



29 November 2024

Committee Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle and S Ross

Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, R Lynch,
T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone,
L Smyth, S Ward and S Wilson

Dear Member

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 Community Development Grant Aid Programme – Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2024/2025

4.2 The Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2024

4.3 Ballyclare May Fair

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation – Housing Related Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation

4.5 Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group – Fundraising Event Request

4.6 Women's Sub Committee

4.7 Asylum Seekers – Full Dispersal Funding

4.8 Enchanted Winter Garden 2025

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Community Development Section – Partnership Minutes

5.2 Budget Report – Quarter 2 – April 2024 to September 2024

5.3 Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report (Community Development) Quarter 2

5.4 Business Plan 2024/25, Bi-Annual Update Report

5.5 St Patrick's Day 2025

5.6 IPB Pride of Place Awards 2024

5.7 Community Planning Working Group

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 Community Facilities – Service Management Agreements

6.2 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

6.3 Community Facilities – Tenancy Request

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/CP/243 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (EVAWG)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation by Fionnuala French, Claire Archbold and Jane McCarthy from The Executive Office (TEO) is to provide Members with an update on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework and Action Plan (**enclosed**).

2. Background

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) is one of the Programme for Government priorities and TEO has been mandated to coordinate a cross sectoral response that is intersectional and delivers across the whole of government and society in Northern Ireland.

The EVAWG Strategic Framework was developed by TEO with a public consultation exercise on the Strategic Framework and Action Plan carried out between July and October 2023.

On 5 September 2024 The Executive agreed its draft Programme for Government (PfG) for 2024 to 2027 with EVAWG one of the nine priorities of the Programme for Government.

The EVAWG Strategic Framework 2024 – 2031 was then launched by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on 16 September following a Ministerial Statement to the Assembly; a copy of the Strategic Framework has already been provided.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

It was agreed at the November 2024 Community Development Committee that the Council work in partnership with TEO in relation to the delivery of the EVAWG Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME - SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval in relation to the Community Development Small Grants Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provides financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to £1,000 towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Small Grants Programme, was approved by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2024/25 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grants be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

Members are reminded that the budget allocation for the 2024/25 Community Small Grants Programme, is £20,000.

During the month of November three applications were received and assessed by Officers, with three applications totalling £3,000 recommended for approval, details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award three Small Grant awards to the successful applicants as outlined.

Community Development Small Grants will remain open as a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a monthly basis.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the three Small Grant applications requesting a total of £3,000 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.2 CP/CD/445 THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024.

2. Background

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was established in 2002 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II and was the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer led groups that make an outstanding impact in their local community.

Following the passing of the Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022 the Awards were suspended however, it was announced in February 2023 that the scheme would continue as the King's Award for Voluntary Service with an annual announcement of winners to be made on the King's birthday, the 14 November.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting that five organisations be nominated for the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024. The groups nominated were as follows;

- All About Us – ASD Teens
- Queenspark Women's Group
- Monkstown Village Initiatives
- Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society
- The Breakaway Group

4. King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024

On 14 November 2024 the second recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service were announced with 22 groups from Northern Ireland successful including the five organisations nominated by the Council; All About Us – ASD Teens, Queenspark Women's Group, Monkstown Village Initiatives, Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society, The Breakaway Group. These were the only groups from County Antrim to be successful with almost a quarter of all successful recipients coming from the Borough.

5. Financial Implication

As for previous recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service, it is proposed that the Council supports the delivery of a celebration event for all five groups to be formally presented with their awards by the Lord Lieutenant early in 2025.

Provision of £10,000 for the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024 has been made in the 2024/25 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest honour awarded to volunteer-led groups that make an outstanding impact in their local community.

Five organisations from the Borough have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2024 and are the only organisations from County Antrim to have been successful.

It is proposed that the Council supports the delivery of a celebration event for all five groups early in 2025.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the delivery of a celebration event to formally present five organisations with their King's Award for Voluntary Service, at an approximate cost of no more than £10,000, be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.3 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 November 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Background

Members are reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group is 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 Development 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. Previous Decision of the Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 13 November 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall; the minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 13 November 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.4 CP/PCSP/127 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION – HOUSING RELATED ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR LEGISLATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Members' instructions in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment consultation on proposals to amend existing housing-related Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) along with the Department for Justice (DOJ), undertook a public consultation of ASB proposals which ran from 28 November 2023 until March 2024; an extension was provided until 05 April 2024 for a small number of organisations.

3. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from DfC advising of a consultation of an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on previously consulted proposals to amend existing housing-related anti-social behaviour legislation.

Members are advised as part of the analysis process a number of concerns were raised in respect of the impact of the proposals on Section 75 categories.

The consultation document and associated survey are available on the DfC website; <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/equality-assessment-consultation-anti-social-behaviour-housing-proposals>

The consultation will run until 03 February 2025.

Members are advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

4. Recommendation

Members' instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.5 CP/CF/008 BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT GROUP – FUNDRAISING EVENT REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a ‘Casino’ themed fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14 February 2025 and to apply for a licence to sell and consume alcohol at this event.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group have made a request to hold a ‘Casino’ themed fundraising event in Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14 February 8pm-11pm; this type of event is permitted with Council approval.

The group have also requested permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at their event. The consumption and sale of alcohol is permitted with agreement by Council if the relevant licence is obtained by the event organiser.

The proposed event will be ticketed, with a maximum of 60 people permitted at the event. The Casino games will be supplied and operated by a professional Casino provider. The proceeds from the event will help fund an educational and historical project for young people, including a trip to the Somme.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are advised a number of previous similar requests to the Council seeking permission to serve and sell alcohol at functions in community facilities have been approved.

It was agreed at the September 2024 Community Development Committee that Steeple Veterans Flute Band be granted permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at Parkhall Community Centre for an event in October and it was also agreed that Steeple Defenders Flute Band be granted permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol also at Parkhall Community Centre for their events being held in October 2024.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are reminded that Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group operates the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement and manage all bookings and income generated at the centre.

5. Governance

Members are advised under clause 15.4 section 8 of the group's SMA conditions, the group must request prior approval of the Council for the Centre to be used for gaming. Members are further advised under clause 15.4 section 9, the group must request prior approval of the Council for the consumption and sale of alcohol at the Centre.

The group will be required to submit a risk assessment and insurance in advance of the event.

6. Summary

A request has been received from Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025 and to apply for an alcohol licence to sell and consume alcohol at this event.

The Council's approval is required in relation to the holding of a 'Casino' type event and the application for an alcohol licence.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the request from the Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event in the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025, including permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at the event, be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.6 CP/CP/237 WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee meeting held on 20 November 2024 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that a motion to establish a stand alone 'Women's Sub Committee' made up of female representatives of the Council to discuss and promote women's issues, build the skills and confidence of local women and to encourage women to become more involved in local politics, was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting.

3. Previous Council Decision

The Terms of Reference for the Women's Sub Committee were approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Women's Sub Committee met on 20 November 2024; the minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development

4.7 CP/GR/171 ASYLUM SEEKERS – FULL DISPERSAL FUNDING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval on the 2024/25 Full Dispersal funding plan to The Executive Office (TEO).

2. Background

The Executive Office (TEO) Full Asylum Dispersal funding is intended to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers and promote integration within the Council area.

Through funding support in 2023/24, a scoping exercise was completed to inform programme content, with the wider purpose being to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers in the Council area.

Following the conclusion of the previous programme, there are areas which require ongoing support to maintain the established support networks and continue with meaningful activities designed to assist integration.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

Members are reminded that TEO Refugee Integration Funding Letter of Offer of £50,000 for the delivery of the Refugee Integration proposal 2024/25 was approved at the September Community Development Committee.

Members are also reminded that The Executive Office (TEO) Memorandum of Understanding for Asylum Full Dispersal funding 2023/24 of £88,478 was approved at the Community Planning Committee in April 2023.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from TEO inviting Councils to submit Full Dispersal funding plans to provide support to individuals seeking asylum placed within their Council areas by 22 November 2024.

The funding allocation to support the work in Antrim and Newtownabbey for 2024/25 is £38,914. This has been allocated using a baseline funding amount of £15,000 plus £23,914 based on the percentage of people seeking asylum in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Officers have developed and submitted a Full Dispersal funding plan to TEO by their deadline; the proposal is **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

TEO invited the Council on 11 November to submit a funding plan to provide support for asylum seekers placed within the Borough. An allocation for

2024/25 of £38,914 has been provided to the Council for the delivery of the plan.

The Full Dispersal plan has been developed to reflect the offer of funding from TEO.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft 2024-25 Full Dispersal funding plan to The Executive Office be retrospectively approved.

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.8 AC/EV/007 ENCHANTED WINTER GARDEN 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to increase ticket charges for the Enchanted Winter Garden event in 2025.

2. Background

The Enchanted Winter Garden event has been delivered annually in Antrim Castle Gardens in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The event operates over 19 evenings and attracts in the region of 120,000 visitors from across Northern Ireland and beyond. Historically the number of residents attending the events accounts for approximately 25% of the total attendees.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

At the February 2020 Community Planning Committee meeting ticket charges of £5 per adult, £3 per child and £14 for a family of four were approved for the event in 2020.

At the Council meeting in September 2021, it was agreed to increase ticket charges by £1 for the adult and child tickets. For the 2021 Enchanted Winter Garden event ticket charges of £6 per adult, £4 per child and £18 for a family of four applied. Officers had made a recommendation for ticket charges of £8 per adult, £5 per child and £22 for a family of four.

At the April 2022 Council meeting it was agreed to apply ticket charges of £7.50 per adult, £5 per child and £22 for a family of four and it was also agreed to explore methods to enable residents to avail of a 'ticket price freeze'. It was subsequently agreed at the July 2022 Council meeting that two-tier pricing apply to the event in 2022 with ticket charges as follows:

Residents: £6 per adult £4 per child £18 family of four
Non-Residents: £7.50 per adult £5 per child £22 family of four

At the Community Planning Committee in February 2023 ticket charges for the 2023 event were approved as follows:

Residents: £6 per adult £4 per child £18 family of four
Non-Residents: £10 per adult £7 per child £30 family of four

At this meeting it was also agreed to increase the budget for the event lighting installation by £50,000 for the next three-year period.

Members are advised that the 2023 ticket charges have remained unchanged for 2024 as contained in the Council Events Plan for 2024/25 which was agreed at the September 2024 Community Development Committee including dates, ticket fees and estimated budgets.

4. Enchanted Winter Garden Ticket Charge Proposals for 2025

The ticket charges for residents who wish to attend Enchanted Winter Garden have not been increased since 2021 despite an increase in the cost of goods and services of 20% between 2021 and 2024 and are currently £6 per adult, £4 per child (under 2's free) and £18 per family of four.

Non-resident ticket charges for the event have increased from £7.50 per adult, £5 per child and £22 per family of four in 2022 to their current rates of £10 per adult, £7 per child and £30 per family of four.

It was reported to the September 2021 Council meeting that officers had carried out price benchmarking with other similar events delivered locally and in Scotland with the following findings:

Event	Adult	Child	Toddler	Family
Glenarm Castle Christmas Magic	£20	£25	Under 1 £6	N/A
Christmas at Hillsborough Castle	£19.50	£13.50	N/A	£62 for four
The Enchanted Forest Pitlochry	£22	£12	Under 3's free	£60 for four
Enchanted Winter Garden	£5	£3	Under 2's free	£14 for four

Officers have once again carried out price benchmarking both against other Council events and a range of other events similar in scale and experience to Enchanted Winter Garden with findings as follows:

Event	Adult	Child	Toddler	Family
Glenarm Castle Christmas Experience	£25 (Sun – Thurs) £27.50 (Fri – Sat)	£30 (Sun – Thurs) £32.50 (Fri – Sat)	Under 1 £7.50 (Sun – Thurs) £8.50 (Fri - Sat)	N/A
Christmas at Hillsborough Castle	£20.20	£10.10	N/A	N/A
The Enchanted Forest Pitlochry	£27.50	£14.75	Under 3 free	£76.00

Malahide Castle and Gardens	£20	£28	Under 1 £15	
National Trust – various	£22.50	£16.00		£74.00
SkyPark at Carlingford	€20	€20	Under 3 free	
Spinning Yarns Mossley Mill	£6			
Pumpkin Patch Mossley Mill		£6		
Garden Show Ireland 2025 Concession £10.00	£12.00	N/A		
Christmas Pantomime Cinderella TATM	£16.50	£16.50		

It was presented to the Corporate Workshop on 22 October 2024 that an increase in ticket charges for the Enchanted Winter Garden in 2025 had the potential to generate an additional £160,000 net income in 2025/2026.

The proposed charges for the 2025 event presented were as follows:

Residents: £8 per Adult, £6 per Child, £25 per Family of four

Non-Residents: £12 per Adult, £10 per Child, £40 per Family of four

5. Finance

As the scale of the event has developed over the years so have the costs for the event. The expenditure budget for the event has also been impacted significantly in the post-COVID years by supplier cost increases as a result of inflation and also the post pandemic operating context.

The financial model for the event operates on the basis that the ticketing income and other secondary income streams cover all of the event costs and generate a surplus, which supports the delivery of the Council's annual programme of free events to residents, the costs of which have also been increasing significantly for reasons outlined.

The numbers attending the event have been maintained in the region of 120,000 since 2021/2022. This has been achieved in part by the continuous improvement of the event experience such as the additional investment in lighting approved in 2023. Any reduction in the cost of delivering the event can only be achieved by reduction in the creative content with costs of infrastructure, staffing, logistics, traffic management etc fixed which risks reducing the quality of the event experience and therefore reputation of the event, ticket sales and therefore income.

The event as it stands is estimated to generate £1.6 million additional direct expenditure into the Borough. This figure is calculated using the Tourism NI recognised formula of each day visitor to an area being worth £18 in direct spend and using this figure against 75% of the 120,000 visitors who come from outside the Borough.

1. Summary

The Enchanted Winter Garden Event has been delivered annually by the Council since 2015 with ticket charges introduced in 2017 to support the expansion of the event. When compared with both the Council's own events and other similar Christmas event experiences, ticket charges have remained at a low level.

As the event has evolved, the financial model has become more challenging and Officers intend to expand the usual post-event review scheduled for early 2025 to examine in detail this financial operating model. However, in order to assist the estimate-setting process, Members are asked to consider the proposed ticket charges for the event in 2025 in order to inform the Department's estimate setting process.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that

(a) An increase in admission tickets for Residents to £8 per adult, £6 per child and £25 per family of four with Under 2's free for Enchanted Winter Garden 2025 be approved.

(b) An increase in admission tickets for Non-Residents to £12 per adult, £10 per child and £40 per family of four with Under 2's free for Enchanted Winter Garden 2025 be approved.

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

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/GEN/019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SECTION - PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the various minutes of the Partnership Meetings led by the Community Development Section which have been held in recent months.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that the quarterly update Partnership Minutes as listed below can be viewed in the electronic folder called "Partnership Minutes for Members Information" on Ipads.

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91	-	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/CSP/48	26/06/24	Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	04/06/24	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/DP/67	24/09/24 19/09/24	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
	-	Joint Cohesion Group
CP/GR/43	TBC	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the update on Partnership Minutes be noted.

Prepared by: Wendy Donaldson, Clerical Officer

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.2 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – QUARTER 2 – APRIL 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide financial performance information at period 6 (April 2024 – September 2024) for the Community Development Directorate.

2. Introduction/Background

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

3. Summary

Budget reports for Community Development Directorate for Quarter 2 April 2024 to September 2024 are **enclosed** for Members' information.

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

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

5.3 PT/CI/060 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024/25 PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) QUARTER 2

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report Quarter 2 for the Community Development Directorate be noted.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 was approved in June 2024. This set out a range of robust performance targets, along with six identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets

3. Previous Decision of Council

As agreed at the August 2023 Council meeting, quarterly performance reports will be presented to the relevant Committee.

4. Key Points

The second quarter performance progress report for Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events, Community Development and Marketing, Communications and PR is **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2024/25 Performance Progress Report (Community Development Directorate) Quarter 2 be noted.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Katherine Young, Organisation Development & Employee Engagement Manager.

Approved by: Helen Hall Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

5.4 PT/CI/065 BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25, BI-ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members to note the performance progress against the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

Specifically, the duties in the Act relate to Section 84(1), 85(2) and 85(9) whereby the Council has a statutory duty to make arrangements to:

- Secure continuous improvement;
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards are met.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate was approved in March 2024, with a subsequent agreement to provide performance updates against the Business Plans every six months.

4. Key Points

A six-month performance update on the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate, as of September 2024, is **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the performance progress update against the 2024/25 Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate be noted.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

5.5 AC/EV/027 ST PATRICK'S DAY 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on planned activities for St Patrick's Day 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Annually the Arts and Culture team organise events to mark St Patrick's Day. Typically, these include family activities in different locations around the Borough, and a theatre production or concert at the Theatre at The Mill.

3. Activities planned for 2025

The focus of the Council's activities in 2025 will be a concert given by The Rapparees in the Theatre at The Mill on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2025. The Rapparees are a popular Belfast-based band who play a distinctive style of folk and traditional music. Tickets for this concert are priced at £14 including booking fees.

In addition to this, two free family fun days will be held from 12.00pm – 4.00pm at Mossley Mill and at the Old Courthouse Antrim on Saturday 15 March 2025. The event at Mossley Mill will include crafts, music, dance and entertainment, while the Old Courthouse event will focus on traditional myths and legends from across Ireland and beyond. This event will be facilitated by Tale Time Stories, and will be focused on young audiences aged between 3 and 10.

Additionally, an exhibition of heritage Irish dancing dresses will be held in Mossley Mill from 14 March – 13 April 2025, which will be free of charge.

4. Financial Position/Implication

A budget of £5,000 has been allocated in the 2024/25 estimates to cover the costs of these events.

5. Summary

The Council will mark St Patrick's Day 2025 with events in Antrim and Newtownabbey, including a St Patrick's Day concert by the Rapparees, family fun days and an exhibition of heritage Irish dancing dresses.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the successful recipients of the IPB Pride of Place Awards 2024.

2. Background

The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland, recognises 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. The 2024 Pride of Place Awards were held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 2 November 2024.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the April 2024 Community Planning Committee that the Council nominate two groups to take part in the 2024 IPB Pride of Place Awards competition namely:

- Listening Ear (Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates) category
- Sensory Kids (Community Youth Initiatives) category

4. IPB Pride of Place 2024

On 2 November 2024 the annual IPB Pride of Place Awards took place at the Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan and was attended by Councillors Gilmour and McWilliam and Officers.

Members are advised that Sensory Kids were winners of the Community Youth Initiative Category and Listening Ear received a Certificate of Recognition under the Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates Category.

5. Summary

The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland, aim 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.

The Council nominated two groups from the Borough for the 2024 Awards with Sensory Kids winning the Community Youth Initiative Category.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.7 CP/CP/186 COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Community Planning Working Group report.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that Dr Johann Gallagher's report "*Towards Programme of Support for Community Planning*" (March 2019) set out proposals which could strengthen Community Planning.

The report's recommendations identified four themes:

1. Scope of Community Plans;
2. Communications and Community Involvement;
3. Use of Data and Evidence;
4. Leadership, Performance and Resources.

To consider those recommendations, the Department for Communities (DfC) convened the Community Planning Working Group and wider Reference Group, including representatives of Councils, Departments and Community Planning partners.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was approved at the December 2020 Community Planning Committee that Officers would represent the Council on the Reference Group established to inform the Community Planning Working Group.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from DfC regarding the final Community Planning Working Group report on actions to improve and support Community Planning, also **enclosed**.

The report was presented to the PSG/SOLACE Engagement Forum at its meeting on 15 October.

The report includes a 'RAG' status, together with a concise summary for each action.

5. Governance

Whilst the Community Planning Working Group has completed its task, the Department's secretariat function, which supported the Community Planning Working Group, will continue to monitor these areas and will follow up on outstanding actions reporting to the PSG/SOLACE Engagement Forum under its standing item for community planning.

6. Summary

The Community Planning Working Group was established to develop actions to improve and support Community Planning.

The Department for Communities have issued a final report on the status and update of each of the 35 improvement actions identified by the Working Group.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Community Planning Working Group Report be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development