



21 July 2021

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A remote meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 26 July 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

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

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

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

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

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 28 June 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 July 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 19 July 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 6.1 To approve the Sealing of Documents
 - 6.2 Woodland Trust – Community Consultation
 - 6.3 Road Naming – Randalstown to Castledawson Dual Carriageway (A6)
 - 6.4 Department for the Economy Circular Economy Strategic Framework Call for Evidence
 - 6.5 Schedule of Meetings of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
 - 6.6 Tourism NI Product Development Programme
 - 6.7 Consultation for the Development of a New Rural Policy Framework
 - 6.8 Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel
 - 6.9 Workers' Memorial Day
 - 6.10 Gilbert Sister Cities – Friendship Garden
 - 6.11 Street Naming – Ballyclare Road/Moss Road Junction
 - 6.12 Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Carrier Bag Levy
 - 6.13 NI Assembly – Integrated Education Bill
 - 6.14 TRPSI Applications – Delegated Authority

- 6.15 Regional Digital Transformation Programme
- 6.16 A Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland – Consultation Response
- 6.17 UK Government's Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Showcase
- 6.18 Retail and Town Centre Recovery Working Group Minutes
- 6.19 Christmas Tree Switch on Events 2021
- 6.20 Town Centre Recovery Action Plans and Revitalise Funding
- 6.21 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2021/2022
- 6.22 Council Events 2021 Update
- 6.23 Department of Health Consultation – Development of a New Integrated Care System (ICS) Model In Northern Ireland
- 6.24 Good Relations Grant Aid 2021-22
- 6.25 Regional Negotiating Machinery

7 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 7.1 Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland - Dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission
- 7.2 Motion - Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Rights of Nature
- 7.3 June 2021 Budget Report – Period 3
- 7.4 Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 Annual Monitoring Report
- 7.5 Motion – Derry City and Strabane District Council – Rights of Nature
- 7.6 Antrim and Newtownabbey Loneliness Network - Chatty Benches
- 7.7 European Social Fund Status Update
- 7.8 Youth Provision Update 2021-2022

8 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 8.1 Planning Application Number T/2014/0114/F - Proposed Development of a Residual Waste Treatment Facility, Hightown Quarry, 40a Boghill Road, Ballyutoag, Co Antrim
- 8.2 Residual Waste Treatment Project

- 8.3 Procurement Tender Reports and Award of Contracts
- 8.4 Crematorium Facility, Memorial Garden, Doagh Road, Newtownabbey - Business Case
- 8.5 Tender for Newtownabbey Crematorium – Contractor Appointment
- 8.6 Granite Surfaces – Cleansing Requirements
- 8.7 Regeneration Proposals for Castle Mall and Antrim Central Car Park

9 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Alison Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Stephen Ross

"This Council condemns sectarian hate crimes and continual damage being caused to the Glengormley Memorial and assures the community that all possible measures will be taken to investigate reports, prevent further incidents and bring perpetrators to justice".

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

6 ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

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

- Contract for Mossley Mill Render Band Replacement Works

RECOMMENDATION: that the documents be signed and sealed.

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

6.2 PK/BIO/036 WOODLAND TRUST - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Woodland Trust has recently acquired 98 hectares of land in the Belfast Hills, with funding from Biffa Award and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The Trust plans to conserve and restore the site and to open it to the general public for free access by end of 2021. The new site borders Cave Hill Country Park and will link existing pathways through Divis and the Cave Hills. It will also be a vital piece of the jigsaw linking the current Woodland Trust sites at Carnmoney Hill, Monkstown Wood and Throne Wood. The site includes 60 hectares of acid/wet heath ideal for broad leaved woodland creation and 35 hectares of good quality grassland, with opportunities for hedgerow planting. The first of over 150,000 native trees will be planted later this year, and a call for volunteers will be made.

The property sits approximately 6 miles North of Belfast and a short distance from Mallusk. Belfast Zoo is situated to the east with the main access point via the Hightown Road adjacent to St Enda's Gaelic Athletics Club. An additional agricultural access is located off the Upper High Town Road. Access to the public is currently not permitted, but a public car park is already in place off the Upper Hightown Road.

The Trust is currently carrying out a community consultation <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LM23G6C>, to encourage local residents to get involved and help them develop a destination that is fit for the purpose of its visitors. The consultation seeks input and, in summary, the proposed Council response is as follows:

Q1. What features would you like to see on the site?

- A. Entrance signage and site maps should be installed at official access points, including from Cavehill Country Park. New trails of various abilities should be installed, alongside the upgrading of existing trails. A viewpoint feature and seating areas should also be considered, along with permanent orienteering courses of various lengths. Finally, the installation of environmental interpretation panels, will help to raise awareness of the site's key biodiversity features, and the importance protecting them.

Q2. Ideas for future events?

- A. Volunteering days – for example; tree planting, habitat surveys and practical nature conservation training, family nature events – e.g. story-telling and nature trails, alongside orienteering taster sessions.

Q3. Ideas for the name of the site?

- A. The chosen name should reflect the geography, history and location of the new woodland. Given that the source of the Glas Na Braden river is located within the new site, and flows through our Borough, it is proposed that it is named Glas Na Braden Wood.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for the proposed response to the Woodland Trust's community consultation.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

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

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

6.3 PBS/BC/003/VOL2 ROAD NAMING – RANDALSTOWN TO CASTLEDAWSON DUAL CARRIAGEWAY (A6)

The construction of the final section of the A6 (Toome to Castledawson section) is nearing completion. The Department for Infrastructure has contacted the Council regarding naming this new section of dual carriageway to avoid confusion with old Moneynick Road which has been completely bypassed and re-classified as the B183.

Various Emergency Services have contacted the Department for Infrastructure requesting a name which will avoid confusion for their dispatch centres in emergency situations.

Members will be aware that naming of roads is a Council function and this new dual carriageway passes through two council areas, Antrim and Newtownabbey (Randalstown to Toome) and Mid Ulster (Toome to Castledawson).

The Department for Infrastructure has proposed **(enclosed)** that the existing old road remains unchanged as the Moneynick Road, with the new duelled road being named the 'New Moneynick Road'.

RECOMMENDATION: that the new A6 dual carriageway from Randalstown to Toome is named the New Moneynick Road.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Interim)
Environmental Health, Property and Building Services

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

6.4 WM/WM/40 DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is currently developing a Circular Economy Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland in order to increase collaboration and deliver a more joined-up approach on Circular Economy (CE) activities.

Members are reminded that the Circular Economy (CE) is based on three principles:

1. designing out waste;
2. keeping materials, components and products in circulation at their highest use and value for as long as possible;
3. regenerating natural systems.

The current economy, known as the linear economy is characterised by taking resources from the ground to make products, which we use, and, when we no longer want them, we throw them away (take, make, waste).

The Circular Economy is an alternative to the current linear economy and one which looks at how we manage resources, how we make and use products, and what we do with the materials afterwards. It is based on the premise that through this means a thriving economy can be created which will improve resilience and health and wellbeing as well as helping to tackle global issues like climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

The call for evidence will assist DfE in developing the Framework and focusses on four Business Sectors and four Materials flows:

Business Sectors

1. Construction and Built Environment;
2. Tourism;
3. Bio-Economy;
4. Advanced Manufacturing.

Material Flows

1. Food;
2. Textiles;
3. Electricals;
4. Packaging – Plastics, Paper, Cardboard and Glass.

A submission has been developed by NILGA, enclosed, on behalf of the 11 councils, and this response covers both waste and the economy. Officers have reviewed the submission and would recommend endorsement as it is overarching, covering both the economy and waste issues in relation to the Circular Economy. A response has been submitted by arc21 which focusses on the waste issues and is compatible with the comments from NILGA.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council endorses the submission from NILGA to the Department for the Economy's Call for Evidence on the Circular Economy.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contract Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

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

6.5 A/GEN /13 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The following schedule of dates for Council and Committee Meetings are proposed for the period 1 January–31 December 2022

In anticipation that COVID restrictions will be relaxed meetings marked in red are held at Antrim Civic Centre, while those in black are held at Mossley Mill. All meetings commence at 6.30 pm with the exception of Planning Committee which will start at 6 pm.

If COVID restrictions are still in place meetings will continue to be held via zoom and in the Council Chamber in Mossley Mill.

Council / Committee Meetings	Date of Meeting
Operations Committee	Tuesday 4 January 2022 *
Policy & Governance Committee	Wednesday 5 January 2022 *
Community Planning Committee	Monday 10 January 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 17 January 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 31 January 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 7 February 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 8 February 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 14 February 2022
Special Council Meeting	Monday 14 February 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 21 February 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 28 February 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 7 March 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 8 March 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 14 March 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 21 March 2022
Audit Committee	Tuesday 22 March 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 28 March 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 4 April 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 5 April 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 11 April 2022
Planning Committee	Wednesday 20 April 2022*
Council Meeting	Monday 25 April 2022
Operations Committee	Tuesday 3 May 2022*
Policy & Governance Committee	Wednesday 4 May 2022*

Community Planning Committee	Monday 9 May 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 16 May 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 30 May 2022
Annual Meeting	Wednesday 1 June 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 6 June 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 7 June 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 13 June 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 20 June 2022
Audit Committee	Tuesday 21 June 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 27 June 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 18 July 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 25 July 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 15 August 2022
Council Meeting	Tuesday 30 August 2022*
Operations Committee	Monday 5 September 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 6 September 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 12 September 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 19 September 2022
Audit Committee	Tuesday 20 September 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 26 September 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 3 October 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 4 October 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 10 October 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 17 October 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 31 October 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 7 November 2022
Policy & Governance Committee	Tuesday 8 November 2022
Community Planning Committee	Monday 14 November 2022
Planning Committee	Monday 21 November 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 28 November 2022
Operations Committee	Monday 5 December 2022
Policy & Governance	Tuesday 6 December 2022
Community Planning Committee	Wednesday 7 December 2022*
Planning Committee	Monday 12 December 2022

Audit Committee	Tuesday 13 December 2022
Council Meeting	Monday 19 December 2022*

* Denotes change of date due to bank/public holiday.

RECOMMENDATION: that the 2022 Schedule of Meetings for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council be approved.

Prepared by: Member Services

Agreed by: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Deputy Director of Finance and Governance
(Interim)

6.6 ED/TOU/073 TOURISM NI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Tourism NI has developed a new Market Led Product Development Programme for 21/22 financial year in response to COVID-19. The programme is to be delivered via partnership with local authorities and aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- To provide more reasons to travel to and within NI
- To enhance and animate the visitor experience for NI and ROI visitors while here; and to
- Encourage more opportunities for spend.

The partnership will provide Local Authorities with funding towards programmes to enhance the NI experience within their regions in support of the Northern Ireland 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' campaign through to March 2021. A Service Level Agreement between Tourism NI and each local authority will govern the arrangement.

While not a prescriptive list, the following are example initiatives that could deliver on project outcomes:

- New or enhanced demand generating experiences
- Enhanced opening hours or extending opening
- Increased animation of public spaces
- Strengthening and enhancing the food and drink offer

The overall budget for the programme is £3m and the minimum level of support available for any submission is £100,000. Key exclusions for the funding are retail discounts, marketing collateral, events which are receiving funding or have applied for funding under TNI programmes or other publically funded grant programmes and business as usual activity. Marketing activity is not eligible as Tourism NI has a separate Co-operative Marketing Fund which is already supporting our Council's tourism related marketing campaigns.

The call for submissions opened on 2 July 2021 and applications must be returned via the portal by 6 August 2021. It is intended that programme evaluation will be complete and Service Level Agreements issued to each local authority by 27 August for full delivery of the programme by the end of March 2022.

Subject to initial positive feedback from Tourism NI Officers are proposing to make a submission which may include the following elements:

- An extension of the Council's current 'Tourism Challenge Fund' to support the completion of more private-sector led business-cases towards new product development;
- The re-branding of tourism and heritage interpretive panels located throughout the Borough for which there has been a recent audit and evaluation completed;
- Landscaping improvements at the site of Cranfield Church and Holy Well;

- Support towards the refurbishment of The Joyce vessel at Antrim Lough Shore Park;
- Elements of the Augmented and Virtual Reality Leisure Product Development at The Valley Leisure Centre;
- Bespoke Visitor attraction apps
- Creation of a Virtual Reality introduction to Lough Neagh to be positioned within The Gateway exhibition and narrated by the pending sculpture of Finn which will be brought to life and explore Lough Neagh;
- Experience development by way of taster sessions promoted by the private-sector and aligned to some of our key assets: Dining, Fishing, Golfing, Walking, Water Tours etc.
- JLSP & Hazelbank café developments

The projects above are indicative and subject to agreement in principle from Tourism NI, procurement timescales and hence the Council's ability to deliver the schemes by 31 March 2022.

The rate of funding applied to the various projects will depend on Tourism NI's assessment of the intended outcomes. Hence an indicative total cost and potential percentage match-funding requirement is not known at this stage. New and additional costs in relation to the programme will be considered such as recruiting and training temporary contract or seasonal staff, consultancy and / or buying labour from a third-party to deliver the activity of the programme.

In development of the programme Local Authorities are encouraged to collaborate with external agencies and other key stakeholders such as Food NI, Arts Council NI, Craft NI and Outdoor Recreation NI for example.

RECOMMENDATION: that an application be submitted to the Product Development Programme by the deadline of 6 August 2021 with further progress reports to be brought back to the Council for information.

Prepared and Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.7 CP/CD/423 CONSULTATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Members are advised that correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) regarding the launch of the consultation for the Development of a Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland a copy of which is **enclosed**.

The 8-week public consultation runs from Wednesday 7 July 2021 to Monday 6 September 2021.

Parties wishing to participate in the consultation process can do so by completing the consultation form at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rural-policy-framework-northern-ireland-consultation>

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning (Interim)

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

Members are reminded that the resumption of meetings of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel on 24 February 2021 was noted at the March Community Planning Committee meeting. The minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 21 April 2021 and the theatre programme for summer 2021 were approved at the May Community Planning Committee.

The Panel met again on Wednesday 23 June and the minutes are enclosed for Members' information. At this meeting the Panel approved the autumn programme for Theatre at The Mill, which is also enclosed.

Members are advised that officers are exploring options to stream some autumn show content into the Old Courthouse as well as developing a film and afternoon tea programme for this venue, which suits the reduced capacity of the smaller venue. Theatre programming is continually reviewed in line with restrictions and the impact of social distancing upon capacity and viability of programme within the context of approved budgets.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 23 June 2021, including the autumn programme for Theatre at The Mill be approved.

Prepared by: Ursula Fay Deputy Director Community Planning (Interim)

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

6.9 HR/GEN/037 WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

The Council has received a request from GMB Trade Union to observe a minute's silence each year to mark Workers' Memorial Day which is a day of remembrance held annually on 28 April around the world.

This International day of remembrance is held for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell at work, and to try and make it safer for the living and to promote safer working conditions. It is an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of most workplace incidents and to promote campaigns in the fight for improvements in workplace safety.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council observe a minute's silence each year on 28 April to mark Workers' Memorial Day.

Prepared by: Jennifer Close, Interim Head of HR

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

6.10 PK/GEN/001/VOL3 GILBERT SISTER CITIES – FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Members are advised that the Gilbert Sister Cities Board is currently planning for a Gilbert Sister Cities' Friendship Garden. The Garden, which will be located at the new Gilbert Regional Park, is scheduled to open in November or December.

The Board's relationships with both Antrim and Newtownabbey and Leshan in China will be reflected in the design of two small bridges leading into the park. There is also a large wall at the top of the park where it is planned that local high school students will create a mural featuring symbols of each country. Images have been requested and provided of Mossley Mill and Clotworthy House.

There are also plans to incorporate plants from Leshan and Northern Ireland. The Board has asked if Council would consider donating something for the park, a statue, bench or other appropriate item. Local company, Environmental Street Furniture Ltd, which participated in the trade visit to Gilbert in 2018, manufactures solar benches, providing mobile device charging to users, which may be a suitable feature for the Garden. The benches cost £1,998 and this company has already supplied some benches to the local council in Gilbert following the successful trade visit.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for the donation of a solar bench, as set out above, to the Gilbert Sister Cities' Friendship Garden.

Prepared by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations (Interim)

6.11 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYCLARE ROAD/MOSS ROAD JUNCTION

A fully valid development naming application from Darren Haveron, Connswater Homes, on behalf of Kenny Developments, regarding the naming of a residential development at Ballyclare Road/Moss Road Junction was received on 1 July 2021. The development consists of 17 apartments.

The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's location map and site plan **enclosed**.

1. **Moss Mews** – adjacent to Moss Road, continuity of residential street naming
2. **Moss Park** - adjacent to Moss Road, continuity of residential street naming
3. **Moss Meadows** - adjacent to Moss Road, continuity of residential street naming

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approves an overall name for the above development.

Prepared by: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Interim)
Environmental Health, Property and Building Services

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

6.12 WM/WM/40 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CARRIER BAG LEVY

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is undertaking a consultation in relation to the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 as amended by Carrier Bags Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. The consultation is available on <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/carrier-bag-levy-ni-consultation/>

Members are reminded that the Carrier Bag Levy was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2013. Since then it has generated proceeds in excess of £32m, which has been invested to support a broad range of local and country wide environmental projects.

Across the Northern Ireland retail sector many retailers have already taken steps to reduce the use of single use carrier bags by withdrawing them completely from circulation and replacing them with thicker bags which they designate as reusable. Statistics show that 95% of bags dispensed in 2014/15 were single use, compared to 48% 2019/20, however this still represents a high volume of bags.

Research carried out by the Department indicates that heavier, thicker bags, which are significantly more harmful to the environment, have become the main bag dispensed by Northern Ireland retailers and these have become the new “throw away” bags.

Whilst the initial introduction of the carrier bag levy had a significant impact on consumer behaviour, it is recognised that further proactive and preventative action is needed to continue to reduce usage of all bags.

A response to the survey, **enclosed**, has been completed for consideration. In summary, the draft responses include, agreeing that increasing the current 5 pence levy would encourage people to bring their own bags, thereby reducing the number of bags purchased, that the regulations should be simplified to exempt fewer types of bags, support for the proposal to remove the exemption for bags made from paper and support for the use of all the proceeds raised being used in environmental projects in Northern Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION: that the response to the consultation on Proposed Changes to the Carrier Bag Levy be approved.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contract Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

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

6.13 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) NI ASSEMBLY – THE INTEGRATED EDUCATION BILL

Members are reminded that The Integrated Education Bill was formally introduced to the Assembly on Tuesday 1 June 2021. The bill undertook its Second Stage on Tuesday 6 July 2021 with the Committee Stage commencing immediately thereafter.

In order to inform the Committee Stage of the Bill, the Committee for Education would welcome your views/comments on the contents of the Bill. The closing date for comments is Sunday 10 October 2021.

Any comments on the details of the Bill can be made at <http://nia1.me/4n4> before 10 October 2021.

A copy of the Bill and Explanatory and Financial Memorandum can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/non-executive-bill-proposals/integrated-education-bill>

Any queries can be directed to committee.education@niassembly.gov.uk

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

6.14 ED/ED/154 TRPSI APPLICATIONS – DELEGATED AUTHORITY

In May 2021 Officers advised Members of the likelihood of a further Rural Business Development Grant Scheme. The scheme is to be administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI).

The Council has now been awarded the grant allocation of £68,200 (£62,000 grant funding and £6,200 or 10% towards staff costs associated with administering the grant). Under the programme capital grants up to a maximum of 50% grant rate are available to existing micro enterprises based in a rural area to sustain them and to help them grow. The scheme is open to businesses who have not previously received funding under this Programme. Grant aid of between £500 - £4,999 is available for projects to purchase equipment, machinery or set up an e-commerce website. The maximum project cost is £20,000.

The grant scheme opened for applications in July and will close at 12 noon on 30th July. There is a target date to issue letters of offer as soon as possible but no later than the beginning of October. The spend date for Letters of Offer will be 17th December with all claims to be submitted by mid-January 2022.

To help expedite the release of Letters of Offer it is requested that authority for approving the funding awards is delegated to the Chief Executive. A schedule of the supported projects will be presented to a future Council meeting for information.

Further information on the grant application process can be found at the link below: <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/ruralbusinessgrants>

RECOMMENDATION: that Authority for approving the DAERA TRPSI funding awards to businesses is delegated to the Chief Executive with a schedule of the supported projects to be presented to a future Council meeting for information.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.15 ED/ED/186 REGIONAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

As the lead Council for the NI Digital Transformation Programme supported by European Regional Development Funds and Invest NI, the Council has entered into a Letter of Offer with Invest NI. The letter of Offer is for £866,520 grant towards the project which will achieve:

- Digital one to many events that will engage 1,040 businesses;
- Initial digital diagnostic reports for at least 198 businesses;
- Delivery of a minimum of 1,188 days of one to one Digital Transformation Programme mentoring to businesses; and
- Delivery of a final Digital Transformation Programme report to at least 198 businesses.

The project targets have to be achieved by 31st March 2023 with an end of programme evaluation to be completed by 30th September 2023.

Officers are currently finalising a specification for procurement of the third party delivery agent for the programme. A condition of the Invest NI Letter of Offer is a signed collaborative agreement between the 11 partner Councils. The collaboration agreement has been reviewed by each of the partner Councils and is now ready for signing.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members note the progress of the Regional Digital Transformation Programme and approve the associated collaborative agreement between all eleven NI Council partners.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.16 ED/ED/179 A SKILLS STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Department for the Economy has launched a consultation on A Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland – Skills for a 10x Economy document, with responses due by 19 August 2021. An executive summary of the Strategy is enclosed, along with a draft response (enclosed).

The Strategy focuses on innovation to deliver a 10 times better economy with benefits for all people. It commits to investing in skills, boosting research and innovation potential of the workforce and developing Northern Ireland as a global hub of knowledge through strong collaboration between government, business and research institutions. It commits to working with the whole education system to address skills imbalances and drive increased participation in the STEM subjects that will underpin economic success. It also seeks to tackle social and educational inequality, ensuring appropriate pathways are in place to enable citizens to reach their potential, benefitting from and contributing to a stronger, more prosperous, more resilient Northern Ireland.

Members should note that in 'Proposed Commitment 2' the Department for the Economy commits to working directly with DFC to support collaborative approaches between local and central government to develop the education and training provision required to underpin both the Skills Strategy and the 'Employability NI' Strategy.

Officers have reviewed the strategy and recommend that the Council broadly welcomes the ambitions and the policy enablers proposed, including the proposal for multi-year budgets to provide long-term investment in skills.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approves the draft response to the Skills Strategy Consultation endorsing the approach and welcomes collaboration with local government in the implementation phase.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.17 G/MSMO/015 UK GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS AND INNOVATION SHOWCASE

Members are advised that the UK Government is holding a Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Showcase in London on 15 September 2021. A copy of the invite is enclosed for Members' information. This event is being hosted by the Northern Ireland Office, in partnership with the Department for International Trade and Invest NI.

The event will showcase Northern Ireland's expertise in research, cyber security, fintech, life and health services, tourist attractions and advanced manufacturing to a national and international audience of business and political leaders, banks, investors, and international trade representatives.

Leading companies from across Northern Ireland will exhibit their latest products and services, alongside a number of Northern Irish startups who will present their research and development to potential partners and investors on an Innovation Platform.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor along with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group, or their nominees, attend the event with relevant Officers.

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

6.18 ED/GEN/015 & ED/GEN/016 RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members are advised that The Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team met on Tuesday 29 June 2021. The local Tourism Recovery Team met on Tuesday 6 July 2021. These forums facilitate collaborative working between local businesses from across the Borough, the Council and Central Government Partners.

A copy of the minutes of each are **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

Town Team meetings for Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown will be complete by Thursday 22 July and the minutes from these meetings will be tabled to the August Council meeting. These meetings concentrated on the draft masterplan for each town which were approved in principle by the Council in June. Following the engagement with the Town Teams, Officers are making final changes to the masterplans prior to scheduling further stakeholder engagement.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the recent Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Team and the Tourism Town Centre Recovery Team be approved.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.19 CP/CD/422 CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH ON EVENTS 2021

Members are reminded of the success of the "Log On To Christmas" Virtual Switch-On Programme which was delivered online in November and December 2020 and attracted circa 80,000 viewers as detailed below:

Total Facebook Views: 70,645

Total YouTube Views: 7,838

Total Views: 78,483

All seven DEA events were extremely well received with high levels of engagement and many positive comments in response to the livestreams and Council bringing some Christmas spirit to the Borough during such difficult times.

The table below outlines the number of views for each of the seven DEA Switch-On events:

Location	Facebook	YouTube
Glengormley	16,924	1467
Rathcoole	7649	581
Antrim	12277	1791
Ballyclare	10627	1469
Jordanstown Road	9234	334
Randalstown	5747	1309
Crumlin	8187	887

Council Officers have started planning for this year's events and taking into consideration the Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which could potentially see a return of restrictions, it is proposed that a hybrid programme be delivered in November and December 2021. This programme will consist of two large scale "live events" in Antrim Town and Glengormley and 5 Virtual events for Airport, Ballyclare, Dunsilly, Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's.

The programme to be delivered in each area, either live or virtual, and will follow a similar structure to that delivered in 2020 as detailed below:

- Introductory Video from Santa – what has he been up to over the past year?
- Welcome from Stuart Robinson Cool FM
- Children's Favourite Entertainer Mr Hullabaloo
- Shoutouts and Giveaways – Stuart Robinson Cool FM
- Festive Entertainment from Local Artistes, School Children, Community and Voluntary Groups
- The Reason for the Season – A short programme of Christmas Readings, Carols and Music
- Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Closing Video

The live events taking place in Antrim Town and Glengormley will also be "streamed" live giving residents the choice of attending in person or enjoying the show from the comfort of their own home.

All events will be advertised and promoted through an electronic and direct marketing campaign to encourage residents to log on to the event relating specifically to their DEA or to attend one of the two live events.

The total budget available for the 2021 Christmas Festivity Programme is £104,000. The cost of delivering the hybrid programme in November and December 2021 will be approximately £40,000. In addition, as in previous years, it is proposed to provide financial assistance of £16,000 for the Senior Citizen's Christmas Festivity Programme and £14,000 for the Christmas Celebration Events Fund both of which will be open for applications in September 2021. Should the hybrid programme and the additional funding streams be approved for 2021 a saving of £34,000 will be made.

'Most Festive Competition'

In addition, it is also proposed to deliver "A Most Festive Competition". Categories under which entries can be submitted include:

- Light Up Award – Community: Best Lit Town/Village
- Local Light Up Award – Best Lit Street
- Rockin Around the Christmas Tree Award – Hospitality: Best programme of entertainment
- The Reason for the Season Award – Schools: Most Festive School
- The Making an Entrance Award – Business: Best dressed shop front/feature
- Traditional Christmas Award – Community: Best portrayal of 'community giving'
- North Star Award – Most outstanding Christmas Display
- Mayor's Award – Awarded at the discretion of The Mayor

The competition will be launched in October 2021 and nominations can be submitted online. Judging will take place week commencing Monday 6 December 2021. Officers will work with the business community to secure a number of prizes and awards for competition winners.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the hybrid programme for Christmas 2021 be approved at a cost of approximately £40,000;**
- (b) the Most Festive Competition be launched in October 2021.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning

6.20 AC/GEN/072 – TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS AND REVITALISE FUNDING

Members were reminded that draft Action Plans for each of the five main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown were agreed at the March Council meeting with monthly updates to be brought to the Council. Updated plans were approved at the June Council Meeting. Various actions within the plans are being delivered on an ongoing basis with others planned and the Action Plans will continue to be updated monthly. Urban Markets and Summer Town Music animations planned for summer across the five towns have commenced and are being well received. The updated Action Plans are **enclosed** for Members' information.

The draft Town Centre Masterplans for Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Randalstown and Glengormley were circulated at the June Council meeting and agreed 'in principle'. This followed engagement at a local DEA level. The draft Masterplans were also discussed at the Retail Re-opening Recovery Team Meeting held on 29 June 2021 and a schedule of virtual Town Team Meetings is in place for week commencing 19 July 2021 to review town specific projects in more detail. Officers are also engaging with the Council's appointed delivery agent, AECOM, to plan further local engagement with stakeholders including Council Community Planning Partners.

Officers are continuing to implement the DFC Revitalise Funding Programme which has administered business support grants in response to COVID-19. It has also implemented buy-local marketing schemes, small-scale regeneration projects, animation events and delivery and installation of Health and Safety Supplies across the Borough. The phase 2 awning scheme is launching at the end of July and the remaining projects are advancing for conclusion by the end of September. The exception to this is the Council's agreed blue and green infrastructure projects. Due to their capital nature the timeline for these projects is intended to be completion by the end of March 2022.

The Council's Covid Aware Ambassadors continue to operate Thursday, Friday and Saturdays and additional days as required. The Council worked in partnership with the Public Health Agency and The Health Trust to support the pop-up Vaccination Centre at Abbeycentre on 10 and 11 July 2021 by providing Covid Aware Ambassadors.

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

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director Community Planning (Interim), Colin Mc Cabrey Head of Economic Development

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

6.21 CP/CD/394 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022

Members are reminded of the Small Grants Programme, which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £500 towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2021/22 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to the receipt of a Group Constitution, List of Committee Members, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts and a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all other appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

During the month of June and July, three applications totalling £1,500 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below.

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Pass/Fail	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Monstown Community Association (Monkstown Special Stars)	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Stena Line Superstars – Day Trip	Pass	£500.00	£500.00
Straid Village and District Community Group	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Annual Insurance	Pass	£500.00	£500.00
MG Bowling Club Moneyglass	Small Activity/Insurance Grant Insurance and Hall Rental	Pass	£500.00	£500.00
Total			£1,500.00	£1,500.00

The total budget available for the Small Grants Programme for the 2021/22 financial year is £10,000 of which £2,967.14 remains.

The total amount of financial assistance requested by the three applications outlined above is £1,500 and if approved leaves a balance of £1,467.14 to fund further applications submitted during the remainder of the current financial year.

It will be a condition of funding that all community/voluntary groups ensure compliance with all relevant and applicable COVID-19 Government and Public Health Guidance and Regulations.

RECOMMENDATION: that the three Small Grant awards outlined above at a total cost of £1,500 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning (Interim)

6.22 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS 2021 UPDATE

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the January Council meeting that the Council Events Plan for 2021 be implemented and kept under review. At the June Council meeting updated event plans were approved with regular updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council. At the DEA Member Engagement Meetings held over the first two weeks of June Members were given an update on their respective DEA events.

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

Council Events Update 2021

Month/ Date Normal	Event	Budget	Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations & Branding
May			
Mon 3rd	NI Centenary (lighting of 2 beacons and the opening of 2 Centenary Woods)	Included in Centenary Budget	Events held by invitation only to elected members and members of NI Centenary Working Group.
Sat 8th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Completed Virtually
25-29 th	May Fair	£25,000	This event did not take place this year.
Sat 29 th & Sun 30 th	Antrim Live	£15,000	Incorporated into One Giant Weekend.
July to August	Summer Sunday Music	£9,000	Sunday concerts booked weekly in JLSP, ACG, V36 and Antrim Loughshore Park at a cost of £8,000. Commencement of concerts delayed from 4 July due to live music restrictions not being relaxed until Monday 5 July – the programme will be extended by a week to 12 September to mitigate.
June			
Sat 19 th – Sun 20 th	Garden Show Ireland	£35,000	Garden Show Ireland 2022 promotional element incorporated into One Giant Weekend on 4 September. A promotional show garden will feature celebrity gardener Diarmuid Gavin with sales for the 2022 event going live at the event.
Sat 19 th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Band Championship	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	RSPBNI have requested the event becomes a Pipe Band Festival and is rescheduled to 7 August with a reduced budget of £8,000. Event organisers that the event will be ticketed with a maximum capacity of 1500 at any one time, with a ticket price of £1.00. All income generated from this event will be donated to The Mayor's Charities.
Fri 25 th	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley.

Month/ Date Normal	Event	Budget	Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations & Branding
			Given Covid 19 restrictions this event did not go ahead. A virtual Cool FM roadshow event delivered to post primary pupils across the Borough on 24 June as part of the programme to recognise children's resilience in relation to Covid 19. This achieved reach of 5.500 and excellent feedback.
July			
Fridays in July and August 2 July to 27 August	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lilian Bland Community Park Glengormley Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm, of family fun depending upon restrictions in place with Covid secure measures. Brighter Nights commenced on Friday 2 July with the addition of a Urban Market for Glengormley from 5pm with a combined attendance of 1000 across the evening.
W'ends end July to end August	Theatre Ticketed Shows	Theatre budget income to cover cost	Civic Square at Mossley Mill and Parterre Garden Antrim Castle Gardens. Some shows are fully booked with healthy sales levels across the programme.
August			
7 th	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event to be rescheduled for Sunday 8 August and combined with Antrim Festival Family Sunday at a cost of £10,000 to the Council.
28 th and 29 th	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Following consultation with traders Shoreline Festival will not be held but instead it is proposed to deliver 3 small 'Taste and Sea' Whiteabbey events on the last Saturday in July/August/September, which will feature artisan markets in the Council car park in the village with various food, drink and retail offers from the village businesses along with animations in the village and JLSP seaside themed potentially to include Kite Festival, Sand Sculptures and Treasure Trail. With a reduced budget of £12,000. The market in September will be a twilight market to support the night time economy. An introductory 'Taste and Sea' event was delivered on Saturday 26 June without a market given identification of capacity within the budget and was very well received.
September			
3 rd to 4 th	One Giant Weekend	£50,000	One Giant Evening V36 at The Valley including fireworks and One Giant Picnic ACG: Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element and Antrim Live included at ACG on 4 September
5 th	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – To be held on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend

Month/ Date Normal	Event	Budget	Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations & Branding
5th	Cultural Colours	£5,000	A 'Mela' event celebrating community diversity to be delivered by Antrim Festival Group with support from the Council.
October			
31 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	Spooked Out at V36 31 October 2021 in V36 at The Valley. Officers are exploring options for the Screams and Tricks at V36 funfair in the lead up to Spooked Out at no additional cost to the Council. Officers have met with the Management Team at The Junction, regarding a Halloween event. It is their preference to deliver a week of smaller events rather than one large scale evening event. A proposal is being worked up and will be brought to a future meeting of Council for consideration.
December			
TBC	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in November/December. Options approved at the June Council meeting and planning has commenced.
TBC	7 DEA Christmas Lights Switch On Events	£74,000	Live or Virtual depending on COVID-19 restrictions at the time – see separate report.

In terms of additional animations in the form of the Panoramic Wheel and a Panoramic Park Members are advised that the Panoramic Wheel will be installed in Jordanstown Loughshore Park from mid-August, with the Panoramic Park of smaller funfair attractions approved to operate in the 'bowl' area of the Park from 9 July 2021.

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

- May Day Steam Rally – The Steam Rally event is scheduled to take place on 28 and 29 August 2021. A Council decision to fund the event to the value of £15,000 was previously taken but the 2020 event was postponed. An indicative funding offer at a similar level was approved by the Council for the event in 2021 and 2022 subject to the outcome of an annual evaluation. The event organisers are now proposing to draw down the Council's funding commitment for the re-scheduled 2021 event. Officers are liaising with the event organisers to finalise a Letter of Offer for the 2021 event being mindful of the COVID-19 implications on their original targets for the event funding.
- The Irish Game Fair and Fine Food Festival which is managed by Country Lifestyle Exhibitions received a commitment from the Council in February 2020 for £15,000 funding. An indicative funding offer at a similar level was approved for the event in 2021 and 2022 subject to the outcome of an

annual evaluation. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the event didn't proceed in 2020 but the Council supported a virtual event at a value of £2,500. Re-instatement of the main event has been postponed until 25 and 26 June 2022. The event organisers have asked the Council to consider funding £15,000 this year towards various 'animations' to maintain an awareness of the event itself. These relate to the publication of a book titled 'Irish Country Sports – A Heritage', recording of content for a 2021 Virtual Game Fair and ad-hoc events to better manage visitor numbers such as the Ulster Golden Retriever Club championship and open-shows in September 2021. Officers are liaising with the event organisers to assess the merits of the 2021 activity with a view to agreeing a Letter of Offer to support some of the 2021 animations. This is still being negotiated and the first scheduled date for filming the Virtual Game Fair is at the end of August.

- ISPS Handa World Golf Invitational 2021 – Event promoters are progressing planning to deliver the event from 27 July to 1 August 2021 with sponsorship support from the Council approved. Officers are continuing to engage with organisers to support delivery and to maximise marketing and promotion.
- Statscup Supercup NI – At the May Council meeting it was agreed to support the organisers alternative event proposal with an associated budget of £25,000 to comprise a community fun day, football match and hosting of the Manchester United youth team within the Borough. The first event will be on Friday 30th July at Dixon Park, Ballyclare. BBC Sport NI will be showing the game on the BBC website. There will be a VIP hospitality event prior to the match.
- Antrim Festival Group – The Group revised plans to combine their Festival Family Sunday with Party in The Park on Sunday 8 August in Antrim Castle Gardens and deliver a 'Cultural Colours' family event celebrating diversity on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend. Officers have been working with the Group on their risk assessment to establish capacity for the Festival Family Sunday on 8 August 2021. A capacity of 2,000 has been identified and as a result the Festival Group has decided not to proceed with this event given the reduced capacity. Officers will expand the Party in the Park event for delivery throughout Antrim Castle Gardens as a free event on Sunday 8 August 2021.
- Radox Antrim Agricultural Show, scheduled for Saturday 24 July in Shanes Castle, has now been cancelled for 2021.
- V Fest at V36 at The Valley – A Dance Music Festival originally planned for September 2021 has now been postponed to March 2022. Officers are supporting NACN in planning for this event, which has received £5,000 from the Community Festival Fund.
- Antrim Food Festival - At the May Council meeting it was agreed that Antrim Castle Gardens and Antrim Loughshore Park host elements of this new event and provision of financial assistance of approximately £12,500 to Castle Mall and The Junction towards event was approved from economic development budgets. Alongside this sponsorship, it was agreed to provide

in-kind support in the form of gazebos, waste collection, undertaking visitor surveys and provision of Covid Aware Ambassadors. Officers worked with Castle Mall and The Junction to deliver the event and provided a programme of animation at The Gateway Centre to support the event.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the updated events plan be approved with further updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council;**
- (b) any additional budgets from events that do not proceed or are delivered at a reduced cost be directed to the Town Centre and Villages Recovery programme.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning
(Interim)/Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.23 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONSULTATION – DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS) MODEL IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Health seeking views on the draft framework on the development of a new Integrated Care System (ICS) model in Northern Ireland which is part of the future planning model to replace the existing commissioning arrangements and processes in Northern Ireland.

The consultation document, draft framework document and the consultation response document can be accessed at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/future-planning-model-targeted-stakeholder-consultation>

The deadline for response to the consultation is 17 September 2021.

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

6.24 CP/GR/131 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID 2021-22

Members are reminded that the 2021/22 Good Relations Action Plan submitted to The Executive Office, includes a budget of £20,000 for the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme with the full budget available for 2021/22.

The aim of Good Relations Grant Aid Programme is to improve day to day relationships by encouraging everyone to treat others fairly and encouraging a society in which our own cultures and traditions as well as other people's cultures and traditions are understood, respected and accepted.

Members are advised that applications are required to score higher than 50% to be deemed successful. One application was received during the period of 1 April and 25 June 2021, scoring above the 50% threshold requesting a total amount of £2,500.

A summary of the application received and the proposed award recommendations overview of the assessment and funding details are **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

A condition of the funding is that a suitable COVID-19 risk assessment is in place for the programme and to ensure that it complies with the relevant Government guidance at the time.

RECOMMENDATION that an award of £2,500 to Monkstown Boxing Club from the Good Relations Grant Aid Programme be approved.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning (Interim)

6.25 HR/GEN/007 REGIONAL NEGOTIATING MACHINERY

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (copy enclosed) explaining that the Regional Negotiating Machinery in Northern Ireland has not been operational since 2015. At that time the Commission requested the Labour Relations Agency, as a neutral body to contact relevant stakeholders to assess the interest in re-establishing the regional negotiating machinery and as general consensus could not be reached, this did not progress. The Commission recognises that Local Government is operating in a more complex and demanding environment and is of the view that a regional negotiating forum should be re-established.

Members will be aware that the Council adopts all national pay agreements, recommended for implementation by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Committee and the Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC) Chief Executives.

The Commission is asking each Council to contact the Labour Relations Agency by 13 August 2021 outlining their commitment to the regional negotiating machinery. However, it is unclear what role the Group would perform and the types of issues the Group would consider. It is also unclear as to whether the Group would have a statutory role or whether each Council would have the discretion regarding the implementation of any Decisions or Recommendations. It is therefore proposed that clarification is sought on the role of Regional Negotiating Machinery and that Terms of Reference are provided to allow proper consideration of this request. Given the need for further information, an extension of time should also be requested from the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION: that further clarification be requested from the Commission in relation to the role of the Regional Negotiating Machinery and the Terms of Reference of the group and an extension of time is sought to respond to the Labour Relations Agency.

Prepared by: Jennifer Cole, Head of HR (Interim)

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7 ITEMS FOR NOTING

7.1 G/MSMO/107 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – DISSOLUTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Bumper Graham, Chairperson, Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) for Northern Ireland.

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

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL – RIGHTS OF NATURE

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

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

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.3 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – JULY 2021 – PERIOD 3

A budget report for July 2021 – Period 3 is enclosed for Members' information.

The Council's financial position at the end of July 2021 shows a favourable variance of £276k before exceptional costs.

Including exceptional COVID-19 costs of £215k and government grant income of £333k the Council's overall position is £394k favourable.

A Covid Losses Reserve was established at March 2021 to offset future operational losses. This will be applied as required during the course of the 2021/22 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance (interim)

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance and Capital (interim)

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Deputy Chief Executive of Finance & Governance (Interim)

7.4 CCS/EDP/14 RURAL NEEDS ACT (NI) 2016 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Members are reminded that on 1 June 2017, the Rural Needs Act became operational for district councils and government departments.

The Rural Needs Act places a duty on public authorities and local councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies, plans and when designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis and to collate this information in their annual report.

The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring report for 2020 to 2021 is **enclosed** at Appendix 1 for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Customer Services Officer

Approved by: Simon Hope, Interim Director of Communications and Customers

7.5 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – RIGHTS OF NATURE

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

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

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.6 EH/PHWB/012 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY LONELINESS NETWORK – CHATTY BENCHES

Members are reminded that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Loneliness Network was launched on 24 June 2019.

The Network is chaired by Valerie Adams, Independent Member of the Police and Community Safety Partnership and Lead on the Age Sector Platform for Loneliness and Digital Isolation. Other members of the Network Steering Group include the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Age Northern Ireland with the Environmental Health Service representing Council.

The Network has set up a number of initiatives to help address Loneliness in the Borough, including 'Chatty Benches'. This initiative encourages residents across the Borough to connect through engaging in conversation whilst seated on specially designated benches. A plaque attached to the bench highlights that if someone is sitting there then they are happy for others to sit alongside them for a conversation.

After an initial pilot carried out by Antrim Information and Youth Counselling Service within Antrim Castle Mall, a further bench was designated in Antrim Castle Gardens.

Building on the success of these initial benches, it is proposed that the scheme is expanded across the Borough so that there are benches in all DEAs. Benches have been identified in Hazelbank Park and Lilian Bland Community Park and will be designated over the summer. A new bench in Crumlin town centre, which has recently been agreed by DEA members could also be designated whilst the other locations in each DEA are currently being confirmed.

The benches are normally existing Council owned benches which minimises costs and 'branding' of the Chatty Benches will be achieved by painting them blue to make them easily distinguishable, in keeping with the original bench at Castle Mall.

It is anticipated that the only ongoing cost will be painting the benches every 5 to 6 years as part of the routine maintenance schedule. Some community and voluntary organisations have expressed an interest in sponsoring a Chatty Bench and these discussions are ongoing.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Interim)
Environmental Health, Property and Building Services

Agreed and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations (Interim)

7.7 ED/ED/102 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND STATUS UPDATE

In April 2020 the Council agreed to provide match funding for a fourth year to 6 organisations that had successfully secured European Social Funding (ESF). These projects provide employability support and are delivered across a number of Council areas including Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The aim of the Northern Ireland ESF Programme (2014-20) is to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and increasing the skills base of the present and emerging workforce. The projects currently supported by the Council are summarised below:

Organisation	Project
Workforce Online	Path 2 Employment
Network Personnel	Jobmatch
NOW Group	Verve Project
USEL (Ulster Supported Employment)	Stride Project
Enterprise NI	Exploring Enterprise
GEMS NI Limited	Co-Ment Project

The total Council contribution for these projects is just under £60,000 per year. The financial year ending March 2022 marks the end of the Council's existing Letters of Offer for the projects.

The Department for the Economy (DFE) opened for a further funding call to support eligible projects for the period April 2022 through to March 2023. It closed for applications in July 2021 and it was not a requirement for the applicant to evidence match funding at the time of submitting an application. Officers have received communications from some project promoters exploring match-funding opportunities from the Council. As the Department's ESF funding call was open to existing and new projects there is a chance that the Council may receive match-funding requests from more than the six projects already being supported.

There is currently no commitment of further match-funding from the Council. It is likely that DFE will make conditional offers over the coming months to project promoters. It highly likely that a confirmed match-funding commitment to the project will be a requirement.

Upon DFE's confirmation of successful applications Officers will review the projects, consider any requests for match-funding and present options to a future Council meeting for consideration including up to date information on the performance to date against targets.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members note the content of the report with further updates to be provided to the Council in due course.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

7.8 CP/CD/400, CP/CD/399, CP/GR/129, CP/CP/179 YOUTH PROVISION UPDATE 2021-2022

Members are reminded that a number of youth provision programmes were approved at Council for delivery in 2021-2022 as follows:

- a. Youth Empowerment Programme – Impact Network NI
- b. The Flex Programme – Stoneworks Gym
- c. Summer Outreach Diversionary Programme – Various Providers
- d. Creative Diversionary Youth Programme – Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network

An update on each of the programmes is included below for Members' information:

a. Youth Empowerment Programme – Impact Network NI

The programme aims to empower, enable and equip young people to build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

The programme is delivered in three phases;

- Phase One – Early Intervention; 6 primary schools across the Borough; Timeframe May/June 2021; Target approx. 80 participants
- Phase Two – Post Primary Intervention; 4 post primary schools across the Borough; Timeframe May/June 2021; Target approx. 180 participants
- Phase Three – Focused Mentorship of Young People at Risk; Timeframe May-October 2021; Target approx. 35 young people

Location	Provider	Update
Borough Wide	Impact Network NI	<p>Phase one is complete. Delivered to 155 participants taking part in the 'Ollie and Anne Discover' activities.</p> <p>Ollie and Annie Discover is a mix of interactive videos and activities which teaches children in Key Stage 1 & 2 about the importance of culture and identity.</p> <p>Phase two has commenced. Further development continues for the delivery of phase two with Pop Up Drama workshops being held during July at the following community festivals; Monkstown, Neillsbrook, Steeple, Rathcoole.</p> <p>Phase three planning has commenced with 32 participants confirmed to date</p>

		and recruitment still underway to reach target of 35 participants. Initial programme delivery commenced, which will be followed by 10 x mentorship sessions and conclude with a 5 day visit to the Somme.
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b. The Flex Programme – Stoneworks Gym

The aim of the programme is to provide additional youth activity in the Antrim area for young people who are involved, or likely to become involved in anti-social behaviour.

The programme aims to offer early interventions with young people who are at high risk of moving to more serious offending, or to support them on leaving young offenders centres. It is underpinned in the belief that exercise is character building, teaches self-discipline and promotes good mental health.

The cross community programme will target up to 40 young people and will incorporate a range of exercise and educational programmes.

Location	Provider	Update
Antrim	Stoneworks Gym	Letter of Offer issued

c. Summer Outreach Diversionary Youth Programme – The Programme is delivered by a range of Providers

The aim of the programme is to help young people who are at risk of getting involved in anti-social behaviour and to engage them in a 12-week diversionary programme. The proposal outlines that the programme is to be delivered in five areas across the Borough that have been identified as 'hotspot' areas for anti-social behaviour.

The programme aims to promote greater understanding and acceptance of diversity within and between communities, thereby reducing sectarianism in the area. It will also encourage personal development within 'at risk' young people and offer support to divert them from engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminality.

DEA and identified 'hot spot' area	Provider	Update
Glengormley Urban: Hightown/Elmfield	Croi Eanna	Letter of Offer issued
Antrim: Rathenraw area	Rathenraw Youth Centre	Letter of Offer issued

Airport: Mayfield/Blackrock	Mayfield Community Association	Letter of Offer accepted and programme has commenced
Airport: Crumlin and surrounding areas	Ionad Teaghlaigh Ghleann Darach	Letter of Offer accepted and programme has commenced
Macedon: Bawnmore/Longlands	Bawnmore District Residents Association	Officers are supporting the group to develop Letter of Offer

d. Creative Diversionary Youth Programme – Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network (NACN)

The group have developed a 'Creative Diversionary Youth Programme'. The aim of the programme is to provide additional activity in the Macedon area to divert young people away and prevent them from becoming involved in the social unrest. The programme is based around the Creative Industries with a long term view of 'up-skilling' children and young people to create educational and employment opportunities for them.

The programme will run for 13 weeks and has commenced.

Location	Provider	Update
Macedon; Rathcoole	Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network (NACN)	Letter of Offer issued and programme has commenced.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted

Prepared by: Amy Dunlop, Community Planning and Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Deputy Director of Community Planning (Interim)