



8 March 2023

Committee Chair:

Councillor J Gilmour

Committee Vice-Chair:

Alderman J McGrath

Committee Members:

Alderman P Michael

Councillors – M Brady, P Bradley, J Burbank,
M Cooper, P Dunlop, R Lynch, N McClelland,
T McGrann, V McWilliam, V Robinson, L Smyth and
M Stewart

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 March 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Jacqui Dixon, MBE BSc MBA

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0107/028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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4 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 WOMEN'S AID ABCLN

Members are advised that a presentation from Rosemary Magill (Chief Executive Officer) Janice Hagan (Vice Chair) and Arlene Creighton (Communications and Engagement Manager) from Women's Aid ABCLN will be provided.

RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.

4.2 ED/ED/173 UPDATE ON TOURISM ACTION PLAN

Members are reminded that the Corporate Plan 2019-2030 and Recovery Plan 2021-2023 are centred on the themes of Place, Prosperity and People.

As part of the Prosperity theme, a Tourism Action Plan was agreed in February 2020 to help develop the Borough as an attractive and successful tourist destination; a copy will be enclosed for Members' information updated with the current position.

The Tourism Manager will present an update to the Committee on the delivery of the Tourism Action Plan to date and future priorities.

RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation on the Tourism Action Plan be noted.

Prepared by: Mark McGrann, Tourism Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 CP/GEN/047 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2023

Members are reminded of The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards, in association with Co-operation Ireland, aim to recognise the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout the Island of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live.

Nominations are now open for the 2023 competition and this year there are 12 categories in total; 5 Population categories, 4 Single Issue categories with designated themes, a Housing Estates category, an Islands and Coastal Communities category and an Urban Neighbourhood category. The Council can nominate groups in up to a maximum of five categories in all and one entry only in any individual category. The categories are listed below for Members' consideration:

Population

1. 0 - 300
2. 300 - 1,000
3. 1,000 - 2,000
4. 2,000 - 5,000
5. Over 5,000

Theme

6. Creative Place Initiative
7. Community Wellbeing Initiative
8. Community Resilience
9. Community Tourism Initiative

Non Population

10. Housing Estates
11. Islands and Coastal Communities
12. Urban Neighbourhoods – Defined Area of a City, town or suburban place.

Entry to the competition is by way of Council nomination. To nominate a group, a short application form has to be completed by the Council and submitted along with a short resume of the groups work and how it meets the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2023 competition is Saturday 13 May 2023.

Following submission, an assessment visit will take place during the Summer where nominees will demonstrate pride in their place by oral presentation, exhibition of community activities and culture and a tour of the area highlighting the aspects of which they are particularly proud. During this visit it is also important that the community demonstrates real partnership with their local Council and shows that all sectors of the community are included.

Successful nominees will be announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony the date of which has yet to be confirmed. At this event Category Winners will receive a large trophy and a cash prize of €1,000 or sterling

equivalent. Runners-up will also receive a trophy and a cash prize of €500 or sterling equivalent. The entry fee per Council this year is £500 per group, provision for which has been made within the Community Planning budget.

Officers would propose that the following three groups be nominated for the 2023 competition:

- All About Us - ASD Teens (Population Category Over 5000)
- Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group (Housing Estates)
- Newtownabbey Men's Shed (Community Wellbeing Initiative)

A short summary of the work of each of the groups is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a) the 3 groups proposed for nomination to the 2023 Pride of Place Awards be approved.**
- b) any proposals for additional nominations from Members to be made to Officers for consideration by 21 April 2023.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.2 CP/CD/445 QUEENS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2023 – ROYAL GARDEN PARTIES

Members are reminded that three groups in the Borough were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) in 2022, namely:

- Whiteabbey Community Group
- Monkstown Community Association and
- The River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company

Members are reminded it was agreed at the June 2022 Community Planning Committee to support the delivery of presentation events to each of the recipients. These events were delivered from September 2022 - January 2023.

Members are advised that a request has been received from River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company requesting financial assistance for two representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 9 May 2023 to celebrate their success in receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in June 2022.

Whiteabbey Community Group and Monkstown Community Association have also received invitations for two representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace and have confirmed their willingness to attend the Party being held on Wednesday 3 May 2023.

The total approximate cost per person for flights, transfers and accommodation is £225.00 and it is proposed that Council contributes up to a maximum of £125.00 per person to attend.

RECOMMENDATION: that provision of financial assistance up to a maximum of £125.00 per person, to attend the Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace on either 3 or 9 May 2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.3 AC/EV/019 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT SPRING PLANT FAIR ON 22 APRIL 2023

Members are reminded that delivery of a Spring Plant Fair at Hazelbank Park on 22 April 2023 was approved at the November 2022 Council meeting.

In order to safely and efficiently manage parking and traffic flow at this event, it is proposed that the Hazelbank Car Park is closed on 22 April to all traffic apart from traders, blue badge holders, and those collecting purchases from a dedicated 'plant crèche'. A free Park and Ride service for all park visitors will instead run between both Northern Regional College and Ulster University and Hazelbank Park for the duration of the event, with local signage installed in the weeks preceding the event to advise people of the change. Local parking at Jordanstown Loughshore Park will be unaffected.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposal to close Hazelbank Car Park on 22 April 2023 and offer a free park and ride service from Northern Regional College and Ulster University be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.4 AC/ACG/011 SIXMILE FESTIVAL

Members are reminded that a number of large scale events delivered in Antrim Castle Gardens and the wider Antrim area are included in the Council Annual Events Plan with budgets allocated for each of the events. The events referred to are Antrim Live, Party in the Park, The Antrim Festival and the Northern Ireland Food and Craft Festival.

Consultations with the various stakeholders involved in the delivery of the events has been carried out with a view to combining all events into one weekend long festival over the summer. The intention of this is to maximise the economic impacts of the events by creating a weekend festival which appeals to both residents and also visitors who have an incentive to stay in the area for the duration of the event. This approach will also maximise the resources by combining budgets whilst achieving economies of scale and through delivery of an enhanced higher quality event which in turn will increase attendances and visitor engagement within the area.

The proposal was presented to the Antrim DEA Member Engagement meeting on 2 February 2023 and received the endorsement of all in attendance.

An overview of the proposal is **enclosed** for Members' information with the provisional title of Six Mile Festival.

It is proposed to deliver an inaugural 'Six Mile Festival' over the weekend of 29 and 30 July 2023 in Antrim Town Centre, Antrim Castle Gardens, The Junction, The Gateway Visitor Centre and Antrim Loughshore Park. The Junction has proposed a contribution of £10,000 to support the delivery of the festival as well as in kind support. Antrim Festival group has proposed an 'in kind' contribution of volunteer support over the weekend to deliver the festival.

Town centre animation would extend from Ulster Bar Corner to Market Square continuing through to Antrim Castle Gardens with a wide range of programme activities to suit all ages, including centrepiece performances in Antrim Castle Gardens Events Field. Plans include four major music events covering a range of musical genres, complemented by an exciting programme of entertainment throughout Antrim Castle Gardens.

Stakeholders are in agreement that the consolidation and delivery of the proposed festival would create a unique new flagship event for Northern Ireland, with the potential to create significant economic benefits. Combining these events allows for increased quality and value for money, particularly through economies of scale.

RECOMMENDATION: that the delivery of the Six Mile Festival on 29 and 30 July 2023 as proposed to be approved.

Prepared by: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.5 AC/EV/003 CRAFT NI PROPOSAL FOR GARDEN SHOW IRELAND 2023

Members are reminded that ongoing collaboration with Craft NI in relation to the continued development of craft in the Borough was approved at the June 2021 Community Planning Committee.

The involvement of craft makers in Garden Show Ireland is well-established, and craft stalls form an important part of the event.

Craft NI is the sector-lead body for the promotion and development of the design-led contemporary craft industry in Northern Ireland. Craft NI supports and promotes the craft industry as an integral, entrepreneurial and vibrant part of the region's economic and cultural infrastructure. Its key partners include regional government and agencies, local government, cultural organisations, universities and colleges of further and higher education, private business and industry.

Members are advised that Officers have met with Craft NI to ascertain if they would be interested in sourcing and managing high-quality craft makers for Garden Show Ireland 2023 on a one-year trial basis. Craft NI have indicated that they would be keen to do this.

Under the terms of the proposal, Craft NI would be responsible for sourcing and managing 12-15 high quality craft makers who would offer their crafts for sale to the public and provide craft demonstrations. Craft NI propose to charge each craft maker £250 to participate, with 50% of this being retained by Craft NI as a management fee and 50% given to the Council to cover infrastructure costs. Craft NI have committed to ensuring that craft makers based in the Borough are encouraged to participate in the event.

The involvement of Craft NI in Garden Show Ireland would be reviewed after this year's event, with a report brought to the September Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: that Craft NI's involvement in sourcing and managing craft makers at Garden Show Ireland 2023 be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.6 ED/TOU/002 VISITOR SERVICES REVIEW

Members are reminded that a Tourism Action Plan for the Borough was approved in February 2020 prior to the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Within the Action Plan Visitor Information Provision was highlighted as a thematic area and it was proposed to review existing provision and distribute visitor information services across the Borough at locations of higher visitor footfall.

A review of the Borough's Visitor Information provision has been carried out with engagement of Tourism Northern Ireland and Visit Belfast – strategic tourism partners; a copy is **enclosed** for Members' information.

It is proposed to implement the recommendations by enhancing existing visitor information and creating new visitor information points, which will position this service in areas of high footfall and more effectively distribute this service across the Borough on the following basis:

Existing Visitor Information Services will be refreshed and upgraded at the following locations:

- Mossley Mill
- The Old Courthouse
- The Junction
- Belfast International Airport

New Visitor Information Service points will be created at the following locations:

- Valley Leisure Centre
- The Abbeycentre
- The Gateway Visitor Centre
- Ballyclare Town Hall
- Antrim Castle Gardens
- Randalstown

The estimated cost of the digital equipment to carry out the proposed changes is approximately £35,000.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposals for the provision of Visitor Information Services in the Borough, at an approximate cost of £35,000 be approved.

Prepared by: Mark McGrann, Tourism Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.7 AC/GEN/038 MOBILE CATERING UNITS AT THE GATEWAY

Members are reminded that a proposal to allow Loughshore Catering, operator of the Boathouse restaurant, to install additional mobile catering units at the Antrim Lough Shore Park was approved at the April 2021 Council meeting for a period of one year with a further 12-month extension. Rental payments were applied at the same cost per square metre as the Boathouse restaurant.

Within their contract for The Boathouse Loughshore Catering have the rights to food trading opportunities throughout Antrim Loughshore Park.

Members are advised that at present there are three mobile catering units on the site, all of which have been closed since last summer. A wooden fence has also been erected around these units to protect generators and other operational equipment and plant.

Officers have met the contractor to discuss the future of these units. They would like to remove two of the three units and all of the fencing and additional plant equipment, leaving only the Made in Antrim unit for which they would then need to apply for planning permission. Rental payments would be recalculated based on this single unit, and would continue to be charged at the same cost per square metre as the Boathouse restaurant for a contract period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (with an option to extend by 12 months).

RECOMMENDATION: that permission to Loughshore Catering to operate a mobile catering unit in Antrim Loughshore Park from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (with an option to extend b 12 months) be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.8 AC/MU/001 PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

Members are reminded that a request to carry out a paranormal investigation at Mossley Mill by a paranormal group based in Newtownabbey was approved by the Committee in June 2021. The Group have now requested permission to carry out a similar investigation at Sentry Hill. As previously, the Group will be responsible for the provision of a risk assessment and insurance to cover this activity.

Members are also advised that correspondence has been received from the County Antrim Paranormal Research Association (CAPRA), requesting permission to carry out a paranormal investigation at Clotworthy House.

CAPRA have advised Officers that the organisation has investigated paranormal activity at other historic buildings including the Grand Opera House in Belfast. The investigation would take place over the course of one evening, and would involve the use of equipment which detects temperature and frequency anomalies. The Group will be responsible for the provision of a risk assessment and insurance for this activity.

RECOMMENDATION: that requests to carry out a paranormal investigations at Sentry Hill and Clotworthy House be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.9 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group resumed in October 2022 to commence planning for the May Fair which will be delivered from 20 to 27 May 2023. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023 are enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the May Fair Working Group meeting of the 22 February 2023, be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.10 CP/CD/453 ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST UPDATE

Correspondence has been received from the Reserved Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (RFCA) in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Update; a copy is enclosed for Members' information.

Members are advised that RFCA (NI) confirm that they have now appointed a dedicated support officer for the Veterans' Champions Community. He has engaged with the Borough Veterans' Champion with a view to developing an outreach programme that reaches out to the veteran community in the Borough.

There is funding available to support veteran outreach programming in the Borough as follows:

- £1,454 per annum to deliver up to three local veteran community networking events in the Borough.
- £3,000 per annum for up to three veteran community social events in the Borough and
- £1,181 per annum to deliver up to three veteran community family half day activities in the Borough.

It is proposed to engage with the Borough Veterans' Champion to develop events and activities for veterans which are eligible for each of the funding strands and submit proposals to the Veterans' Champion Support Officer with an update brought to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: that development of events and activities for veterans and application for financial support to deliver this programme be approved with an update brought back to a future meeting.

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

5.11 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

Members are reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council.

As such the minutes of recent PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting held on 21 February 2023 are enclosed for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting held on 21 February 2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.12 CP/CD/456 BONFIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2023

Members are reminded that a review of the Bonfire Management Programme was completed in February 2022 and approved by the Council in March 2022 with a budget of £3,000 per site for family fun day/festival activities agreed. In 2022, 21 sites signed up to the Bonfire Management Programme.

On 2 March 2023 Officers met with Bonfire Representatives from across the Borough to receive feedback in relation to the 2022 programme and to identify any issues that may exist in advance of the registration of participating sites for the 2023 programme. A similar meeting was held with Elected Members at which feedback from the site representatives meeting was presented and discussed.

In summary, across both meetings, there was a general consensus that the aims and objectives of the programme, as outlined in the Framework Document (enclosed), and the way in which it is currently delivered is still fit for purpose. Specific issues were raised at the meetings in relation to:

- Procurement of Inflatables – Council should continue to ensure that value for money is being achieved.
- In light of the increased costs of insurance and equipment it has been proposed that the current level of financial assistance of £3,000 per site be increased by £500 to £3,500 in 2023, this has been provided for in the 23/24 estimates.

The Bonfire Management Programme was equality screened in May 2018 and since then there have been no material changes to the programme therefore this screening still applies.

Programme Delivery 2023

In preparation for the delivery of the 2023 Bonfire Management Programme, Officers are currently preparing online registration packs for completion by all potential participating sites. Sign up dates have been scheduled to take place in Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill on Wednesday 19 April and Thursday 20 April 2023 respectively and the collection date has been proposed as Friday 12 May 2023.

Interagency site inspection dates which will be carried out by Officers and Statutory Partners, have been agreed as follows:

Pre-Collection – Thursday 11 May 2023 (Council Officer Only)
First Inspection – Thursday 1 June 2023
Second Inspection – Thursday 22 June 2023
Final Inspection – Monday 10 July 2023

Early indications suggest that 22 sites will sign up to participate in this year's programme.

Two representatives from each site have been invited to attend a 4 week OCN Level II Course in Events Management commencing Thursday 9 March 2023.

Following the registration of sites on Wednesday 19 April and Thursday 20 April 2023 a further report will be brought to Council.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a) the proposed Bonfire Management Programme for 2023 be approved.**
- b) the financial assistance provided for each site be increased by £500 for 2023.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

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

Members are reminded of the Small Grants Programme, which was 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 of up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. 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 the receipt of a Group Constitution, List of Committee Members, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts and a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all other appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

During the month of February, 2 applications totalling £1,100 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below:

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Pass/Fail	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Muck and More Allotments Association	Annual Public and Employers Liability Insurance	Pass	£400	£400
Neillsbrook Community Development Group	Annual Public and Employers Liability Insurance	Pass	£700	£700
Total				£1,100

RECOMMENDATION: that the two Small Grant applications outlined above be approved at a total cost of £1,100.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.14 CP/CD/455 HIS MAJESTY THE KINGS CORONATION CELEBRATION EVENTS FUND GRANT-AID RECOMMENDATIONS 2023

Members are reminded of the motion declared carried at the Council meeting in October 2022 to establish a Sub Committee to plan for the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

Following a meeting of the newly established Sub Committee on 29 November 2022 it was agreed to provide financial assistance to support community and voluntary groups wishing to deliver events over the extended weekend of 5 - 8 May 2023 to celebrate this historic occasion.

A public call for applications to His Majesty The King's Coronation Celebration Events Fund opened on Wednesday 1 February 2023 with a closing date of Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 4pm.

A total of 95 requests for financial assistance totalling £89,340.87 have been received and assessed by Officers using eligibility criteria and scoring matrix as that used to assess applications under the Community Development Small Grant Aid Programme.

A summary of the application score sheets and funding recommendations are **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

Following assessment all 95 applications requesting a total of £87,953.38 are eligible to be funded.

Due to the statutory holiday a number of groups have requested permission to host their events outside of the dates of the official Coronation weekend.

RECOMMENDATION: that the 95 applications requesting a total of £87,953.38 be approved and that permission be granted to those groups wishing to hold their events outside of the dates of the official Coronation weekend.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.15 CP/CP/178 DEA ENGAGEMENT MEETING TERMS OF REFERENCE

New Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings have been drafted and enclosed for Members' approval. The Terms of Reference will provide the framework for the DEA Meetings moving forward. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of Officer's to ensure effective operation and reporting of the meetings.

The new Terms of Reference will also provide clear timelines for the operational side of the meetings to ensure Members are provided with the most up to date information at their DEA Meeting. The recently in post DEA Engagement Team will implement the new framework for the DEA Meetings and manage the process in collaboration with other service areas across the Council.

RECOMMENDATION: that the revised DEA Engagement Meeting 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

5.16 CP/CP/213 CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III SUB COMMITTEE

Members are reminded that at the Council meeting in October 2022, it was agreed to the establishment of a Sub Committee to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to plan for the Coronation of King Charles III. The fourth meeting of the Sub Committee was held in Ballyclare Town Hall on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

The minutes of this meeting are **enclosed** for Members' information.

Members are advised that a screening exercise on the Queen Elizabeth II commemorative programme has been carried out with the form **enclosed**. An equality impact assessment is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a) the minutes of King Charles III Coronation Sub Committee meeting of 22 February 2023 be approved;**
- b) the outcome of the Section 75 Screening exercise be approved.**

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

5.17 AC/GEN/010/VOL1 ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

Members are reminded that the continuation of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel, including the nomination of five Elected Members (one per party) and the recruitment of up to twelve independent voluntary members to serve for the term of the Council was approved by the Community Planning Committee in February 2019.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel meets four times each year to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service. Elected Member nominations to the Panel are refreshed each Council term at the Annual Meeting, while non-elected independent members serve a four-year term of office. Members are advised that the Panel currently has eight non-elected independent members.

It is proposed that current independent voluntary members be permitted to continue to serve on the Panel for the next Council term, and Officers begin a recruitment process to appoint new independent members to the vacant positions.

Members are advised that the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel Constitution has been updated and is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a) the continued service of the current Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel independent members for the next term of the Council, be approved**
- b) the recruitment of up to four additional independent members be approved**
- c) the updated Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel Constitution be approved**

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.18 AC/GEN/086 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NOW GROUP

Members are reminded that the Council was awarded the prestigious Autism Impact Award in 2019 in recognition of Council venues creating accessible and autism-friendly environments. Members are also reminded that the Council has a partnership with the NOW Group through which it administers its JAM (Just a Minute of patience) card scheme, which allows people with a hidden disability or communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way. Accreditations and partnerships like these feed directly into the Council's Disability Action Plan 2020 – 2025.

The NOW Group is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of services that support people with learning difficulties and autism to realise their full potential and change their lives for the better. The Group's services focus on supporting people into employment, training, transition and volunteering. It also offers a family service to support new and expectant parents with a learning difficulty or autism. The NOW Group is part funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme, the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities.

Members are advised that Officers have been approached by the NOW Group to explore further partnership opportunities to benefit people living with learning disabilities and autism.

The Group has suggested working with the Council to co-produce two drama productions each year at the Theatre at the Mill which would be performed by people with learning disabilities and autism. Non-acting front of house, backstage and technical roles would also be taken by members of the Group, who would receive tuition, mentoring and guidance from theatre staff and other professional theatre practitioners as part of the partnership in order to develop their skills and give them valuable practical experience to help them secure jobs in the creative industries. These productions would be presented to a professional standard, with friends, family and members of the public invited to attend the shows.

Subject to approval, this enhanced partnership can be announced during Autism Awareness Week, which runs from 27 March – 2 April 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposal to further develop the existing partnership with the NOW Group through co-production of two theatre shows each year to support people with learning difficulties and autism, be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 CP/GEN/019 COMMUNITY PLANNING SECTION - PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

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 your I pads.

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91		Antrim & Newtownabbey Citizens Advice Bureau
D/CSP/48	29/06/2022 28/09/2022	Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	06/12/2022	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/DP/67	-	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
	-	Joint Cohesion Group
CP/GR/43	-	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership
CP/CP/	10/12/2019 15/09/2020 26/01/2021 28/09/2021 07/04/2022	Community Planning Partnership

RECOMMENDATION: that the Partnership Minutes be noted.

Prepared by: Wendy Donaldson, Business Support Supervisor

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.2 CP/TD/025 COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT – FUTURE PLANS

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Department for Communities (enclosed) outlining their intention to initiate a programme of work with the aim of refreshing both the policy and funding frameworks within which investment decisions relating to future support for the Community and Voluntary Sector will be taken.

The review will provide new opportunities to apply for funding through an open call, with multi-year, flexible grant funding arrangements in place. It is anticipated the transition to new arrangements will commence in 2024/2025 financial year (subject to relevant progress and necessary approvals being in place).

This programme of work will be progressed alongside the ongoing 'People and Place, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy'.

Members are reminded 'People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal' was launched in June 2003. It was aimed at targeting urban communities in Northern Ireland suffering the highest levels of deprivation by bringing together collective Government Departments in partnership to address disadvantage. People and Place encompasses Neighbourhood Renewal, Areas at Risk and Small Pockets of Deprivation programmes which have been in place since early 2000's. There have been subsequent evaluations of these programmes with limited change effected.

In February 2020 the Minister for Communities committed to a comprehensive and strategic review of the current People and Place strategy via an inclusive Co-Design process. Subsequently the People and Place Review Team presented the context to People Place Review and update on Co-Design process and Structures at Community Planning Partnership meeting on 7th April 2022.

The People and Place Review is ongoing with changes anticipated in 2024/2025 financial year. Further updates on both these programmes of work will be communicated to Members at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION – that the Department for Communities 'Community Sector Support Future Plans' update 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

6.3 CP/TD/003 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP FUNDING 2022/23 UPDATE

Members are reminded that funding for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership for 2022/23 was approved at the April 2022 committee.

Members are advised Department for Communities have issued a revised funding contract for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Programme 2022/23 (enclosed) to reflect a cost of living payment for running costs and salaries. This has been accepted by the Council and returned to enable payments to be made prior to 31st March 2023.

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has been operating in Rathcoole since 2006.

The revised offer of funding for 2022/23 of **£80,462.32** for cost of living increase shows an increase of **£1925** from the original offer of **£78,537.32**.

RECOMMENDATION that the revised Letter of Offer from Department for Communities for £80,462.32 for Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership 2022/23 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

6.4 CP/CP/225 YOUTH SERVICE FUNDING APPLICATIONS 2023-24

Members are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the Education Authority regarding Youth Service Funding position for 2023-24.

Below is a funding breakdown for Antrim and Newtownabbey Council.

Total no of awards 2022/23	Amount awarded	Total no of awards available for 2023/24	Amount available	Increased provision (Compared to last year)
4	£185,051.00	5	£152,964.00	11 Sessions (increase of 1 session)

Following the funding application process, the Education Authority have informed applicants and Council of the outcome of the process. A summary of the outcome is listed below;

Core Funding Opportunities:

Ballyclare – Conditional letter of offer has been released and checks are being carried out for 1st April contract start.

Rathenraw - Conditional letter of offer has been released and checks are being carried out for 1st April contract start

Rathfern – No applications

Targeted Funding Opportunities:

Rathfern – No application for Street Based programme; this funding opportunity had been released in error was intended to be for Crumlin; decision will be taken after consultation (input from PCSP/Community Planning welcome) to decide where best to focus this and release a new funding opportunity.

Monkstown – no applicants; discussions ongoing with local providers, decision will be made to re-release or delivery the programme within EA.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.5 CP/CD/454 COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (**enclosed**) regarding the launch of a new window to apply for the Community Ownership Fund.

Community groups can bid for up to £250k matched-funding to buy or take over local community assets at risk of loss to run these as community-owned businesses. In exceptional cases, up to £1m is available for sports clubs to buy a sports ground at risk of loss.

To apply, groups should submit an [Expression of Interest](#). If successful, they will be invited to submit a full application during one of the bidding windows. The current window opened on 15 February and will close on 14 April 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.6 CP/CD/433 CENSUS 2021

Members are reminded that at the June Community Planning Committee the first results from Census 2021 were reported following publication on 24 May 2022. The first release of data consisted of headline population statistics by age, sex, number of households with usual residents, and communal establishment population.

Further results from Census 2021 have been published 21 February 2023. Census 2021 person and household estimates were published for the District Electoral Areas (80 areas), Super Data Zones (850 zones) and Data Zones (3,780 zones) in Northern Ireland.

Super Data Zones and Data Zones are the new statistical output geographies for the Census 2021. Further information on these output geographies is available via the NISRA Area Explorer explore.nisra.gov.uk and the NISRA website www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021.

Further results from Census 2021 to be released on 21 March 2023. The March release will cover topics such as sexual orientation, household composition, labour market, qualifications, communal establishments, migration and travel to work or study. The results will be available on the NISRA website and will include statistics at both Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels.

Other main Census 2021 statistics will be released in stages up to Summer 2023.

The results and further information on Census 2021 are available on the NISRA website; www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Approved by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.7 CP/CD/224 BEREAVEMENT POLICY CHANGE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Department for Communities (enclosed) regarding changes to the eligibility criteria for bereavement benefits.

The Department for Work and Pensions has announced that from 9 February 2023, cohabiting parents will be able to claim bereavement benefits, to help them bring up dependent children.

Families who have previously been unable to get support because they weren't married or in a civil partnership will be able to apply for retrospective payments going back to 30 August 2018. A surviving parent who lost their partner on or after 6 April 2017 may be eligible for Bereavement Support Payment. Those who lost their partner before 6 April 2017 may be eligible for Widowed Parent's Allowance(WPA).

Backdated payments of Widowed Parent's Allowance may be reduced by the amount of any other benefits paid in the period from 30 August 2018. For anyone who was in receipt of Universal Credit, the award of WPA may result in an historic overpayment of Universal Credit.

More Information is available on NI Direct: www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/benefits-and-financial-support/bereavement

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.8 CP/CP/146 SMALL WORLDS EVENT

Members are advised that as part of the Good Relations Action Plan delivery of two Small Worlds workshops will be held on 20 March 2023.

To offer a variety of times for attendees the workshop will be held at 2-4pm, and 7-9pm in Corrs Corner Hotel.

Small Worlds are café-style events hosted by members of Belfast Friendship Club, aiming to change hearts and minds through offering a glimpse into real lives from around the world. The workshops provide a safe space for participants to encounter people from different backgrounds and parts of the world and are carefully managed by an experienced facilitator.

Participants will get a glimpse into the real lives of people who grew up in a different part of the world, a different culture or religious background, a different environment or climate living far away from their family and friends. Additionally, participants will hear of the challenges of being new to Northern Ireland and the variety of reasons for moving to here.

Alongside Small Worlds there will also be presentations from PSNI, Bryson Group, Barnardos, and MEARS Housing. With an opportunity for PSNI engagement, the event will also involve the Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), The PCSP has a requirement within its Action Plan to deliver activities to address hate crime.

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

6.9 AC/MU/010 SENTRY HILL REOPENING ARRANGEMENTS

Members are reminded that Sentry Hill Historic House has been closed to the public since the Covid 19 pandemic, with the exception of pre-arranged school visits and tour groups.

Prior to the pandemic, Sentry Hill was open to the public annually from Easter to September. From October to March, Sentry Hill accommodated schools and group visits, events, and the delivery of classes and courses.

Members are advised that it is proposed to reopen Sentry Hill to visitors on Easter Sunday and Monday (April 9 and 10) from 2pm to 5pm. It is also proposed that Sentry Hill opens to visitors each weekend from 12pm until 5pm from Easter until the end of September. A launch event will take place to mark the venue's reopening, and additional animation events will be programmed throughout the summer.

Members are reminded of the visitor fees approved at the November 2022 Committee which will apply:

Adults	£4.50
Children and concessions	£3
Family groups	£12
Community groups	£4
Group concessions	£2.50/£3

Members are advised that Sentry Hill will continue to be available for schools and other groups to visit, subject to advance booking, outside of these times.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

6.10 AC/GEN/083 ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22

Members are advised that a copy of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's (ACNI) Annual Review 2021-22 was received on 20 February 2023.

The report notes that although Covid restrictions were gradually eased during this year, the operating environment for the arts was extremely challenging. To help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the sector, the ACNI produced a substantial body of research, which informed the design and delivery of a suite of Emergency Funding Programmes co-produced with the Department for Communities.

The report also notes that the long-term sustainability of small to medium-sized cultural organisations was boosted with the introduction of the 'Blueprint' partnership programme designed to future-proof a number of arts organisations through training and mentoring initiatives.

Support for artists and arts organisations to manage new rules governing travel and trade with counterparts in the European Union (EU) was provided through a new pilot funding scheme called the Four Nations International Fund, which in turn has led to the creation of the Arts Infopoint UK, which provides information on practical issues relating to artist mobility and explores new bilateral initiatives with EU states.

In 2021-22 the ACNI established Minority Ethnic and Rural Deliberative Forums to ensure that under-represented groups not traditionally associated with decision-making are implicitly involved in decisions that affect them. Similarly, the Mentoring and Residency Programme for Minority Ethnic Artists awarded £107,000 to assist 27 artists with their careers through skills development.

The report further notes that the ACNI introduced three funding programmes to advance the development of the arts within the digital marketplace, and resumed their Creative Schools Partnership with the Education Authority and Urban Villages.

Further information about the ACNI 2021-22 Annual Review can be found at www.artscouncil-ni.org.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning