiveness of the Borough through the creation of vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas, whilst also protecting the environment's natural habitats and promoting biodiversity.

These commitments translate into a significant variety of schemes, programmes and approaches which include; improvements in planting, creation of paths, public artworks, improving accessibility, partnership working with businesses and community groups, animation of open spaces, the development of town centre projects, the pledge to plant 1 million trees, focus on biodiversity, promotion of Best Kept Garden Competition and participation in Ulster in Bloom and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept awards.

Improved wellbeing, increased civic pride and an enriched quality of life for residents are all key outcomes of the Council's current Corporate and Recovery Plan and the proposed Award Winning Botanical Borough will offer a once in a generation opportunity to build upon this solid foundation. It will enhance our Local Biodiversity Action Plan, contribute to sustainability and the Climate Change Action Plan and support both tourism and economic development.

This simple, yet transforming concept will make a difference in the streets, coastline, towns, roadsides, roundabouts and in the heart of communities. To be successful it needs buy in and support from our residents, groups and businesses. It is an ambitious plan and truly unique. Adopting a number of initiatives that have been a great success nationally and globally, would set our Borough apart from any other.

Botanical Gardens, the inspiration behind the concept, are among the most visited cultural organisations globally with their ultimate mission to support

present and future plant life on the Earth. A variety of images illustrating some of the Award Winning Botanical Borough ideas and projects are **enclosed** for Members' information.

To begin the creation of the Botanical Borough a number of initiatives are proposed Under the following headings:

- **Creation of Wildflower Meadows;** transforming parks, road, verges, waste ground to flowering meadows which will not only look great but will be great for wildlife.
- **Creation of Cherry Blossom Tree Avenues;** Through the simple planting of these trees it will create places of beauty and create a cosmopolitan feel to the area.
- **Botanical Wall Art and Floral Themed Reimaging;** – Bringing the beauty of Botanical art to town centres, housing estates softening the appearance and making it more visually attractive for everyone to enjoy.
- **Gardening in the Community;** by creating urban spaces where residents can grow fruit and vegetables empowering Communities bringing people together in the community from all different walks of lives who paths would not normally cross.

An Action Plan with detailed proposals has been developed and is **enclosed** for Members' information. Members are advised that existing Parks budgets will be used to deliver the Meadows and Cherry Blossom Avenues. Funding opportunities for the reimaging projects will be explored.

The King Charles III Coronation Sub Committee met on 29 November 2022 with the minutes approved at the Community Planning Meeting earlier this month. The sub committee at its meeting on 29 November approved the delivery of a specially designed mechanical Coronation Pleasure Garden at Hazelbank Park Newtownabbey (two images **enclosed**) This has the potential to be a major tourist attraction for the Borough.

Members will be aware that the Council has already agreed to invest £1.1 million in a capital scheme at Hazelbank Park and it is proposed that the new Coronation

Pleasure garden be incorporated as a first stage in this development given the time sensitivity of the forthcoming Coronation and the cost of the project is capitalised.

The proposal for the Coronation Pleasure Garden design from Diarmuid Gavin is his original creation for which he has full intellectual property rights. Therefore, it is appropriate to procure his services for the delivery of this project through a single tender action.

Members are reminded that there are a range of significant funding opportunities available to the Council including Peace Plus and The Shared Prosperity fund which will be explored in relation to ongoing delivery of the Award Winning Botanical Borough concept including specific projects in Town Centres and villages.

RECOMMENDATION that the Council approves the following

- (a) the development and delivery of 'An Award Winning Botanical Borough' concept**
- (b) the delivery of the initial Action Plan of Award Winning Botanical Borough initiatives for each DEA**
- (c) the appointment of Diarmuid Gavin Designs by single tender action to deliver the Mechanical Coronation Pleasure Garden**

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

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 CE/OA/013 – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Northern Ireland Housing Council for Members' information. A copy of the Northern Ireland Housing Council's December Bulletin and Minutes from their November Meeting are (**enclosed**).

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.2 G/MSMO/008 VOL 3 CONSULTATION REPORT – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY (CYPS) DELIVERY PLAN 2021 - 2024

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Education advising that the consultation report for the Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) has now been published on the Department of Education website via the following links:

- 1) [Children and Young People's Strategy Initial 3-year Delivery Plan 2021-2024 - Consultation Report | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2) [Children and Young People | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Contact details in relation to the consultations are Donna McDowell, Children and Young People's Strategy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, BT19 7PR. E-mail donna.mcdowell@education-ni.gov.uk, Tel: (028) 9185 8009/Ext 68009.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Consultation Report for the Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) Delivery Plan 2021 – 2024 be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.3 EH/PHWB/005 COST OF LIVING BOOKLET

Members are reminded that at the November 2022 meeting of the Operations Committee, a report was brought highlighting that the Environmental Health and Well Being Service had produced a Cost of Living Support Booklet. The booklet will provide useful information and contact details of statutory, community and voluntary bodies that can assist Members and residents with information on food, energy bills, financial advice and wellbeing.

Due to difficulties with the layout of the booklet, there was a delay in circulating a copy of the booklet to Members.

The booklet (**enclosed**) will now be uploaded to Fluix for Members to access, uploaded to the Council's website and promoted through Council's social media channels. Printed copies will be available for residents who are unable to access the online versions.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

11.4 ED/ED/130 FULL FIBRE NI PROJECT UPDATE

Members will be aware that since 2018 the Council has been involved in the delivery of the Full Fibre Northern Ireland project in collaboration with nine other councils.

This is the final report to Members following the successful delivery of the DCMS-funded LFFN (£14.1m) and RGC (£9m) projects under the FFNI Consortium, seeking to upgrade local broadband infrastructure across Northern Ireland.

At a Borough-wide level, 30 Council sites were connected to the value of £283,316.85 via FFNI. In addition, a further 24 Business Services Organisation (BSO) sites (such as GP surgeries, fire and ambulance stations) were also connected in the ANBC area. The full list of ANBC sites is enclosed in Appendix A.

The project has supported the development of the digital infrastructure across the Borough and provided many benefits for our residents and businesses including:

- Access to the next generation of ultrafast products, delivering download speeds up to 1,000Mbps (1Gb).
- Improved digital public services utilising FFNI infrastructure which can provide greater accessibility to public sector services for rural and remote citizens aligning with the Council's Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025.

The programme has also continued to increase our economic competitiveness supporting our ambition to attract £1bn of investment to the Borough. Digital connectivity and access to high speed, quality broadband is a key pillar of our strategy to continue to attract and retain businesses.

The project has also vastly improved Council infrastructure by moving from an old copper network to new reliable gigabit-capable fibre network. Fibre can be more easily upgraded than copper, and its headroom is hugely greater with the potential to run several sites to 10Gb per second future proofing Council networks, thereby futureproofing the infrastructure.

An official formal PR event was held and a closure report will be developed shortly with key stakeholders across the Consortium to celebrate the success of the project and highlight the benefits and opportunities that full fibre can bring to Council(s) and the surrounding areas for residents and businesses. A local press release has been planned to highlight the achievements and opportunity linked to this project.

As part of the DCMS grant condition, Councils are required to put the fibre into use by December 2022. Each of the public-sector organisations that are part of the LFFN and RGC projects under the FFNI programme operate a "Wide Area Network" (WAN), and Council's IT team will seek to optimise the new and improved broadband infrastructure.

Glossary of Terms

FFNI – Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium
LFFN – Local Full Fibre Network Programme
RGC – Rural Gigabit Capable Programme
WAN – Wide Area Network

RECOMMENDATION: that Members note the contents of the update on DCMS projects managed under FFNI.

Prepared by: Alastair Law, Regeneration Officer

Agreed by: Steven Norris, Head of Regeneration and Infrastructure

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

11.5 PBS/PS/001 SHORT TERM ENERGY ACTION PLAN

Members are reminded that in addition to the Energy Management Action Plan which was approved in April 2022, **enclosed**, update reports are regularly presented to the Policy and Governance Committee, the most recent being at the December meeting. As a result of the Action Plan, the top 5 energy using buildings were identified and actions prioritised in these buildings.

Managing energy use is important in the Council's drive to reduce its carbon footprint, deliver on its sustainability commitments and, in the current cost of living crisis, as a means of reducing energy consumption to drive down costs. In addition to the prioritisation of the top 5 energy users, there are a range of measures which are being progressed in parallel including audits, feasibility studies relating to alternative energy sources and benchmarking.

A short term Energy Action Plan - More Sustainable Action, **enclosed**, has been developed in line with discussions at the Corporate Workshops.

Some of the short term actions included will short term plan will need to be adapted over time to ensure that a culture is created whereby every member of staff takes responsibility for energy usage and takes action accordingly. It will also ensure that those who use our facilities are made aware of our commitment to sustainability and that we as an organisation are energy conscious.

The Action Plan sets out a range of practical measures which are being implemented currently or will be underway in January in the following areas:

1. Promotion/Awareness to change behaviours/culture
2. Building Management Systems
3. Facility Programme Management
4. Tariffs

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations