



25 September 2024

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 30 September 2024** at **6.30 pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301/028 9034 0107

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 Tuesday 27 August 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 2 September 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance of Tuesday 3 September 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Monday 9 September 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Economic Development Committee Meeting of Tuesday 10 September 2024, 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 16 September 2024, 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 16 September 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 17 September 2024, a copy of which is **enclosed**.

11 PRESENTATION

11.1 Presentation by Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Smyth

"This Council strongly opposes the UK Government's recent Winter Fuel Payment policy change. We resolve to write to the Prime Minister, urging the Government to reverse this harmful decision, which will have a far-reaching and devastating impact on pensioner households across the UK. Furthermore, we seek assurance that, at the very least, the Pension Credit minimum income guarantee will be increased, ensuring that more low-income pensioner households, particularly those who narrowly miss out, become eligible for pension credit."

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Alderman Campbell

"That this Council welcomes publication of the draft Programme for Government (PfG) by the NI Executive;

- agrees that the PfG should include a standalone Mission on Peace and Peacebuilding;
- further agrees that peacebuilding, reconciliation, equality and inclusion are vital to achieving the key ambitions in the Programme for Government;
- notes that political instability and societal division are major barriers to growing our local and Northern Ireland's economy, improving local public services, tackling poverty and supporting our communities;
- and agrees to write to the First and Deputy First Minister to call for the inclusion of a Mission on Peace and Peacebuilding in the Programme for Government before the PfG public consultation deadline on 4 November 2024.

14 ITEMS FOR DECISION

14.1 Northern Ireland Executive Consultation on Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027

14.2 Labour Market Partnership Addendum Letter of Offer 2024/25

15 ITEMS FOR NOTING

15.1 Budget Report – Period 4 April 2024 to July 2024

15.2 APSE Services Awards 2024

16 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

16.1 Provision of a Pathway Programme for Employability Support

16.2 Ballyearl Carpark Resurfacing

16.3 Waste Harmonisation Project - Supply and Delivery of 180l Wheeled Bins & Wheelie Boxes

16.4 Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre – Request from Queens University

11 PRESENTATION

11.1 G/MSMO/7 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS (NIFHA)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with an update on the provision of social housing within the Borough.

2. Background

Members are reminded that at the Council Meeting on 25 March 2024, it was requested that the Chief Executive writes to Mr Seamus Leheny, Chief Executive of NIFHA and invite him to present to the Council on an annual basis to provide an update on their work programmes regarding social housing provisions.

Members are advised that a presentation regarding the provision of social housing within the Borough, will be made by representatives of NIFHA, a copy of which is **enclosed** for Members' Information.

Attending in person will be Seamus Leheny, Chief Executive of NIFHA and Anita Conway, Director of Development, Radius Housing.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

14 ITEMS FOR DECISION

14.1 CCS/GEN/014 NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2024-2027

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Members instructions in relation to the public consultation on the draft Programme for Government 2024-2027.

2. Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027

Members are advised that correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Executive Office in relation to an eight week public consultation on the draft Programme for Government 2024-2027.

The Executive agreed a draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' which outlines its priorities for making a real difference to the lives of people in Northern Ireland.

The draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 plan document can be accessed via the following link <http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/PfG>

3. Consultation Dates

An eight week public consultation on the draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 opened on **9 September 2024 and will end on 4 November 2024.**

Consultation on the accompanying impact assessments began on **9 September 2024 and will end on 2 December 2024.**

4. Consultation Participation

In-Person Events:

Belfast	Girdwood Hub, 10 Girdwood Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6EG Tuesday, 1 October 2024 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Ballymena	The Braid Theatre, 1-29 Bridge St, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ Tuesday, 8 October 2024 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Newry	Canal Court Hotel, Merchants Quay, Newry, BT35 8HF Thursday, 10 October 2024 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Derry/Londonderry	Destined, Northwest Disability Learning Centre, 1 Foyle Road, Derry, BT48 6SQ Tuesday, 15th October 2024 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm
Enniskillen	Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Pl, Enniskillen, BT74 7HR Thursday, 17 October 2024 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Online Events: (links will be provided upon registration)

- Wednesday, 25 September 2024 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- Monday, 30 September 2024 - 7:15pm to 8:15pm
- Thursday, 3 October 2024 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- Monday, 14 October 2024 - 7:15pm to 8:15pm
- Wednesday, 23 October 2024 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- Tuesday, 29 October 2024 - 7:15pm to 8:15pm

How to Register for Events:

To register for any consultation events, please register via the link below:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/208aa196>

Consultation Responses:

Consultation responses can also be submitted via the following link

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/pfg-2024>

Consultation on Equality Impact Assessments:

As part of the Consultation Process the Executive is also consulting on a number of Equality Impact Assessments, until 2 December 2024, and can be accessed via the following link <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/teo/pfg-ia-2024/>

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: James Porter, Customer Services Manager

Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Corporate Strategy

14.2 ED/LMP/003 LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP ADDENDUM LETTER OF OFFER 2024/25

1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for Council acceptance of an addendum Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DfC) (enclosed) for the Labour Market Partnership 2024-25 for additional funding of £24,000 in relation to the Childminding Funding.

2. Introduction/Background

Members will be aware of the Labour Market Partnership (LMP), the aim of which is to improve labour market conditions by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees.

The 2024/25 Action Plan was approved by full Council on 29 April 2024 and includes activities such as employment academies and support programmes, upskilling academies, employment events such as job fairs, as well as continuing to maintain and form partnerships with external support organisations, training providers and businesses.

The Action Plan focuses on the following themes:

- **Economic Inactivity** - People not in employment who have not been seeking employment within the last four weeks and/ or are unable to start work in the next two weeks;
- **Unemployment** - People who are without a job, currently available to work, and have been actively looking for work within the previous four weeks;
- **Disability** – People who report a physical or mental health condition(s) or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more where this reduces their ability to carry out day-to-day activities; and
- **Skilled Labour Supply** – DfE's 2021 Skills Barometer utilises the National Qualification Framework (NQF) Skills Classification.

The review of the 2023/24 Action Plan is underway and will be reported in due course.

Additional funding has been made available from the Department for Education to address shortcomings in the childminding industry. This funding is being administered by the Department for Communities and is accessible via Labour Market Partnerships.

The Council's 2024/25 LMP Action Plan already contained activities to support the Childminding industry including upskilling interventions. This Letter of Offer secures funding for these activities, and therefore enables the reallocation of existing LMP funds into other areas of need within the action plan.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At full Council on 29 April 2024, the LMP Action Plan 2024/25 and the associated budget was approved along with agreement for Officers to proceed at risk with project delivery preparation, without entering into any contract until a formal letter of offer is issued by DfC, and accepted by the Council.

At Economic Development Committee on 10 September 2024, Members approved the Labour Market Partnership Letter of Offer 2024-25, with minutes to be ratified at full Council on 30 September 2024.

4. Letter of Offer

Members are advised that a Letter of Offer for £24,000 has been received from DfC in relation to the approved Childminding Funding Bid, submitted to the Department. This will be delivered in conjunction with the 2024/25 LMP Action Plan.

The Letter of offer states that all conditions detailed within the original Letter of Offer dated 28 August 2024 (**enclosed**) remain in place.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The letter of offer will allow the reallocation of £24,000 of LMP funding to other agreed activities within the 2024/25 Action Plan.

6. Governance

The Partnership meets bi-monthly (6 times per year) and is chaired by the Mayor. Minutes from LMP meetings are reported to the Economic Development Committee.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve an addendum Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DfC) (enclosed**) for the Labour Market Partnership 2024-25 for additional funding of £24,000 in relation to the Childminding Funding Bid.**

Prepared by: Jill Murray, Executive Officer – Economic Development

Agreed by: Michael McKenna, Deputy Director – Investment & Business Development

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

15 ITEMS FOR NOTING

15.1 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – PERIOD 4 APRIL 2024 TO JULY 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide financial performance information at period 4 (April 2024 – July 2024) for the Chief Executive's section.

2. Introduction/Background

As agreed, quarterly budget reports will be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports will be available to all Members.

3. Summary

As at period 4, the Chief Executive's budget has a £16k unfavourable variance. This is generally attributable to increased legal costs.

Budget reports for Chief Executive's section for Period 4 April 2024 to July 2024 are **enclosed** for Members' information.

The overall financial position of the Council will be presented to the Policy & Governance Committee.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

15.2 PT/CI/061 APSE SERVICE AWARDS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcome of the APSE Service Awards 2024.

2. Introduction

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is a networking community and works with over 300 councils across the UK and the Awards uniquely recognise the profound contribution of local council frontline services to local communities and local people.

3. APSE Service Award Winners

The APSE Service awards celebrate excellence in public service delivery across the UK and receive hundreds of submissions each year from local authorities.

The Council was a finalist in five out of the six categories for which they were shortlisted. **The Bereavement and Cemetery Services section won the award for Best Services Team.**

In addition, **the Council won the prestigious Overall Council of the Year Award.** This accolade recognises the most outstanding and innovative local authority in the UK, highlighting their exceptional delivery of frontline services. The award celebrates councils that excel across a diverse range of service areas.

APSE Chief Executive Mo Baines noted that, despite the unprecedented pressures on local authorities, each finalist has shown unwavering dedication to excellence in frontline public services, going above and beyond to achieve these results.

At the Awards Ceremony the Mayor, Councillor Neil Kelly, said *"I am deeply honoured to receive these prestigious awards. This is a huge accomplishment for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. To be awarded UK Council of the Year in a competition with over 300 County, City and Borough Councils illustrates the commitment of our staff and quality of the front-line services we provide.*

"I would like to pay tribute to the Council officers for their innovation, dedication and determination that drives the Council's efforts in providing effective front-line services which have been highly recognised at these Awards".

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the update on the outcome of the APSE Service Awards 2024 be noted.

Prepared and Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Corporate Strategy