



8 November 2023

Committee Chair: Councillor T McGrann

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor R Lynch

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle, J McGrath, P Michael and S Ross

Councillors – M Brady, P Dunlop, N Kelly, B Mallon,
V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, S Ward and
S Wilson

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Planning Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 13 November 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Majella McAlister".

Majella McAlister

Deputy Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.20

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023**

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

Members are reminded that the delivery of Armed Forces Day 2024 on Saturday 22 June 2024 was approved at the June Council Meeting and it was agreed to establish a Working Group. The second meeting of the Working Group was held at Mossley Mill on Wednesday 18 October 2023 and the minutes are enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Armed Forces Working Group meeting of 18 October 2023 be approved.

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

3.2 AC/GEN/004 ELECTED MEMBERS' MEETING ROOM BOOKING POLICY

Members are reminded that the Council has a range of meeting rooms, function rooms and event spaces which are available for corporate and community hire in its facilities including both Civic Centres, Leisure Centres, Theatres and Community Facilities. These spaces are regularly used for Council business including by Elected Members for constituency business.

At the Community Planning Committee in June 2019 an Elected Members' Meeting Room Booking Policy covering all Council facilities was approved and due for review in 2023.

The Policy has now been reviewed and the revised draft policy is enclosed for Members' information.

The following policy terms are highlighted for information:

- The Policy applies to all meeting and event spaces in Council facilities;
- All spaces are available at no cost to Elected Members (subject to availability) for constituency meetings as well as large issue based meetings;
- If spaces are booked by Elected Members for large issue based constituency business the event must be open to all residents and Elected Members;
- Spaces in Arts and Culture facilities, including both Civic Centres and Ballyclare Town Hall are available for use by Elected Members at standard hire charge for single party political use;
- Spaces in the Council's Leisure Centres and Community Facilities cannot be booked for single party political use;
- All costs for hospitality are chargeable and must be booked in advance;
- Mobile constituency offices or party political vehicles are not permitted in the external environments of Council facilities.

A Section 75 Screening Exercise was carried out in 2019 and there was no need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment. The outcome of the Screening Exercise was approved by the Committee in June 2019. Given that minimal revisions have been made to the Policy it is not proposed to carry out another Screening Exercise.

RECOMMENDATION: that the revised Elected Members' Meeting Room Booking Policy be approved.

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

3.3 CP/CP/236 VETERANS CHAMPION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Members are advised that the Council has a designated Veterans Champion which is a nominated position of responsibility. At the Annual Council Meeting in May 2023 Councillor Bennington was appointed as the Council's Veterans Champion for the term of the Council.

The Council's Veterans Champion role is to assist the Chief Executive and Elected Members to work with organisations that support ex-servicemen and women and act as a first point of contact for veterans in the Council area who require support. The Council's Veterans Champion also links closely with the Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioners Office and the Commissioner Danny Kinahan who was appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Council's Veterans Champion in consultation with the Veterans Commissioners Office and other stakeholders has developed a Veterans Champion Strategy and Action Plan for 2023 to 2027, which is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Veterans Champion Strategy and Action Plan for 2023 to 2027 be approved.

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

3.4 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 13 September in Ballyclare Town Hall to commence planning for the May Fair 2024. The second meeting was held on 25 October 2023 and the minutes of the meeting are enclosed for Members information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the May Fair Working Group meeting of 25 October 2023, be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.5 CP/CD/453 ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Members are advised that the Armed Forces Covenant is a pledge to acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they served. There are two principles of the Covenant:

- Those who serve, regular or reserve, veterans, and their families should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services;
- Special consideration is appropriate in some cases especially for those who have been injured or bereaved.

By signing the Covenant, the Council is recognising those who are or who have performed military duty and the value of their contribution.

The Armed Forces Covenant is implemented differently in Northern Ireland (NI) than the rest of the UK due to structural and legal specifics that apply in NI, not least the fact that Council's in NI do not hold the same responsibilities for public services such as health, education and housing as those in the rest of the UK.

Whilst the needs of serving personnel and their families in NI are met by statutory bodies Covenant and welfare support for Armed Forces personnel are co-ordinated through 38 (Irish) Brigade in Lisburn.

A Guide for Local Authorities about how to deliver the Covenant in NI is enclosed for Members' information.

The Council's Veterans Champion is available as a first point of contact to serving personnel and veterans seeking support and engages with 38 (Irish) Brigade to do this.

The following Councils have already signed the Armed Forces Covenant:

- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

It is proposed that the Council signs the Armed Forces Covenant and commits to acknowledge, support and understand the needs of those, and their families, who are serving or have served in the armed forces.

Members are also advised that Danny Kinahan, the first Veterans Commissioner for Northern Ireland, was appointed to the role by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in 2020.

The NI Veterans Commissioner's office provides a voice for NI Veterans. It is proposed to invite the Veterans Commissioner to a future meeting of the Committee to make a presentation outlining his role and that of his office.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant by the Council be approved;**
- (b) the issue of an invitation to the Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner to make a presentation to the Committee be approved.**

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

3.6 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS PLAN

Members are reminded that an updated Council Events Plan for 2023/2024 was approved at the September Community Planning Committee.

The Plan included the following two Garden Show Ireland event proposals:

- **Spring Plant Fair** 13 April 2024 at Jordanstown Loughshore Park; **Free**
- **Garden Show Ireland Festival** 14 to 16 June 2024 Antrim Castle Gardens; Adults £10, Concession £8, Under 16's Free

As part of ongoing service and financial reviews it is proposed to make the following changes to both events:

- Relocate the Spring Plant Fair to the Civic Square at Mossley Mill which reduces significantly costs of the event given the car parking and other facilities available at the Mill. The Mill setting also creates an opportunity to both weather proof the event and also enhance the visitor experience;
- Increase the ticket prices for Garden Show Ireland to £12.50 for an Adult, £10 for Concession with under 16's free. Current ticket prices have been unchanged since first delivery of the event in the Borough in 2014. In addition, it is proposed to provide one free Adult or Concession ticket for every group of ten booked, which creates an opportunity to promote the event to bus and coach tour partners.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed changes to the delivery of Garden Show Ireland Spring Plant Fair and Festival as outlined be approved.

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

3.7 AC/EV/013 D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY – 6 JUNE 2024

Members are advised that the 6 June 2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of D-Day when Allied Forces made the largest amphibious invasion ever witnessed. D-Day was the largest naval, air and land operation in history and marked the start of the end of the Second World War.

On 6 June 1944 Operation Overload saw around 4,000 ships and landing craft set down 132,500 troops on Normandy beaches, an action that would lead to the liberation of North West Europe from Nazi occupation.

The Council has been asked to participate in a UK wide Lighting of Beacons at 9.15pm on Thursday 6 June 2024 to celebrate the 'Light of Peace' that emerged out of war.

It is proposed that two beacons are lit on 6 June 2024 in Mossley Mill and Antrim Castle Gardens by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor with the Lord Lieutenant and a Deputy be invited to attend.

Members are also advised that Officers will develop D-Day related content such as theatrical performance and exhibition for inclusion in the 2024 Spring/Summer Cultural Programme of activities. Armed Forces Day 2024 is being held in Jordanstown Loughshore Park on 22 June 2024 and the 80th anniversary of D-Day will form part of the theme for this regional event.

RECOMMENDATION: that the ceremonial lighting of beacons at Mossley Mill and Antrim Castle Gardens at 9.15pm on Thursday 6 June 2024 be approved.

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

3.8 AC/GEN/083 HISTORIC DANCE COSTUME DONATION

Members are reminded that in March 2023 Theatre at The Mill hosted an exhibition of vintage Irish Dance costumes some of which date from the 1930's. The costumes have been donated over the years by dancers from the East Antrim area where Irish Festival Dancing is a thriving art form and part of the Borough's cultural heritage.

This exhibition attracted significant interest from across the Borough and beyond.

The custodian of the costumes is a former resident of Ballyclare and has recently contacted the Council and asked if the Council would consider the acceptance of the costumes as a donation to the heritage collection in return for providing safe storage for the costumes and delivery of additional exhibitions and display in the future. There is capacity within the Theatre at The Mill costume store to provide storage for approximately 30 costumes. Given the positive response to the exhibition in 2023 there is potential to host the costume exhibition at other cultural venues such as Ballyclare Town Hall and Clotworthy House.

It is proposed that the donation of approximately 30 Irish Dance costumes by a former resident is accepted with the costumes to be stored in Theatre at The Mill and used for exhibitions in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: that the acceptance of the offer of approximately 30 Irish Dance costumes to be used for exhibition purposes in the future and kept in secure storage in Theatre at The Mill, be approved.

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

3.9 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Members are reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council. Two meetings were held in October and the minutes of the meetings of 10 October 2023 and 24 October 2023 are enclosed for Members' approval.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership meetings, as detailed, be approved.

Prepared by: Julia Clarke, Peace Programme Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.10 CP/CD/457 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2023/2024

Members are reminded of the Small Grants Programme, agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's new Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity. Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2023/24 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process.

All proposed awards are subject to 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.

During the month of October three applications totalling £3,000 were received and assessed by Officers a full list of which is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the three Small Grant applications be approved at a total cost of £3,000.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.11 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Members are reminded that the DEA Member Engagement Groups are a central part of the Community Planning engagement framework. The first round of DEA Member Engagement meetings of the new Council term has recently taken place and draft minutes for the seven DEA Member Engagement Groups are **enclosed** for Members' information, these will be formally adopted at the next meetings of the DEA groups, following approval by the Council.

Community Planning Section – DEA Member Engagement Group Meetings		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
CP/CP/168	4 October 2023	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/169	5 October 2023	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/170	11 October 2023	Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/171	12 October 2023	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/172	17 October 2023	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/173	18 October 2023	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/174	19 October 2023	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

At each meeting Members approved the revised Community Planning corporate governance framework, a copy of which is **enclosed** for Members' information. Members are advised that the Outcome Delivery Groups play a key role in the delivery of the key strands of the Corporate Plan and Community Plan. The Groups are operating as follows:

Our Planet - Sustainability Working Group – Meets quarterly with terms of reference approved by the Operations Committee in September 2023, copy **enclosed**.

Our Place - Parks and Open Spaces Working Group – Meets every two months and membership arrangements for the Council term approved at the June 2023 Council Meeting. Draft terms of reference to be presented to next working group meeting.

Our People - Equality and Diversity Working Group – Meets quarterly with terms of reference approved by the Community Planning Committee in September 2023, copy **enclosed**.

Our Prosperity – Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group - Meets monthly, (or otherwise agreed), with draft Terms of Reference **enclosed** for Members information.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the draft minutes of the DEA Member Engagement Groups be approved;**
- (b) the draft Terms of Reference for the Parks and Open Spaces Working Group be developed and the Our Prosperity Draft Terms of Reference be approved.**

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.12 AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

Members are reminded that the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel meets quarterly and is made up of one Elected Member from each political party and up to 12 non-elected independent members. The Chair of the Panel is elected at the start of each Council term from the Elected Members, and the Vice Chair is elected from the independent members.

The Panel met on 24 October 2023 at Mossley Mill, and elected Councillor Webb as Chair and Siobhan McGuigan as Vice Chair of the Panel for the Council term.

The minutes of this meeting are enclosed for Members' information. At the meeting the Panel was presented with the enclosed theatre programmes for Winter/Spring 2024 which were approved.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 24 October 2023 and the Winter/Spring 2024 programmes for the three theatres be approved.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Planning

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Planning

**3.13 CP/CP/169 THE OLD COURTHOUSE THEATRE PLANNING APPLICATION
LA03/2023/0722/F**

Members are advised that the Council has received a planning application for the development of the former First Trust Bank at 50 – 52 High Street Antrim to ground floor restaurant and first floor office space. The Council has been identified for notification given the proximity of The Old Courthouse Theatre. A copy of the correspondence is enclosed for Members' information.

Having reviewed the application Officers consider that this development will not have a detrimental impact upon The Old Courthouse Theatre and it is proposed to make no objection to the application.

**RECOMMENDATION: that no objection be made to planning application
LA03/2023/0722/F.**

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

3.14 CP/CC/009 MUCKAMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE – MAIN HALL ROOF

Muckamore Community Centre is located in Antrim and accommodates Muckamore Community Playgroup along with a number of regular activities including martial arts, indoor bowls, scouts, upholstery design and outdoor football.

The building is approximately 50-60 years old and the roof in the main hall has deteriorated over time, which has resulted in numerous leaks during wet weather. As a result, the main hall is no longer safe to use during wet periods and main hall bookings at the Centre have been relocated and/or cancelled, resulting in inconvenience to customers and lost income of approximately £1,300 per month.

Officers arranged for a technical assessment to be carried out on the roof by an external consultant, which took place on 14th September 2023 and this report is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The main outer roof of the centre comprises of a pre-cast concrete portal frame supporting composite panel roofing sheets internally and composite cladding sheets externally on profiled pre-cast concrete purlins. The inner & outer cladding has been identified as asbestos containing materials (ACM). Over the years the rubber washer securing the fixings has been weathered which has led to water ingress when there is any level of rainfall.

The existing roof has potentially reached the end of its life. As the existing roofing surface contains asbestos any replacement requires asbestos removal by a qualified and licenced removal contractor and disposal in line with Asbestos Disposal Regulations.

Installation of a replacement roof would include the addition of insulation, which could realise energy savings of approximately £350 annually based on current rates, and an annual electricity cost of approximately £10,000.

The cost of a replacement roof including removal of the surface containing asbestos has been estimated at £93,400 (asbestos removal accounts for £15,000). A replacement roof is anticipated to have a lifespan of 25 to 30 years fully maintained. This can be funded through the Council's capital programme at an annual cost of £3,720 over 25 years which is significantly less than the annual income loss of approximately £15,000 through relocation and cancellation of main hall bookings.

RECOMMENDATION: that the replacement of the roof at Muckamore Community Centre at an estimated capital cost of £93,400 be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.15 CP/GR/178, CP/GR/180, CP/GR/182 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID

The 2023/24 Good Relations Action Plan submitted to The Executive Office, includes a budget of £20,000 for the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme.

The aim of the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme is to improve day to day relationships by encouraging everyone to treat others fairly and encouraging a society in which our own cultures and traditions as well as other people's cultures and traditions are understood, respected and accepted.

Members are advised that applications are required to score higher than 50% to be deemed successful. Three applications were received in October 2023, scoring above the 50% threshold requesting a total amount of £7,300.

A summary of the applications received and the proposed award recommendations overview of the assessment and funding details are enclosed for Members' consideration

RECOMMENDATION: that the three Good Relations grant aid awards as outlined in the enclosure be approved at a total cost of £7,300.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.16 CP/GR/183 GOOD RELATIONS AWARDS

Members are reminded of the Annual Good Relations Awards run by the Community Relations Council annually in partnership with The Executive Office (TEO).

The Awards recognise exceptional commitment to Good Relations work by those individuals who go above and beyond, to make Northern Ireland a better place. The Awards celebrate those who unite and champion local communities, and they also showcase the wide range of projects connecting communities through peace, understanding and cultural respect.

Previous nominations of individuals from the Borough who work in good relations have included:

- Community Relations Community Champion Award 2023
Jennifer Todd - Oasis Caring in Action
- Community Relations Community Champion Award 2022
Daryl Clarke - Monkstown Boxing Club

There are five award categories in the 2024 Awards:

- The Community Relations Council Exceptional Achievement Award
- Good Relations Volunteer of the Year Award
- Good Relations Community Champion Award
- Good Relations Youth Award (Under 25)
- Good Relations Connecting Communities Project of the Year Award.

It is proposed that the following individuals/groups be nominated for the 2024 Awards:

- Community Relations Council Exceptional Achievement Award
Gerard Hughes – Community Relations in Schools (CRIS)
- Good Relations Volunteer of the Year Award
Helen Dunn – Glenabbey Church, work with newcomers
- Good Relations Community Champion Award
Sharon Brash – Rathenraw Youth Scheme
- Good Relations Youth Award (Under 25)
Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Voice
- Good Relations Connecting Communities Project of the Year Award
Key Institutions Project
Antrim Baptist Church
Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church

To nominate, a short application form has to be completed and submitted along with a short resume of the individual/groups work and how it meets

the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2024 Awards is Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 12 noon.

Each nominee will receive a letter of recognition. Nominations will be assessed by the sponsor of each award before being approved by the Community Relations Council and The Executive Office. The winner of each category will receive an award and certificate of achievement.

A short summary of the proposed nominations is **enclosed** for Members information.

If Members would like to propose additional nominations, they are asked to contact the Good Relations Coordinator by Friday 1 December 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the proposed nominations to the 2024 Good Relations Awards be approved;**
- (b) Members advise of any additional nominations by Friday 1 December 2023.**

Prepared by: Amy Ashe, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.17 CP/TD/060 NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS SCHEME

Members are advised that notification has been received from National Energy Action (NEA) in relation to a small grants scheme that it is running.

NEA is the national fuel poverty charity, working to ensure that residents in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are warm and safe in their homes. The vision of NEA is to end fuel poverty and it estimates that as a result of the energy crisis 6.3 million UK households are in fuel poverty.

NEA is offering grants of £250 to deliver a community event in support of one of its winter campaigns:

- Fuel Poverty Awareness Day (30 November 2023)
- The Nation's Biggest Housewarming (11 to 15 December 2023)

NEA is seeking a diverse range of partners to support these campaigns by delivering a household focused community event to provide information and advice to as many households as possible to prepare for the winter. In addition to the grant funding NEA will support events by providing a slide deck with key information as well as promotional items.

NEA is seeking applications from charities, community groups, Councils and housing associations.

It is proposed to promote this grant fund to all relevant groups in the Borough using the Community Development database and submit an application on behalf of the Council to deliver an event as part of The Nation's Biggest Housewarming Campaign in December 2023, with date and venue to be confirmed.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the promotion of the National Energy Action community event grant scheme to groups in the Borough be approved;**
- (b) submission of an application for a grant to support the delivery of a Council event as part of The Nation's Biggest Housewarming Campaign in December 2023 be approved.**

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

3.18 CP/CP/237 WOMENS SUB COMMITTEE

Members are reminded that a motion to establish a stand-alone 'Women's Sub-Committee' made up of female representatives of the Council to discuss and promote women's issues, build the skills and confidence of local women and to encourage women to become more involved in local politics was approved at the August Council Meeting and it was agreed that the Women's Sub-Committee would report through the Diversity Working Group.

Members are advised that the first meeting of the Sub Committee was held in Mossley Mill on Monday 23 October and draft Terms of Reference were agreed, subject to approval by Council, a copy is enclosed for Members' information. The minutes of this meeting will be reported to the next meeting of the Equality and Diversity Working Group and then to Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: that the draft Terms of Reference for the Women's Sub Committee be approved.

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

3.19 CP/CP/223 HARDSHIP SCHEME GRANT AID

The Department for Communities (DfC) has provided funding to the Council to support the most vulnerable in the current financial year and that the proposed delivery model for the Hardship Scheme was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting, with the Council's allocation being £306,432. The delivery plan included 2 open grant calls, Warm Well Connected and Community Fridge/Cupboard Grants, with details of the grant calls listed below;

Grant Call	Purpose	Details and method of delivery	Budget allocation
Warm Well Connected Grants	A grant programme to support organisations to provide a warm space and/or hot food provision for local residents in their own community premises during winter months.	Open Call Grant Application via Grant Manager Applications opened- 29 September 2023 Applications closed- 20 October 2023	Maximum Grant of £1000 per application (Approximately 40 groups/projects to be supported) Total = £40,000
Community Fridge/Cupboard Grants	A grant Programme to provide financial support to Community/Voluntary Organisations currently delivering a Community Fridge/ Cupboard which has been established from 01 April 2022 to address increase demand/need on services.	Open Call Grant Application via Grant Manager Applications opened- 29 September 2023 Applications closed- 20 October 2023	Maximum Grant of £2,500 per application (Approximately 4 groups to be supported) Total = £10,000

Members are reminded that a pass threshold of 50% applies to all Grant Aid Programmes and that groups are not required to demonstrate match funding however where a group evidences match funding this is reflected in the scoring. Members are advised that all proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

A financial and detailed summary of applications received for the 2 open grant calls is provided below. A full list of all the applications received and the scores awarded is **enclosed** for Members' information.

Grant Stream	Number of Applications	Successful Applications (Scored 50% and above)	Total Requested	Total Awarded	Hardship Fund Budget allocation	Variance
Warm Well Connected Grants	26	26	£25,498.00	£25,498.00	£40,000.00	£14,502.00
Community Fridge/Cupboard Grants	6	6	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£10,000.00	(£5,000.00)
Total	32	32	£40,498.00	£40,498.00	£50,000.00	(£9,502.00)

Warm Well Connected Grants

In total 26 applications were received and assessed and 26 have been recommended for funding. The total amount requested from all 26 applications is £25,498, resulting in £14,502 remaining unallocated to the Warm Well Connected Grant budget.

Community Fridge/Cupboard Grants

In total 6 applications were received and assessed and 6 have been recommended for funding. The total amount requested from all 6 applications is £15,000. The allocated budget to Community Fridge/Cupboard Grants is £10,000, therefore it is proposed to award all 6 applications up to a maximum of £15,000 with the additional funding to be reallocated from the Warm Well Connected Programme.

This will result in an overall underspend of £9,502 from this element of the Hardship Scheme programme and it is proposed that this is reallocated to another element of the programme.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Hardship Scheme grant aid applications outlined at a total cost of £40,498.00 be approved, and that Officers reallocate the underspend to another element of the Hardship Scheme programme.

Prepared by: Amy Lynch, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.20 AC/GEN/008 REQUEST TO USE BALLYCLARE TOWN HALL CAR PARK

Members are advised that a request for the use of Ballyclare Town Hall Car Park on Saturday 16 December 2023 has been made on behalf of Santa Run and Mr Philip Strange in conjunction with the NI Children's Hospice, which is one of the Mayor's nominated charities for 2023-2024.

The request is to allow a tractor and wagon to park in the Town Hall car park and collect money for the NI Children's Hospice. Approval for the on-street collection has been sought from the PSNI.

RECOMMENDATION: that the request for use of Ballyclare Town Hall Car Park by Santa Run and Mr Philip Strange on Saturday 16 December 2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

3.21 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Members are reminded that the Council is the lead partner of the Community Planning Partnership and together with representatives from a range of other statutory and public bodies delivers the Community Plan.

The first Community Planning Partnership meeting of the new Council term was held in Antrim Library on Wednesday 25 October. At this meeting the minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2023 were approved and are enclosed. The draft minutes of the October meeting are also enclosed.

Members are advised that at the October meeting a presentation 'Improving Outcomes for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability' enclosed was delivered by Julie McGinty from the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Roz McFeeters of Hill Croft School.

The partnership were advised that a Special School Partnership Pilot project has been developed with 7 schools from across NI including Hill Croft School Newtownabbey. The presentation concluded with a request for the Council to nominate a representative to attend the Hill Croft Special School Partnership. It is recommended that the Council's Accessibility and Inclusion Officer attends the Hill Croft Special School Partnership.

At the meeting the Community Planning Partnership adopted the Carnegie Trust definition of Wellbeing, as stated below.

"Wellbeing is about everyone having what they need to live well now and in the future. Looking after the wellbeing of all citizens - our collective wellbeing - is a powerful way of creating a society where everyone can live well together. Carnegie UK Trust believes that collective wellbeing happens when social, economic, environmental, and democratic wellbeing outcomes are seen as being equally important and are given equal weight."

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) that the minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting on 5 April 2023 and the draft minutes of the meeting of 25 October 2023 be approved.**
- b) that the Accessibility and Inclusion Officer attends the Hill Croft Special School Partnership on behalf of the Council.**
- c) that the adoption of the Carnegie Trust definition of Well Being by the Community Planning Partnership be noted.**

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Planning

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 ED/TOU/042 ASSESSMENT OF TOURISM VALUE TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY

Members are advised that the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance (NITA) was established in 2018 and is a single representative voice, led by industry, for Tourism in Northern Ireland. NITA's role is to represent their membership, which includes Local Council's by ensuring the voice of the industry is listened to in shaping future growth of tourism.

NITA held its annual conference on World Tourism Day, 27 September 2023 in Titanic Belfast with the title 'Tourism: A Face for Good'.

NITA had previously commissioned Grant Thornton to carry out a significant research study into the economic impacts of Tourism in Northern Ireland. This research study titled Valuing the Tourism Industry in Northern Ireland was presented and launched at the conference and is **enclosed** for Members' information.

Key findings of the report on the annual economic value of tourism are highlighted below:

- £1.1 billion of direct economic impacts;
- £0.4 billion of indirect impacts;
- £0.9 billion of induced impacts;
- 40,000 Direct Jobs;
- 7,700 Indirect Jobs;
- 10.7 million visits to visitor attractions;
- 16.6 million nights stayed;
- £1 billion visitor expenditure
- £2.6 billion beds sold

The value of tourism to the economic health of the Borough is clear given the overall contribution of tourism to the Northern Ireland economy and delivery of the Council's tourism service will continue to focus on how best to maximise the economic impacts from tourism.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

4.2 CP/GR/172 GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2023

Members are reminded that Good Relations Week 2023 ran from 18 to 24 September 2023, with events taking place across the whole month of September. The initiative is co-ordinated regionally by the Community Relations Council and supported by the Northern Ireland Executive's, Together Building a United Community Strategy.

Provision for Good Relations Week was made in the Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24 which was approved at the January 2023 Community Planning Committee.

The theme for Good Relations Week 2023 was 'Together', embodied the spirit of togetherness and highlighted peace-building and cultural diversity efforts to tackle sectarianism, racism, and inequality across the region.

The Council's Good Relations Team hosted a number of activities through the Good Relations Action Plan during Good Relations Week, that included;

Date	Activity
19 th Sept	A Staff 'Together' event was held at Antrim Civic Centre, opened and attended by The Mayor Councillor Mark Cooper; the event promoted International Sign Language Day and Good Relations delivery across Council sections and was delivered in collaboration with Human Resources with 20 members of staff attending.
20 th Sept	Let's Connect Championships, Football Tournament, Valley Leisure Centre brought together over 80 people to compete and spectate with 11 teams taking part in the 5 a side tournament. Teams taking part included AC Silhouette of Milan (Monkstown Boxing Club), Whiteabbey Wonders, Hardy Athletic (TEO), Glenabbey Team, Hussein Team, Loughshore Team, Street Soccer 1, Street Soccer 2, Street Soccer 3, Levant Team, Chimney Team. Street Soccer 1 were the winning team of the tournament.
21 st Sept	A Staff 'Together' event was held at Mossley Mill, opened and attended by The Mayor Councillor Mark Cooper; the event promoted International Sign Language Day and Good Relations delivery across Council sections and was delivered in collaboration with Human Resources with 20 members of staff attending.
21 st Sept	Movie Showings at The Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl. Encanto was screened in the afternoon followed by Hidden Figures in the evening, with 25 attending. Feedback was very positive and included; 'A brilliant event, well done all involved', 'Lovely family event' and 'Great afternoon my daughter loved it thank you.'
23 rd Sept	An African Drumming and Storytelling workshop was held in Antrim Library in collaboration with Libraries NI. 31 individuals

	attended and feedback included; "A fantastic workshop this morning. We loved having fun with the drums and listening to beautiful stories."
27 th Sept	T:BUC Trees event in partnership with Parks Section and will be completed between October and December through engagement with local schools; local schools have been invited to receive tree packs for planting or wider distribution within their schools. This event is ongoing and trees will be planted in November and December 2023.
28 th Sept	Movie Showings at The Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl. Song of the Sea was screened in the afternoon followed by Belfast in the evening, with 40 attending. Positive feedback was received.

A selection of photos from Good Relations Week are **enclosed** for Members information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.3 CP/P4/078 PEACE IV PROGRAMME CLOSING EVENT

Members are reminded that the deadline for delivery of activity under the Antrim and Newtownabbey Peace IV Programme for the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme, was 30 September 2023.

Delivery under the other two themes, Children and Young People (CYP) and Building Positive Relations (BPR) having been completed on 31 March 2023. To conclude the delivery of the Peace IV Programme, a celebration event was held in the Theatre at the Mill on Thursday 28 September 2023, showcasing the achievements and programme outcomes delivered through the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

A variety of statistics, visuals and personal testimonies provided an impactful overview of the achievements of the Programme, including representation from participants; delivery agents; funders; Peace IV Partnership Members; Elected Members and Government Departments.

A report detailing the delivery and achievements of the Peace IV Programme was provided to attendees and is **enclosed** for Members information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.4 CP/CP/217 BOROUGH STREET ART PROJECT UPDATE

Members are reminded that a proposal to deliver street art across the seven DEAs as part of the 'Award Winning Botanical Borough' initiative was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting. The aim of the project is to bring colour, vitality and animation to public spaces across the Borough.

It was reported to the August Council meeting that following a public procurement exercise Daisy Chain Inc. were appointed to deliver the project.

Members were advised at the August meeting that it was proposed to deliver 35 pieces of street art (5 per DEA) between then and October 2024 with a first phase of work to be completed by end of October 2023. This would deliver one large scale and one smaller installation, based upon the previously agreed DEA Botanical Borough floral emblems, in each DEA. Members were provided with updates at each of the DEA Engagement meetings in October on progress with this first phase of the street art project.

The time frame for delivery of the initial 14 installations was extremely challenging given that it included identification of locations, discussion with building owners to gain approval, selection of artists and development of designs, which being location specific could only progress once locations were secured.

An update on this first phase of the project is **enclosed** for Members information with most of the initial 14 installations now completed. The project is now paused given the seasonal weather impacts which prevent further work to exterior surfaces until early spring.

It is proposed to now commence an extensive process of consultation with Elected Members on delivery of the additional street art installations and reimagining of utility and other small public space fixtures in order to complete the project. A brief survey for Elected Members to complete is **enclosed** as an initial starting point to inform further consultation and the ongoing delivery of the project. In terms of the time frame it is planned to bring a proposal for Members approval to each DEA Engagement Meeting in February 2024 for all additional street art planned for delivery in 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

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

4.5 CP/PCSP/081 TARGETED CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO PCSPs AND DPCSPs

Members are reminded of correspondence received from the Department of Justice in October 2022 regarding a targeted consultation on amendments to the Code of Practice for the appointment of Independent Members to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs). The consultation ran from 24 October 2022 until 5 December 2022.

Members are advised that further correspondence has been received from the Department of Justice to provide an update on this process and to share the finalised revised Code of Practice, copies of which are **enclosed** for Members information.

Members are further updated that the process to appoint new Independent Members to PCSPs and DPCSPs is currently underway, and is being led by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

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

4.6 CP/GR/171 ASYLUM FULL DISPERSAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Executive Office (TEO) Memorandum of Understanding for Asylum Full Dispersal funding of £88,478 was approved at the Community Planning Committee in April 2023. The aim of the funding is to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers and promote integration within the Council area. The offer was made following submission of the Council's Action Plan outlining proposals to support the needs of asylum seekers in the Council area to TEO.

Members are advised that the following activities, which are included in the Action Plan, are being delivered in the coming weeks:

- Let's Connect Engagements – Four asylum and refugee training sessions to be delivered by the Law Centre NI aimed at groups/organisations and individuals supporting and engaging with asylum seekers and refugees as follows:
 - Mossley Pavilion 14 November 2023
 - Antrim Baptist Church 21 November 2023
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tuition will continue to be delivered in Whiteabbey, with the next course commencing in Antrim at the end of November.

In addition, during September and October bus travel passes have been provided to asylum seekers living in the Borough for local travel only. The aim is to promote integration, social inclusion and prevent isolation. Distribution was carried out in partnership with MEARS, Whiteabbey Presbyterian Church, and Antrim Baptist Church.

Members are advised that correspondence (enclosed) has been received from The Executive Office informing the Council that, the Department for Infrastructure has introduced a 6-month pilot programme, offering free train and bus travel for asylum seekers across Northern Ireland.

The pilot commenced on 1 November with asylum seekers living in MEARS accommodation on 1 November eligible. Arrivals beyond this date are not eligible. More information is available at the NI Direct webpage <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/public-transport-travel-card-asylum-seekers>

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Amy Ashe, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.7 CP/TD/025 PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW: UPDATE NOVEMBER 2023

Members are reminded that regular updates on the Department for Communities (DfC) People and Place Review have been noted by the Committee and that the People and Place Review team presented to the Community Planning Partnership on 7 April 2022 to set the scene and outline the context for the review. This review has reiterated the need for improved collaborative working practices.

In Spring 2022 a Cross Departmental Group was established by the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) in order to consider how existing interventions targeting disadvantage were being delivered. A smaller steering group was subsequently set up to explore:

- If a test and learn pilot approach to improving local collaboration was possible;
- If the learning from such pilots could contribute to ongoing reviews including the People and Place Review.

Members are advised that NICS Departments are delivering Test and Learn Pilots in 2023/24 aimed at exploring the benefits of a place based approach to improve societal outcomes through improved collaboration across Departments and external delivery partners.

A further update on Collaboration Strategic Framework has now been shared with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, a copy is **enclosed** for Members information.

The Framework proposes initial 'Test and Learn (TL)' pilots which will initially focus on two areas, with further potential pilot locations identified which include 'Monkstown and Rathcoole' as a Super Output Area of Whitehouse. Members are further advised the 'Test and Learn' pilot will not provide any additional initiatives or additional monies to the area.

Officers have requested further briefing from the People and Place Team in respect of Pilot Test and Learn for Monkstown/Rathcoole. A further update will be reported to Members at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION: that the People and Place Review Update advising of Collaboration Strategic Framework including Test and Learn Pilot areas be noted.

Prepared by: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning