



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor T McGrann
- 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 and S Wilson
- Non Committee Members** : Councillors – J Burbank, M Goodman and B Webb
- In Attendance** : Danny Kinahan DL and Rachael Harger, Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner's Office
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker
Director of Community Planning – U Fay
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
IT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Mayor and Member Services Officer – S Fisher
Member Services Officer – C McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the April meeting of the Community Planning Committee and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor R Lynch

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.2 – Councillor P Dunlop

Item 4.4 – Councillor M Brady

Item 4.14 - Councillor B Webb

3.1 CP/CP/453 NI VETERANS COMMISSIONER – DANNY KINAHAN DL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members of the attendance at Committee of Mr Danny Kinahan DL, Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner who would make a presentation to Members.

2. Background

Members were reminded that in response to a proposal from a Member at the November 2023 Committee, it was agreed to invite the NI Veterans Commissioner to a future meeting of the Committee to make a presentation.

Danny Kinahan, DL provided a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

Members' questions were addressed by Mr Kinahan and he was commended on the work carried out by him and his team.

The Chairperson thanked him for his presentation and he left the Chamber.

Proposed by Alderman Michael

Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

Councillor Burbank left and returned to the Chamber during Item 3.2.

3.2 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

A presentation on Armed Forces Day 2024 was given at the meeting by Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning and Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events.

The Director of Community Planning and the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events responded to Members concerning expenditure logistics.

Members recognised and commended the work carried out to date by the Community Planning Team particularly in securing the Red Arrows display.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024 MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 20 March 2024.

2. Background

Armed Forces Day 2024 would take place at Jordanstown Loughshore Park and Hazelbank Park on Saturday 22 June. This would be the first time that the event would be held in the Borough since 2016, when it took place in Antrim Castle Gardens.

The theme of Armed Forces Day would be Veterans and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the event would be filled with entertainment, military displays, stalls, live demonstrations and family fun.

A Military Working Group meets monthly to co-ordinate the specific military aspects of the event, and a Council Working Group would also meet monthly to oversee the delivery of Armed Forces Day in its entirety.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The delivery of Armed Forces Day 2024 on Saturday 22 June was approved at the June 2023 Council meeting when it was agreed to establish a Working Group.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Armed Forces Day 2024 Working Group met on 20 March 2024 in Mossley Mill. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 20 March 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Having declared an interest in Item 4.2, Councillor Dunlop left the Chamber.

4.2 CP/CD/445 KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to a request to assist Community Group representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace on either 8 or 21 May 2024.

2. Background

Members were reminded of the two local groups; Muckamore Parish Development Association and Mayfield Village Community Association who were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in November 2023.

In March Presentation and Celebration Events for both groups, were hosted by the Council, in the Old Courthouse Antrim and Mossley Mill respectively.

There was an established precedent that recipients of this award are then invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

3. Previous Council decision

Members were reminded that the provision of financial assistance for two representatives from each of the three groups awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2022 up to £225 per person to attend a Royal Garden Party was approved at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee.

4. Request for Funding

Both Muckamore Parish Development Association and Mayfield Village Community Association had informed officers that they had been invited to send two representatives to a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in May 2024.

5. Financial Implication

The total approximate cost per person for flights, transfers and accommodation for one night is £300 per person and it was proposed that Council contributes up to a maximum of £225 per person, similar to last year

to support groups to attend. Provision for the total cost of £900 had been identified by Officers within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

The Director of Community Planning provided clarity on costs associated with the event.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

financial assistance, up to a maximum of £225.00 per person, to attend a Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace in May 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Councillor Dunlop returned to the Chamber.

4.3 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval on the draft minutes of DEA Member Engagement Group meetings.

2. Introduction/Background

The DEA Member Engagement Groups are an established part of the Community Planning engagement framework with meetings held three times per annum.

3. Previous Council Decision

The updated Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings were approved at the March 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings.

4. Key Update

DEA Member Engagement Group meetings had recently taken place and draft minutes for the seven meetings were circulated for Members' information, these will be formally adopted at the next meetings of the DEA groups.

The meeting schedule was set out below:

Date of Meeting	DEA
21 February 2024	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
22 February 2024	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
28 February 2024	Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group
29 February 2024	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
5 March 2024	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
28 February 2024	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
20 February 2024	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

5. Governance

The next round of DEA Member Engagement Meetings were scheduled to take place in June 2024.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the draft minutes of DEA Member Engagement Group meetings be approved as an accurate reflection of the meetings.

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

4.4 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members approval for the provision of £25,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority (EA) on behalf of the THRiVE Project and to seek approval for the THRiVE Project be invited to present at a future Community Planning Committee.

2. Introduction

The THRiVE Project is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee, to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to Thrive for 2023/24. It was previously agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report on The Thrive Project be provided to the Community Planning Committee from September 2022.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were advised provision of £25,000 had been made in the 2024/25 Community Planning budgets in order to continue to provide support for the THRiVE project.

Other Community Planning partners had also confirmed their financial commitment to continue to support this group as outlined below;

FUNDER	AMOUNT
DE/DOJ	£118k
EA	£34k
ANBC (Proposed)	£25k

NHSCT	£25k
PHA	£50k
TEO	£25k
Barnardo's	£49k
TOTAL	£326k

A draft Service Level Agreement between Council and Education Authority (THRiVE Project) for 2024/25 had been developed and was circulated for Members approval.

5. Governance

Elected Members from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA were nominated to serve on the THRiVE Board at the Annual Council Meeting on 30 May 2023 with Councillor Brady and Councillor Gilmour nominated for their respective DEA's to serve on the Board for 2023/24.

Officers would continue to work with the THRiVE Project and Community Planning partners to manage the performance of the Project. Quarterly performance reports would continue to be reported to the Community Planning Committee.

6. Summary

Members were advised that a revised Service Level Agreement for 2024/25 had been developed for Members approval. The THRiVE Project had also requested that they be invited to present at a future Community Planning Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Mallon and agreed that

(a) provision of £25,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRiVE Project be approved, with a quarterly performance report brought to future meetings of the Committee.

(b) the THRiVE Project be invited to present at a future Community Planning Committee.

ACTION BY: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

4.5 CP/GEN/050 MJ AWARDS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for attendance at the MJ Awards Finals in London on 21 June 2024.

2. Background

The MJ Awards acknowledge the tremendous effort of those in local government dedicating themselves to supporting local communities in challenging times.

The MJ Awards bring people together to witness each other's achievements and gain the recognition that the hard work that has made a difference in the communities they serve.

Earlier this year, the Community Planning Team entered the MJ Awards, nominating Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator in the Community Engagement category. Jonathan, was nominated in recognition of for his long standing service and commitment to empower and support community development in the Borough whilst leading events and programmes including Community Development Grant Aid, Christmas Switch Ons and any special programmes such as the Coronation and Platinum Jubilee Programmes.

3. MJ Awards Shortlist

Members were advised correspondence, which had been circulated, had been received from the MJ Awards following Phase 1 of 2024 judging process. Jonathan had been shortlisted as one of 8 UK finalists in the Community Engagement category.

Members were advised finalists were officially announced on the 28 March in the finalist brochure, on The MJ Awards website and The MJ website. The second stage of the judging process, a virtual presentation, took place on Thursday 11 April.

4. MJ Awards Ceremony

Members were advised that the awards ceremony would take place at lunchtime on Friday 21 June, at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel, London.

It was proposed that the Mayor accompanied by an officer attend the Awards ceremony along with the Award nominee, Jonathan Henderson.

5. Financial Implications

Members were advised that the cost of Public Sector single seat at the awards is £360. Return flights to attend the Awards, had been priced at an approximate cost of £70 per person. Therefore, the proposed total cost would be £1290, which would be covered under the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

the Mayor accompanied by an officer attend the MJ Awards ceremony along with the Award nominee, Jonathan Henderson, in London on 21 June 2024.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

4.6 AC/GEN/083 CRE8 THEATRE'S DEAF ARTS PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to support Cre8 Theatre's Deaf Arts Programme through a contribution of £2,200 towards production costs and through the free use of the Courtyard Theatre for one week for production rehearsals.

2. Introduction/Background

Cre8 Theatre is a theatre company based in Newtownabbey which aims to develop people's confidence in communication through dance, acting and singing. Cre8 also aims to integrate the d/Deaf community into the arts sector in Northern Ireland, and to this end launched the Deaf Arts Festival in the MAC Theatre, Belfast, in 2023. Cre8 Theatre is committed to promoting:

- social cohesion
- social inclusion
- equality of opportunity and good community relations, through community engagement and critically-acclaimed arts practice
- links with marginalised communities to make the arts sector more accessible, with particular focus on the d/Deaf community in Northern Ireland

In 2024 Cre8 plans to tour a production of Sleeping Beauty with a cast including d/Deaf actors across the country, including performances in the Theatre at the Mill. In parallel with this, Cre8 would deliver workshops for primary schools at key stage 1 and 2 introducing schoolchildren to British Sign Language through storytelling.

Following a positive meeting with the Mayor in January 2024, Cre8 have asked for Council support for this programme through a financial contribution to the production of £2,200 to help cover the fees of two deaf artists. Cre8 had also asked for the free use of the Courtyard Theatre for one week to rehearse the production.

The production was scheduled to tour Northern Ireland in September and October 2024.

Cre8 had already secured offers of support from the Grand Opera House, Ards Puppet Festival, Enterprise Causeway, Halifax Foundation and Edinburgh Deaf Festival. Grant applications had also been submitted to Belfast City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

3. Financial Position/Implication

The financial contribution of £2,200 requested from Cre8 Theatre would be funded through existing Arts Development budgets. In addition, five free rehearsal days in the Courtyard Theatre would equate to £1,500 in kind support.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

a proposal to support Cre8 Theatre's Deaf Arts Programme through a contribution of £2,200 towards production costs and through the free use of the Courtyard Theatre for one week for production rehearsals be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

4.7 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 21 March 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Community Planning Partnership is responsible for leading the Community Planning process in the Borough. The Community Planning Partnership was established in 2015 and is made up of Elected Members and representatives of each of the Community Planning statutory partners. The Community Planning Partnership meets twice annually.

3. Previous Council decision

At the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2023, it was agreed that Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of the Council to be allocated using d'Hondt and the Chair of the Community Planning Committee also be the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership.

The minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting of 5 April 2023 and the draft minutes of the meeting of 25 October 2023 were approved at the November 2023 Committee Meeting.

4. Partnership Minutes

The second Community Planning Partnership meeting of the Council term was held in the Yarn Suite, Mossley Mill on Thursday 21 March. At the meeting the minutes of the Partnership meeting of 25 October 2023 were approved and were circulated for Members information. The draft minutes of the 21 March meeting were also circulated for Members' approval.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 21 March 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

4.8 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 March 2024.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group was to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group is set out as follows:

- To advise the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare Community and wider Borough Community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community Planning Committee. Membership consists of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who are actively involved in the local community.

3. Finance

The approved budget for the event is £25,000.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 13 March 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 March 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

4.9 AC/GEN/050 TEMPORARY EXHIBITION POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the revised Arts and Culture Temporary Exhibition Policy.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that the Council stages temporary exhibitions throughout the year in the Oriel Gallery, the Conservatory Gallery and the Garden Heritage Space (Antrim Castle Gardens), the Flax Gallery (Theatre at the Mill), and more recently the former museum space on the lower ground floor North of the Mill.

The management of these exhibitions was governed by the Temporary Exhibition Policy, which provided guidance for the organisation of temporary exhibitions both for those planned and funded internally and for those organised by external individuals and groups. The Policy sets out its statement of purpose, objectives, guidance for the programming and selection of temporary exhibitions as well as the responsibilities of both the arts and culture service and exhibitors, and sales commission guidance.

Members were advised that this policy had recently been reviewed by officers and by the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel, and an updated draft of the revised policy was circulated for Members' information. Two changes to the Policy had been proposed: first, that sales commission should be reduced from 25% to 15% to better support artists, and second that if the content of an exhibition was considered to be inappropriate once installed, the Council reserves the right to withdraw support.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Temporary Exhibition Policy was first approved by the Operations Committee in March 2017, and approval for the last revision of the Policy was given by the then Community Planning and Regeneration Committee in March 2019.

4. Governance

The programme of temporary exhibitions governed by this Policy was regularly reviewed by the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel, and the Panel also provided guidance on any potential conflicts with the Policy. Any further proposed updates to the Policy would be brought to a future Committee meeting for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the revised Arts and Culture Temporary Exhibition Policy be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

4.10 CP/CD/474 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the nomination of two community/voluntary groups to the IPB Pride of Place Awards in 2024.

2. Background

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded in May 2023 the Council nominated three groups to take part in the Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards competition namely:

- All About Us – ASD Teens (Community Wellbeing Initiative)
- Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group (Housing Estates/Residents Associations)
- Newtownabbey Men's Shed (Creative Place Initiative)

Judging of the three entries took place in August 2023 and the awards ceremony was hosted on Friday 10 November 2023 at the Armagh City Hotel.

It was agreed at the October Community Planning Committee Meeting that Members and Officers attend the Awards Ceremony along with representatives of the nominated groups.

At the Awards Ceremony Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group were announced as winners and All About Us - ASD Teens were awarded runners up of their respective categories. Newtownabbey Men's Shed received a Certificate of Recognition, for their nomination.

4. Proposal

Nominations were now open for the 2024 competition and this year there are 14 categories in total; 5 Population categories, 7 Single Issue categories with designated themes, and 2 Non Population categories. The Council could 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 Communities
7. Climate Action and Biodiversity
8. Community Youth Initiative
9. Inclusive Communities
10. Community Wellbeing Initiative
11. Community Tourism Initiative
12. Age Friendly Communities

Non Population

13. Housing Estates/Residents Associations
14. Urban Neighbourhoods

Entry to the competition was by way of Council nomination. To nominate a group, a short application form had to be completed by the Council and submitted along with a short resume of the groups work and how it met the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2024 competition is Friday 10 May 2024.

Following submission, an assessment visit would take place during the months of August/September 2024 where nominees would demonstrate pride in their place by oral presentation, exhibition of community activities and culture as well as a tour of the area highlighting the aspects of which they are particularly proud. During this visit it was also important that the community demonstrates real partnership with their local Council and shows that all sectors of the community were included.

Successful nominees would be announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday 2 November 2024 in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan. At this event Category Winners would receive a large trophy and a cash prize of €1,000 or sterling equivalent. Runners-up would also receive a trophy and a cash prize of €500 or sterling equivalent.

Officers would propose that the following two groups be nominated for the 2024 competition:

- Listening Ear (Community Wellbeing Initiative)
- Sensory Kids (Inclusive Communities)

A short summary of the work of each of the two groups was included below for Members information.

Listening Ear

Established in 2018 and operating from the Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole Listening Ear provided advice and support to those living within Rathcoole estate and surrounding areas on issues relating to employability, mental health, suicide prevention, drug and alcohol awareness and the cost of living crisis. In addition, the group had also created a valuable social network to get people talking, listening and sharing on a daily basis.

Sensory Kids

Established in January 2014 and operating from Unit 58 The Junction, Antrim, the group provides children and young people with a safe and secure environment that would reduce their anxieties and promote their development as well as helping parents to understand and support their children's needs. In addition, the group offer opportunities in volunteering, training, skills development and potential routes to employment in part time admin, professional therapies and technical support.

Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups. It was proposed Members should inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 19 April 2024.

5. Financial Implication

The entry fee this year is £500 per group, provision for which has been made within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

6. Summary

Members were advised that Officers had reviewed the eligibility and exclusion criteria and identified the two groups proposed for nomination as those which best meet the aims and objectives of the 2024 Awards criteria, however Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups and they were requested to advise Officers of any request for such nominations by Friday 19 April 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the two groups proposed for nomination to the 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards be approved and that Members inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 19 April 2024.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

The Chairperson, Councillor McGrann left the Chamber during Item 4.11 and there was a short recess.

The Chairperson, Councillor McGrann returned to the Chamber and the meeting resumed.

Alderman McGrath left the meeting during Item 4.11.

Alderman Ross and Councillor O'Lone left the Chamber during Item 4.11.

4.11 AC/ACG/012 IMPLEMENTATION OF HIRE CHARGES FOR COUNCIL-OWNED GAZEBOS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to discontinue the loan of Council's event gazebos at no cost to external organisations.

2. Introduction/Background

In 2019 the Council's Rural Development Team (Grow South Antrim) availed of external funding to invest in portable gazebos for use in relation to the delivery of a wide range of Council events. There were currently 25 such gazebos, 3m by 3m in size, held by the Council's events team and used as required for Council events.

Requests to borrow the gazebos by various external organisations who were delivering activities and events across the Borough have been increasing in recent years. Occasional requests, easily facilitated by Council officers, had now escalated to 146 requests for 800 gazebos in 2023/24. Given the levels of demand now being experienced this service can no longer be resourced internally going forward as requests include an ask from the Council to deliver, erect and collect gazebos. On occasions gazebos which have been loaned are returned with damage and/or require cleaning before they can be used again.

To date no charge had been applied for loan of the gazebos or for the delivery and collection service as it had been in the main carried out by Councils parks and property services teams with initial low levels of use being within the capacity of these teams.

If this loan service was to continue external contractors would be required to deliver and collect the gazebos which would incur a cost of approximately £40,000 in 2024/25 based upon the 2023/24 levels of demand.

There were many commercial suppliers of this type of equipment who can meet this need at the market rates, which are currently in the region of £120 per gazebo for hire including transport.

In addition, the significant increased levels of use of the Council gazebos was significantly reducing the life of these assets. In 2023/24 £3,000 was spent on the replacement of six gazebos.

3. Way Forward

Given the current levels of demand for loan of the Councils gazebos and the requirement to engage the services of contractors at cost to meet this demand it was proposed that the Councils event gazebos were no longer loaned to external organisations. These organisations could be directed to hire companies who provide this service.

Alternatively, Members may wish to consider continued loan of gazebos, however this would require the introduction of a hire charge of £50 per gazebo with a minimum of 5 gazebos to be loaned for any request. This procedure should also include the requirement for all lenders to pay a deposit of at least £100 for this service which would be fully refundable providing the gazebos are returned in the same condition as borrowed.

4. Summary

The ongoing free loan of event gazebos to external organisations, including delivery and collection, was no longer sustainable and it was proposed that it be discontinued with immediate effect.

If Members wish officers to consider the introduction of an event gazebo hire procedure including appropriate charges, then a report can be brought back to the next Committee meeting. Any such procedure would still result in time resource implications and shorten the life of the equipment. Given that there are suppliers to meet this need officers would not recommend the introduction of a hire procedure.

The Director of Community Planning responded to Members' questions and following discussion it was

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the Item be deferred and a detailed report with the various options discussed be brought back to the next Community Planning Meeting.

ACTION BY: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

Alderman Ross and Councillor O'Lone returned to the Chamber during Item 4.12.

4.12 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the provision of £15,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum aims to relieve poverty, advance education and promote the preservation and protection of health among seniors (50+) in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and its environs. They provide facilities and programmes in the interests of social welfare for the education, recreation and leisure time for senior citizens.

Officers had continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 through a service level agreement for the 2023/24 financial year to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum. Officers had continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement and performance of this Group.

Members were also reminded it was agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report be provided to the Community Planning Committee, from September 2022.

The 2023/24 Quarter 3 Performance Report was approved at the February Community Planning Committee and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum had been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Planning budget. Other Community Planning partners had also confirmed their financial commitment to continue to support this group as outlined below;

Community Planning Partner	Financial contribution to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum 2024/25
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

A draft Service Level Agreement between Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum for 2024/25 had been developed and was circulated for Members' approval.

5. Governance

Officers continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners to manage the Service Level Agreement and performance of this Group. A

quarterly performance report was provided to the Community Planning Committee.

6. Summary

Members were advised a revised Service Level Agreement for 2024/25 had been developed for Members' approval.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Community Planning clarified that the Forum consists of approximately 50 groups which then feed into the Community Planning Committee and agreed to provide a list of Member organisations.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the provision of £15,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum be approved with a quarterly performance report brought to future meetings of the Committee.

ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Alderman Boyle left and returned to Chamber during Item 4.13.

4.13 **AC/ACG/012 DEVELOPMENT OF WALKING TOURS**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the ongoing development of walking tours across the Borough, including delegated authority for officers to set ticket charges for tours based upon cost recovery as a minimum.

2. Introduction/Background

Walking tours led by guides have had a significant growth in popularity and were established as hugely popular visitor activities. Walking tours offer a unique opportunity to explore a local area whilst being educated, informed and entertained about the history and culture of a place. Guided tours were often packaged with local hospitality experiences and had the potential to realise social and economic benefits.

The Borough had a unique landscape and history creating multiple opportunities for the development of guided walking tours for residents and visitors.

A range of walking tours had been delivered previously, limited to specific programmes such as Halloween and the Battle of Antrim, with ticket charges approved on an individual basis per walking tour.

3. Previous Decisions

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the Community Planning Committee in April 2023 that the Council become a member of Tour Guides NI and it was also agreed at this meeting that the Council become a Group Travel Partner with Bus and Coach Northern Ireland.

Members were also reminded that proposals to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Antrim in 2023 were approved by the Committee in February 2023 and included walking tours with a ticket charge of £15.00 per person.

4. Further Development of Walking Tours

Officers had been engaging with both organisations above in relation to the ongoing promotion of the Council's visitor attractions such as Antrim Castle Gardens, the Gateway Visitor Centre, Museum at the Mill and the Coronation Garden.

For the incoming tourism season of Spring/Summer 2024 it was proposed to offer a range of walking tours from Antrim Castle Gardens with the following ticket charges applied:

£7.50 per adult

£5.00 per concession

with a 10% discount to be available to bus and coach tour operators for group bookings.

In addition, it was proposed to deliver a range of walking tours in Antrim Town Centre in June 2024 relating to the history of the Battle of Antrim with the following ticket charges applied:

£10.00 per adult

£8.00 per concession

It was proposed that officers continue to work with Tour Guides NI, Bus and Coach NI and other partners to develop new guided walking tours on an ongoing basis and as opportunities were presented.

5. Governance

Similar to artistic performances each walking tour presents a unique offering and had a unique financial model based upon such things as

- Tour guide fees
- Duration of tour
- Maximum number of participants
- Tour content
- Any added content such as food, drink or merchandise

Given this, it was proposed that officers were given delegated authority to set ticket charges for guided walking tours developed in the future at a level which offers value for money and ensures full cost recovery.

6. Summary

It was proposed that ticket charges for Antrim Castle Gardens and Battle of Antrim Guided Walking Tours be approved as outlined. In addition, it was proposed that officers continue to develop a programme of guided walking tours with the delegated authority to set ticket charges at appropriate levels to ensure full cost recovery.

In response to a Member's request for a breakdown and comparison to last year's tours, the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events agreed to bring back those statistics.

Proposed by Alderman Michael

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

- a) **ticket charges for the proposed Antrim Castle Gardens and Battle of Antrim Guided Walking Tours as outlined be approved;**
- b) **officers be given delegated authority to set ticket charges for any new guided walking tours developed.**

ACTION BY: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

Having declared an interest in Item 4.14, Councillor Webb left the Chamber.

4.14 AC/EV/024 NORTHERN IRELAND CHILDREN'S HOSPICE FUNDRAISING EVENT V36 AT THE VALLEY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for Council support to deliver a fundraising event for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice at V36 at The Valley on Sunday 2 June 2024.

2. Background

The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice is located in the Borough on O'Neill Road and is one of the current Mayor's nominated charities.

The Hospice provided palliative care for more than 350 babies, children and their families annually. In February it was announced that the Hospice was facing significant financial challenges which could result in a reduction in the services offered. The Hospice is a charity and relies heavily on fundraising in order to generate finances.

The Council had been contacted by Urban Events NI who are proposing to deliver a Fundraising Concert and Family Fun Day on Sunday 2 June 2024 in

V36 at The Valley in order to raise funding for the Children's Hospice. They have asked for the Council's support to deliver this event.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that in 2022 the Council supported the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice 'Elmers Trail' fundraising initiative and at the February 2022 Community Planning Committee it was agreed that

- the Council become an official supporter of Elmers Big Trail at a cost of £35,000;
- the Council host Elmers Big Trail in the Borough between 2 and 4 of September 2022 with provision of in kind support to cover all costs with income from ticket sales retained by the Hospice;
- the Council acquired the Elmer Elephant at the end of the project through auction, with the Council securing Elmer for £6,700;
- the Council provide a venue free of charge to host a Garden Party on behalf of the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and provide in kind staff support.

At the Community Planning Committee in October 2022 it was agreed that the 'Elmer' purchased by the Council be located at Mossley Mill on a permanent basis.

4. Request for Support

Urban Events NI are proposing to hold a fundraising event on Sunday 2 June 2024 from 11am to 4pm in the V36 event space. The proposed format of their event is:

- Music concert featuring a range of tribute acts such as The Dolly Parton Experience, Bjorn Identity; The Spirit of Elvis as well as local artists such as Tyler Michael, Tiernan Heffron and Ryan Mac;
- Family entertainment including amusements and inflatables, sensory play and superhero walkabout characters;
- Market featuring a variety of food and craft stalls
- An admission charge of £5 per person to apply with a capacity of 8000.

Urban Events NI have requested Council support as follows:

- Permission to use the venue and waiver of all hire charges for use of V36; This will include closure of the entire park to the public;
- Provision of a ticketing service for the event including online booking facility;
- Promotion and advertising of the event using the Council's social media channels;
- Provision of waste management bins for the event including provision of bins, post event clean up and litter removal.

5. Governance

This is an external event supported by the Council. Urban Events NI will therefore assume full operational responsibility of the event including all liability and have confirmed that they will have both Employer and Public Liability insurance of £10million for the event. They have applied to the Council for an Entertainments Licence which will be brought to the April Council meeting.

They will be responsible for all aspects of operational planning which includes but is not limited to:

- Provision of an event management and health and safety plan;
- Provision of a traffic management plan including car parking;
- Provision of site and event specific risk assessments;
- Liaison with all relevant Council and external bodies including Environmental Health, Parks as well as PSNI, NIFRS and NIAS;
- Provision of all event content including required third party insurance cover;
- Provision of all event staffing including marshalling, stewarding and ticketing on the day;
- Provision of all event infrastructure including portable toilets, crowd control barriers, staging, sound and lighting and signage.

6. Finance

Urban Events NI hope to secure support for the event through sponsorship and in kind support. They have secured the services of a number of suppliers at no cost. They have full responsibility for covering of all costs associated with the event.

They have requested that they retain all income generated by ticket sales and that the usual 10% sales commission applied for the delivery of a ticket service for any third party event promoter is waived for this event.

The usual fee for hire of the V36 event space would be £2,000. In addition, a number of usual bookings of V36 sports facilities need to be cancelled to facilitate the event with a loss of income of £488.00. The Park area will need to be closed to the public throughout the event.

A bond of £1,000 is normally required from anyone booking the V36 event space as a safeguard against any damage being done to the site which results in repairs being required. The bond is paid in advance and returned in full if the site is without damage after any event. It is proposed to also waive the requirement for such a payment in advance from Urban Events NI for this event with their agreement that if there is any damage to the event space or parkland as a result of their event that they will reimburse the Council in full for any cost of repairs. Pre and post event site inspections will be carried out by parks staff in relation to this.

7. Summary

Given that the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice is located in the Borough and is one of the Mayor's nominated charities it is proposed that the Council provides support to Urban Events NI to deliver their NI Children's Hospice fundraising event on Sunday 2 June 2024 in V36 at The Valley. The Council will support the event in the following ways:

- Provision of permission to use the venue free of charge and closure of the Park to the public;
- Provision of a ticketing service for the event, including online booking and waiver of the usual 10% sales commission fee with all income to be retained by Urban Events NI;
- Provision of promotion and advertising of the event through the Council's social media channels;
- Provision of bins for the event as well as post event cleaning of the site including litter collection

Urban Events NI will take full responsibility for the delivery of the event as outlined and the event will be promoted as their event supported by the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the Council would give Urban Events NI permission to hold their NI Children's Hospice Fundraising Event in V36 at The Valley on Sunday 2 June 2024 from 11am to 4pm and provide support for the event as outlined.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

Councillor Webb returned to the Chamber.

4.15 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval Community Festival grant funding proposals for 2024/25.

2. Background

As part of the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme, community and voluntary organisations can apply for Community Festival grant funding to support the delivery of community events.

A community festival is defined as a series of events with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period. It is developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents. Community festivals are about participation, involvement, inclusion and the creation of a sense of identity and are important in contributing to the social well-being of a community. The fund is available to properly constituted community, voluntary and charitable

groups based in the Borough.

A budget of £80,000 was included in the 2024/25 Arts and Culture budgets for community festival grant funding. In addition, a contribution of £27,700 was anticipated from the Department for Communities (DfC) Community Festival Programme but is yet to be confirmed. If this contribution was realised the total budget available for the Community Festival Fund category of the Community Development Grant Aid programme in 2024/25 will be £107,700.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that a presentation on the Community Development Grant Aid Programme was made by Officers to the Community Planning Committee in September 2022 and the proposed changes to the Community Development Grant Aid programme approved. A key change to Community Festivals Funding was that Groups can now seek funding for up to three years for established festivals. The benefits of this are that groups can plan ahead with the security of three years funding (subject to satisfactory post event evaluation), need to complete an application only once and officers are released from administration of funding to support groups develop their capacity to deliver events.

Members were reminded that a pass threshold of 50% applies to applications to the Community Festivals Fund. Members should also note that proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

Following a Council decision in October 2021 the award threshold for Community Festivals Grants was increased from £5,000 to £10,000, effective from 1 April 2022, for festivals attracting in excess of 5,000 attendees. In 2023/24 22 applications totalling £139,255 were approved for funding to deliver community events in 2023/24. There were 13 applications for £95,625 approved at the Community Planning Committee in February 2023 and a further 9 applications for £43,650 approved at the Committee in June 2023.

4. Year 2 2024/25 Community Festival Fund Proposals

Of the 22 applications approved for funding in 2023/24 there were 17 organisations who had indicated that they require year 2 funding in 2024/25 at a total cost of £97,000, with the release of this funding subject to satisfactory completion of post event evaluations.

A call for new applications to the fund opened on Monday 23 October 2023 at 12noon and closed on Monday 4 December 2023 at 4pm. Two applications had achieved the required 50% pass threshold with details of the applications circulated for Members' information. It is proposed to fund the two applications at a cost of £8,570, which brings the total cost of community festival funding in 2024/25 to £105,570.

5. Financial Position

The total cost of funding all community festival grants in 2024/25 is £105,570 with an available budget of £107,700 assuming that the anticipated contribution from DfC of £27,700 was received.

6. Summary

The 17 applications eligible for year 2 funding in 2024/25 were approved for funding in 2023 and it is proposed to fund the two additional successful applications year 1 funding of £8,750. The total cost of providing community festival funding in 2024/25 will be £105,570 with a budget of £107,700. Given that there is limited budget remaining it is proposed that there are no further calls to this funding stream in 2024/25 and the underspend is profiled to another Community Development Grant Fund Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Brady

Seconded by Councillor Mallon and agreed that

- (a) the successful community festival applications for funding of £8,750, be approved;**
- (b) there are no further calls to this grant programme in 2024/25**

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

4.16 **AC/GEN/111 IRISH LANGUAGE BURSARY GRANT PROGRAMME**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for an Irish Language Bursary Grant Programme to support young people from the Borough to attend Gaeltacht colleges during the summer of 2024. Funding is available from the office of the Deputy Mayor.

2. Introduction / Background

For post primary school children learning the Irish Language Gaeltacht colleges in the Gaeltacht region of Donegal are popular and established summer activities, which focus on the development of their Irish language skills, in particular conversation and vocabulary. Attendance at a Gaeltacht college is on a residential basis and course fees range from £300 to £500.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were advised that an Arts and Culture Grant Aid Programme was approved by the Council in May 2015 and revised in March 2017 and April 2022. This programme would provide arts grants to individuals of up to £500 to participate in specialist training or study with language an identified art form within the policy guidelines. Applications from post primary pupils to this programme for attendance at the Gaeltacht have previously been approved. This programme is a rolling programme with provision of £14,000 in the 2024/25 budgets.

4. Bursary Support for the Gaeltacht 2024

The office of the Deputy Mayor comes with a budget allocation of £5,250 to meet expenses of the office. The Deputy Mayor had requested that £2,500 of this allocated budget be used to issue 10 bursaries of £250 to young people resident in the Borough who plan to attend the Gaeltacht in 2024.

It is proposed that such young people resident in the Borough and planning to attend the Gaeltacht can apply for a bursary of £250 toward the cost of their attendance.

In order to be eligible for such a bursary, applicants must:

- Be residents of the Borough
- Have parental/guardian permission to attend if under 18
- Be in post primary education
- Be registered to attend a Gaeltacht course in summer 2024
- Not already in receipt a public fund scholarship such as Liofa
- Complete the course by attending for the full duration
- Provide proof of payment of fees and attendance in order to receive the bursary

Application forms can be made available on the Council's website for online application. In addition to demonstrating how they meet, the criteria above applicants will be asked to submit a paragraph on why they wish to attend the Gaeltacht and what the Irish language means to them.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of officers and funding recommendations brought to the June Committee for Members approval.

5. Finance

A transfer of £2,500 from the Deputy Mayor's budget is available to be used to fund 10 bursaries of £250, with one bursary per applicant.

6. Governance

A draft application form including eligibility criteria for applicants was circulated for Members' information.

It was proposed that successful applicants and bursary recipients write a short paragraph about their time in the Gaeltacht when they return with submissions reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

If the scheme was approved, applications to the Arts and Culture Grant Aid Programme for attendance at the Gaeltacht in 2024 will not be considered.

7. Summary

It was proposed to deliver a 2024 Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme for young people resident in the Borough, which will award 10 bursaries of £250 to

support young people attend Gaeltacht colleges operating over summer 2024 using a budget provided from the office of the Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed to open the bursary scheme on Friday 3 May and close on Monday 13 May 2024 with funding recommendations to be brought to the June Community Planning Committee.

This initial scheme would be evaluated upon completion in order to ascertain if there is a requirement for such a standalone bursary scheme in future years.

The Director of Community Planning provided clarity with regard to the bursary budget.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor O'Lone and agreed that

a Gaeltacht Bursary Grant Programme for 2024 be approved with a maximum budget of £2,500. This would provide 10 bursaries of £250 per applicant. Funding is available from the office of the Deputy Mayor.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/TD/026 and CP/CD/443 IMPACT OF COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS ON THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on an additional cost of living crisis payment from the Department for Communities (DfC) to specified community and voluntary sector organisations in the Borough.

2. Introduction

The DfC recognises that the ongoing cost-of-living crisis is adversely impacting many funded organisations. To help mitigate the impact of increased costs, the Department has recently identified funding to assist voluntary and community sector organisations mitigate some of those impacts.

Members were reminded that the Council manages a range of DfC funded contracts that financially support a number of voluntary and community sector organisations including the:

- Areas at Risk Programme
- Community Support Programme
- Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

The Areas at Risk (AAR) programme is delivered across six Super Output

Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey. The Newtownabbey AAR programme is part funded by the DfC, whilst the Antrim AAR programme is fully funded by the Council.

The Councils Community Support Programme supports staff salaries, the Community Development Grant Aid Programme and Community Capacity Building Initiatives and Advice Services.

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme has been operating in Rathcoole since 2006. The Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Programme financially supports JVC Hub and Newtownabbey Women's Group.

3. Key Issues

Members were advised that the Department for Communities had issued correspondence (circulated) to reflect an additional non-recurrent cost of living payment of £1,500 for voluntary and community organisations. This has been accepted by the Council and returned to enable payments to be made prior to 31st March 2024.

DfC has identified the organisations who are eligible for this cost of living payment of £1,500 under the three Department funded areas as follows:

Areas at Risk Programme

- Monkstown Community Association
- Monkstown Community Forum
- Monkstown Boxing Club
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Carnmoney Presbyterian Church
- Mossley DAM Project

Community Support Programme

- Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey

Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

- JVC Hub
- Newtownabbey Women's Group

4. Financial implications

Members were advised DfC have issued revised funding contracts to reflect the cost of living payment for voluntary and community sector organisations. They have been accepted by the Council and returned to enable payments to be made prior to 31st March 2024.

5. Summary

Members were advised that all eligible voluntary and community organisations have availed of the £1,500 funding offer from the Department.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the additional cost of living crisis payment of £1500 from the Department for Communities to specified voluntary and community organisations be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 CP/GR/169 DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS LETTER OF VARIANCE 2023/24

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding a letter of variance up to a maximum of £121,783.35 received from The Executive Office for the District Council Good Relations Programme 2023/24.

5. Background

Members were reminded that the Council's Good Relations Action Plan is aligned to the aims and objectives of the central government strategy Together Building a United Community (T-BUC). The plan is underpinned by the following key priorities:

- 1) Our Children and Young People
- 2) Our Shared Community
- 3) Our Safe Community; and
- 4) Our Cultural Expression

6. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that funding from The Executive Office (TEO) up to a maximum of £76,783.35 for the delivery of the 2023-24 Council's Good Relations Programme was approved at the September 2023 Community Planning Committee.

The TEO 2023-24 funding offer was a reduction of 47% (£68,087) from the 2022/23 funding allocation.

7. Key issues

Members were advised that correspondence circulated had been received from (TEO) offering a variance of financial assistance up to a maximum of £121,783.35 for the Council's Good Relations Programme for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

8. Financial Position/Implication

Members were reminded the Good Relations Action Plan 2023/24 is joint funded by TEO and the Council with a required match funding minimum of 25% from the Council.

Members were advised that TEO offer of financial assistance up to a maximum of £121,783.35 to the Councils Good Relations Programme for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 is a variance of £45,000 on the original Letter of Offer.

Members were advised the letter of variance had been accepted by the Council and returned to enable payments to be made prior to 31st March 2024.

9. Summary

Members were advised the letter of variance for the District Council Good Relations Programme has been accepted by the Council and returned to enable delivery and payments to be made prior to 31st March 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

acceptance of the letter of variance up to a maximum of £121,783.35 from The Executive Office for the District Council Good Relations Programme 2023/24 be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 CP/TD/095 and CP/TD/098 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES INTERIM FUNDING POSITION 2024-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members regarding the Department for Communities (DfC) 2024/25 interim funding position and to seek approval for an update on the current budget position to be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2024/25.

2. Introduction

DfC recognises the important role that the voluntary and community Sector has in delivering support and services to people and local communities. Members are reminded that the Council manages a range of DfC funded contracts that financially support a number of voluntary and community sector organisations. These include the;

- Areas at Risk Programme
- Community Support Programme
- Neighbourhood Renewal Programme
- Social Supermarket

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded it was agreed at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee that in the absence of the 2023-24 budget settlement The Permanent Secretary for the DfC had indicated that temporary 3-month funding support would be put in place up to 30th June 2023 based on 2022/2023 funding levels.

Members were further reminded it was agreed that an update on the DfC current budget position be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2023/24.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised that the DfC has issued correspondence (circulated) outlining that the budget position for 2024/25 for all Government Departments remains unclear.

The Minister for the DfC has indicated that temporary 3-month funding support will be put in place up to 30th June 2024 based on 2023/2024 funding levels.

The Department hope to be in a position to confirm the annual funding budget for 2024/2025 in the coming weeks.

Members were advised this funding covers all DfC programmes operating in the Borough such as Areas at Risk, the Community Support Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal.

It is proposed to make those who are anticipating funding aware of this communication from the Department.

5. Financial implications

Members were advised that the DfC have issued temporary 3-month funding support to be put in place up to 30 June 2024 based on 2023/2024 funding levels.

6. Summary

Interim funding awards for DfC programmes to end June 2024 will be retained at 2023/24 levels. Funding will be issued for the first quarter of 24/25 up to the end of June with confirmation of the 24/25 budget position anticipated in the near future.

Officers will make all those groups and organisations impacted aware of the communication from the DfC.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Following a request from a Member, the Director of Community Planning agreed to send a letter to the Department of Justice and the PSNI Chief Constable expressing Council's concerns that the withdrawal of front facing services in the Borough would have a detrimental impact on the Council's resources.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Mallon and agreed that

the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN-CONFIDENCE AC/EV/026 SIXMILE FESTIVAL 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the proposed financial plan for the Sixmile Festival 2024 including the cost and ticket fees for the headline act.

2. Introduction / Background

The inaugural Sixmile Festival was delivered in July 2023 at the Gateway Centre, Antrim Castle Gardens, The Junction Retail Park and the town centre and attracted more than 6,000 people for music, markets and family entertainment over three days from Friday 28 – Sunday 30 July 2023.

The Sixmile Festival was created by amalgamating three events held over summer in Antrim: The Antrim Food Festival, Party in the Park and Antrim Live and combining the respective budgets, totalling £70,000.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Council Events Plan for 2024/25 was reported to the March 2024 Community Planning Committee and it was agreed that the 2024/25 plan associated budgets as contained in the enclosures be approved. The plan included Sixmile Festival to be held in Antrim at various locations from 2 to 4 August 2024 with a budget of £60,000 provided.

4. Festival Programme and Financial Plan

The proposed programme for the 2024 Sixmile Festival is similar to the 2023 Festival. Live music, entertainment, markets and family activities will be held across the three days at The Gateway, Antrim Castle Gardens, The Junction Retail Park and town centre locations. The programme includes free activities as well as activities which are ticketed.

It is proposed within the programme to book the [REDACTED] as the headline act to perform in the Events Field at Antrim Castle Gardens on the evening of Saturday 3 August 2024 for a fee of [REDACTED]. The standing capacity of the event field has been estimated at 6,000. Following discussions with the band promoter it is proposed that ticket fees [REDACTED] are priced as follows:

- Standard Ticket £ [REDACTED]
- Gold Ticket £ [REDACTED]
- VIP Ticket £ [REDACTED]

Full details of all estimated costs associated with the festival and corresponding income estimates were circulated for Members' information.

5. Finance

There is provision of £60,000 within the 2024/25 Events budgets for the Sixmile Festival. The financial plan estimates that the Festival may generate a modest surplus. This is based upon an estimated 4,500 attending [REDACTED] [REDACTED] performances in Northern Ireland have a record of being sell outs and they will be supported on 3 August by a number of popular acts.

6. Governance

The proposal for the Sixmile Festival 2024 was discussed with the Antrim DEA Elected Members at the February 2024 DEA Member Engagement Meeting and they gave their unanimous support for the programme including headline act.

As is standard practice for contracting artists and performers, an appropriate legal contract between the Council and the band will be drawn up to ensure all terms and conditions of the agreement are satisfactory and all risks to the Council arising out of such things as cancellation or unforeseen events are mitigated against. This will include a clause relating to extreme weather which could force any cancellation.

7. Summary

The proposals for the Sixmile Festival 2024 programme including headline act aim to elevate the festival, venue and Borough's event offer.

It is proposed to book [REDACTED] as the headline act for the Sixmile Festival on the basis of the financial projections contained in the enclosures and to

bring a report back to a future meeting on the financial performance of the Festival.

The Director of Community Planning answered questions regarding the potential of corporate sponsorship.

A Member's query was addressed by the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events in respect of the variety of tiered packages for tickets.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor O'Lone and agreed that

the proposed financial plan for the Sixmile Festival 2024, including headline act, cost and ticket fees, as outlined be approved with a report on the financial performance of the event brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.58 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.