



21 April 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 26 April 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

All Members are asked to attend the meeting via "Zoom".

To ensure social distancing only the Mayor, Group Leaders, or their nominee, and the Independent Member may attend the Council Chamber.

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:

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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 the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held remotely on Monday 29 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held remotely on Monday 12 April 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 April 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 7.1 Council Events Update 2021
 - 7.2 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Recommendations 2021/2022
 - 7.3 PEACE Plus Programme - Public Consultation
 - 7.4 Good Relations Audit and Strategy
 - 7.5 PEACE IV, Amendment to Letter of Offer Shared Spaces And Services Theme (PIV 4063)
 - 7.6 Keyworker Appreciation
 - 7.7 For Your Freedom and Ours; Request For Support
 - 7.8 Call For Evidence - Damages (Return On Investment) Bill
 - 7.9 Local Government Staff Commission Dissolution
 - 7.10 Your School Your Club
 - 7.11 Public Analyst Appointment

- 7.12 DAERA Consultation on the Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation In Northern Ireland (NI Local Councils)
- 7.13 Waste Management Consultations
- 7.14 Annual Contributions - Sustainable NI
- 7.15 Centenary of Northern Ireland
- 7.16 Town Centre Recovery Action Plans
- 7.17 Call for Evidence – Committee for Infrastructure
- 7.18 Remote Council Meetings
- 7.19 Recognition of School Children during COVID-19
- 7.20 Freeports Proposal NI - Update
- 7.21 ERDF Collaborative Digital Transformation Programme
- 7.22 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group
- 7.23 Corporate Recovery Plan
- 7.24 The Joyce Torpedo Boat Retrieval
- 7.25 Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funding

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 8.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 8.2 Motion – Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – Holiday Hunger
- 8.3 Budget Report
- 8.4 Lateral Flow Testing

9. ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Tender for the Provision of Dog Pound Facilities and Related Services
- 9.2 Youth Empowerment Proposal
- 9.3 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of CO2 For Leisure Centres
- 9.4 Tender for Catering Services at The Antrim Forum

- 9.5 Memorial Plan
- 9.6 Provision of Crowd Management and Event Stewarding Services
- 9.7 Staffing Matters
- 9.8 Organisation Structures
- 9.9 Business Growth Programme Tender
- 9.10 The White House
- 9.11 Update on Kells Solar Farm Planning Application
- 9.12 Right to Sell Foodstuffs and Hot/Soft Drinks in Council Parks

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Leah Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Robert Foster

"This Council wishes to pass on our deepest sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the passing of HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Our Nation mourns with her. In recognition of his lifelong dedication to his Royal duties and commitments, as well as his service in the Navy during WW2, this Council wishes to place a permanent memorial to Prince Philip in our Borough as a mark of respect and Remembrance."

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Alison Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Vera McWilliam

"This Council recognises and celebrates the historic achievement of the Northern Ireland's Women Football Team in qualifying for Euro 2022, resolves to write to the Irish Football Association to congratulate the team on their fantastic achievement and engages with teams across the Borough on how women's football can be further developed. "

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Glenn Finlay
Seconded by Councillors Stephen Ross and Roisin Lynch

"In recognition of the consultation on Programme for Government, Investment Strategy and Budget, lobbying by NILGA and other stakeholders, we call on this council to write to The Executive Office and the Department for Communities to request the transfer of full regeneration powers and associated resources to local authorities as a matter of urgency."

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021

7. ITEMS FOR DECISION

7.1 ED/080/VOL3 COUNCIL EVENTS 2021 UPDATE

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 March Council meeting an updated events plan was approved and it was agreed that regular updates on the events programme 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 3 rd	NI Centenary lighting of 2 beacons and the opening of 2 Centenary Woods	Included in Centenary Budget	Invitation only to elected members and members of NI Centenary Working Group.
Sat 8 th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Confirmed as virtual.
25-29 th	May Fair	£25,000	This event will 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 to be delivered on Sundays in JLSP and ACG and other locations across the Borough.
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.
Sat 19 th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Band Championship	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	RSPBNI have requested the event becomes a Pipe Band Festival and is rescheduled to 24 July with a reduced budget of £8,000.
Fri 25 th	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley. Event delivered in its traditional format or rescheduled if restrictions in place.
July			

Fridays in July and August 2 nd July to 27 th August	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lillian Bland Community Park Glengormley Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6pm to 8pm, of family fun depending upon restrictions in place with Covid secure measures.
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. Streaming and screening options to be included if possible.
August			
7 th	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event to be rescheduled for Sunday 1 August and combined with Antrim Festival Family Sunday.
28 th and 29 th	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Jordanstown Loughshore Park. To be included as part of One Giant Weekend 3 to 5 September in V36 at The Valley subject to consultation with Whiteabbey traders. Combined branding to include The Centenary.
September			
3 rd to 5 th	One Giant Evening One Giant Picnic	£50,000	Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element, Antrim Live and Shoreline Festival to be included. Combined branding to include The Centenary.
5 th	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – To be held on Sunday 5 September Combined branding to include The Centenary.
October			
30 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	V36 at The Valley The Junction, Antrim – To be confirmed.
December			
TBC	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in December. A decision on whether this event can proceed is needed by June to allow sufficient time for planning.
TBC	7 DEA Christmas Lights Switch On Events	£74,000	Live or Virtual depending on Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

In terms of additional animation, a proposal from a Big Wheel operator to place this outdoor attraction in Market Square Antrim from 30 April to 27 June was agreed at the March meeting. Following the Executive announcement of reopening dates on 15 April the Wheel operator requested to bring the start dates forward to 24 April, which was agreed by the Mayor and Party Group Leaders and retrospective approval is sought.

In addition to Council led events, an update on community and other events was reported to the March Council meeting with a further update below:

- May Day Steam Rally – Organisers have announced that the event planned for Sunday 2 and Monday 3 May 2021 is cancelled but have confirmed their intention to run the event on the last weekend in August subject to COVID-19 regulations at that time. This will be kept under review.

- The Irish Game Fair and Food Festival is scheduled for 26 and 27 June in Shanes Castle and is being supported by Council funding of £15,000 from the Economic Development budget.
- ISPS Handa World Golf Invitational 2021 – Event promoters are progressing planning to deliver the event from 27 July to 1 August 2021 with sponsorship support from the Council approved. Officers are engaging with organisers to support delivery.
- Statscup Supercup NI – Organisers have now confirmed that this event will not be held in 2021 but they are considering alternative activity to maintain awareness of Statscup Supercup NI throughout 2021 for which they may request Council support in future.
- Antrim Festival Group – The Group have revised plans and would now like to combine their Festival Family Sunday with Party in The Park on Sunday 1 August in Antrim Castle Gardens and deliver a second family event on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend. Both events will aim to raise funds for a new ambulance for the St John Ambulance Group.
- Randox Antrim Agricultural Show, scheduled for Saturday 24 July in Shanes Castle, has now been cancelled for 2021.
- V Fest at V36 at The Valley – A Dance Music Festival is being planned by NACN for Saturday 14 August 2021 with an application for funding of £5000 submitted by the Group to the Community Festival Fund. The Council will provide support to the organisers of this community event.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the updated events plan be approved with further updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council;**
- (b) the operation of the Big Wheel in Market Square Antrim from 24 April be retrospectively approved;**
- (c) 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.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

7.2 CP/CD/389 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022

Members are advised that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for 2021/22 was Friday 11 December 2020. To support applications to this grant aid programme, Officers delivered 2 grant workshops via Zoom and offered one-to-one support to all groups.

Members will be aware that a pass threshold of 50% applies to applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme and that groups are not required to demonstrate match funding, however where a group evidences match funding this would be reflected in the scoring.

The total budget available for the 2021/22 Community Development Grant Aid Programme is £240,000 as provided for in the estimates, of which £50,428.20 (similar to the amount awarded in 2020/21) is expected from the Department for Communities (DfC) under its Community Support Programme for 2021/22. Notification of the 2021/22 award is expected from DfC in April 2021 and will be reported to Council in May 2021.

As a result of the current COVID-19 restrictions many Community/Voluntary Groups have been unable to deliver their annual programme of work and it is likely that this will continue into the earlier part of the new financial year therefore only premises grant applications have been assessed by Officers at this time with the intention that all other Community Development Grants will be brought to Committee for approval in May 2021.

In total 2 new applications for a Premises Grant for 2021/22 were received and assessed by Officers. The total amount requested from the 2 applications is £9,880.

One of the applications, (Muckamore Parish Development Association) successfully achieved the 50% pass threshold requesting £5,000 however the application was submitted a week late due to personal circumstances. In addition, 42 premises grant recipients, who were successful in achieving 3 year funding in 2019 and 2020, submitted expenditure profiles for 2021/22 and have requested financial assistance totalling £194,068.92.

The total amount of financial assistance requested for Premises Grants, including the application submitted late, under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for 2021/22 is £199,068.92.

A list of awards is **enclosed** for Members' consideration and a financial summary is provided in the table below:

Summary of Community Development Premises Grant Aid 2021/22				
Grant Stream	Number of Applications	Successful Applications (Scored 50% and above in 2021/22)	Total Requested	Total Awarded
Premises (New)	2	1	£9,880.00	£5,000.00
Premises (Year 3)	28	N/A	£132,235.00	£132,235.00
Premises (Year 2)	14	N/A	£ 61,833.92	£ 61,833.92
Total	44	1	£203,948.92	£199,068.92

In relation to the two applications submitted under year 1 from Mallusk and District Community Support and Muckamore Parish Development Association both these groups took on the responsibility of running their own premises during the 2020/21 financial year and are therefore applying for a premises grant for the first time.

As there are still funds available under this category it is proposed that the late application from Muckamore Parish Development Association be approved and that Council Officers work with Mallusk and District Community support to improve their application for further consideration at the Community Planning Committee in May 2021.

Members are also advised that proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of financial assistance will be withdrawn.

It is imperative that all community/voluntary groups ensure compliance with all relevant and applicable COVID-19 Government and Public Health Guidance and Regulations relating to their premises in the 2021/22 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- I. Year 2 and Year 3 Premises Grants totalling £194,068.92 be approved;**
- II. the late application submitted by Muckamore Parish Development Association for £5,000, which achieved the required 50% pass threshold for funding, be approved; and**
- III. Mallusk and District Community Support be permitted to resubmit a revised Premises Grant Application for approval at the Community Planning Committee in May 2021.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.3 CP/P4/047 PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Members are reminded of the previous correspondence from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) outlining six thematic areas for the PEACE PLUS Programme:

- **Thematic Area 1:** Building Peaceful & Thriving Communities;
- **Thematic Area 2:** Delivering Economic Regeneration & Transformation;
- **Thematic Area 3:** Empowering & Investing in our Young People;
- **Thematic Area 4:** Healthy & Inclusive Communities;
- **Thematic Area 5:** Supporting A Sustainable Future;
- **Thematic Area 6:** Building & Embedding Partnership & Collaboration.

Members are advised that a public consultation on the PEACE PLUS Programme was launched by SEUPB on 10 March 2021, which closes on 12 May 2021.

The consultation is supported by a range of documents, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>.

The documents propose that Thematic Area 1: €90m, is dedicated to: "enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the local authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation."

While the other five thematic areas do not preclude applications from local authorities, thematic area one appears to be the one most focused on local authority delivery. Thematic area one proposes that clusters of PEACE PLUS Local Community Partnerships are developed on a sum-local authority area basis (possibly by DEA). It is further proposed that each Local Community PEACE PLUS Partnership will be resourced to prepare a PEACE PLUS Action Plan and the amalgamation of these would constitute the PEACE PLUS Action Plan for the whole of the local authority. The plans will be centered on three core themes:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities; and
3. Building respect for all cultural identities

The Consultation Information Document explains the proposed budget allocation, sub-theme investment areas and types of actions to be supported under each thematic area.

A draft Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council response to the PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

The **enclosed** Special EU Programmes Body wrote to councils in early March (letter **enclosed**) setting out their plans for PEACE PLUS Action Plan developmental resources. In the letter the SEUPB confirms that it has initiated a process to appoint consultants to support Councils in the Co-design of Local Community

PEACE Action Plans. In addition, SEUPB has confirmed a budget for each of the 17 Councils of up to €100k in 2021 for expenditure on resourcing the development of the plan. This expenditure will need to be incurred up front by each council and claimed back retrospectively.

RECOMMENDATION: that the draft response to the PEACE PLUS Programme Public Consultation be approved.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.4 CP/GR/118 GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT AND STRATEGY

Members will be aware that Sector 3 Solutions were appointed to deliver the Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2020-25, and associated Action Plan 2021-22.

The strategy developed through this process will reflect the Government's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. It outlines how Government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

1. Our Children and Young People
2. Our Shared Community
3. Our Safe Community
4. Our Cultural Expression

A series of engagements were held through online surveys, focus groups and engagement with Elected Members, Council Officer, Key Stakeholders, and individuals across each of the 7 DEA's. The draft Audit and Strategy 2020-25 **enclosed**, 2021/22 Action Plan **enclosed** for Members' approval along with S75 screening form **enclosed** and Rural Needs Impact Assessment form **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Good Relations 2020-25 Audit and Strategy, 2021/22 Action Plan, S75 screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment be approved.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.5 CP/P4/010 PEACE IV, AMENDMENT TO LETTER OF OFFER SHARED SPACES AND SERVICES THEME (PIV 4063)

Members are reminded of the update provided on 8 March 2021 regarding Antrim and Newtownabbey Peace IV Partnership Shared Spaces and Services theme. Correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) approving the request for modifications to the Peace IV Local Action Plan Shared Spaces and Services theme.

The modifications now mean that the existing letter of offer, at a grant intervention rate of 41.52%, will be amended to cover all expenditure up to 29 February 2020. SEUPB will issue a new Letter of Offer for Shared Spaces and Services to cover the period 1 March 2020 until 31 March 2022 permitting Council to use uncommitted funding on the remaining Shared Spaces and Services projects at an intervention rate of up to 100%.

The total grant funding for the Shared Spaces and Services theme will remain at £1,211,448.70 / €1,429,509.46. There remains an uncommitted SEUPB Grant contribution of around £835,000 that is available to fund the projects listed below.

The SEUPB approval of the modification request submitted by Council will reduce the Council's contribution to the projects listed below:

Project	Location	Original Project Contributions	Anticipated Project costs	Anticipated Council Contribution
V36 Urban Sports Park	Adjacent to Valley LC	£145,882.00 – PIV £300,000 – ANBC	£750,000 (post-tender cost)	£0
<i>The following projects are at cost estimate stage with full procurement to begin shortly</i>				
Community Garden Accessibility Project	Monkstown	£8,281.25 - PIV	TBC	TBC
New access to Health and Wellbeing Community Garden and Arts and Craft Hub at Monkstown	Monkstown	£17,675 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Reimaging (Whiteabbey CC)	Whiteabbey Community Centre	£24,689.60 – PIV	TBC	TBC
Hearts and Voices of Glengormley Village	Glengormley Town	£13,280 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Ballyclare River Snake, Townhall Civic Art Project	Ballyclare Town Centre	£20,800 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Community garden and cookery hub	Crumlin United Football Club	£27,800 - PIV	TBC	TBC
Conservatory at Toomebridge Lock Keepers Cottage	Adjacent to Toome Canal	£21,200 – PIV £25,600 - TBC	TBC	TBC
The Viaduct Reclaimed – for Community Gain	Randalstown Viaduct	£14,750 – PIV £8,500 - TBC	TBC	TBC

The issue of the new letter of offer is subject to the condition that:
"Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will confirm, in writing, that any cost overruns relating to the approved Shared Spaces and Services Local Action Plan will be covered by Council. SEUPB has requested this response by 30 April 2021".

V36 Skate Park

The V36 Urban Sports Park project is on the Council's Capital Projects Priority List, approved at the March 2021 Council meeting.

Council has three tender returns for the project, but given the very recent approval from SEUPB, Officers have not yet had the opportunity to evaluate these to make a tender award recommendation. It is estimated that the project will take 5 months to complete on site and, given the need to avoid laying the concrete surface in poor weather conditions, it is recommended to expedite the appointment of the contractor and to begin work on site as soon as possible to avoid construction over the winter. In order to achieve this the Members may wish to delegate authority for the appointment of the contractor to the Chief Executive as this will reduce the time required for Committee and Council approvals.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- 1. Members accept the new letter of offer at a grant intervention rate of up to 100% and confirm that any project cost overruns are the responsibility of the Council;**
- 2. Members approve the V36 Urban Sports Park Project to proceed and give the Chief Executive delegated authority in the procurement process.**

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager/Reggie Hillen,
Head of Capital Development

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.6 AC/EV/022 KEYWORKER APPRECIATION

Members are reminded that at the Council meeting on 29 June 2020 a motion by Alderman Kinahan and seconded by Councillor Smyth was unanimously carried. The Motion being that

“This Council congratulates all those frontline workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid 19 pandemic on all our behalf's often at great risk to themselves and calls on Council to organise an 'Event of Appreciation' to be held at some suitable future date so that we can show our gratitude and thanks for all that they have done”

An all-party Working Group was established to take this forward with Group Leaders nominating Councillors Dunlop, Smyth, Finlay, Goodman and McClelland to the Group. At its first meeting in March 2021 Cllr Smyth was appointed as Chair. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are enclosed for Members' approval.

At the meeting on 30 March 2021 the Group were advised that there is a UK wide NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day planned for Monday 5 July 2021. This date marking the day that the NHS was established in 1948. The detailed programme for the day is enclosed for Members' information with full detail on this initiative available online using the link <https://www.nhsfrontlineday.org>. Having considered the proposed plan, the Group agreed that the Council show its appreciation for our NHS, Social Care and Frontline workers by participating in, promoting and supporting the UK day on 5 July 2021 as follows:

1. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenant raise a specially commissioned NHS flag at 10am at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre and Ballyclare Town Hall. An image of this flag is enclosed for Members' information.
2. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor outside Mossley Mil and Antrim Civic Centre lead the Borough in a two-minute silence at 11am, which is broadcast on Council's social media channels with the Last post and Reveille played.
3. The Council leads the Borough in participating in A Nations Toast, which will take place across the UK at 1pm with Captain Katy Connor leading Northern Ireland's toast from the top of Slieve Donard. Brass Bands England have written a special anthem to coincide with the Nation's Toast as their personal tribute to all those who give so much 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Council will organise for local bands to play this music in each of the main 5 town centres at 1pm on 5 July with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Elected Members in attendance to make a toast at their preferred location.
4. The Council's parks and open spaces to be decorated with NHS banners (similar in design to the flag) and people encouraged to come together (within COVID-19 guidelines) at 1pm for picnics in the park but also encouraged to participate at home in their gardens or come together as local communities for street parties at this time with all activities dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.

5. Two open air afternoon teas to be held on either side of the Borough at 4pm as point 4 above with the community also encouraged to participate at home or in local areas.
6. All churches in the Borough with bells will be invited to take part in UK wide Bell Ringing at 8pm. The Council's social media channels will be used to invite all residents to participate in Clapping Our Heroes at 8pm led by The Mayor and Deputy Mayor outside Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre with this broadcast on Council's social media channels.

The Group also agreed that the Council support those who wish to participate in this UK wide initiative by sharing of the UK programme and information on participation which encourages local groups to upload their own events to the UK web site. Groups can be signposted to the site to purchase their own NHS flag at a cost of approximately £35, so that as many facilities as possible fly the flag to show support for the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers. £5 from each flag purchased is going to the NHS Charities Together and National Care Association.

In addition, it was agreed that the Council provide support for those who wish to participate at home or in their local communities through supply of resources such as arts worksheets about how to make rainbow decoration, bunting and other engaging ways to get involved.

The Group noted that given where we are in the ongoing Pandemic this UK wide day of reflection and measured celebration is appropriate at this time and an Event of Appreciation for Borough NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers can be further considered at a date in the future.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council's participation, promotion and support of the UK Wide NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day on 5 July 2021 as outlined be approved.

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.7 AC/GEN/068 FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS; REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Members are reminded that a request from For Your Freedom and Ours, to install a stone memorial on the Ballybogey Road Polish air crash site and an interpretation panel in Carnmoney Cemetery near the grave of a Polish airman, as part of the Polish Wings Heritage Trail, at an approximate cost of £1,500 was agreed at the December 2020 Committee.

The project was established by the For Our Freedom and Yours CIC with support from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in NI and the NI War Memorial Museum in 2020 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2020.

For Your Freedom and Ours CIC was established with support from the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, to promote historical links between Northern Irish and Polish communities. The Group aims to demonstrate historical events combined with a modern learning approach to gain a wider understanding of shared history can promote positive relations between communities.

For Your Freedom and Ours CIC is now hoping to welcome the Polish Heritage Flight to Northern Ireland on a two-day tour in August 2021. The Polish Heritage Flight is a part of the Historic Aircraft Collection based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford and is formed by the Hawker Hurricane G-HURI and Supermarine Spitfire BM597, both in the Polish Air Force markings used by Polish Airmen in the Second World War, including the Battle of Britain.

As part of the visit there will be an organised flypast over locations related to the history of the Polish Air Force in Northern Ireland, including Glengormley, Belfast, Lisburn, Ards and Ballyhalbert. There are also plans for an open day at the Newtownards Airfield for spectators who would like to see the Polish Heritage Flight from a closer distance.

The Mayor has accepted an invitation from the Group to be part of a steering committee to deliver the project to commemorate the history of the Polish Air Force in Northern Ireland in the Centenary year.

The project is estimated to cost £12,000 and the Group has requested that the Council consider a contribution of £1,000 toward this cost. A similar sum will be requested from the other partner Councils of Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

RECOMMENDATION: that the request from For Your Freedom and Ours CIC for £1,000 toward the cost of the Polish Heritage Flight two-day visit to Northern Ireland in August 2021, be approved

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.8 FI/FIN/046 CALL FOR EVIDENCE - DAMAGES (RETURN ON INVESTMENT) BILL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received **enclosed** from the Northern Ireland Assembly in relation to the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill which was introduced into the Assembly on 1 March 2021. The Bill passed Second Stage on 9 March 2021 and the Committee Stage commenced on 10 March 2021.

The Committee for Justice would welcome views/comments on the content of the Bill.

Written submissions should be structured to address specific Clauses or the Schedule of the Bill. If appropriate, it should include any amendments you wish to propose to the text of the Bill.

Information regarding the Bill can be obtained from the Assembly's website <http://nia1.me/4gr> or can be provided on request by emailing the Committee at damagebill@niassembly.gov.uk

The closing date for written submissions is **Friday 30 April 2021**.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members respond on a party political or individual basis.

Prepared by: Denise Lynn, PA to Finance & Governance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance of Governance

7.9 HR/ER/002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION DISSOLUTION

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) in relation to the dissolution of the Commission. A copy of the correspondence is enclosed for Members' information.

The Department for Communities has informed the Commission that they have no new information in relation to the Dissolution Order to wind up the Commission and on this basis it will be necessary for the Commission to determine a financial scheme up to 31 March 2022.

In accordance with the 2021/23 Management and Dissolution Plan, the Commission has estimated its total financial requirement to be £459,002 for the year ahead. Income from ongoing operations, which is offset against this figure, is estimated at £40,000, leaving an amount of £419,002 to be raised.

By virtue of the apportionment arrangements, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is required to pay £26,137 by 30 April 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: that a payment of £26,137 be made to the Local Government Staff Commission.

Prepared and Approved by: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development

7.10 L/LEI/SD/015 YOUR SCHOOL YOUR CLUB

Your School Your Club (YSYC) is a three year rolling capital funding programme offered by the Department of Communities and administered by Sport Northern Ireland (Sport N.I.) The programme aims to promote sports club and community use of school sports facilities, recognising that the opening of the school's sports estate for community and club use would have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

Council, in partnership with Ballyclare High School was recently awarded £7,500 from the programme to install automated access control system at Foundry Lane synthetic pitch. Subsequently, Officers were contacted by Ballyclare High School regarding assistance to upgrade the cricket facilities at the school. Due to the cricket facilities also being used by Templepatrick Cricket Club, the proposed project would meet the criteria for the YSYC funding programme. While not directly involved, Sport N.I. are seeking Council to support the application to ensure it is aligned with any wider strategic objectives Council may have. The project costs are as follows:

Project title	Project cost	Amount requested from Sport NI	Funding covered by Ballyclare High School
Upgrade to cricket wicket and 2 practice bays	£28,986	£20,986	£8,000

A letter of support from Templepatrick Cricket Club is **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council supports the application to the Your School Your Club funding programme made by Ballyclare High School.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programme Manager/
Deaglan O'Hagan, Commercial Programming Manager

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

7.11 EH/EHS/FC/008 PUBLIC ANALYST APPOINTMENT

Members are advised that Article 27 of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 requires that the Council appoint one or more persons to act as Public Analyst(s) within the district of the Council. Belfast City Council has recently completed its tendering process on behalf of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland for interested parties to provide the Public Analyst Service.

The contract to provide Public Analyst Services for the 11 Councils has been awarded to Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd (EFTI) who are a subsidiary of Eurofins (award letter is **enclosed**).

Eurofins is an international group which provides a range of analytical testing services. The contract period is for 2 years up to 31 March 2023 with the option to renew for a further 2 years.

The qualifications required by Analysts are set out in the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations (NI) 2013. The following persons, employed by Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd, fulfil the legal requirements for appointment as Public Analysts on behalf of the Council.

Public Analysts

Duncan Kenelm Arthur BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Nigel Kenneth Payne MSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Joanne Hubbard BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Lilian Emma Jane Downie MChem, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Michelle Evans BSc, MChemA, CChem, MRSC
Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC

RECOMMENDATION: that the above persons be appointed as Public Analysts to the Council under Article 27 (1) of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991.

Prepared by: Colin Kelly, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

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7.12 PK/GEN/150 DAERA CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISION OF ACCESS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND (NI LOCAL COUNCILS)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has issued a Key Stakeholder Consultation, The Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland, **enclosed**. The consultation document seeks the views of key stakeholders on the current outdoor recreation legislation with regards to enabling public access to the natural environment, while protecting that environment and ensuring landowners' rights. An extension has been provided by the Department to allow for councils to work together on a draft response deadline is now 9th April 2020.

A wider public consultation is expected later in the year. This Key Stakeholder Consultation is one of the key actions, in Sport Northern Ireland's Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland in 2014, Our-Great-Outdoors-The-Outdoor-Recreation-Action-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland_SportNI-2014.pdf. It does not include consideration of an overall 'Right to Roam', nor the development of National Parks.

Public access to land in Northern Ireland is more restricted than other parts of the United Kingdom. Land ownership in Northern Ireland is significantly different from the rest of the United Kingdom as most farms are of a much smaller scale, with a proportionately higher number of the population with land owning interests.

Although some areas of the countryside may have been used freely for recreation for many years, the public have no general rights to wander over open land, mountains, moorland, woodlands, the foreshore, etc. However, many landowners tolerate access to their land without a formalised agreement. The physical and mental health benefits of spending more free time outdoors during the COVID-19 restrictions have been significant and highlight the importance and timeliness of this Consultation.

Quality recreational access is restricted to public rights of way, permissive paths and areas of public land that people are invited to use (6% of total land area) – managed by Forest Service, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department of Communities, Councils, Loughs Agency, Northern Ireland Water and Waterways Ireland.

Working alongside the Northern Ireland Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF)*, Officers have developed an in-depth response to this consultation which is **enclosed** for consideration.

**NORF was established as an action from The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland and sits outside Government.*

In summary, the draft response includes:

1. A lack of sufficient public access to the natural environment in Northern Ireland.
2. Public Rights of Way should not be the focus of any new legislation.

3. Key challenges in establishing and managing public access - primarily irresponsible behaviour and concerns relating to occupier's liability.
4. Proposals to provide incentives to landowners to facilitate access and to address fears over occupier's liability.
5. Proposals to provide further access to public land for outdoor recreation.
6. The opportunity and need for a new Outdoor Recreation Bill.
7. The approach and benefits of Community Trail Plans.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves the draft response to DAERA's Consultation on the Provision of Access for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland, subject to any agreed amendments.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

7.13 WM/WM/040 WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS

Members are reminded that in 2019 a report was considered by the operations Committee relating to 4 consultation documents, including the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Further formal consultation documents have now been issued in relation to **both**.

As the proposed legislation will have significant impact on Council waste collection services it is proposed that attendance is considered at a virtual seminar which will provide an opportunity for discussion on the far-reaching implications of the consultations. A seminar (Resources and Waste Strategy Revisited) is scheduled to take place virtually on 12 May 2021 delivered by Let's Recycle (the UK's leading independent dedicated website for businesses, local authorities and community groups involved in recycling and waste management). The cost is £99 per local authority delegate. As the consultation documents are around 200 pages each, such discussions will be crucial in informing the response from Council. The potential legislation would have significant impact on the Waste Management service once implemented and therefore Member and Officer's attendance is proposed.

For Members' convenience, a short synopsis of the consultations is set out below. More detailed summaries of the key issues will be provided for the May meeting of the Operations Committee and draft responses are being developed for consideration at May Council in order to meet the deadline for submission.

1. **Consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging** – this will require packaging producers to pay the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce. Council would be able to recover the full costs of recycling and waste collections services, associated treatment and disposal fees, and education/awareness programmes related to this packaging. This is expected to cost UK producers in the region of £2.7bn in the first full year of implementation.

The full document can be found at:

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/supporting_documents/23.03.21%20EPR%20Consultation.pdf

2. **Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland** – this will require consumers to pay a 20p deposit on each glass, can or plastic container purchased, which would then be reimbursed when the empty container is returned. This consultation relates solely to deposit return schemes (for drinks containers explicitly) and not a reward and return scheme. It is a system whereby you pay an upfront deposit which you must require you to return the container to redeem.

The consultation document can be found at:

https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/supporting_documents/DRS%20Consultation.pdf

RECOMMENDATION: that attendance at the virtual seminar, Resources and Waste Strategy Revisited, on 12 May 2021 be approved for the Chair of Operations or his nominee as an approved duty and at least one officer, at a cost of £99 per person.

Prepared by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Agreed by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

7.14 PK/BIO/011 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence has been received from Sustainable Northern Ireland (**enclosed**) requesting a financial contribution of £5,000 for the incoming financial year. Members are reminded that Council has provided support to Sustainable NI for a number of years.

Sustainable NI works with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, with the aim of a sustainable low carbon future. Council has also nominated two Members to sit on the All Party Group for Sustainable Development, Councillors Lynch and Webb.

Sustainable NI provide valuable access to information which is useful to the Climate Change Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION: that a contribution of £5,000 is made to Sustainable Northern Ireland for financial support for 2021/2022.

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Executive Assistant to the Director of Operations

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

7.15 AC/EV/66 CENTENARY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

A meeting of the NI Centenary Working Group was held on 23 March 2021 and the minutes of this meeting are enclosed for Council approval, having been approved at its meeting on 22 April 2021.

Since the March meeting Councillor Ross has requested that the civic buildings be lit red to mark the Centenary on 3 May 2021. This request cannot be considered under the current Council Light Up Civic Buildings Policy and Council approval is required.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the NI Centenary Working Group meeting of 23 March 2021 and the light up of civic buildings red on Monday 3 May be approved

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.16 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS

Members are reminded that Action Plans for each of the five main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown (**enclosed**) were approved at the March Council meeting.

Masterplans are also being developed for each Town and will be brought to the Council in due course for approval. As part of this process site visits to each of the towns for DEA Elected Members have been taking place with appropriate Directors and Officers in attendance and a further report will be brought to the Council in May regarding appropriate structures to engage with stakeholders at a local level.

Since the announcement by the Executive of the easing of further restrictions, Officers have put in place a range of measures to support the safe re-opening of retail and close contact services with 250 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) packs are being distributed across the Borough. From Friday 30 April, Covid Aware Ambassadors will be present across our town centres as a visible reminder to the public to maintain social distancing and to promote the wearing of face coverings. Council staff will also be undertaking door to door business visits to promote the Council's Covid Aware Scheme. Through the scheme the Council aims to promote consumer confidence by recognising various controls being in place by the business to mitigate the Covid19 risk. Participating business are provided with a certificate and marketing materials to promote themselves as being Covid Aware. In anticipation of the re-opening of retail at the end of April, Officers are preparing animation events within town centres such as music and street entertainment starting on Saturday 1 May. Stencils are being applied to the pavements as markers to remind the public to maintain social distancing.

Awnings continue to be provided in Town Centres and further consideration will be given to an extension of the scheme to other areas, subject to funding. A further 25 hand sanitisation stations are also being purchased for use by businesses in local villages.

In summary, the action plans focus on the creation of connected clean and vibrant spaces across the Borough which will be attractive and welcoming spaces for both residents and visitors and encourage increased footfall and dwell in our towns and therefore support economic recovery of all sectors. The various Covid related support measures outlined above will also ensure that the Council is providing the required support to traders, residents and visitors as the economy opens up again.

RECOMMENDATION: that the updated Town Centre Action Plans be approved and that monthly updates continue to be provided to the Council.

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture/Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.17 WM/WM/40 CALL FOR EVIDENCE – COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence, **enclosed**, has been received from the Committee for Infrastructure regarding an inquiry into the ambition to decarbonise road transport in Northern Ireland. The Committee is interested in Northern Ireland's readiness to meet the Government's plans to prohibit the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 and plug-in hybrids from 2035 and exploring the future pathway to decarbonising road transport in Northern Ireland, by:

- Identifying Northern Ireland's current transport policy for the transition to a carbon neutral system, what can be improved and what can be learned from elsewhere;
- Identifying potential barriers to Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) adoption; and
- Exploring the role of public transport, walking, cycling and reduced demand for travel in decarbonising road transport.

The Committee has established an online survey to gather the views of the public and is also seeking the views of stakeholders involved in road transport such as public transport operators, road haulage operators and public sector fleet managers and the 11 Councils. Council has been asked its views on the move to electric and/or hydrogen vehicles by answering the following questions:

- What are the main challenges to the uptake of ULEV?
- What are the main benefits to the uptake of ULEV?
- What support to assist a move to ULEV would you like to see from the NI Executive?
- Do you believe there should be official targets for your sector and have you any views on the potential timescale this could take?
- Have you begun to plan for decarbonising your fleet and if so could you provide some detail on this?
- Have you estimated the cost of decarbonising your fleet?

A draft response has been prepared and is **enclosed** for consideration.

In summary, the points made include the need for advice and guidance regarding the best types of low carbon vehicles by type, need for consistency cost of replacement of fleet and the benefits of moving to a ULEV fleet for reducing Council's carbon footprint.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for the response to the Committee for Infrastructure's Call for Evidence, subject to any agreed changes.

Prepared by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

7.18 G-LEG-COVID REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 were introduced to enable Councils to hold meetings remotely. These Regulations are due to expire on 7 May 2021.

The Department for Communities has advised that there will be a short time lapse between 7 May 2021 and the extension to these Regulations.

Members should note that the Council Chamber in Mossley Mill can accommodate 12 Members including the Mayor/ Committee Chair whilst complying with Social Distancing. Members are advised that the risk of any potential challenge to Council decision making during the interim period can be minimised if there is a quorum of Members present in the Chamber and that this can be achieved in line with the workplace exemptions contained within the COVID-19 Regulations.

In the interim period it is proposed that Council and Committee Meetings, with the exception of the Planning Committee, continue to be held remotely and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to implement the decisions made by the Council.

It is also proposed that meetings of the Planning Committee be held "in person" with appropriate social distancing measures in place and with the public attending remotely and/or in a separate part of Mossley Mill.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Theatre at the Mill to accommodate all Members and a limited number of invited guests, subject to social distancing requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed interim arrangements be put in place to facilitate decision making by the Council during the period when remote meetings cannot be held.

Prepared by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.19 AC/GEN/073 RECOGNITION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING COVID -9

Members are reminded that at the February Council meeting the following Council Motion was unanimously carried.

Proposed by Councillors Leah Smyth and Robert Foster

Seconded by Councillors Jeannie Archibald-Brown and Glenn Finlay

'Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council recognises the difficulties and challenges all people have gone through during periods of lockdowns and restrictions. In particular, we recognise the challenges faced by those children in primary and secondary level education in facing these challenges and commend them for how they have addressed such fundamental changes to life and learning. We would ask if officers could provide recommendations as to how we, as a Council, can show recognition of their bravery, determination, and resilience during this difficult time.'

Officers have developed recommendations to recognise this which are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposals to recognise the bravery, determination and resilience of school children during the COVID-19 pandemic be approved at a cost of £20,000.

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.20 ED/ED/185 FREEPORTS PROPOSAL NI - UPDATE

The UK Government, through the 2020 Spending Review, has committed to establishing 10 Freeports throughout the UK, and intends to have the first in England operational before the end of 2021. It indicated that it is working constructively and collaboratively with the devolved administrations to seek to establish at least one Freeport in each nation of the UK.

The policy model is geographically flexible, permitting multiple customs sites and allowing multiple ports to collaborate where a clear economic rationale to do so exists. A bidding process was launched in England in November 2020.

The locations of Freeports in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be determined collectively by the UK Government and devolved administrations. An early presentation of INI thinking is **enclosed (see appendix)** which suggests that NI as an entity could be considered as a Freeport.

The Council has been involved in high level early discussions with Invest NI officials regarding the proposals.

Key Issues

1. The Government concept for Freeports includes simplified customs procedures, streamlined planning and a package of tax reliefs. The aim is to create a competitive environment which attracts investment and creates jobs. This has to be balanced against risk of displacement across Council boundaries should there be favourable tax reliefs in specific areas as well as the Council's rates base.
2. A Freeport in Northern Ireland could look at how a more attractive business environment can be created particularly for those firms who might benefit from NI's unique position regarding both the EU and UK's customs territory.
3. Freeports are a component of the UK Government's investment strategy post Brexit. The aim is to attract investment from around the world which ignites private sector growth, helping to level up the country and reducing pressure on public finances.
4. Maximising the innovation potential of a Freeport there may be opportunity to:
 - Drive NI's relative competitive advantage in key sectors
 - Support critical sectors to address global techno-economic challenges such as net zero carbon adoption
 - Stimulate new high value sectors- wrap around provisions for new SMEs and FDI
5. The table below outlines a list of potential incentives with holding Freeport status that have featured in consultations to date:

- i. Stamp Duty exemption
 - ii. VAT & Excise facilitation solutions
 - iii. Employers NIC relief
 - iv. Competitive Corporation Tax rate
 - v. Enhanced Capital Allowances for new fixed assets
 - vi. Business Rates relief
 - vii. Enhanced Tax relief for Skills Partnerships
 - viii. Enhanced Entrepreneurs relief for Micro & SME's
 - ix. Enhanced Tax relief on R&D Investments
 - x. Rates exemption for zero carbon capital investment
 - xi. Investment loan for zero carbon and climate resilient infrastructure
 - xii. Planning - Permitted Development Rights legislative reform
 - xiii. Planning - Development Orders
 - xiv. Planning - Simplified Planning Zones
 - xv. Planning - Enterprise Zones
 - xvi. Planning – National Policy Statement for Ports (NI version)
 - xvii. Enhanced rail networks and infrastructure to grow opportunities for freight travel into/from ROI and beyond
 - xviii. Rail network – passing loops
 - xix. Rail network – new halts and improvements to halts
 - xx. Legislation to declassify Trust Ports
 - xxi. Increased R&D public funding (UK levelling up agenda) Challenge Funds
 - xxii. City Deal Innovation Projects – Tapered Revenue Guarantee
6. The next stage of work planned by Invest NI would see a full appraisal being developed to outline and analyse the options for a Freeport in NI.
7. A survey is enclosed which was issued to Council officers as a potential 'Straw man' approach, however no return has been submitted to date given the uncertainty involved and the political decision making required to take a position on the Freeport concept.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. The Council notes the ongoing development of the proposal for a Freeport in Northern Ireland and the Council approach to feeding into this;**
- ii. Officers participate in discussions, as appropriate, regarding the development of a proposal for a Freeport or Freeports in Northern Ireland;**
- iii. Members advise Officers of any priority areas they feel should be included in the discussions.**

Prepared & Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

7.21 ED/ED/186 ERDF COLLABORATIVE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that it was agreed in January 2021, that the Council would lead the development of a collaborative bid with the other 10 Councils to secure an underspend in the Local Economic Development (LED) budget from Invest NI. This bid has been successful with a Letter of Offer for £866,520 issued to the Council as the lead partner.

The timeframe for programme delivery is up to March 2023 with a target of 198 businesses benefitting from 1-1 mentoring support. Members are reminded that the broad programme aims are as follows:-

- 1 To drive 'digital inclination' amongst the target market aligned to an innovation roadmap (for each SME/micro-business).
- 2 To 'demystify' various advanced digital technologies /tools through high quality ideation support, exposure to and sharing of good practice, and active experimentation.
- 3 To put in place a digital acceleration plan for each, to route participating businesses onto more intensive supports in the 'digital innovation ecosystem' (e.g. via Digital Catapult, impending digital offers in various City/Growth Deals, Invest NI supports etc).

In order to advance the procurement exercise, it is proposed that Stephanie Morrow, who assisted with the concept development be appointed to draft the tender specification. The cost of which will be shared by the participating Councils.

Given the tight timeframe for delivery Officers are currently investigating the potential to use an IT framework referred to as 5Cloud which could expedite the procurement process significantly. Should this approach be acceptable to Invest NI and it is possible to progress speedily, it is anticipated the implementation could commence by September 2021.

Finally, Members will also be aware that work is underway to prepare a bid under the Complementary Fund to provide a small capital grant to businesses engaged in digital transformation. It is intended that the funding could cover aspects such as equipment, software etc. This intervention will provide a natural follow on to the Digital Transformation Programme and vital funding to enact their transformation plans.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. the Letter of Offer for £866,520 be accepted on behalf of the 11 Councils;**
- ii. a draft tender specification be advanced through assistance from Stephanie Morrow;**
- iii. 'in principle' approval be granted to progress the procurement exercise through the 5Cloud framework.**

Prepared & Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic
Development and Planning

7.22 ED/ED/173 OUR PROSPERITY OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES

The Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on the 25 March 2021 to review progress on strategic economic development and tourism matters and to consider priorities as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 23 March 2021 is enclosed for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group of 23 March 2021 be approved.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

7.23 G/GEN/017 CORPORATE RECOVERY PLAN

Members are advised that Officers have prepared a Corporate Recovery Plan for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 (copy enclosed)

RECOMMENDATION: that the Corporate Recovery Plan is approved subject to consultation.

Prepared and Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.24 AC/GEN/068 THE JOYCE TORPEDO RETRIEVAL BOAT

Members are reminded that the offer to acquire The Joyce, as part of The Gateway Visitor Centre exhibition, was approved in principle at the February Council Meeting. The Joyce was an Admiralty Torpedo Retrieval Boat used as a recovery boat during test firing of torpedoes on Lough Neagh during World War 2. The Torpedo Platform still exists and is visible from The Gateway. The vessel was sold out of service in 1960 and bought by the present owner who restored and maintained The Joyce in its original condition. Silvery Light Sailing, a local maritime heritage charity, had been asked by the owner to explore the return of the vessel to its original home at Lough Neagh where she served during the war.

As part of the process of trying to ascertain full cost of the acquisition, an 'in water' condition survey has been completed by a local specialist marine surveyor (copy enclosed).

The survey should be considered in the context of the Council's desire to acquire the vessel as a part of the Borough's Second World War story, Lough Neagh history and as a heritage artefact and not a working vessel.

Silvery Light Sailing, who approached the Council about this opportunity, have updated officers that the owner is still committed to progressing this, however is in the process of settling their affairs and has advised that they need to release The Joyce at the earliest opportunity. Whilst their preference is to see the boat return home they have reminded Silvery Light of another interested party in England willing to take the 'gift' of the vessel who is in a position to confirm.

Given that the Council intends to acquire a part of Borough history for exhibition purposes only, it is proposed that The Joyce should be returned to Northern Ireland at an approximate cost of £4,000, 25% of which will be funded by Lough Neagh Partnership. Once in the Council's ownership, an accurate estimate of total costs to realise The Joyce as an exhibit either moored in the Lough or on land to enhance the Lough Neagh Story exhibition in The Gateway can be more easily obtained.

Alternatively, the Council can decline the offer at this stage having made no financial commitment. The story of The Joyce will feature in the Gateway exhibition in photos and narrative whether or not the Council purchase the vessel.

It is worth noting that The Heritage Lottery Fund has a funding category specifically for projects associated with industrial, maritime and transport heritage. Having reviewed the funding criteria, it is anticipated that an application for the additional costs associated with putting The Joyce on display at Lough Neagh would be successful. Any application can only be made once an accurate cost estimate is obtained and it is intended that such an application be submitted if the Council agree to progressing this project.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.25 ED/ED/ LEVELLING UP FUND AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

LEVELLING UP FUND

As part of the budget announcement made on 4 March 2021, the UK Government announced a series of new investment funds as part of its commitment to the 'levelling up' of economic prosperity across all regions of the UK and to 'strengthen the union' post Brexit. The UK Government has stated its intentions to work directly with local partners and communities in the disbursement of the funds. The total fund for Northern Ireland is £144 million over the 4 year period from 2020/21 with an indicative allocation of £24 million in the first round.

It will be important that Local Councils and their partners develop an approach to access this investment so that it best supports local economic growth and aligns with regeneration, infrastructure and community development priorities.

There are 3 main funds being introduced;

- Levelling Up Fund
- Community Renewal Fund
- Community Ownership Fund

(A) LEVELLING UP FUND

This is a key capital fund to invest in local infrastructure. Key themes for the first three rounds of the fund are;

- Transport Investments
- Regeneration and Town Centre investment
- Cultural investment

Net Zero Carbon commitments and the wider climate emergency and environmental ambitions are a cross cutting strand which will be an important consideration. The approach to the Fund is different in Northern Ireland to the other regions and will reflect 'the specific local government landscape in the region', to this end bids at the most local level from a range of applicants will be accepted.

Key Points & Criteria:

- First round bids must be submitted by 18th June 2021 and delivery on the ground must commence in this financial year therefore only shovel ready projects are likely to be successful
- Capacity funds for technical assistance such as business plans, designs etc will be provided to each Council although it is not clear yet how much or when or whether this will be available to the Council before 18 June 2021

- 90% of costs can be provided by the Fund although if the private sector is involved the business case must also demonstrate their contribution to the project/s
- Allocations of up to £20 million are available
- Bids can be for a single project or a package (these should be inter-related projects within the same geographic area)
- After award, no cost overruns will be met from the Fund

Proposed bids for submission

After careful consideration 2 projects have been identified for submission under Round One as outlined below:

1. Glengormley Town Centre Regeneration

- Demolition, meanwhile use and comprehensive redevelopment of the former Police Station site to create 2,202 square metres of office and workspace over 3 floors with associated car parking. The scheme is interlinked with the Councils public realm scheme which is now proposed will extend to incorporate the frontage of the site and extend up the Glenwell Road just beyond the entrance to the site and to the Glenwell Road on the other side of the road. The potential for Civil Service Hub on this site is currently being explored.
- In order to achieve the full regeneration benefits which are possible in this area of Glengormley the second element of the bid will be the redevelopment of the access road and carparking arrangements in Glenwell Road and Farmley carpark to achieve a safer and more efficient environment for both car users and pedestrians.
- The bid will also include the frontage of the BT Exchange building with is located beside the former Police Station and the vacant site just beyond this to provide space for ancillary services such as car-parking so that the main site can be maximised for offices/workspace or alternately as a Phase 2 of the main scheme.

2. Antrim Town Centre Regeneration

- Development and fit out of 16,000 square foot office and workspace on the High Street in Antrim currently owned by the KARL group. This building is centrally located and easily accessible and the development of the first floor which is currently a shell would drive footfall back into the town centre. Antrim Enterprise Agency who have been to expand for some time now would wish to work in partnership with the Karl Group and the Council to bring this scheme forward.

- to complement the office & workspace development and link to the regeneration plans for the town a further element proposed is a Riverfront development project which would see the back of the building opened up to create both a direct link on to the Boardwalk but also a linkage for pedestrians through to High Street.
- the final element to complete the project is the refurbishment and extension of the existing Boardwalk to provide a high quality, attractive link from the Antrim Castle Gardens to the town of the town with the River acting as the centrepiece.

Round Two

Members are advised that there will be a Round Two call for bids in the Autumn therefore Officers will proceed to develop proposals for Ballyclare, Randalstown and Crumlin to avail of this funding opportunity.

Next Steps

The Council had already appointed LMK Consultancy to develop a business case and concept plan for the former police station site and it is proposed that given the time restrictions in place, this contract be extended to include the wider aspects of the Levelling Up Fund bid for Glengormley. In addition, it will also be necessary to appoint a consultant to develop the business case for the Antrim town centre bid at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the submission date of 18th June can be met.

(B) COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

The second fund which will be available to Northern Ireland is the Community Renewal Fund with a budget of £11 million available. Projects under Community Renewal may avail of 90% revenue and 10% capital from the Fund but must be completed by 31 March 2022. Successful projects are likely to be delivered over an 8-month period and are being viewed as forerunners to the new Shared Prosperity Fund. The key themes are;

- Investment in skills
- Investment in local businesses
- Investment in communities and place and/or
- Supporting people into employment

Applicants are encouraged to maximise impact through developing larger proposals around £500,000. The Government will consider projects which have already launched or are a development of an existing pilot project.

To this end, officers have been engaging with colleagues in other Councils and in the City Deal consortium to identify initiatives that many address the criteria including public sector apprenticeship pilot projects, digital capability within communities, reskilling and re-entry opportunities for those made redundant etc.

At a local level it is proposed that a pre-entry to the labour market programme be developed focussed particularly on young people and those furthest from the labour market. This would include elements of personal development, group activity and preparation for employment. Each pathway for the young person participating would be tailored to their individual needs and supported by local community organisations, educational providers and employers.

Next Steps

It is proposed that working collaboratively with other Councils, officers bring forward a bid focussed on skills and employability. In addition, a local bid at a pre-entry level be developed for young people from the borough as outlined.

(C) COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND

Limited information is available on the Community Ownership Fund and no specific details regarding implementation in N.Ireland have yet been released. The summary below reflects the guidance for the rest of the UK.

- On 3rd March 2021, the UK Government launched the £150 million Community Ownership Fund (UKCOF) to ensure that communities can support and continue benefiting from local facilities, community assets and amenities that are most important to them. The UKCOF aims to ensure that important parts of the social fabric can continue to play a central role in communities, many of which are fragile. It is a key component of the UK Government's levelling up agenda.
- Community groups can bid for up to £250,000 matched funding from Summer 2021 to help them buy or take over local assets. In exceptional cases, up to £1m matched funding will be available. The first bidding round will open by June 2021 and a full bidding prospectus will be published. The fund will run for four years.
- Bids will be accepted from all communities across the UK and in most circumstances should be made from community and voluntary organisations with formal governance in place. **Local authorities including Parish councils will not be eligible.**
- There will not be a list of prescribed eligible assets; this will allow communities to decide what matters most to them. It could include sports clubs, cinemas, music venues, galleries, etc. Projects should be focused on place-based assets or amenities. There will be an emphasis on ensuring the asset can be sustained in community ownership.

In line with the Council's Corporate Recovery Plan, officers will seek to identify projects that assist our Community Centres to contribute to community life and are managed in an economical way that maximises community involvement.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. the bids as outlined be progressed for submission under Round One and that the necessary consultancy support be secured;**
- ii. Round Two bids be developed for Ballyclare, Randalstown and Crumlin;**
- iii. Further information be sought in relation to the Community Ownership Fund and relevant projects be identified and support provided to bring these forward.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Agreed and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING

8.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's April 2021 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 11 March 2021 are also **enclosed**.

Correspondence advising on Councillor attendance at Housing Council and Committee meetings from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 is also enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Agreed by: Liz Johnston, Head of Corporate Recovery

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance.

8.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL – HOLIDAY HUNGER

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

A copy of the correspondence and letter are enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

8.3 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – MARCH 2021 – Period 12

A budget report for March 2021 – Period 12 is enclosed for Members' information.

The budget report for Period 12 does not include final adjustments required to arrive at the final financial position of the Council for the 2020/21 financial year. These adjustments include final accruals of expenditure incurred and grants and debts invoiced after 31 March 2021, contributions to reserves, and prepayments of expenditure and income.

Any adjustments made as a result of the above shall be reflected in the Statement of Accounts presented to the Audit Committee.

Officers will continue to keep the financial position of Council under review into 2021/22 financial year. There still remains a number of areas of uncertainty that will impact on Council finances:

1. Furlough

Furlough arrangements are currently planned to continue until the end of September 2021. However, staff will be brought back as services open up, eg Leisure staff at the end of April 2021 and/or to assist to deliver other Corporate priorities.

2. Rates Relief

Minister Murphy announced that he is providing £150M of rates relief for businesses in 2021/22. It is still unclear how this will impact on non-domestic rates income in the Borough.

3. Earned Income

It is anticipated that income streams will not recover to pre-covid levels for some time eg Leisure, Arts and Culture, Planning and Building Control. Support received from DfC is expected to assist in compensating for this loss of income, however, income received will be reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team on a monthly basis.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Management Accountant

Agreed by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

8.4 HR/HR/032 LATERAL FLOW TESTING

Members are advised that Lateral Flow Testing will be made available to staff and Members.

A testing centre will be established and staffed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 7.15 am and 11.15 am, at Mossley Mill (Theatre at the Mill) and Antrim Civic Centre (Whinstone Suite). No appointments will be required as the testing centre will operate using a drop in service. Demand for this service will be reviewed and changed accordingly.

The test centre will be set up as soon as the registration process is complete and test kits have arrived which is currently anticipated before the end of May.

Lateral flow tests are used for those **without COVID symptoms**. The purpose of the testing is to try to establish those who may have no symptoms but are infectious.

Lateral Flow Antigen testing involves processing a nose and throat swab sample with a Lateral Flow Detector (LFD). The LFD detects a COVID-19 antigen that is produced when a person is infected with COVID-19. If this antigen is present, a strip on the LFD will appear to show a positive result.

Those tested, will;

- Self-administer a nose and throat swab under the supervision of testing staff,
- Receive a barcode, with a unique reference number (supplied separately to the test kits), which will be used to link those tested with their individual test sample.
-

The Lateral Flow Test is different from the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) Test that is carried out for the public at testing locations across the region. The PCR tests work differently as the swab kits are sent to the Laboratory for testing rather than onsite.

The PCR tests are better at finding very small amounts of the virus, especially early in infection, so these are used primarily in people who have symptoms and can be booked through the NHS website.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Approved by Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development