



28 November 2025

Committee Chair: Councillor S Wilson

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Members: Aldermen - J McGrath and S Ross

Councillors – J Burbank, S Cosgrove, P Dunlop, J Gilmour,
R Lynch, H Magill, T McGrann, V McWilliam,
M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone and M Stewart

Dear Member

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Wednesday 3 December 2025** at **6.30pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 Business Plan 2025/2026, Performance Report Template Quarter 2

4.2 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2025/26

4.3 The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025

4.4 Women's Sub Committee

4.5 Somme Visit 2026

4.6 Ballyclare May Fair

4.7 Good Relations Grant Aid Programme 2025-26

4.8 Social Media Policy for Employees

4.9 International Men's Day 2025

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Community Development Section – Partnership Minutes

5.2 IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025

5.3 Department for Work and Pensions – Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment

5.4 Elevate – Community Renewal and Resilience Fund

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

7.1 Framework for the Provision of Photography Services

7.2 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - Change Fund 2025/2026

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2025

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS' FORUM

1. Purpose

A short presentation (**enclosed**) will be given by Robert McQuiston, Project Coordinator from the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the work of the Senior's Forum across Antrim and Newtownabbey.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum aim to relieve poverty, advance education and promote the preservation and protection of health among seniors (50+) in the Borough and its environs. They provide facilities and programmes in the interests of social welfare for the education, recreation and leisure time for senior citizens. Officers have continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the March 2025 Community Development Committee to provide funding of £15,000 through a service level agreement for the 2025/26 financial year to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum. Officers have continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA and NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement and performance of this Group.

Members are also reminded that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 1 and 2 2025-26 performance report was approved at the November 2025 Community Development Committee with a request that the Forum reach out to seniors in the Antrim, Crumlin and Randalstown areas.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte PA to Director of Community and Culture

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community and Culture

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 PT/CI/066 BUSINESS PLAN 2025/2026, PERFORMANCE REPORTING TEMPLATE QUARTER 2

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Quarter 2 update on the Community and Culture Departmental Business Plan.

2. Background

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

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

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

In June 2025 the Council approved a strategic performance framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2025/26.

4. Business Planning

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

The purpose of the Directorate Business Plans is to:

- Demonstrate how each of the Directorates are supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faces.
- Illustrate how it is aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold ourselves to account to ensure we deliver for the Council and its residents.

Business Plan Quarter 2 Performance Report for the Community and Culture Directorate 2025/2026 is **enclosed** for approval.

5. Financial Position / Implications

The Business Plan is being delivered within the approved budgets for 2025/2026.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Quarter 2 update on the Community and Culture Departmental Business Plan, be approved.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.2 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2025/26

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2025/26 financial year.

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

4. Financial Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget for the 2025/26 Community Development Small Grant Aid Programme is £15,000 in the 2025/26 Community Development budgets.

Between September and November 2025, 7 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 3 applications totalling £2,375.00 recommended for approval, details of which are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Summary

It is proposed to award 3 Small Grants to the successful applicants as outlined. Community Development Small Grants will remain open as a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a quarterly basis.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 3 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £2,375.00 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.3 CP/CD/481 THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful recipients of the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2025.

2. Background

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

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was approved at the October 2024 Council meeting that two organisations be nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2025. The groups nominated were as follows:

- Mallusk Community Action Group
- Sensory Kids

4. King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025

On 14 November 2025, the recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service were announced, with 16 groups from Northern Ireland recognised. Among them were the two organisations nominated by the Council: Mallusk Community Action Group and Sensory Kids. In addition, the Community Relations Forum will also receive the award following an external nomination.

5. Financial Implication

As for previous recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service, it is proposed that the Council supports the delivery of a celebration event for all three groups when they will be formally presented with their awards by the Lord Lieutenant early in 2026.

Provision of £10,000 for the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025 has been made in the 2025/26 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

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

Three organisations from the Borough have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2025: Community Relations Forum, Mallusk Community Action Group and Sensory Kids.

It is proposed that the Council supports the delivery of a celebration event for all three groups early in 2026.

7. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.4 CP/CP/237 WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Womens Sub Committee meeting held on 6 November 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

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

3. Previous Council Decision

The Terms of Reference for the Women's Sub Committee were approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the September 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Women's Sub Committee met on 6 November 2025; the minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Financial Position

There are no financial implications to the Council.

6. Equality and/or Rural Screening Requirements

Members are aware that a comprehensive review of all Council working groups is being undertaken and Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing will be carried out as part of this review.

7. Governance

The specific role of the Women's Sub Committee is set out in the Terms of Reference which were approved at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee.

8. Summary

The Women's Sub Committee is made up of female representatives of the Council to discuss and promote women's issues, build the skills and confidence of local women and to encourage women to become more involved in local politics.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Women's Sub Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.5 CP/GR/193 SOMME VISIT 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the establishment of a task and finish working group to develop arrangements for the annual visit to the Somme in 2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that a delegation from the Council once again participated in a visit to the Somme Region from 30 June – 02 July 2025, which marks the 1 July anniversary of the Great War Battle of the Somme. The visit to France included educational visits to key sites where local regiments fought, and individuals from the Borough lost their lives at this time.

The Elected Members in attendance were The Mayor Cllr Kirkpatrick, The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gilmour, Alderman Smyth, Cllr Cushinan, Cllr McWilliam Cllr Ward and Cllr Webb. The visit was facilitated by experienced historian and former Elected Member Fraser Agnew, supported by two officers.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at Community Planning Committee in September 2023 that the Somme Visit be delivered annually as part of the Council's Good Relations Programme.

It was also agreed that the Council delegation to the Somme visit in future years would operate as follows:

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and one Elected Member from each of the Political Parties and one Independent Elected Member attend the Somme accompanied by appropriate Officers.

Any other Elected Member who wished to attend could do so at their own expense.

4. Somme Visit 2026

2026 marks the 110th anniversary of The Battle of the Somme so the visit in summer of 2026 has added significance.

Following a review of the 2025 visit, it is proposed that establish an Elected Member task and finish working group with those who plan to attend in 2026 with a focus on agreeing the proposed itinerary and other practical arrangements. It is also proposed that any Member with interest and/or experience of this annual visit can attend the task and finish working group.

An overview of the proposed itinerary for 2026 will be provided at a future Community Development Committee meeting. It is proposed that Group Party Leaders will nominate their Elected Member representatives.

To ensure value for money, as well as securing preferred accommodation, all bookings for the 2026 Somme Visit will be made early in 2026. Therefore all attendees, both nominated and those who wish to accompany at their own expense, must be made known to Good Relation Officers by 12pm on Friday 09 January 2026 via a confirmation email to goodrelations@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

5. Financial Position/Implication

An allocation of up to £15,000 will be included in the Community Development budget estimates for 2026/27.

6. Summary

Elected Members for the 2026 Somme Visit are sought from Group Party Leaders, and any other Elected Member who wishes to attend covering their own travel and subsistence costs, should advise Officers of their intention no later than Friday 09 January 2026.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the establishment of a task and finish working group to develop arrangements for the 2026 annual visit to the Somme be approved.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.6 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 19 November 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Background

Members are reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group is to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group is set out as follows:

- To advise Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare community and wider Borough community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery.

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community Development Committee. Membership consists of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who are actively involved in the local community.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the October 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 19 November 2025 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 19 November 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.7 COMD/GR/006 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2025-26

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

The Good Relations Grant Programme provides financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to £2,000 towards activities, events and programmes that align with the aims of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

The Good Relations Grant Programme opened for applications on 1 April 2025 and will close on 31 December 2025.

All Good Relations Grants are assessed against eligibility criteria and a scored assessment process. Applicants are required to score a minimum of 60% for an application to be recommended for approval.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

The Good Relations Grant Programme was approved at May 2025 Community Development Committee as part of the Council's revised Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26.

4. Key Issues

During the months of August - November 2025 6 applications were received and assessed by Officers, with 1 successful application totalling £2,000 recommended for approval. 1 previously approved application has since been withdrawn.

The project details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

All proposed awards are subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Members are reminded that the total budget for the 2025/26 Good Relations Grant Programme within the 2025/26 Community Development budget is £5,000.

6. Summary

It is proposed that the Good Relations funding award for £2,000 to the successful applicant as outlined.

Good Relations Grants 2025/26 will remain open until 31 December 2025.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Good Relations Grant application requesting £2,000 be approved.

Prepared by: Amy Gribbon, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

4.8 COMD/MCPR/001 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a Social Media Policy for Employees which is intended to provide guidelines on how the Council regulates and manages the use of social media by employees, casual and agency workers of the Council.

2. Background and Introduction

The Marketing, Communications and PR Section of the Community and Culture Directorate is responsible for all aspects of managing social media for the Council. The vast majority of employees of the Council are regular users of social media as is the case for wider society.

This Policy reinforces the effective and responsible use of social media so as not to expose the Council or individuals to risks to reputation, security of information or to jeopardise compliance with legal obligations. By providing this guidance, the Council is offering a safeguard to employees, casual and agency workers (hereafter referred to as employees).

This policy applies to employees' personal use of social media. A separate protocol is in place for employees who have access to Council-owned social media accounts. The policy aligns with the Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees.

3. Social Media Policy for Employees

The aim of this policy is to ensure:

- That employees are fully aware of their responsibilities to the Council when using social media* in a personal capacity and follow the Code of Conduct and all other related policies.
- That Council information remains secure and is not compromised through the use of social media.
- That employees and the Council are protected from any risk to reputational damage as a result of employees' use of social media.

*The term social media covers a multitude of digital software applications, including but not exclusively social networking (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, LinkedIn), blogging (e.g. Blogger and WordPress), multi-media sharing (e.g. YouTube, Flickr, Pinterest), information sharing (e.g. Wikipedia), review and opinion sites (e.g. Trip Advisor, Google My Business), messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp, Snapchat) and forums (e.g. Mumsnet). The absence or lack of explicit reference to a specific social media platform does not limit the extent of the policy. The Policy is **enclosed** for Members' information.

4. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from the development or implementation of the Social Media Policy for Employees.

5. Equality Screening

As part of the Council's responsibilities to identify and address potential Section 75 implications and promote equality of opportunity and good relations as required by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the policy has been subject to Section 75 Equality Screening and have been screened out for the need of an Equality Impact Assessment. A copy of the Section 75 Equality Screening Form is **enclosed**.

In addition, 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 and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs screening exercise is not necessary.

6. Governance

The Director of Community and Culture and the Director of People and Organisational Transformation have responsibility for reviewing this policy regularly to ensure that it meets legal requirements and reflects best practice. The Marketing, Communications and PR Section of the Community and Culture Directorate monitor social media use continually as part of their remit, provide alerts in relation to any and all issues of concern. The Policy will be kept under review with any updates or changes to be brought back to the Committee.

7. Summary

A Social Media Policy for Employees has been developed to provide clarity for Elected Members and officers regarding all aspects of employees' personal use of social media. This will ensure that employees are fully aware of their responsibilities to the Council when using social media in a personal capacity, that Council information remains secure and that employees and the Council are protected from any risk to reputational damage as a result of employees' use of social media.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Social Media Policy for Employees be approved for immediate implementation.

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture.

4.9 COMD/CP/001 INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the International Men's Day event held at Mossley Mill on 19 November 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

International Men's Day is a global awareness day for many issues that men face including, abuse, homelessness, suicide and violence and is celebrated annually on 19 November.

It celebrates worldwide the positive value men bring to society, their families and their communities. This day highlights positive role models and raises awareness of men's well-being. The theme for 2025 is 'Celebrating Men and Boys'.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the January 2025 Council meeting a notice of motion relating to International Men's Day was declared carried. The motion stated that the Council recognises the importance of highlighting men's mental health and well-being, aligned to International Men's Day on 19 November 2025. In this regard it was agreed that the Council delivers a workshop type event to support male staff and Elected Members and also light up Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill blue on 19 November 2025.

At the Community Development Committee in November 2025 an update on International Men's Day 2025 was noted and it was agreed that a further report on the delivery of an annual event to mark International Men's Day be brought back to the Committee.

4. International Men's Day 2025

Members are advised that a workshop was held in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill on Wednesday 19 November 2025 between 9.30am and 12noon hosted by local BBC sports journalist Thomas Niblock. The event celebrated positive role models and special guests in attendance were Daryl Clarke of Monkstown Boxing Club and Jonny Murphy former international rugby star turned baker.

A post event survey was carried out with those in attendance asked to provide their feedback. The report is **enclosed** for Members' information and shows that 20.83% rated the event as 'Very Good' and 79.17% as 'Excellent'.

Given the positive impact of the event it is proposed that an event for International Men's Day be delivered on an annual basis with the detailed proposal for the event in 2026, including funding arrangements, to be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. Finance

This event was supported by funding from The Executive Office (TEO) as part of their regional commitment to the EVAWG strategy which identifies the importance of positive male role models in communities.

6. Governance

Delivery of the event was agreed as part of the motion to the Council in January 2025.

7. Summary

A motion to the Council in January 2025 requested delivery of a workshop event to mark International Men's Day 2025. An event was held in Mossley Mill on Wednesday 19 November 2025 and hosted by BBC sports presenter Thomas Niblock with special guests Daryl Clarke and Jonny Murphy. The event took the form of a live podcast celebrating the contribution of men as positive role models through an open and honest discussion about the role of men and boys as positive influencers whilst recognising the many challenges faced in particular to health and well-being.

A post event survey was carried out with those who attended and 20.83% rated the event as 'Very Good' and 79.17% as 'Excellent'. It is proposed to hold an event for International Men's Day on an annual basis with the detailed proposal for the event in 2026, including funding arrangements, to be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that

(a) the post event survey on the International Men's Day 2025 event be noted.

(b) it is agreed to deliver an event for International Men's Day annually and that a detailed proposal for the event in 2026, including funding arrangements, be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Prepared by and Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

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

Community Development		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91	17.12.2024	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/DP/67	01.07.2025 16.09.2025	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/CSP/48	25.06.2025	Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	26.06.2025 11.09.2025	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
CP/GR/43	-	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

3. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Wendy Donaldson, Business Support Supervisor

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5.2 CP/CD/483 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful recipients of the IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025.

2. Background

The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland, recognises the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live. The 2025 Pride of Place Awards were held in the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick on Friday 7 November 2025.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the April 2025 Community Development Committee that the Council nominate three groups to take part in the 2025 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)

4. IPB Pride of Place 2025

On Friday 7 November 2025 the annual IPB Pride of Place Awards took place at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick and was attended by The Mayor, Mayors Consort, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roisin Lynch, the Community Services Co-ordinator and two representatives from each of the three groups nominated.

Members are advised that 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.

5. Summary

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

The Council nominated three groups from the Borough for the 2025 Awards with Rathenraw Youth Scheme named as Runner Up in the Community Youth Initiative Category.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Department for Work and Pensions update on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has provided new information on the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which aims to ensure that PIP accurately reflects the reality of disabled people's experiences and supports 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 have been appointed as Co-Chairs of the Review.

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

3. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding the Department for Work and Pensions – Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment.

The Timms Review will examine how PIP can better meet the needs of people with disabilities. It will consider both the role of PIP in promoting independence and inclusion, and how assessments can help unlock wider support.

The process will be co-produced with people with disabilities, their representative organisations, and other experts to ensure a system that promotes better health, higher living standards, and greater independence.

The DWP has also launched an Expression of Interest to recruit 12 members to a Review Steering Group. The Steering Group will lead on co-production and strategic direction, ensuring the review reflects the voices and lived experiences of disabled people. It will oversee a programme of participation and gather evidence from a range of sources and methodologies to inform its recommendations.

Full details, including the updated Terms of Reference and Expression of Interest process are available on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-timms-review>

DfC will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of the review.

4. Summary

The Department for Work and Pensions has launched the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to ensure the benefit accurately reflects the real-life experiences of people with disabilities and supports them to live independent, fulfilling lives.

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

The Department for Communities will continue to monitor progress and maintain stakeholder engagement as the review develops.

5. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

5.4 CP/TD/107 ELEVATE – COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND RESILIENCE FUND

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with updated Grant guidance notes with maps to identify boundaries and eligibility criteria for the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund 2026/27.

2. Introduction/Background

The Areas at Risk (AAR) programme is delivered across six Super Output Areas in the Borough. Historically the Newtownabbey AAR programme has been part funded by the Department for Communities (DfC), whilst the Antrim AAR programme fully funded by the Council.

3. Previous Council Decision

Members are reminded that at the November 2020 Community Planning Committee the move to an open competitive Areas at Risk programme was approved. However, this was placed on hold by Members in January 2021 due to ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the DfC People and Place review of Neighbourhood Renewal and Areas at Risk. It was agreed that a Council review of AAR be deferred until after the DfC review was completed.

The Areas at Risk Programme for 2025/2026, including total funding of £238,130, was approved at the March 2025 meeting of the Committee.

It was approved at the September Community Development Committee that the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund will be launched as a competitive open grant call for in 2026/27 for organisations working within the identified areas of deprivation, excluding Neighbourhood Renewal areas which are already in receipt of monies through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

The Grant guidance notes were approved at the November 2025 Community Development Committee when officers were asked to bring maps of the areas back to a future meeting of the Committee so boundaries could be easily identified.

The offer of funding of £76,395.38 which was an increase of £9,645.38, from DfC for the costs associated with the Areas at Risk Programme, for the period of 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, was approved at the October Community Development Committee.

4. Super Output Areas – Boundary Maps

Eligibility to the Fund is limited to identified Super Output areas identified within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NINIS), excluding Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

The Grant guidance notes have been updated to include maps identifying the boundaries of the Super Output areas identified within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NINIS), and updated copies are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Financial Position

The contribution committed by the Council in 2025/26 to the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Projects was £60,170, a similar allocation will be included in the 2026/27 Community Development budget estimates.

The contribution committed by the Council in 2025/26 for Antrim AAR was £111,210, a similar allocation will be included in the 2026/27 Community Development budget estimates.

A Letter of Offer from DfC to confirm their 2026/27 contribution is anticipated for the same amount of £76,395.38.

6. Equality Screening and Rural Needs

As part of the Council's responsibilities to identify and address potential Section 75 implications and promote equality of opportunity and good relations as required by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the policy has been subject to Section 75 Equality Screening and have been screened out for the need of an Equality Impact Assessment. This was reported to the September Community Development Committee.

In addition, 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 and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs screening exercise was completed and reported to September 2025 Community Development Committee.

7. Governance

The grant programme will be managed through the Council's Grant Funding Unit and will align with the Council's Funding Policy and Financial Regulations.

Organisations who meet the eligibility criteria based on location and project proposals meeting the grant criteria will proceed to scoring stage.

DfC funding will be ring-fenced to grant applications within the current agreed areas only and reported on in line with current processes and procedures.

8. Summary

The Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience programme will be launched in December 2025 as a competitive open grant call for organisations working within the identified areas of deprivation, excluding Neighbourhood Renewal

areas which are already in receipt of monies through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

The Grant guidance notes have been updated to include maps identifying the boundaries of the Super Output areas identified within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NINIS).

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that the updated Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund Grant guidance notes for 2026/27, be noted.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Manager and Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

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