



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CHAMBER, MOSSLEY MILL
ON 15 APRIL 2026 at 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor S Wilson
- Committee Members (In person)** : Councillors – M Brady, S Cosgrove, P Dunlop, H Magill, V McWilliam, A O'Lone and M Stewart
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Alderman – J McGrath
Councillors – J Burbank, J Gilmour, R Lynch, T McGrann and M Ní Chonghaile
- Non-Committee Members (In Person)** : Councillor – M Cooper
- Non-Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillors – R Foster, L O'Hagan
- Officers Present** : Director of Community and Culture – U Fay
Head of Community Development – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
ICT Project Officer - C Bell
Member Services Officer - S Fisher

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman – S Ross

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 3.3 – Councillor P Dunlop

Item 3.9 – Councillor H Magill

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 PT/CI/073 COMMUNITY AND CULTURE DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2026/27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the Community and Culture Directorate Business Plan for 2026/27.

2. Background

Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 put 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 had 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 were met.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In January 2026, the Council approved a strategic performance framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27.

4. Business Planning

Business planning played a vital role in the Council's performance management and delivery processes. It would offer a more efficient and cohesive approach to monitoring and evaluating performance while improving overall visibility.

The purpose of the Directorate Business Plans was to:

- Demonstrate how each of the Directorates were supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faced.
- Illustrate how it was aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold Departments to account to ensure they delivered for the Council and its residents.

The 2026/27 Business Plan for the Community and Culture Directorate was circulated for Members' approval.

5. Financial Position/Implications

The budgets for delivery of the 2026/2027 Directorate Business Plan had been agreed as part of the Council's rate setting process.

6. Governance

Progress reports on the Council's Community and Culture Directorate Business Plan 2026/27 would be reported quarterly to CLT and biannually to the Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the Community and Culture Business Plan 2026/27 be approved.

ACTION BY: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

3.2 **AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 11 March 2026 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Background

The role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group was to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group was 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 met monthly from September to June each year and reported to the Community Development Committee. Membership consisted of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who were 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. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the March 2026 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Working Group Meeting

The Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 11 March 2026 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Magill

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 11 March 2026 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development

3.3 AC/GEN/117 IRISH LANGUAGE/GAELTACHT SUMMER COURSE AND ULSTER-SCOTS CULTURAL BURSARY SCHEME 2026/27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to award 22 Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course Bursaries and 4 Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursaries.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme was to support individuals in the Borough to participate, learn and engage with the Irish Language and Ulster-Scots Culture.

As part of the programme, 30 bursaries of £250 were available for individuals to contribute to costs associated with participating in Gaeltacht summer courses and Ulster-Scots culture initiatives relating to language and linguistics, music, drama, poetry, literature, dance and art.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The delivery of the Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary scheme with a budget of £7,500, was approved at the November 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme

The Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme opened for online applications on 9 February 2026 and closed on 13 March 2026.

Applicants were required to meet the following criteria:

- Be residents of the Borough
- Had parental/guardian permission to apply if under 18
- Not to have received Council funding of this nature previously

A total of 30 applications (26 Irish Language and 4 Ulster-Scots) were received, with 26 of these (22 Irish Language and 4 Ulster-Scots) meeting the required criteria and threshold for funding, totalling £6,500.

An Assessment Panel made up of an Elected Member from each of the four main political parties met on 19 March and recommended that all 26 successful applications be approved for funding.

Details of the proposed successful applicants were circulated.

5. Finance

The Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme budget was £7,500, and the cost of funding all 26 proposed applications would be £6,500.

6. Governance

In order to receive the bursary, successful recipients were required to provide proof of payment for enrolment on courses (where applicable).

7. Summary

A total of 26 applications for the Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme had been assessed by an all-party Panel of Elected Members and were recommended for funding of £250 per applicant. The total cost of £6,500 was provided for within the 2026/27 Arts and Culture budget.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Councillor O'Lone and agreed that

all 26 successful applications for the Irish Language/Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursary Scheme be funded at a total cost of £6,500.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

3.4 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS PLAN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the proposed Council events plan for the remainder of 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

The Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events team was responsible for the delivery of the Council's events programme, which included both directly managed events, and support for third-party events funded through the Council's Tourism Event Fund such as SuperCup NI and the Pipe Band Championships in the Borough. The programme of directly managed events included annual highlights such as Enchanted Winter Gardens and the Ballyclare May Fair, as well as one-off events such as the Tercentenary of the Old Courthouse (2026), the VE Day 80th Anniversary (2025) and Armed Forces Day (2024).

The annual events managed directly by the Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events team attracted more than 185,000 attendees each year. The third-party events supported by the Council accounted for thousands more visitors to the Borough and the economic benefits this brought.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Council Events Plan was brought to the Committee twice every year. Members were reminded that the previous Council Events Plan update and associated costs to the Council were approved at the Community Development Committee in October 2025.

4. Council Events October 2025 to March 2026

Highlights of the events delivered since the last Committee report in October 2025 included:

- **Halloween at the Junction (delivered by The Junction Retail and Leisure Park and supported with £15,000 of Tourism Event Fund Grant Aid):** The Junction's annual week long programme of Halloween family fun and artisan markets attracted more than 35,000 visitors between 25-31 October 2025.
- **Spooked Out at V36:** as in previous years, all 8,000 places for the Council's flagship Halloween event were booked out in advance. A high-quality evening of amusements, entertainment and fireworks was provided for attendees.
- **Threemilewater Pumpkin Patch at Mossley Mill:** Pumpkin Patch continued to grow each year, with 33% more visitors in 2025 than 2024 making it the biggest event to date.

- **Enchanted Winter Garden at Antrim Castle Gardens:** more than 90,000 people attended the 2025 Enchanted Winter Garden, which for the first time extended into the period between Christmas and New Year and which featured more lighting displays and attractions than ever before. The event achieved an 87% satisfaction rating among visitors surveyed against a corporate key performance indicator target of 80%.
- **St Patrick's Day:** St Patrick's Day events attracted almost 8,000 people and took place in Antrim Castle Gardens and the Theatre at the Mill, with family fun days, exhibitions, displays and a concert. The Journeys programme at the Old Courthouse also formed a four-week festival relating to shared cultural traditions.

5. Council Events April 2026 - December 2026

Details of the proposed events to be delivered throughout the remainder of 2026 were circulated for Members' information. Members were asked to note the following points in particular:

- **Spring Plant Fair:** the annual plant fair would return to the Parterre Garden in Antrim Castle Gardens on 11 April 2026 and would feature an increased range of plant and horticulture vendors.
- **Ballyclare May Fair:** the annual May Fair would return in 2026 for a week-long programme of cultural events and entertainment, themed around the 250th anniversary of the USA. This would include elements such as talks relating to the historical links between Ulster and the USA, a traditional horse fair, the Mayor's Parade, a family fun day featuring American sports, and seasonal produce markets, with funding and programming support provided by the Ulster-Scots Agency.
- **Home and Garden Show Ireland:** the annual Garden Show Ireland event would, for the first time in 2026, also incorporate elements of a Home Show with renowned interior designer and style guru Suzanne Garuda joining horticulturist David Domoney as Show Ambassadors. Featuring plant sellers, artisan traders, cooking demonstrations, family entertainment, talks and workshops, Home and Garden Show Ireland would also see the launch of a major 12-month photography competition as part of the PEACEPLUS Our Historic Borough programme, which would encourage residents and visitors to capture iconic images of the Borough's natural and built heritage throughout the year. Following reduced visitor numbers caused by bad weather in each of the last two years, Home and Garden Show Ireland 2026 would be largely undercover in two giant marquees in the Antrim Castle Gardens Events Field.
- **Antrim and Newtownabbey Beer and Cider Festival:** to maximise economies of scale from the infrastructure being in place for the Home and Garden Show Ireland the previous weekend, the Borough's first Beer and Cider Festival would take place in Antrim Castle Gardens on 19 and 20 June. Run in association with the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) NI,

the event would provide visitors with an opportunity to enjoy a range of craft ales, lagers, and ciders from some of the region's most exciting brewers in a relaxed atmosphere with live entertainment.

- **Brighter Nights:** delivered since 2012 on Friday evenings throughout July and August in Lilian Bland Community Park Glengormley, Brighter Nights was a summer programme of free arts and culture activity for younger people, which attracted more than 10,000 participants in 2025.
- **Party in the Park:** the ever-popular annual outdoor concert and family fun day in Antrim Castle Gardens would return on 2 August 2026, with a USA250 theme.
- **Shoreline Festival:** an annual free concert and family fun day at Jordanstown Loughshore Park immediately after the Whiteabbey Village Fair, which in 2026 would take place on Sunday 23 August.
- **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann:** the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture was taking place in Belfast from 2-9 August 2026 and was expected to attract 600,000 people to the city. Although the Fleadh would be confined to Belfast city and the Fleadh Fringe would only take place in Belfast and Bangor, Officers were working with the Borough's main accommodation providers to help them benefit from the festival by programming music events in hotels during the Fleadh, and promoting the Borough's accommodation and easy access to Belfast to capitalise on the economic opportunity the Fleadh presented. Officers were also working with tour providers to incentivise visitors to the Fleadh to take a break from Belfast and visit Antrim and Newtownabbey.
- **Spinning Yarns:** scheduled for 29 August 2026, this annual festival of colour, creativity and craft in Mossley Mill Civic Square had grown in popularity year-on-year, with talks, demonstrations and workshops alongside craft stalls and family entertainment.
- **Old Courthouse Tercentenary:** to mark the 300th birthday of the Old Courthouse in 2026, a weekend of historical entertainment would take place over the course of the European Heritage Open Day weekend in September, featuring tours, talks and a weekend-long 'living history' theatrical re-enactment of some of the cases heard in the courthouse over the course of its history. All events would be free of charge, with the majority of funding provided as part of the PEACEPLUS Our Historic Borough programme.
- **Enchanted Winter Garden:** the annual flagship event in Antrim Castle Gardens was scheduled to take place throughout December 2026 with even more animation and entertainment, and a ticket price freeze from 2025.

6. Finance/Governance

The proposed Council Events Plan for 2026/27 included dates, ticket fees (where applicable) and estimated costs. Provision for these events had been made in the 2026/27 budget estimates.

7. Summary

The Council delivered a range of events year-round and across the Borough, as well as hosting and supporting a number of events delivered by external event organisers. An update on the plan was brought to the Committee twice a year. Officers would continue to keep the Events Plan under review. Proposed by Councillor McWilliam

Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the Council Events Plan for the remainder of 2026, including dates, ticket fees and estimated budgets, be approved.

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

3.5 AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 24 February 2026 and the Theatre Programmes approved at the meeting.

2. Background

The role of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel was to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service to enable it to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030. The specific role of the Panel is set out in a Constitution, which included the following objectives:

- To advise the Council on the programming of arts and cultural activity throughout the Borough
- To provide advocacy for the arts and cultural sector
- To provide the Council with an insight into current issues affecting arts and culture throughout Northern Ireland
- To represent the arts and cultural community both locally and regionally
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from specific genres for the benefit of the ongoing development of arts and culture in the Borough

The Panel was made up of one Elected Member from each Political Party and up to 12 non-elected independent members who were actively involved in the arts and culture sector. The Panel met four times each year, and reported to the Community Development Committee.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The establishment of the Borough Arts and Cultural Panel for the Council term was approved at the Council meeting in June 2023. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the November 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Advisory Panel Meeting

The Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel met on 24 February 2026 in Mossley Mill. The draft minutes of this meeting and the Theatre Programmes to October 2026, which were presented at the meeting were enclosed for Members' information.

5. Financial Position

There would be no financial implications to the Council.

6. Equality and/or Rural Screening Requirements

A comprehensive review of all Council working groups was being undertaken and Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing would be carried out as part of this review.

7. Governance

The specific role of the Panel was set out in a Constitution which included the above-mentioned objectives. The Panel was made up of one Elected Member from each Political Party and up to 12 non-elected independent members who were actively involved in the arts and culture sector. The Panel met four times each year, and reported to the Community Development Committee.

8. Summary

The Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel's role was to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Services to enable it to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030. The Panel met four times each year and reported to the Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel of 24 February 2026 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, and the theatre programmes to October 2026 also be approved.

ACTION BY: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Development

3.6 AC/GEN/001 AC/GEN/008 and CP/CD/201 FREE USE OF COMMUNITY AND ARTS AND CULTURE FACILITIES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for an update to the Community and Culture Pricing Policy in relation to requests for free use of facilities.

2. Introduction and Background

Both the Community and Culture services were responsible for the management and operation of venues, facilities and spaces across the Borough and a Pricing Policy outlined the fees and charges which were applied to such spaces. The pricing schedule included both standard fees and charges as well as reduced community rates, which apply to the Community and Voluntary Sector. These fees and charges were reviewed annually.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The policy was first approved by the Committee in September 2017, and it had been reviewed regularly since this time.

The policy was last updated in June 2025, when approval was given for all free use requests to be brought to the Community Development Committee.

4. Proposed Pricing Policy Amendment

Following discussion at the March 2026 Committee, the circulated Community and Culture Pricing Policy had been amended to provide clearer guidance about circumstances where free use may be considered, by the addition of the following clause:

"Free use requests will only be brought to the Committee if an applicant is able to demonstrate clearly that:

- a) they would be unable to pay the community rate;
- b) they did not have free access to an alternative venue such as a school hall; and
- c) the proposed event contributed to the Corporate Plan

Hire of a theatre for routine performing arts purposes not related to a specific fundraising or other 'special one off' occasion cannot be considered for free use, and standard/community hire rates will apply to all such bookings." The application form for free use requests had also been amended and was circulated for Members' information.

5. Financial Position/Implication

There would be no direct financial implications to this proposed Policy amendment.

6. Governance

The Community and Culture Pricing Policy outlined the fees and charges applied in relation to all facilities operated and managed by this Service. The Policy was reviewed annually, and any charges required the approval of Elected Members through the Community Development Committee. Fees and charges were also reviewed annually.

7. Summary

The Community and Culture Pricing Policy, last updated in June 2025, had been amended to provide clearer guidance about circumstances where free use may be considered.

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

the updated Community and Culture Pricing Policy be approved.

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

3.7 **AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF THE THEATRE AT THE MILL**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the free use of the Theatre at the Mill by the Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network (NACN) for a one-off community event for older people in May 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

The Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network (NACN) was a community-based charity in Newtownabbey that used arts and culture to support young people in the area. NACN ran a wide range of programmes including:

- Creative arts: music production, drama, film, podcasting, digital media
- Youth development: mentoring, leadership, confidence-building
- Training and skills: pathways into education, employment, and creative careers
- Community projects: capturing local heritage, storytelling, and cultural identity

3. Previous Decision of Council

Approval was given at the June 2025 Committee for a revision to the Community Development Pricing Policy, which now required all free use requests to be brought to the Committee for decision.

4. Request for Free Use

NACN had requested the free use of the Theatre at the Mill for a one-off event in May 2026 which would bring together residents from retirement homes and older people across the Borough who may experience loneliness or social isolation. Attendees would enjoy a relaxed night of live country music, conversation, and connection in a welcoming environment designed to support wellbeing and community spirit.

Beyond entertainment, the event would create a meaningful intergenerational experience, where young musicians engaged directly with older residents, fostering understanding, respect, and shared community pride.

The community benefits of this event would include:

- Reduced loneliness and social isolation among older residents
- Promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing
- Creation of intergenerational connection between young people and older residents
- Provision of accessible arts and cultural experiences for the community
- Celebration of grassroots talent from within the Borough

This free event aligned with the Council's Community Plan by promoting inclusion, strengthening community connections, and encouraging greater participation in arts and cultural activities across Antrim and Newtownabbey.

NACN had requested free use of the theatre rather than paying the community rate on the basis that they operate on limited grant funding and donations which were prioritised toward equipment access, youth development, and outreach. They had no available funding to hire a venue of this scale, nor were there alternative facilities within their local community that were suitably equipped to host an event of this nature for older residents.

5. Financial Position/Implication

If this request was approved, the potential lost income from a commercial booking would be £1,035. The cost to the Council of staffing this event would be £921.

6. Summary

The Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network had requested the free use of the Theatre at the Mill for a date in May 2026 for a free community event aimed at older people.

Proposed by Councillor Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the request from the Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network to have free use of the Theatre at the Mill for a community event in May 2026 be approved.

ACTION BY: Katherine Gardiner, Arts and Theatres Manager

3.8 **COMD/CD/009 CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON EVENTS – TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2026 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Background

Since November 2018, the Community Development Section of the Council had been delivering Christmas Lights Switch On Events in each District Electoral Area across the Borough.

The programme at each event encompassed a range of family entertainment which included: Christmas Fun Rides, Meet Santa, Street Entertainment, Festive Food Stalls, Arts and Crafts and a short programme of Christmas Readings, Carols and Music following which the Mayor accompanied by the Schools Competition Winner and Santa switched on the Christmas Tree Lights.

Local School Choirs, Traditional Music Groups, Dance Academies and other local artists participated in the programme the theme for which changed on an annual basis.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was agreed at the September 2025 Council meeting that the delivery of 7 Christmas Light Switch On Events be maintained for 2025 with a review to be undertaken by a working group early in 2026 to reassess the approach for the future. It was also agreed that the live streaming of each event be discontinued.

It was subsequently agreed at the October 2025 Community Development Committee that an Elected Member Working Group would be established with one representative per political party.

The minutes of the Christmas Switch On Events – Task and Finish Working Group meeting of 21 January 2026 were approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting at the February Community Development Committee.

4. Elected Member Working Group

It was proposed to establish a cross party Elected Member Working Group to commence meeting in January 2026 to reassess the approach to these events for 2026 and beyond. Group Leaders were asked to nominate one member per political party with the following Members nominated:

DUP – Cllr Matthew Brady

Sinn Fein – Cllr Anne Marie Logue

Alliance – Cllr Billy Webb

UUP – Cllr Stewart Wilson

Given requests from other Members, and the local interest, the meeting invitation was extended to all Elected Members given the wide range of opinions on this programme.

The second meeting of the Christmas Switch On Events – Task and Finish Working Group was held online on Monday 23 March 2026 and the minutes of this meeting were circulated for Members' information.

5. Financial Implication

Provision to deliver the 2026 Christmas Festivity Programme on the same basis as 2025, had been included in the 2026/27 Community Development budgets.

6. Summary

Seven Christmas Lights Switch On events, one in each DEA across the Borough, took place in November 2025. A Christmas Switch-On Events – Task and Finish working Group was established in early 2026 to reassess the approach for future programmes and the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2026 were circulated as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

In response to a Member's query regarding costs the Director of Community and Culture clarified that the budget would remain the same as 2025.

It was also noted that a Member requested that a community group in the Threemilewater area be considered as a pilot project to support the Council team in the delivery of the switch-on event.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the minutes of the Christmas Switch On Events – Task and Finish Working Group meeting of 23 March 2026 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

3.9 COMD/GR/011 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2026/27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the Good Relations Grant Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Good Relations Grant Programme provided financial assistance of up to £2,000 to groups within the Borough to support activities, events and programmes that aligned with the objectives of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

The Good Relations Grant Programme opened for applications on 5 January 2026 and closed on 26 February 2026.

All applications were assessed against established eligibility criteria and through a scored assessment process. Applicants were required to achieve a minimum score of 60% in order for their application to be recommended for approval.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

The Good Relations Grant Programme was approved at March 2026 Community Development Committee as part of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan 2026-27.

4. Key Issues

A total of 15 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 9 applications achieving the minimum threshold score required for recommendation.

The project details were circulated for Members' information.

There was a total budget of £8,000 identified for the 2026/27 Good Relations Grants Programme, subject to receipt of a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office (TEO). Based on the assessment scores, the five highest scoring applications were recommended for approval, at a total cost of £7,900.

The remaining four eligible applications would be placed on a reserve list, pending the availability of additional funding from TEO during 2026/27.

All proposed awards were subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation was in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The total budget allocated for the 2026/27 Good Relations Grants Programme, within the Community Development budget, was £8,000, subject to receipt of a Letter of Offer from TEO.

Applicants placed on the reserve list who achieved the required assessment threshold might be awarded funding should additional funding become available from TEO during the 2026/27 financial year.

6. Summary

It was proposed that Good Relations Grant awards of £7,900 be awarded to the successful applicants under the 2026/27 Good Relations Grants Programme, subject to receipt of a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office for the delivery of the 2026/27 Good Relations Action Plan.

The 2026/27 Good Relations Grants Programme was now closed to applications.

In response to a query, the Head of Community Development confirmed that all applications had been completed in full.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the 5 Good Relations Grant awards totalling £7,900 as outlined be approved.

ACTION BY: Amy Gribbon, Good Relations Officer

3.10 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 2 April 2026 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

The issue of poverty and its impact on the life choices of citizens had always been of concern to the Council, however the cost-of-living crisis which followed the COVID 19 pandemic sharply increased focus on the issue of poverty and how to provide practical support to address this challenge.

3. Previous Council decision

It was approved at the Council Meeting in January 2024 that a cross-party steering group be established to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough.

The establishment of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group aimed to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy creating a single guiding strategic framework that provided, but was not limited to:

- Agency for residents
- Fostering of economic empowerment
- Maximising stakeholder partnership opportunities
- Enhancing social inclusion
- Improved access to essential services for residents

The Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-30 was approved at the November 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Governance

The Steering Group of Elected Members and Officers had been meeting since the group was established and had focused their work on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the period 2024 to 2030 to support the Council's Corporate Strategy and Community Plan.

The group met on 2 April 2026 and a copy of the minutes were circulated for Members' information.

The group would continue to meet quarterly with Officers to report progress of the Strategy at the quarterly meetings.

5. Summary

Following a Motion to the Council in January 2024 an Anti-Poverty Steering Group was established. The group had agreed an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough for 2024-2030, which would ensure a collective focus on this priority issue and support delivery of the Corporate and Community Plans.

The minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 2 April 2026 were provided for Members' approval.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 2 April 2026 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

3.11 CP/CP/224 THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR RACE RELATIONS AND DELIVERY PLAN 2026-2028 CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of The Executive Office draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026–2028 consultation.

2. Introduction

The Executive Office had launched a public consultation on the draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026–2028. The Framework was intended to build on the progress made through the Racial Equality Strategy 2015–2025 and to respond to evolving demographic changes and ongoing challenges relating to racism and racial inequality.

The draft Framework had been developed through engagement with the minority ethnic sector, community organisations and wider stakeholders. It set out an Executive-wide approach to addressing racism and promoting racial equality, while emphasising the importance of partnership working across government departments, public bodies, communities and the voluntary sector.

3. Key Issues

The draft Framework established a strategic vision for race relations in Northern Ireland and outlined a roadmap for tackling racism and racial inequality across society.

The vision proposed within the draft Framework was for a society strengthened by ethnic diversity, where people could live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, and where everyone shared a sense of belonging and enjoyed their human rights.

To support this vision, the Framework identified four key outcomes which would guide future action and policy development. These outcomes were intended to address persistent inequalities and improve race relations across Northern Ireland. The outcomes focussed on:

- Eliminating racial inequality and promoting equality of opportunity across economic, social, cultural and public life.
- Addressing racism and racial hate crime and ensuring appropriate protections and responses.
- Ensuring that public services were fair, accessible and responsive to the needs of minority ethnic communities.
- Building stronger, more connected and inclusive communities where diversity is recognised and valued.

The Delivery Plan for 2026–2028 would outline specific actions and collaborative approaches required to progress these outcomes. The

Framework emphasised the importance of evidence-based policy development and continued engagement with communities and stakeholders to ensure that actions remained responsive to emerging issues.

The consultation had opened and would close on 3 June 2026. The Executive Office wished to hear from a wide range of interested persons and organisations. The consultation documents and associated survey were available online via <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-framework-race-relations> Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

4. Summary

The Executive Office had launched a consultation on the draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026–2028. The Framework and Delivery Plan represented a strategic approach to addressing racism, promoting racial equality and strengthening community cohesion across Northern Ireland.

Input was welcomed from all interested parties. The consultation closed on 3 June 2026. Full details and documentation could be accessed via The Executive Office website. Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

Members respond on an individual or party-political basis.

NO ACTION

3.12 CP/CD/487 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the nomination of two community/voluntary groups to the IPB Pride of Place Awards in 2026.

2. Background

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

In April 2025, Council nominated three groups to take part in the Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards competition namely:

- Dalaradia Cultural and Historical Society (Community Tourism Initiative)
- Rathenraw Youth Scheme (Community Youth Initiative)
- The Shed, Antrim (Creative Communities)

Judging of the three entries took place in August 2025 and the awards ceremony was hosted on Friday 7 November 2025 at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick.

It was agreed at the September 2025 Community Development Committee Meeting that Members and Officers attend the Awards Ceremony along with representatives of the nominated groups.

At the Awards Ceremony Rathenraw Youth Scheme was named runner up in the Community Youth Initiative Category while Dalaradia Cultural and Historical Society and The Shed, Antrim each received a Certificate of Recognition in the Community Tourism Initiative and Creative Communities categories.

4. Proposal

Nominations were open for the 2026 competition and this year there were 13 categories in total; 5 Population categories, 7 Single Issue categories with designated themes, and 1 Non-Population category. The Council could nominate groups in up to a maximum of five categories in all and one entry only in any individual category. The categories were listed below for Members' consideration:

Population

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

Theme

6. Creative Communities
7. Climate Action and Biodiversity
8. Community Youth Initiative
9. Inclusive Communities
10. Community Wellbeing Initiative
11. Community Tourism Initiative
12. Age Friendly Communities

Non-population

13. Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates

Entry to the competition is by way of Council nomination. To nominate a group, a short application form had to be completed by the Council and submitted along with a short resume of the group's work and how it met the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2026 competition was Friday 8 May 2026.

Following submission an assessment visit would take place during the months of August/September 2026 where nominees would demonstrate pride in their place by oral presentation, exhibition of community activities and culture as well as a tour of the area highlighting the aspects of which they were particularly proud. During this visit it was also important that the community group demonstrated real partnership with their local Council and showed that all sectors of the community were included. Successful nominees would be announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony to be held on Saturday 24 October 2026 in the Convention Centre, Dublin. At this event Category Winners would receive a large trophy and a cash prize of €1,000 or sterling equivalent. Runners-up would also receive a trophy and a cash prize of €500 or sterling equivalent.

Officers would propose that the following two groups be nominated for the 2026 competition:

- Impact Network NI (Community Wellbeing Initiative)
- Monkstown Boxing Club (Community Youth Initiative)

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

Impact Network NI

Impact Network NI, based in Randalstown, was a community-focused organisation dedicated to strengthening connections and improving wellbeing across Northern Ireland. Working in partnership with residents, community groups, voluntary organisations and public sector organisations, it identified local needs and developed practical, community-led solutions that empowered people and encouraged active participation. Through programmes, workshops, and collaborative initiatives, the organisation tackled social isolation, built inclusive social networks and created opportunities for individuals to connect, develop confidence and contribute to their communities. Impact Network NI also supported community capacity building by providing guidance, resources and partnership opportunities for local groups and community leaders. By promoting collaboration, building trust and encouraging shared responsibility, the organisation created inclusive, supportive communities where individuals felt empowered, engaged and proud of the place they call home.

Monkstown Boxing Club

Monkstown Boxing Club was open six days a week and provided a safe, welcoming environment where young people could build confidence, develop friendships and improve their health and wellbeing through boxing, fitness and youth programmes. Since 2012, the club had delivered the pioneering '**In Your Corner**' programme, supporting young people who were disengaged from, or at risk of disengaging from, mainstream education.

Through mentoring, education support, wellbeing activities, youth leadership development and employability programmes, the initiative helped young people build life skills, confidence and positive future pathways. Supporting more than 250 young people each week, the programme took a holistic approach focused on education, wellbeing, personal development, employability and sport, to help young people overcome barriers, make positive choices and reach their full potential.

Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups. It was proposed Members should inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 24 April 2026.

5. Financial Implication

The entry fee for 2026 was £500 per group, provision for which had been made within the 2026/27 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

Officers reviewed the eligibility and exclusion criteria and identified the two groups proposed for nomination as those which best met the aims and objectives of the 2026 Awards criteria. If Members wished to nominate alternative and/or additional groups and they were requested to advise Officers of any request for such nominations by Friday 24 April 2026.

In response to a request, the Head of Community Development advised that he would circulate the Awards criteria to Committee Members.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the two groups proposed for nomination to the 2026 IPB Pride of Place Awards be approved and that Members inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 24 April 2026.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

3.13 CP/CD/201 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SERVICE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Expression of Interest process relating to Service Management Agreements for the operation of Council owned Community Facilities.

2. Introduction/Background

The Council owns 11 Community Facilities, 8 of which were managed by the Community Development Section as follows.

- Greystone Community Centre

- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- The Dunanney Centre
- Lillian Bland Pavilion

Three community facilities were currently operated under Service Management Agreements with community organisations running the facilities in partnership with the Council. Details of the Service Management Agreements were listed for Members' information.

| Facility | Community Group | Contract Period |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Monkstown Jubilee Centre | Monkstown Community Association | 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028 |
| The Sovereign Complex | Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd | 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028 |
| Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff | Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group | 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2028 |

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was agreed at the Council meeting in May 2018 to initiate an Expression of Interest (EOI) process across the Borough to determine interest from community organisations in Service Management Agreements to operate Community Centres. This process was disrupted by the pandemic in early 2020 and recommenced in 2022.

Following this the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month period, commencing on 1 January 2024, was approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

The renewal of all 3 existing Service Management Agreements with community organisations for a further 3-year period until 31 March 2028 at a total cost of £105,000 per annum, was agreed at the December 2024 Community Development Committee.

A further Expression of Interest process to determine interest amongst other community groups for Service Management Agreements to operate Council owned community facilities was approved at the May 2025 Committee Development Committee.

Six organisations submitted Expressions of Interest to operate Council owned community facilities which were approved to enter into the 4-stage process at September 2025 committee.

4. Key issues

An Expression of Interest process opened on 18 June 2025 and closed 08 August 2025. The purpose of this stage in the process was to determine interest before assessing the capacity of organisations through development of robust business plans to potentially operate Council owned community facilities through a Service Management Agreement.

Six organisations had submitted an Expression of Interest for Members' information, in managing a Council owned Community Facility which was approved by Members.

Officers had now met with these groups to progress the approved 4-stage process, consisting of the following stages:

1. Expression of Interest (completed)
2. Training and Mentoring
3. Business Plan
4. Formal Application

This programme would be delivered as part of PEACEPLUS 'Our Shared Borough' programme, led by the Community Development team, with appropriate external expertise procured to support the process.

Council officers had since received two further Expression of Interests, circulated, in managing a Council owned community facility from Globe After Schools Club and Queens Park Women's Group. It was proposed that this application was approved to progress into the 4-stage process.

5. Financial Position

There was no financial cost for the Expression of Interest process to determine interest in Service Management Agreements for the operation of Council owned community facilities.

The costs to progress the 4-stage plan would be funded through the PEACEPLUS 'Our Shared Borough' programme, at no cost to the Council.

The current operating costs of the 11 community facilities was in excess of £600,000 per annum.

The Service Management Agreement arrangement had been shown to be a more efficient model of community centre operation with operational costs covered by an annual grant that was less than the annual cost of the Council operated facilities. This approach also achieved increased use of the facilities and increased community development outcomes when compared to direct Council operation.

6. Summary

The Council owned 11 community facilities, three of which were currently operated under Service Management Agreements in partnership with community organisations.

Following the completion of an Expression of Interest process for community groups for Service Management Agreements for the operation of Council owned community facilities, six organisations had progressed to the 4-stage process, including training mentoring and business planning delivered as part of the PEACEPLUS 'Our Shared Borough' programme, A further Expression of Interest from two Community organisations to enter into this process had been received. It was proposed that both of these applications were approved.

In response to a query from a Member about levels of use of the Councils community facilities the Head of Community Development advised that a report with detailed analysis of current use would be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Brady

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

(a) the update on the Expression of Interest process relating to Service Management Agreement for the operation of Council owned Community Facilities be noted

(b) the additional two Expression of Interests received from Globe After schools Club and Queens Park Women's Group be approved.

ACTION BY: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

3.14 CP/CD/201 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for updated Community Facility terms and conditions of hire.

2. Introduction/Background

There were 8 community facilities managed by the Community Development Section as follows:

- Greystone Community Centre
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- Dunanney Centre
- Lilian Bland Pavillion

Community facilities were available for hire by individuals, groups and organisations for a diverse range of activities such as childcare, birthday parties, meetings, sport and social activities.

There was a schedule of charges for hire of facilities, that included two-tier pricing with a standard hire charge and a discounted community hire charge applied to all space available for hire. For all bookings, terms and conditions of hire were applied, which outlined the obligations of the Council and the hirer.

The facilities could be booked in person, over the telephone and online. Anyone making a booking was required to complete a booking form and as part of this agree to the relevant terms and conditions which applied to the particular facility being booked.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Updated facility terms and conditions of hire for all facilities managed and operated by the Community Development Directorate were approved at the Community Development Committee in June 2025.

4. Key issues

Since approval of the terms and conditions of hire a number of updates had been identified in relation to:

- Breaches of terms and conditions
- Equipment and third-party providers
- Wi-Fi
- Outdoor event space bookings

Updated booking terms and conditions of hire were circulated for Members' information.

5. Governance and Finance

The review of facility terms and conditions of hire provides improved clarity for customers hiring the various Council venues managed and operated by the Community Development Section and reduced any risk to the Council from potential improper use of these facilities.

There were no costs or financial implications associated with this exercise.

6. Summary

The Community Development Section managed and operated a wide range of facilities, which were available for hire by individuals and groups. All facility bookings were subject to specific terms and conditions of hire which set out Council and hirers obligations.

These terms and conditions of hire had been updated in relation to a number of issues to ensure that they remain current, robust and appropriate. Any individual or group booking any of the facilities was required to agree to the relevant facility terms and conditions.

It was proposed that revised terms and conditions of hire and updated management agreements apply from 1 June 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the updated facility terms and conditions of hire for all community facilities managed and operated by the Community Development Section be approved and applied from 1 June 2026.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

3.15 AC/GEN/037 CULTURAL GRANT AID AND BURSARY PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for a Cultural Bursary award.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary programme was to provide support to constituted groups and individuals based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote Cultural activities and projects. Funding was available for projects which developed artistic talent and knowledge, showcased the arts and promoted participation and inclusion, celebrated shared heritage, and contributed to the understanding of minority languages and cultural diversity.

Cultural groups could apply for grants for:

- Eligible costs involved in running a cultural event (with a maximum award of £1,000)
- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Course fees for group members to attend an event or course or undertake training (with a maximum award of £500)

Individuals could apply for bursaries for:

- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage (with a maximum award of £500)

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme was approved by the Community Development Committee in November 2025.

4. Application for 2026-2027 Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme

One application had been received and assessed by officers under the appropriate funding category and maximum award available.

A summary of the application is set out below along with the proposed award:

| Group / Individual Name | Funding Category | Funding Purpose | Proposed Amount Awarded |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Name withheld as applicant is under 18 years old | Individual bursary: costs associated with attending the British Youth Music Theatre Summer programme | <p>The applicant is a resident of the Borough and is applying for support in relation to the cost of attending the British Youth Music Theatre Summer Programme in Hull.</p> <p>British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT) is a leading UK performing arts organisation that provides high-quality musical theatre training and performance opportunities for young people aged 11–21. The applicant will attend a 16-day residential programme between 25 July and 9 August 2026 alongside more than 30 others selected from across the UK.</p> | £500 |

5. Financial Position

The budget available for the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme in 2026-2027 was £23,000. If the above application is approved a balance of £22,500 would be left for the remainder of the year.

6. Summary

One Cultural Bursary application had been received for £500 to support a resident of the Borough for costs associated with attendance at the British Youth Music Theatre summer programme in Hull in July and August 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the bursary award for £500 be approved.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

The Chairperson advised that the following supplementary report would be taken at this stage of the meeting.

3.16 COMD/GR/012 THE HOME OFFICE FAMILY RETURNS CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of the Home Office Family Returns consultation.

2. Introduction

The Home Office had launched a targeted consultation on Family Returns: Reforming Asylum Support and Enforcing Family Returns. The consultation sought views on proposed changes to support arrangements and enforcement processes relating to families without immigration status.

3. Key Issues

The Home Office launched a public consultation on Family Returns to seek views from relevant organisations and experts on proposed reforms in two key areas relating to families without immigration status as follows:

- The potential commencement of provisions within the Immigration Act 2016 to enable the withdrawal of support from families who do not have a genuine barrier to leaving the UK.
- Proposed changes to the process for enforcing the removal of families, including the circumstances in which physical intervention may be used.

The consultation would close on 28 May 2026. The Home Office wished to hear from a wide range of interested persons and organisations. The consultation documents and associated survey were available online via <https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/ConsultationPart1/>. Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

4. Summary

The Home Office had launched a consultation on Family Returns as part of wider UK Government proposals to reform the asylum and immigration system.

Input was welcomed from all interested parties. The consultation would close on 28 May 2026. Full details and documentation could be accessed via The Home Office website. Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed that

Members respond on an individual or party-political basis.

NO ACTION

4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 CP/CP/213 VISIT TO RANDALSTOWN BY HRH THE DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on a Royal visit to Randalstown the focus of which was the Council's Women in Leadership Programme.

2. Introduction/Background

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, the Council established a Sub Committee to develop both plans to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and also to commemorate the legacy of the late Queen.

As part of this, a Women in Leadership programme was developed to empower and support women across the Borough to develop their leadership skills and reach their full potential.

Following the development and creation of the programme in 2023 Impact Network NI and Utopian Learning were appointed via a procurement exercise to deliver the programme which commenced in September 2024.

3. Visit to Randalstown by HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh

The programme had attracted the attention of the Northern Ireland Office in relation to being showcased as part of any Royal visit to the Borough.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh visited Randalstown on 3 March 2026. Following the official opening of the National Autistic Centre the Duchess visited Randalstown Library primarily to engage with the participants in the Council's Women in Leadership Programme which commenced in September 2024. Members of the Council's Women's Sub Committee joined participants of the programme for the visit. The Tidy Randalstown Group also had the opportunity to meet the Duchess at the end of the visit in recognition of their contribution to Randalstown over many years.

The circulated correspondence was received by the Mayor following the visit.

In response to a query from a Member, the Director of Community and Culture agreed that a suitable way to permanently commemorate the visit by the Duchess of Edinburgh would be brought forward to DEA Members.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.2 CP/CP/241 UPDATE ON THE RAISE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on correspondence received in relation to delivery of the RAISE Programme.

2. Background/Introduction

Members were aware that the Department of Education launched the RAISE (Raising Aspirations in Schools through Education) Programme as a significant initiative to address educational underachievement and reduce educational disadvantage across identified localities in Northern Ireland.

The Programme adopted a place-based, whole-community approach and aimed to support the Department of Education's vision that "every child and young person is happy, learning and succeeding".

Since the previous update to Members, Strategic Area Plans had now been developed and published for all 15 RAISE localities, setting out the key priorities and objectives for each area. The Programme had now progressed from the planning stage into delivery and implementation.

3. Previous Decisions of the Council

Details of the RAISE programme including correspondence from the Department of Education were reported to the Community Development Committee in June 2024 when the report was noted.

Further correspondence was reported to the Committee in September 2024 advising that relevant stakeholders, including the Council, would be invited to participate in locality engagement events to inform the development of Strategic Area Plans.

The process for the development of a Strategic Area Plan for each locality identifying the maximum budget allocations over two years was noted at the April 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. Correspondence re-RAISE programme

Correspondence had been received from the Department of Education providing an update on the RAISE Programme and outlining next steps in its delivery, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

The correspondence advised that a second call for locality led projects was open. Applications were invited from a range of eligible organisations, including schools, early years providers, colleges and community and voluntary organisations.

All applications had to be submitted via an online platform by 12 noon on 22 April 2026 and had to include a costed workplan aligned to the objectives set out within the relevant Strategic Area Plan.

Members were also advised that further stakeholder engagement was delivered, including information sessions in March 2026 to support organisations in developing proposals under the second call for Locality Led Projects.

5. Financial implication

Each RAISE locality continued to receive a base level of funding, with additional allocations based on pupil numbers within identified areas. All project proposals submitted under Call Two must operate within the budget allocations set out for each objective within the relevant Strategic Area Plan.

| Locality | Base Amount | Pupil Top Up | Total Funding |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Antrim | £100,000 | £321,450 | £421,450 |
| Newtownabbey | £100,000 | £430,133 | £530,133 |

6. Summary

Correspondence had been received from the Department of Education advising that a second call for locality led projects was open.

There was a focus on engagement in schools, community organisations and other stakeholders, alongside the continued development of cross-cutting initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch
 Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.3 CP/CP/224 DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS – TIMMS REVIEW OF PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP),

2. Introduction/Background

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had provided an update on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which aimed to ensure that PIP accurately reflected the reality of disabled people's experiences and supported their ability to live independently and participate fully in society.

On 30 October 2025, the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms MP, announced that Sharon Brennan and Dr Clenton Farquharson CBE had been appointed as co-chairs of the Review.

The Review would report to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by Autumn 2026, with an interim update expected before that date.

On 24 March 2026, DWP issued a further stakeholder update confirming the launch of a Call for Evidence to support the Review.

3. Previous Council Decision

An update on the Department for Work and Pensions update on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment was noted at the December 2025 Community Development Committee.

4. Key Issues

Correspondence, circulated, had been received from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding the Department for Work and Pensions – Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment.

DWP had established a Steering Group to guide the Review. The Steering Group would lead on co-production and strategic direction and oversee a programme of engagement and evidence gathering.

As part of this engagement process, a Call for Evidence had been launched. This was aimed at organisations and individuals who had relevant information to inform the Review, including those with lived or learned experience, knowledge and expertise.

Evidence submissions may include:

- Written responses
- Existing datasets
- Unpublished analysis or reports

The Call for Evidence opened on 19 March 2026 and would close on 28 May 2026. All submissions would be shared with the Steering Group, and DWP would produce a summary of responses to support analysis and decision-making.

This Call for Evidence formed part of a wider programme of stakeholder engagement, which would continue to be developed by the Steering

Group. Further details were available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-timms-review>

The Department for Communities (DfC) would continue to engage with stakeholders and share updates as the Review progressed.

5. Summary

The Department for Work and Pensions continued to progress the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which aimed to ensure the benefit reflected the real-life experiences of people with disabilities and supported independent living.

The review would be co-produced with people with lived experience and organisations, guided by a Steering Group.

A Call for Evidence was launched on 19 March and would close on 28 May to gather input from individuals and organisations, forming a key part of the Review's evidence base.

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

the Department for Work and Pensions update on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment be noted.

NO ACTION

4.4 CP/CD/484 and CP/CD/485 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES INTERIM FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2026/27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members regarding the Department for Communities (DfC) 2026/27 interim funding position and to seek approval for an update on the current budget position to be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2026/27.

2. Background

DfC recognised the important role that the voluntary and community Sector had in delivering support and services to people and local communities.

Members were reminded that the Council managed a range of DfC funded contracts that financially supported a number of voluntary and community sector organisations. These included the:

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

- Social Supermarket
- Generalist and Integrated Advice

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was agreed at the April 2025 Community Development Committee that temporary 3-month funding support from DfC for 2025/26 was put in place up to 30th June 2025 based on 2024/25 funding levels, inclusive of the 5% uplift awarded in 2024/25.

It was further agreed that an update on the DfC current budget position be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2025/26.

4. Key Issues

The DfC had issued correspondence, circulated, outlining that the overall 2026/27 budget position for the Department remained unclear with the potential for the draft allocation to DfC to be reduced.

The Minister for the DfC had indicated that the Department was currently considering budget reduction scenarios of 5% and 10% accordingly.

The Minister had indicated that temporary 3-month funding support would be put in place up to 30th June 2026 based on 2025/26 funding levels.

Members were advised this funding covered all DfC programmes operating in the Borough such as Areas at Risk - Elevate Grant Programme, the Community Support Programme, Advice Programmes and Neighbourhood Renewal.

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

5. Financial implications

The DfC had issued temporary 3-month funding support to be put in place up to 30th June 2026 based upon 2025/26 funding levels.

A further update on the 2026/27 budget would be provided once the 2026/27 Departments' Allocation had been set and allocations agreed.

6. Summary

Interim funding awards for DfC programmes to end June 2026 would be retained at 2025/26 levels. Funding would be issued for the first quarter of 2026/27 up to the end of June with confirmation of the 2026/27 budget position anticipated in the near future.

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

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman McGrath and Councillors Burbank, Lynch, McGrann and O'Hagan left the meeting during Item 4.5.

4.5 CP/CC/004 NEILLSBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE - CCTV

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the installation of CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre in Randalstown.

2. Introduction/Background

Neillsbrook Community Centre in Randalstown had a number of outdoor spaces available for hire. This included a grass pitch a 3G training pitch and an outdoor event space. The 3G pitch was circulated and secured by a locked perimeter fence. Community facility staff open the pitch and operate the floodlights based upon bookings. The pitch was open for bookings Monday-Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, and bookings were made by customers online.

Since May 2025, there had been several incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of this Community Centre, including damage to the perimeter fence associated with the 3G pitch, caused by unauthorised access to the pitch.

Currently there was no CCTV at any of the legacy Antrim Community Centres, including Neillsbrook Community Centre. Estate Services were progressing a capital project in relation to the potential addition of CCTV at Council facilities currently without such provision.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the March 2026 Community Development Committee, a Member raised the issue of persistent vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Neillsbrook Community Centre and surrounding area. Having met with other Members, Officers and Statutory Partners he requested that a report be brought to a future Community Development Committee regarding the cost of the installation of CCTV cameras on the exterior of the Community Centre to potentially deter repeat occurrences of such incidents and enable collection of evidence in the event of any such incident.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Costs of repair as a result of vandalism to the 3G pitch perimeter fencing for the past 6 months had totalled £1,894.

The costs to install a 4-way multi-sensor camera with a 4G router and associated equipment at the Centre was approximately £7,000, with an ongoing annual cloud access and storage subscription of £720 per annum.

Provision for this expenditure had been identified in the 2026/27 Community Development budget, and the ongoing annual subscription would be included in future annual budget estimates.

5. Summary

There had been ongoing vandalism and anti-social behaviour incidents at Neillsbrook Community Centre and the surrounding area. A CCTV camera would be installed on the exterior of the Neillsbrook Community Centre covering the 3G pitch at a cost of £7,000 to act as a potential deterrent for such incidents and to enable evidence gathering should repeat incidents occur.

Proposed by Councillor Stewart
Seconded by Councillor Magill that

As the installation of CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre at a total cost of £7,000 had been brought forward by officers for noting, a separate report and business case be brought back for the consideration of CCTV at Centenary Way toilet area in Ballyclare where similar ongoing antisocial behaviour had been occurring over the past five years.

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Magill that

The installation of CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre be progressed as a six-month pilot scheme, following which officers would report back to Committee with robust PSNI-led data and evidence, including levels of antisocial behaviour and associated costs.

Following discussion it was agreed that Councillor Dunlop's amendment be combined with Councillor Stewart's proposal and it was agreed that

The installation of CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre be progressed as a six-months pilot scheme, following which officers would report back to Committee with robust PSNI-led data and evidence, including levels of antisocial behaviour and associated costs and it was further agreed that Officers would bring back a report and business case to the next Committee meeting in relation to installation of CCTV at the Centenary Way toilet area in Ballyclare.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Any Other Relevant Business (AORB) may be taken at this point.

- 5.1 In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Arts, Tourism and Events confirmed that the exterior of the Old Courthouse would be refreshed in advance of events to mark it's tercentenary.
- 5.2 Following positive feedback from a Member, the Head of Community Development advised that he would check the terms of reference regarding all Members being invited to attend future DEA Community Hub meetings.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

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

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/289 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – TENANCY RENEWAL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval on tenancy agreement renewals at the Dunanney Centre.

2. Introduction/Background

There were 8 Community Facilities managed by the Community Development Section as follows:

- Greystone Community Centre
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- Dunanney Centre
- Lilian Bland Pavillion

Community Facilities were available for hire by individuals, groups and organisations for a diverse range of activities such childcare, birthday parties, meetings, sport and social activities.

Members were reminded that there were a number of rentable offices in the Community Facility Buildings.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Schedule of Charges for hiring Community facilities and tenancy agreements was approved at the January 2025 Community Development Committee. An average inflationary increase to the schedule of charges was approved and a rental rate of £■■■■ per square metre per annum was applied to all Community Facility Tenancy agreements from 1 April 2025.

It was approved at the June 2025 Policy and Governance Committee that an annual inflationary uplift, based on appropriate indices, should be automatically applied. Inflationary increases would be based on the change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the previous calendar year.

4. Financial Position/Implication

An inflationary uplift of 3.5%, based on the change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the previous calendar year had been applied to Community Facilities schedule of charges. A rental rate of £■■■■ per square metre per annum would apply from 1 April 2026.

The tenancy agreements for the organisations below were due for renewal and had requested that these were renewed as follows:

| Organisation | Rooms Requested for Rental Renewal | Tenancy Start Date and Term | Rental Income £■■■■ sqm (p/a) from 1 April 2026 |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Listening Ear | Dunanney Centre (Rooms 23, 27 & 22) | From 8 th May 2026 for 2 years | ■■■■ |
| R.A.T.H | Dunanney Centre (Room 21) | From 1 st May 2026 for 1 year | ■■■■ |

A template tenancy agreement was circulated for Members' information.

5. Summary

There were a number of rentable offices in the Community Facility Buildings which were leased to various organisations under tenancy agreements. All tenancy agreements include rental costs, service charges and utilities.

Renewal of the tenancy agreement at Dunanney Centre would achieve annual rental income of £■■■■ per annum.

Proposed by Councillor Brady

Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

(a) the renewal of the tenancy agreement with Listening Ear, including keyholder option for Dunanney Centre from 1st April 2026 for 2 year at an

annual cost of £[REDACTED] (with an inflationary uplift applied from 1st April 2027) be approved.

- (b) the renewal of the tenancy agreement with R.A.T.H. including keyholder option for Dunanney Centre from 1st April 2026 for 1 year at an annual cost of £[REDACTED] be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

6.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** PK/GEN/210 JORDANSTOWN LOUGHSHORE PARK CAPITAL PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the outline Business Case for the Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project including the preferred option and to seek Members' approval for the project to progress to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme.

2. Introduction/Background

Jordanstown Loughshore Park was situated on the shores of Belfast Lough in Newtownabbey and was owned by the Council. The park was located at the start of the Causeway Coastal Route and close to Whiteabbey Village.

The Park was a popular destination for outdoor recreation and provided additional facilities including car-park provision, a large playpark, outdoor gym, art installations, a coffee shop/café and a caravan park (14 touring and 4 tent pitches) that was open year-round. The site also provided 115 car parking spaces.

There was vehicle access via the A2 Shore Road and visitors/users could connect by foot or bike to Hazelbank Park and onwards to Belfast, via the National Cycle Way.

Refurbishment work and installation of new equipment to the playpark was completed in August 2025 as part of a £2 million Borough wide playpark refurbishment programme.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

At the Operations Committee in April 2023 the Economic Appraisal, together with the Section 75 Screening Form, for Jordanstown Loughshore Park Redevelopment as set out in Option 2: full refurbishment of the caravan park ancillary facilities, refurbishment of existing café (including the creation of a 1st floor restaurant), refurbishment of toilet facilities at an estimated cost of £[REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees was approved.

At the May 2024 Policy and Governance Committee, Members were advised that, based upon inflationary increases to costs, the constraints of affordability and the requirement for prioritisation, a review of the Capital

Programme and Capital Project Management Process had commenced for Members' future consideration. As a result of this, the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) were commissioned to review a range of capital project business cases including the Outline Business Case for Jordanstown Loughshore Park.

At the Council meeting in January 2026 an update on the Council's Capital programme was noted. Within this report Members were advised that following review the recommendation for Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project was to proceed with the refurbishment of the café, caravan park amenities and public toilets.

4. Outline Business Case for Jordanstown Loughshore Park

Having completed a review of the options for the development of Jordanstown Loughshore Park, SIB had completed an updated Outline Business Case for this project, which was circulated for Members' information.

The Outline Business Case considered the evidence of need the options for the development of the park and the associated capital and recurring revenue costs.

The circulated Business Case identified the preferred option for Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project as Option 2. This Option proposed carrying out works to the ground floor of the existing coffee shop facility along with additional car parking and the upgrade of the toilets and changing facilities at a capital cost of £[REDACTED] with an annual revenue consequence of £[REDACTED]. This option was proposed as it would generate less capital costs whilst still providing an upgrade of facilities to an appropriate level to satisfy potential users of the Park without resulting in any negative impact from displacement on the many nearby hospitality businesses, given the proximity of the park to Whiteabbey Village with its local amenities.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The estimated capital cost of the preferred option was £[REDACTED], which would incur annual loan costs of £[REDACTED] over the estimated 20 year life span of the project. No additional annual operating costs had been identified.

6. Governance

Approval of the Stage 1 Outline Business Case for the Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project would progress the project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme which would involve appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) and preparation of a full business case including planning and procurement. The full Business Case would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee to seek the investment decision allowing the appointment of the winning tenderer, contract management and construction.

7. Summary

Following completion of the Outline Business Case for Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project the preferred option for the project was Option 2. This Option proposed carrying out works to the ground floor of the existing coffee shop facility along with provision of additional car parking and the upgrade of the toilets and changing facilities at a capital cost of £[REDACTED] with an annual revenue consequence of £[REDACTED].

Approval was being sought from Members to progress the project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme, to commence and complete the final business case (including detailed design, planning and procurement). The approval included authorisation for the appointment of an ICT and other associated costs at an estimated £[REDACTED].

In response to queries raised by a Member regarding the robustness of the costs within the report as they were from September 2025, the Director of Community and Culture advised that this feedback would be passed to the Capital Development team but assured him that for the next stage of the process, which would ask Members to make an investment decision, a full business case, including fully detailed current costs would be brought forward for consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Cosgrove

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

- (a) the Jordanstown Loughshore Park preferred option of carrying out works to the ground floor of the existing coffee shop facility along with additional car parking and the upgrade of the toilets and changing facilities at a capital cost of £[REDACTED] be approved; and**
- (b) progress of the Jordanstown Loughshore Park Capital Project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme be approved including completion of a final business case (including detailed design, planning and procurement)**

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

6.3 **IN CONFIDENCE** PK/GEN/210 AND PK/GEN/134 HAZELBANK PARK CAPITAL PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the Outline Business Case for the Hazelbank Park Capital Project including the preferred option, and to seek Members' approval for the project to progress to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme.

2. Introduction/Background

Hazelbank Park was situated on the shores of Belfast Lough in Newtownabbey within the Macedon District Electoral Area [DEA]. The Park was a popular destination for visitors including those from outside of the Borough. The Park formed part of the Causeway Coastal Route and facilities included open green space and planting, a car park with 89 spaces, a play park, public toilets, the Coronation Mechanical Pleasure Garden, a sensory garden, and a compound for welfare facilities for Parks staff based on site.

The Strategic Investment Board (SIB) was commissioned to independently develop a business case for a proposed investment in the park to include redevelopment of the former bowling pavilion, additional car parking and redevelopment of the play park and toilets.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In December 2022 the Council approved the development of a Coronation Mechanical Pleasure Garden, which was completed in May 2023 to mark the coronation of King Charles III. The garden was located at the old bowling green and had proved to be a significant tourist attraction for visitors from inside and outside of the Borough.

The Garden was located adjacent to an unused bowling pavilion which was proposed to be redeveloped into a café to provide enhanced visitor facilities for those visiting the park.

At the Operations Committee in April 2023 the Economic Appraisal, together with the Section 75 Screening Form for Hazelbank Park Redevelopment as set out in Option 4: Increase in car parking provision (to 193 spaces), development of a new play park, redevelopment of the bowling pavilion into a café, development of new toilet facilities (including Changing Places), and provision of new staff compound with staff welfare facilities at an estimated cost of £ [REDACTED] including contingency and professional fees was approved.

At the May 2024 Policy and Governance Committee, Members were advised that, based upon inflationary increases to costs, the constraints of affordability and the requirement for prioritisation, a review of the Capital Programme and Capital Project Management Process had commenced for Members' future consideration. As a result of this, the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) were commissioned to review a range of capital project business cases including the Outline Business Case for Hazelbank Park.

At the Council meeting in January 2026 an update on the Council's Capital programme was noted. Within this report Members were advised that following review the recommendation for Hazelbank Park Capital Project was to proceed with the refurbishment of the bowling pavilion as a café, the toilet block and play area, and additional car parking.

4. Outline Business Case and Preferred Option

The Outline Business Case (OBC) updated by SIB was circulated for Members' information.

The OBC considers the evidence of need, value for money and the options for the development at the Hazelbank site, along with the associated capital and recurring revenue costs.

The circulated Business Case identified the preferred option for Hazelbank Park Capital Project as Option 4. This Option proposed an increase in car parking provision to 193 spaces, the development of a new play park, redevelopment of the bowling pavilion into a café and development of the toilet facilities including changing place provision at a capital cost of just over £[REDACTED] with an annual revenue consequence of £[REDACTED] in loan charges and £[REDACTED] in annual running costs. This option was proposed on the basis that it:

- Met visitor needs for an enhanced visitor experience
- Provided adequate car parking to meet the needs of the Coronation Garden and new café facility
- Offered income generating potential over the longer term through a café franchise agreement
- Enhanced existing recreation provision through improved ancillary facilities
- Aligned with a range of inclusion, health and wellbeing strategies at local and regional level

5. Financial Position/Implication

The estimated cost of the preferred option was £[REDACTED] which would incur annual loan costs of £[REDACTED] over the estimated 20-year lifespan of the project. In addition, annual revenue costs of £[REDACTED] had been identified in terms of what it would cost to operate the facility.

6. Governance

Approval of the Stage 1 Outline business case for the Hazelbank Park Project would progress the project to Stage 2 of the Council's capital programme which would include the appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) and the preparation of a full business case including planning and procurement. The final business case would be brought back to a future meeting of the committee seeking the investment decision allowing the appointment of the winning tenderer, contract management and construction.

7. Summary

Following completion of the outline Business Case from the Hazelbank Park Project the preferred option for the project was the development of a new café, additional car parking and redeveloped toilet and play park facilities

at an estimated cost of £[REDACTED]. The annual revenue consequence was £[REDACTED].

Approval was sought from Members to progress the project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme, to commence and complete the final business case (including detailed design, planning and procurement). The approval included authorisation for the appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team and other associated costs at an estimated £[REDACTED]

It was anticipated that works would proceed on a phased basis, commencing with the cafe, whilst additional statutory approvals and design development was progressed.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and agreed that

- (a) the outline Business Case including the preferred option for the development of Hazelbank Park at a total estimated capital cost of £[REDACTED] be approved and**
- (b) progress of the development project to Stage 2 of the Council's Capital Programme be approved.**

ACTION BY: John Balmer, Director of Finance

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

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

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.12 pm.

MAYOR

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