



20 October 2021

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A remote meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 25 October 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

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

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 27 September 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 4 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 5 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 11 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 18 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE
- 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 10.1 Items for Signing and Sealing
 - 10.2 Northern Health and Social Care Trust – Presentation Request
 - 10.3 Department for Infrastructure Roads Programme – Autumn Consultation Presentation Request
 - 10.4 Sixmilewater Caravan Park – Out of Season Opening
 - 10.5 Application for Provisional Grant of an Entertainment Licence (Annual Licence) Centurion, 47 Main Street, Randalstown, BT41 3BB
 - 10.6 Full Fibre NI Project Update
 - 10.7 Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator

- 10.8 Glengormley Public Realm Scheme
- 10.9 Fleet Management Strategy 2022-2027
- 10.10 Low Emission Fuel - Vehicle Pilots
- 10.11 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Recommendations 2021/22 / Review of Financial Award Thresholds
- 10.12 DfC Revitalise Funding
- 10.13 Council Events Update October
- 10.14 Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure re: Proposed Shared Uses Paths
- 10.15 Rural Development Programme: Creggan Village Renewal
- 10.16 National Lottery Anamorphic Art Installation at Antrim Castle Gardens

- 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING
 - 11.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
 - 11.2 Motion – Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Syringes For Cuba Campaign/End The Blockade
 - 11.3 Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day Services and Parades
 - 11.4 TRPSI Funding Programme

- 12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
 - 12.1 Legal Update
 - 12.2 Belfast Region City Deal
 - 12.3 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
 - 12.4 Residual Waste Treatment Project
 - 12.5 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme
 - 12.6 Rathfern Social Activity Centre and Monkstown Jubilee Centre, Service Management Agreements 2022-2025
 - 12.7 Abbey Community College

12.8 Impact Network NI

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 25 OCTOBER 2021**

9. PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

Members are advised that a presentation, providing the 2021 annual update on the Housing Investment Plan (**copy enclosed**), will be made by representatives of the NI Housing Executive.

As was agreed at the August Council Meeting, the Chief Executive, Grainia Long, will also be in attendance to address the meeting with details of the Housing Executive's Revitalisation Programme.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Members are advised of the undernoted item for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met:-

- Contract for the Antrim Forum Gym Refurbishment

RECOMMENDATION: that the document be signed and sealed.

Prepared by: Paul Casey, Head of Legal Services and Borough Lawyer

**10.2 G/MSMO/17 VOL 3 NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST –
PRESENTATION REQUEST**

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from Nick Carson, Head of Corporate Communication, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, requesting attendance at the November or December meeting of Council to provide a 10-minute update on the proposed new Mental Health Inpatient Facility on the Antrim area site.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.3 G/MSMO/17 VOL 3 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ROADS PROGRAMME – AUTUMN CONSULTATION PRESENTATION REQUEST

Correspondence has been received from Colin Hutchinson, Divisional Roads Manager, Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) requesting attendance at a meeting of Council (**enclosed**). The purpose of attendance would be to give Members an overview of the work undertaken by Dfi Roads. An electronic copy of this year's progress report will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.4 PK/GEN/147 SIXMILEWATER CARAVAN PARK – OUT OF SEASON OPENING

Members are reminded that the Enchanted Winter Garden Event at Antrim Castle Gardens will run this year from Saturday 27 November until Tuesday 21 December 2021.

In recent years Sixmilewater Caravan Park has opened out of season to coincide with this event in order to meet demand for some visitors wishing to stay over while attending the event.

It is proposed that the caravan park opens this year and each year, that the event operates, for the duration of the event. In addition, there is a minimum 2 night booking rule for the 2 caravan parks. It is proposed that this is waived each year during this period each year due to the time of year and the nature of the event.

RECOMMENDATION: that the out of season opening of the Sixmilewater Caravan Park be approved from Saturday 27 November until Tuesday 21 December in line with the Enchanted Winter Garden event, this year and each successive year that the event operates and that the minimum 2 day stay is waived during this period.

Prepared by: Glenda James, Administration Supervisor

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

10.5 EL/196 APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (ANNUAL LICENCE) CENTURION, 47 MAIN STREET, RANDALSTOWN, BT41 3BB

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Wendy Kerr	Centurion 47 Main street, Randalstown, BT41 3BB	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind Monday to Saturday 10am to 12am Sunday 1pm to 11pm Number of persons 200	EL196	New

In line with the Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances a recorded vote will be taken.

The premises have recently undergone redevelopment and this application is being made to allow entertainment to be provided on opening. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 permits the granting of an Entertainment Licence subject to the condition that the works are completed in line with all relevant licensing requirements and agreed with the Council.

Three written objections were received in relation to this application. Under the Council Protocol for hearing Entertainment Licence applications, objectors are offered the opportunity to make oral representation to the Council. This offer was not accepted. However, the comments made by the objectors have been considered and are not deemed to be relevant objections under the provisions for granting an Entertainment Licence.

No objections were received from the PSNI or the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

RECOMMENDATION; that an Entertainment Licence (annual licence) is granted to the applicant, Wendy Kerr, 47 Main Street, Randalstown, BT41 3BB.

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Saturday - 10am to 12am

Sunday - 1pm to 11pm

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director Operations, Environmental Health, Property and Building Services

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive, Operations

10.6 ED/ED 130 FULL FIBRE NI PROJECT UPDATE

Members will be aware that the Council is part of a Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) consortium of 10 local Councils and Business Services Organisation (BSO) that is benefitting from approximately £24 million from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), comprising £15m in Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) and £9m in Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) funding.

This funding package is being used to install gigabit capable fibre connections to key public sector and Council-owned buildings and facilities by December 2021 that would, in turn, help to enhance the delivery of public services locally and stimulate further private sector and commercial investment in neighbouring areas, thereby benefitting local businesses and households. Across Northern Ireland, the programme is seeking to connect 940 sites by March 2022.

FFNI funding takes an anchor tenancy approach using Public Sector buildings as hubs, whereby the funding not only connects the public sector sites providing significant benefits to them, but also extends gigabit capable fibre deeper into our local communities. Communication providers will then be more inclined to build upon the FFNI network through their own commercial plans in order to reach these surrounding homes and businesses that lie close to the path of the network (i.e. market stimulation).

Through FFNI, both Fibrus and Openreach are extending their commercial plans using the FFNI infrastructure and network. Fibrus have matched the funding secured from DCMS to rollout fibre connectivity to surrounding premises. Gigabit Capable Fibre to the Council sites will provide an ultrafast connection that can be used at Council site eg Community Centres to offer new digital services. The programme will also provide the foundation and infrastructure for future digital transformation projects that may come from other funding sources e.g. Belfast Region City Deal.

Installation is a mix of Fibrus (the contract holder and supplier) and Openreach deployment. Fibrus have subcontracted Openreach to deliver in areas where their network will not extend to. Given the legacy of previous telecommunications within Antrim and Newtownabbey, the vast majority of sites being delivered locally are through Openreach.

Across the Council's own geographic area, funding will be used to deliver fibre connectivity to 33 Council sites and 25 BSO sites. The former PSNI station at Glenwell Road has had to be descope from the previous number of local sites, due to pending demolition and grant criteria which insisted on a complete connection to a building. Given the current site circumstances, the decision was taken to descope it from the site list after exhausting all options with the funder. In May 2021 Officers updated Council Members that the crematorium was also deemed ineligible for the same reasons. Due to the terms of the programme it is not possible to introduce any further sites at this stage.

Members will recall that delegated powers were approved for the Chief Executive in May 2021 in respect of helping to expedite responses to requests

for wayleave agreements. The wayleaves are between the Council and Fibrus as per the contract. The purpose of the wayleave agreements are to legally permit access to the various sites to allow the ducting and infrastructure to be installed. Not all sites require wayleave agreements depending on the nature of the work to be undertaken at each site. The wayleaves are complete for Ballyduff Community Centre, Greystone Community Centre and Ballyclare Town Hall. These wayleaves were reported to the Council and approved in May 2021. Under delegated authority permission has also been granted by the Council for Royal Mail to sign a wayleave in relation to Antrim Depot Newpark HRC. In this instance the Council was acting as the landlord giving consent to the occupier (Royal Mail), to sign the wayleave so that access can be gained to link Fibrus / Openreach infrastructure to the site in Antrim.

In summary, of the 33 sites receiving gigabit capable connections across the Borough, only 9 remain to be commenced (Sept 2021). The majority are now either completed or awaiting handover (please refer to **enclosed**). It should be noted that these sites will not have an active service running on the new fibre infrastructure until WAN migration in mid-2022. The Council's IT team will oversee this process. The project remains on target locally although the regional project end date (June 2021) has been extended until March 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic delays.

Taking a Consortium wide view, the FFNI programme aims to achieve installation to 940 sites across all partner Council areas and BSO. Current progress of FFNI to date across NI has connected 607 of the 940 sites (64% completion) across all Consortium member organisations.

The FFNI programme complements Project Stratum, which is also deployed by Fibrus under a separate Department for the Economy (DfE) contract. As a direct result of these UK Government funded interventions, and the communication providers' own commercial interventions, Northern Ireland is now the top nation in the UK for Gigabit Capable broadband and Full-Fibre Broadband coverage to residential premises, as depicted in Fig 1 below (Source: OFCOM Connected Nations Report 2021).

Access to full fibre	September 2020	January 2021	May 2021
UK	18%	21%	24%
England	16%	19%	23%
Northern Ireland	56%	63%	67%
Scotland	17%	20%	23%
Wales	19%	21%	24%

Figure 1 - Chart above shows access to Full Fibre Gigabit Capable Fibre across UK. Full Fibre offers Next Generation Access (NGA) with speeds over 1000mpbs (1 Gb).

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) to note the update provided regarding the FFNI Programme and full fibre availability within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough; and**

(ii) to approve the wayleave agreement for Environmental Services Depot - Newpark HRC to enable the works to take place.

Prepared by: Alastair Law, Funding and Innovation Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

10.7 ED/ED/170 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE ACCELERATOR

Belfast City Council has invited the Council to join a Northern Ireland consortium bid for funding. The bid is complimentary to the programme of activity proposed under the Belfast Region City Deal Digital Pillar. The funding opportunity has been launched by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and is called the 'Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator' (DCIA). The funding opportunity is only open to UK Local and Regional Authorities. £500k is available to eight pilot projects across the UK. The pilots are to explore the benefits, challenges, practicalities and solutions involved in using publicly owned infrastructure assets. This would include buildings, rooftops, street furniture etc that could be used to support the rollout of advanced wireless connectivity. The pilot project will run from January 2022 through to December 2022.

Projects such as this align with the Council's aspirations for the SMART aspects of the future Glengormley Public Realm Scheme and will be an important element for the future development of the AMIC project and Global Point in general.

If successful, the role of the Council in this consortium will be:

- The provision of Council asset information;
- Supporting Belfast City Council as the consortium lead and contributing to project management;
- Knowledge sharing;
- Sharing communications with our local digital champions and stakeholders.

Other stakeholders being considered as consortium partners include the Department of Finance (Land and Property Services), Department for Infrastructure, Department for the Economy, Strategic Investment Board, Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

The date for submission of the application is 18 November 2021 and it is anticipated that shortlisted applicants will be notified in December.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approves participation in the NI Consortium Bid for the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA).

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Agreed and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

10.8 ED/REG/065 GLENGORMLEY PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

In February 2021 Members approved the appointment of the consultant design team, RPS to progress the Glengormley Environmental Improvement scheme.

Their commission includes the completion of the economic appraisal which will assist the Council with a funding application to the Department for Communities (DfC) for up to £2m towards the £4.5m scheme.

A key variable which will significantly impact the outcome of the economic appraisal is the physical extent of the scheme. The scheme itself will include natural stone paving and kerbs, street lighting, street furniture and elements of soft landscaping. There is also an aspiration for Glengormley to become a 'SMART' town and the consultant design team is tasked with identifying the suitable application of SMART technologies and systems within the town.

Following a site visit, further engagement at a DEA level with Members and meetings with senior officials in DfC the extent of the scheme is recommended as detailed in the **enclosed**. The enclosure shows the extent of the scheme, some of which is outside of the DfC defined town centre boundary. Given the aims of the DfC funding they do not readily finance regeneration activities outside of the defined town centre boundary. However, the Department is agreeable, in principle and subject to a positive business-case, to funding the delivery of the town centre element at a 100% rate up to a value of £2m. The areas outside of the town centre element would be funded from the Council's £2.5m budget. It is anticipated that the intended scope of the scheme can be delivered within the current approved budget.

Further trader engagement is required concerning the project and Officers are continuing to liaise with the Council's traffic consultant and DfI Roads to consider the best approach to traffic management in the town. It is intended to set up a meeting in the coming weeks with Glengormley DEA Members to fully consider the findings of the most recent traffic studies to inform a way forward.

Within the proposed scheme there are areas where the pavement merges with privately owned land and where it would visually detract from the scheme to only resurface the areas in public ownership. It is therefore proposed that, in particular instances, land in private ownership may also be improved to meet the original objectives of the project.

As the RPS appointment (approved by the Council in February 2021) was based on a smaller geographic scheme compared to what is currently proposed in the enclosure their associated fee will increase proportionately. Council Officers propose to request a quotation for the additional areas from RPS but will continue to develop the scheme within the Council's overall £4.5m funding envelope.

The current programme for the Glengormley Public Realm Scheme forecasts that the economic appraisal will complete this December, DfC funding

approval should be obtained May 2022 and that the site works will commence May 2023 and conclude by August 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approves the revised extent of the Glengormley Public Realm Scheme as defined in the enclosure.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Agreed and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

10.9 G/FM/ FLEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

As previously reported to Members, Fleet Management transferred to the Waste Management section in April 2021 and officers have been developing a Fleet Management Strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's fleet operations.

The draft Strategy, **enclosed**, covers a five-year period which will provide flexibility in light of emerging low carbon technologies and availability of fuelling infrastructure, proposes the following objectives:

- Maximise the performance of the fleet to improve cost effectiveness;
- Ensure the safe operation of our fleet for employees, other road users and the public;
- Ensure the provision of a reliable and fit for purpose fleet;
- Progress the transition of the Council fleet from diesel fuelled vehicles to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV);
- Implement a corporate approach to fleet management across all operational services.
- Maintaining the fleet in accordance with the DVA Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness and Operator Licence Undertakings.
- Safety inspections, services and GVC carried out in line with legislative requirements and manufacturers guidelines.

The Strategy also includes targets for the period 2022 to 2027:

1. Achieve a 90% pass rate for the annual Driver Vehicle Agency test, Goods Vehicle Certificate;
2. Achieve 90% of planned vehicle safety inspection annually;
3. Complete all vehicle procurements within 3 months of receiving approval to purchase;
4. Develop a transition plan by 2022 to progress the decarbonisation of the Council fleet;
5. 20% of the Council fleet to be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles by 2023;
6. Min 10% reduction in carbon emissions from the Council fleet on current levels by 2023;
7. Install appropriate Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at 4 key Council facilities for 20 electric fleet vehicles by 2023.

In order to achieve the targets as set out in the draft Strategy, an associated Implementation Action Plan has been developed to maximise the current fleet resources and assist Council's transition to a carbon free fleet. A sample of the actions are as follows:

- Complete an economic appraisal required for the replacement of each category of vehicles will include an assessment of which alternative fuel option is deemed preferable. Options to be kept under review as technologies evolve and advance;
- Assessment of existing and required refuelling infrastructure to ensure that demand is facilitated, including the exploration of potential partnerships with third parties;

- Consider alternative means of vehicle deployments in order to increase vehicle utilisation;
- Maximise the use of GPS and route optimisation software to minimise journey distance for operations like litter bin emptying, commercial waste collections, and bulky waste services;
- Implement staff training to promote greener driving, reduce fuel usage and vehicle maintenance;
- Promote alternative means of travel to encourage employees to use public transport, cycle or walk for commuting to work and other work purposes or recreationally.

The majority of the proposed actions are low or no cost with officer time required and any actions that require significant funding will be assessed through the normal economic appraisal/business case process for consideration by Committee. It is envisaged that progress against the targets included in the Strategy will be reported on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDATION: that the draft Fleet Management Strategy be approved.

Prepared by: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)

10.10 G/FM/01 LOW EMISSION FUEL - VEHICLE PILOTS

In 2019 Council acknowledged the scale of the climate crisis and committed to investigate measures to limit its impact on climate change. The Council vehicle fleet is primarily fuelled by mineral diesel and this is one of the principal sources of carbon emissions into the environment.

The draft Fleet Strategy, which is listed elsewhere on the agenda for the October meeting of Council, proposes how Council intends to manage and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its fleet operations and includes options to reduce the carbon impact of fleet operations in line with Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

As part of the proposed transition to decarbonising the existing fleet both the short and long term use of low emission fuels have been considered to assess their effectiveness and impact on Council operations:

- Hydrogen
- Electric
- Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil Fuel (HVO)

A number of pilot proposals have been developed for consideration: Hydrogen fuelled vehicles are expected to play a significant role in replacing their diesel equivalents. However, as refuelling infrastructure is presently limited, officers are exploring potential partnership opportunities with other public sector organisations. Translink, for example, operate a Hydrogen Refuelling Facility on Duncrue Street, Belfast and officers are scheduled to visit the site. In addition, Northern Ireland Water is also interested in partnership working with other public sector stakeholders and a meeting is also being arranged to follow this up.

Council currently operates two small electric powered vans but large electric vehicles are yet to be purchased by Council. In order to assess the suitability of the latest Electric Vehicles, a two-day trial of a 26 tonne Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV) similar to diesel versions that provide trade waste collections for Council is proposed. The electric RCV would be used for the trade waste collections during the pilot period.

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a low-carbon fuel and is derived from used cooking oils, residue animal fats from food processing, and non-food grade crops. HVO has the following environmental benefits:

- Can achieve up to 90% reduction in CO₂ emissions;
- Up to 30% reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions;
- Improve air quality with up to 86% reduction in particulate matter.

This fuel can be a direct replacement for diesel and is approximately 15% more expensive. Although the environmental benefits of using this fuel in the entire fleet would be significant, it is estimated that at current prices this would mean an increase of £60,000 per annum in the spend on fuel for the Council fleet.

This additional cost could be offset by a potential reduction in running costs as the use of HVO does not produce the same residues in the engine and therefore burns cleaner. No adjustments are required to engines to facilitate the use of this fuel and in order to be able to pilot its use, Officers have been able to secure a free fuelling system from a local supplier. The contractor would supply the fuel for the pilot period at an estimated cost for the pilot of £2,500. The proposed pilot would be for a three month period on a range of vehicles within the Council fleet up to a maximum of 15 vehicles. It is expected that the pilot will identify any impact on performance and at the completion of the pilot, the findings will be reported.

If approved, we would be the first council in Northern Ireland to use HVO fuel. As set out in the draft Fleet Strategy, it is proposed that going forward, the economic appraisal required for the replacement of each category of vehicles will include an assessment of which alternative fuel option is deemed preferable. Options to be kept under review as technologies evolve and advance.

RECOMMENDATION: that the low emission fuel vehicle pilots outlined above be approved.

Prepared by: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Lavery, Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations)

10.11 CP/CD/389 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/22 / REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AWARD THRESHOLDS

Members are reminded that a core element of the Council's Community Support Programme is to provide financial assistance to local community/voluntary groups and organisations to deliver a wide and innovative range of activities and projects that benefit the residents of the Borough.

The various categories and financial support thresholds under the current Community Development Grant Aid Programme were approved by Council in October 2014 and implemented on 1 April 2015. Premises Grants were reviewed again in 2019/20 and the maximum award under this category was increased from £3,500 to £5,000 effective from 1 April 2020.

At the September Committee meeting Members requested a review of the maximum award payable under Community Development Grant Aid Programme in light of the increasing costs facing groups for all funded activities.

Small Grants Programme

At present the maximum award payable under the small grant category is £500 and many groups utilise this to cover their annual cost of insurance, to purchase stationery and small items of equipment and/or deliver a one-day excursion for their group.

In light of the increasing costs of insurance, equipment and transportation over recent years it is proposed to increase the maximum award payable under this category to £1,000 effective from 1 November 2021.

Summer Schemes

Each year in excess of 15 groups deliver a minimum one-week summer scheme programme during the months of July and August. Transportation costs and coaching fees account for a large part of their £1,500 budget and with these costs increasing over time it is proposed to increase the maximum award payable under this category to £2,000 effective from 1 April 2022.

Technical Assistance

Approximately 6 groups per year apply for a Technical Assistance Grant to undertake feasibility studies, needs analysis and/or to develop a business or strategic plan.

The costs of engaging community development consultants to facilitate this work have risen considerably since 2015 therefore it is proposed to increase the maximum award payable under this category to £5,000 effective from 1 April 2022.

Community Festivals Fund

There are a number of Festival Events delivered annually across the Borough which attract an audience in excess of 5000 people. Increasing costs in relation to Insurance, Security/Crowd Control, Equipment Hire and Artistes Fees are

making it more difficult for groups to deliver these large scale events therefore it proposed to increase the maximum award payable under this fund to £10,000 for those events which attract in excess of 5000 people effective from 1 April 2022.

Expenditure on Small Capital Items

Across all grant categories groups are currently only permitted to spend a maximum of £300 on small items such as IT Equipment, Office Supplies, Summer Scheme Equipment and Festival Props etc. All of these items have risen considerably in price since 2015 therefore it is proposed to increase the maximum amount that a group can spend on Small Items to £500.

The table below provides an overview of the current threshold under each grant category and the proposed amendments effective from 1 April 2022.

Category	Grant	Rolling/Call	Current Threshold	Proposed Threshold
Small Grants Programme	Seeding Grant and / or Insurance	Rolling (Monthly)	£0 - £500	£0 - £1,000
	Activity Related Grant and/or Insurance	Rolling (Monthly)	£0 - £500	£0 - £1,000
Premises Grants	Premises Grant	Grants Call	£0 - £3,500	£0 - £5,000
Community Development Grants	Insurance	Grants Call	£500 - £750	£0 - £750
	Outreach and Involvement	Grants Call	£0 - £2,000	£0 - £2,000
	Summer Schemes	Grants Call	£0 - £1,500	£0 - £2,000
	Technical Assistance	Grants Call	£0 - £3,000	£0 - £10,000
Community Festivals Grants	Community Festival	Grants Call	£0 - £5,000	£0 - £5,000 <5000 attendees £0 - £10,000 >5000 attendees

Members are advised that the call for applications for the 2022/23 financial year will open on Monday 8 November 2021 and close on Friday 7 January 2022 at 4pm.

Grant Information Seminars will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 11am and Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm.

Applications will be scored by a panel of Officers in January/February 2022 and recommendations will be presented to Committee for approval in March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: that:

- i. the Revised Grant be approved as detailed in the table above with changes coming into effect on 1 November 2021;**
- ii. the call for applications for the 2022/23 Community Development Grant Aid Programme be opened on Monday 8 November 2021.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning (Interim)

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

10.12 ED/ED/206 DfC REVITALISE FUNDING

Throughout Covid-19 the Department for Communities (DFC) alongside the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) made just under £972,000 grant funding available to the Council. The purpose of this funding was to support recovery activity in town centres, rural villages and to support the advancement of a blue and green infrastructure vision across these areas. The deadline for the funding is the end of March 2022.

To date the Council has:

- Delivered health and safety supplies and infrastructure, including 1,500 PPE packs and H&S supplies to businesses and provided 10 hand sanitisation units across our town centres;
- Delivered 91 awnings across 58 businesses and awarded a further 18 grants to businesses for awnings;
- Promoted a Back in Business communications campaign which included radio, print and digital advertisements, town centre animation and lamp-post wraps;
- Awarded 144 urban grants to Town Centre Businesses and 87 grant awards to rural businesses;
- Implemented small-scale community regeneration schemes and environmental improvements across Toome, Moneyglass, Dunadry, Templepatrick and Carnmoney;
- Supported town centre projects such as the development of new signage at McConnell's Yard, planters in Glengormley, tree lighting in Randalstown, footfall counters in Ballyclare, and additional illumination in Crumlin;
- Supported Council tenants to adjust to alfresco dining by providing grant assistance to Manns, The Boathouse, Barista Coffee and Big Occasions;
- Installed 125 bike stands throughout the Borough.

Some projects are still advancing for completion by the funding end date of March 2022. They are:

- A totem sign at Antrim Castle Mall;
- Town centre health check research (evaluation of customer satisfaction with the projects outlined above);
- Capital infrastructure projects including Antrim Boardwalk Phase 1 refurbishment, the extension and widening of Glasna Braden Glen and improvements to Rathfern Ponds.

It was previously proposed to include a pilot Antrim bike hire scheme at a budget of £61,500. A private sector response to the Council's recent Tourism Challenge Fund has indicated a willingness for a commercial operator to explore this project. It is therefore proposed to replace this project with:

- An extension and improvements to the footpath in Antrim at the Mill Trail and Shakey Bridge (estimated at £31,500); and
- An accessible viewing point at Reas Wood at Antrim Loughshore Park (estimated at £30,000).

Out of the original allocation of £972,000 a non-committed balance of approx £80,000 remains. It is intended that this budget be allocated to the following projects, subject to cost and feasibility to meet the spend deadline of March 2022:

- A business painting grant for commercial properties within town centres;
- Purchase of mobile event infrastructure for the animation of town centres including PA's, seating, lighting and generators;
- Financial assistance to bar and restaurant businesses with outdoor provision with the aim of improving accessibility to better meet the needs of persons with a disability;
- To support the roll-out of the Council's CCTV programme.

In addition to the support outlined above, Officers are liaising with the Council's Parks section to secure alternative DFC regeneration funding for a meanwhile use initiative at Ulster Bar Corner in Antrim. Ulster Bar Corner is owned by DFC and they are agreeable to licence it to the Council at a peppercorn rent. The proposed meanwhile use will include planting, surfacing, street furniture and potentially illumination. The project budget is estimated at £150,000 and would require a £15,000 (10%) match funding contribution from the Council with the remainder provided by DFC. The initial timescale of the licence would be for two years subject to review and the timescale for achievement of the project is also the end of March 2022.

Two further schemes are being advanced in the hope of securing funding from the same alternative DFC regeneration budget. They are:

- Harrier Way pedestrian linkage environmental improvement scheme estimated at £25k with a necessary 10% Council contribution (£2.5k);
- Sixmilewater Mill Road Bridge pavement anti-slip resurfacing estimated at £18,000 with a necessary 10% Council contribution (£1.8k); and
- Support towards the environmental improvement aspects of Harrier Way car-park resurfacing including the pedestrian linkage and illumination (costs to be determined).

RECOMMENDATION: that Members

(a) note the projects delivered to date under the DFC revitalise funding and the remaining projects proposed to achieve the full funding allocation by the end of March 2022.

(b) approve a meanwhile use project to be located at Ulster Bar Corner at an estimated value of £150,000 with a 10% financial contribution from the Council for completion by March 2022.

(c) approve the advancement of the Harrier Way and Sixmilewater Park projects to achieve the schemes by the end of March 2022.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development and Ivor Mullan, Parks
Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

10.13 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS UPDATE OCTOBER

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the January Council meeting that the Council Events Plan for 2021 be implemented and kept under review. At the September Council meeting updated event plans were approved with regular updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council.

A further update on the Council Events for 2021 is presented below:

Council Events Update 2021

Month/Date Normal	Event	Budget	Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations & Branding
May			
Mon 3rd	NI Centenary (lighting of 2 beacons and the opening of 2 Centenary Woods	Included in Centenary Budget	Events held by invitation only to elected members and members of NI Centenary Working Group.
Sat 8th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Completed Virtually
25-29 th	May Fair	£25,000	This event did not take place this year.
Sat 29 th & Sun 30 th	Antrim Live	£15,000	Incorporated into One Giant Weekend.
July to August	Summer Sunday Music	£9,000	Sunday concerts booked weekly in JLSP, ACG, V36 and Antrim Loughshore Park at a cost of £8,000. Commencement of concerts delayed from 4 July due to live music restrictions with the programme extended into September to mitigate.
June			
Sat 19 th – Sun 20 th	Garden Show Ireland	£35,000	Garden Show Ireland 2022 promotional element incorporated into One Giant Weekend on 4 September. A promotional show garden featured celebrity gardener Diarmuid Gavin with sales for the 2022 event commencing.
Sat 19th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Bands	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	RSPBNI ran a Pipe Band Festival on Saturday 7 August with a reduced budget of £8,000 and an attendance of approximately 800.
Fri 25 th	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley. Given Covid 19 restrictions this event did not go ahead. A virtual Cool FM roadshow event delivered to post primary pupils across the Borough on 24 June as part of the programme to recognise children's resilience in relation to Covid 19. This achieved reach of 5.500 and excellent feedback.
July			

Fridays in July and August 2 July to 27 August	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lilian Bland Community Park Glengormley Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm, of family fun depending with Covid secure measures. Brighter Nights commenced on Friday 2 July with the addition of an Urban Market for Glengormley from 5pm with a combined attendance of 1000 across the evening. Attendances have remained high with very positive feedback.
W'ends end July to end August	Theatre Ticketed Shows	Theatre budget income to cover cost	Civic Square at Mossley Mill and Parterre Garden Antrim Castle Gardens. Some shows were fully booked with healthy sales levels across the programme and very positive feedback.
August			
7 th	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event rescheduled to Sunday 8 August with a capacity limit of 2000 set. Attendance was in the region of 1500 in spite of wet weather and very positive feedback received.
28 th and 29 th	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Following consultation with traders Shoreline Festival will not be held but instead small 'Taste and Sea' Whiteabbey events were delivered in July/August/September. They featured artisan markets in the Council car park in the with various food, drink and retail offers from the village businesses along with animations in the and JLSP seaside themed activity at a reduced budget of £12,000. The market in September was a twilight market to support the night time economy. An introductory 'Taste and Sea' event was delivered on Saturday 26 June without a market given identification of capacity within the budget.
September			
3 rd to 4 th	One Giant Weekend	£50,000	One Giant Evening V36 at The Valley including fireworks and One Giant Picnic ACG: Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element and Antrim Live included at ACG. Events were well attended with positive feedback received. Advance booking for free tickets to the Giant Evening and Picnic applied with a £1.25 booking fee going to the Mayors charities. This ensured that attendance at the events was safely managed with highest standard of Covid safety given limited venue capacity at both sites and previous experience of high levels of 'no show' for free events without any booking fee.
5 th	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – held on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend
October			

31 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	<p>Spooked Out at V36 31 October 2021 in V36 at The Valley. The Screams and Tricks Funfair is running from 22 October to the 31 October with an inclusive session on 24 October.</p> <p>Free tickets for Spooked Out were released on 1/10/2021 with a £1.25 booking fee going to the Mayors charities as for One Giant Weekend. Tickets are now fully allocated.</p> <p>Officers have been liaising with The Junction regarding a refresh of the traditional Halloween Spooktacular event. Because of Covid-19 and limitations at The Junction site the event has transitioned from a showcase event and fire-works display to a programme of satellite family friendly events at The Junction and other town centre locations, potentially including The Gateway and Antrim Castle Gardens. The Council's contribution to this programme of activity will remain as per the annual Spooktacular budget of £18,000 from the Council with a further £10,000 contribution from other private sources. This programme commenced on Saturday 23 October and runs until Sunday 31 October.</p>
December			
27 Nov to 21 Dec	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	<p>Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in November/December. Ticket prices and advertising approved at the September Council meeting with planning ongoing.</p> <p>Tickets for the event were released on 7 October and there has been significant demand with almost 40% of tickets already booked.</p>
19 Nov to 4 Dec	Christmas Switch On's	£74,000	<p>Following the DEA Member Engagement Group Meetings held in October, 7 Live Switch On Events will take place across the Borough. All events will run from 7-8.30pm as follows:</p> <p>Antrim – Friday 19 November Glengormley - Saturday 20 November Macedon (Rathcoole) - Thursday 25 November Ballyclare - Saturday 27 November Threemilewater (Monkstown) – Thursday 2 December Dunsilly (Randalstown) – Friday 3 December Airport (Crumlin) – Saturday 4 December.</p> <p>Each event will consist of a programme of festive entertainment provided by Mr Hullabaloo and local artistes followed by a short service of Christmas, Readings, Carols and Music prior to the switching on of the Christmas Lights.</p> <p>A Christmas Market and other animations will complement the programme at each location.</p>

Members are reminded that Garden Show Ireland was not held in 2021 but that the 2022 show was promoted as part of One Giant Picnic with ticket sales opening. The 2022 event is scheduled for three days from Friday 29 April to

Sunday 1 May 2022 and planning has commenced including the establishment of an Event Steering Board.

In addition to Council led events, regular updates on community and other events have been reported monthly. The only remaining update for this month relates to The Junction Christmas Pantomime. In December 2020, the Council supported a drive-in Christmas Pantomime organised by The Junction. The event was hosted at The Junction and attracted 650 cars to the shows, estimated at 2,600 visitors. The shows ran over three days. The event is managed directly by The Junction but is a not for profit activity. In 2020 they raised £6.7k for the NI Children's Hospice which equated to all ticket proceeds.

This year, The Junction hopes to build upon the success of the 2020 event and is contributing £20,000 to the event alongside a £10,000 funding award from Arts & Business NI. The production is being delivered by Cahoots NI and is titled 'Elves Got Talent II'. This year, the show will be hosted in a vacant retail unit, and is scheduled to run from 14th - 19th December 2021. The maximum ticket price will be £5 per person, to ensure that the show is accessible to everyone.

The Junction has requested £3,000 sponsorship from the Council towards the event. This year it is proposed that proceeds will be split 50:50 between the Mayor's charities (NI Children's Hospice and Women's Aid ABCLN) and St John Ambulance Antrim. The contribution towards St John Ambulance will support their campaign to raise funds for a new ambulance for their Antrim Unit.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the updated events plan be approved;**
- (b) any additional budgets from events that do not proceed or are delivered at a reduced cost; be directed to the Town Centre and Villages Recovery programme;**
- (c) the Council provides sponsorship of £3,000 to The Junction for a Christmas Pantomime to run 14th – 19th December 2021 to support the activity and good causes detailed in the report;**
- (d) a proposed plan for Council Events in 2022 be brought to a future Council Meeting**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

10.14 PK/GEN/144 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE RE: PROPOSED SHARED USES PATHS

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Department of Infrastructure, Active Travel Unit, regarding two proposed shared use paths

- O'Neill Road, Newtownabbey
- Scullions Road, Newtownabbey

Maps showing the routes of the two paths are **enclosed**. The schemes aim to promote active travel by creating safe walking and cycling infrastructure by providing shared use paths within the existing hard shoulders/ footways and/or grass verges of both locations.

It is proposed that Council welcomes both schemes as they would improve safety and accessibility for pedestrian and cycle travel and makes the following comments:

O'Neill Road Scheme

- This will provide an invaluable missing link between existing off-road shared trails in this area. It is suggested that the scheme considers the addition of cycle stands at the Woodland Trust's carpark; a key access point for walkers onto Carnmoney Hill
- It would be further enhanced though the provision of a safe off-road option for the section of O'Neill Road from the roundabout to the Antrim road, taking in access to the Valley Park
- Warning signage will be required for cyclists to slow down at the pedestrian entrance/exit point into Carnmoney Cemetery
- Advisory signage may be required in advance and upon construction around the informal layby near the roundabout.

Scullions Road Scheme

- This proposal fits well with Council's aspiration to have a Mallusk/Hightown to Gideon's Green (and onwards to Belfast City Centre) active travel route as the proposed section would provide an invaluable link connecting Mallusk and Glengormley, by passing Sandyknowes roundabout.
- Advisory signage may be required under the flyover, to keep the shared off-road route clear.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council responds to the correspondence from DfI regarding the proposed footways/cycleways at O'Neill Road and Scullions Road as set out above.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks & Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive, Operations

10.15 ED/EUP/002 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: CREGGAN VILLAGE RENEWAL

Members are reminded that in July 2019, the Council agreed to apply to GROW South Antrim for Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP) funding towards 4 village renewal schemes in Killead, Toomebridge, Moneyglass and Creggan. Following tender assessment and the application process, match funding committed by the Council in January 2020 was £51,742.78 against an overall programme costs of £179,608.78. Included within this overall cost, the cost of the Creggan scheme was £43,077.03 with match funding of £10,769.26 from the Council.

Works to the projects were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but have now reached practical completion stage in 3 out of the 4 villages. In the final village, Creggan, a community garden has been created and the community group are keen to extend the project to provide access to a Termon Cross, situated on adjoining land, through a pathway, which was part of the original plan.

At present, the Council has a development agreement with the landowner where the community garden has been created covering a period of 7 years in line with the requirements of the NIRDP funding programme. There is no cost to Council for the agreement, however, the Council takes responsibility for insurance and maintenance over the period covered by the agreement.

The land owner of the adjoining land where the Cross is situated has indicated a willingness to enter into a 25 year development agreement with the Council, at no cost, with the Council taking responsibility for insurance and maintenance over the period covered by the agreement. The land owner does not wish to consider a shorter period of agreement for this project. A request has been issued to the land owner of the garden to extend the existing 7 year development agreement to 25 years in order for the entire project to be covered for the same period. The pathway to the cross can only be accessed via the garden, so it is important that the agreement periods are identical to ensure that the pathway remains useful.

Should both land owners agree to the 25 year development agreement on the terms stated, it is proposed to extend the Creggan project to create a pathway from the community garden to the Cross. The contractor has provided a cost of £4,338.98 for these works, and this will be covered through the GROW funding award and match funding already committed to the overall village renewal projects. No additional capital funding is required from the Council to undertake the new pathway.

Should either landowners fail to agree to the 25 year development agreement, the extension of the project will not be undertaken and the works already completed in the garden will conclude the project.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a. Subject to the consent of the two landowners in Creggan, the Council enters into a Development Agreement for a period of 25 years with each, at no cost, and extends the community garden project by creating a pathway to the Termon Cross within the existing overall budget committed to the Village Renewal projects.**
- b. The Council provides insurance cover and maintains the project over the course of the 25 year Development Agreements.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

10.16 AC/ACG/012 NATIONAL LOTTERY ANAMORPHIC ART INSTALLATION AT ANTRIM CASTLE GARDENS

The National Lottery is currently developing a national media campaign for its 27th Birthday which will highlight the £30m that is given each week by The National Lottery to projects across the UK.

The campaign will feature four unique installations strategically located across the UK, showcasing works of art showcasing the words – BUILD, DREAMS, CREATE, CHANGE (enclosed). These words will also be reflected in messaging throughout the campaign.

Permission is being sought from the National Lottery to place one of these installations in Antrim Castle Gardens from 15-21 November 2021 (there will be no cost to Council to host this installation).

During the birthday week (w/c 15th November) and starting with Scotland, The National Lottery will unveil each of the four installations in collaboration with production company and artist collective, Greyworld.

The installations will feature four personal items from four beneficiaries in each location. In total, the set of installations features 16x personal items from groups and organisations who have directly benefited from The National Lottery funding. The installations will mark not only what has been achieved but will act as a visual cue to encourage people to learn about the Good Causes and apply for funding.

The National Lottery plans to raise awareness of these installations through a high profile regional and national public relations campaign both in press and on social channels. The Council can support this campaign through our website and online channels.

RECOMMENDATION: that permission is granted to The National Lottery to place one of their installations in Antrim Castle Gardens between 15–21 November 2021 at no charge to the Council. The Council promotes the installation in support of The National Lottery.

Prepared by: Laura Molyneaux & Jeanette McIntyre, Lead Media and Marketing Officers

Agreed by: Nicola McCullough, Communications and Customer Services Manager

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's October 2021 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting in September are also **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

**11.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL –
SYRINGES FOR CUBA CAMPAIGN/END THE BLOCKADE**

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding a Motion calling for support in relation to ending the blockade of supplies to Cuba by the USA as well as highlighting their support for the 'Syringes for Cuba campaign'.

A copy of the correspondence is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.3 G/MSMO/024 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES AND PARADES

Members are advised that a schedule has been compiled of the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Services and Parades taking place in the Borough (copy **enclosed**).

Robes may be worn by those who wish to do so and these are available from the Robing Room in Mossley Mill. On request, Member Services will transport these to Antrim Civic Centre for collection.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.4 ED/ED/154 TRPSI FUNDING PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that in May 2021, the Council agreed to administer a Rural Business Development Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). An application call was held during July for micro businesses that had not previously benefitted from this scheme, with a total of 19 eligible applications received, all of which were successful in securing funding. The total funding committed under this call was £44,504, out of a budget allocation of £62,000. A second call for applications was held in late September, also for businesses that had not previously benefitted from the TRPSI scheme and a further 8 eligible applications were received with a total value of £28,017. All applications scored above the funding threshold of 65%. Letters of Offer have been issued to the top scoring projects up to the maximum funding remaining from the DAERA allocation, £17,496. Officers have requested additional funding of £10,521 from DAERA so that all successful applications can be supported. Two projects deemed ineligible for TRPSI funding have been awarded grant funding of £1,000 under the DAERA/DfC Covid Recovery funding. The applications were suited to, and eligible under this programme, and they had not previously been supported.

Members will recall that the Chief Executive was granted delegated authority to approve the grant awards under the TRPSI and Covid Recovery Programmes, and a copy of the approved projects is **enclosed** for information.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members note the report.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth