



7 May 2025

Committee Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle and S Ross

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

Dear Member

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 12 May 2025** at **6.30 pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Richard Baker, GM MSc

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

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

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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3 PRESENTATION

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with an update on the Council's work on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).

2. Background

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

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

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

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

To assist and inform work in this area TEO commissioned a Survey on Experiences and Attitudes of Adults in Northern Ireland to EVAWG and a copy is **enclosed** for Members' information.

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval on the draft minutes of the Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group meeting held on 15 April 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

2. Introduction/Background

The DEA Member Engagement Groups are an established part of the Community Planning engagement framework with meetings held three times per annum.

3. Previous Council Decision

The updated Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings were approved at the March 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings. The minutes of the following meetings were approved at Community Development Committee in April 2025.

Date of Meeting	DEA
24 March 2025	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
13 March 2025	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
20 March 2025	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
20 March 2025	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
24 March 2025	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
12 March 2025	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

4. Key Update

The previously postponed Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group meeting took place on 15 April 2025 and draft minutes of this meeting are **enclosed** for Members' information, these will be formally adopted at the next meeting of the DEA groups.

5. Governance

The next round of DEA Member Engagement Meetings are scheduled to take place in June 2025.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group meeting held on 15 April 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Development

4.2 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 16 April 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 the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare community and wider Borough community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery.

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

3. Previous Decision of the Council

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

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 16 April 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 16 April 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.3 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the THRiVE 2024/2025 Q4 Performance Report.

2. Introduction

The THRiVE Project is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee, to provide £25,000 financial assistance for the 2024/25 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRiVE Project with a quarterly performance report brought to future meetings of the Committee.

Members are also reminded that the 2024/25 Quarter 3 Performance Report was approved at the February 2025 Community Development Committee and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position

It was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to THRiVE for 2024/25 subject to a quarterly performance report being provided.

5. Governance

Elected Members from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA were nominated to serve on the THRiVE Board at the Annual Council Meeting on 03 June 2024 with Cllr Gilmour and Cllr Mallon nominated for their respective DEA's to serve on the Board.

Officers continue to work with the THRiVE Project and Community Planning partners to manage the performance of the Project. Quarterly performance reports will continue to be reported to the Community Development Committee.

Members are reminded that a presentation on the THRiVE Project was made to the October 2024 Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Quarter 4 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers have been advised that Quarter 4 targets have been met.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2024-25 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.4 CP/CD/224 CONSULTATION ON A NEW COURT-ORDERED COMMUNITY SENTENCE FOR CHILDREN

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Members instructions in relation to the Department of Justice's consultation on a proposed Court-Ordered Community Sentence for Children.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department of Justice has announced the commencement of a public consultation aimed at gathering views on the development of a new community-based sentencing option for children within the justice system. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to reform the youth justice sector, focusing on more rehabilitative and child-centred approaches to offending behaviour.

Recognising the importance of inclusive participation, the Department has produced a child-friendly version of the consultation document to ensure accessibility for children and young people, who are the primary stakeholders affected by this proposal.

The Department is actively seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders, particularly children and young people, to help shape the future of youth justice policy.

3. Key Issues

- **Appropriateness of Community Sentences:** The consultation seeks to determine whether community-based sentences are a more effective and proportionate response for children involved in offending, as opposed to custodial or traditional punitive measures.
- **Children's Rights and Participation:** A critical focus is ensuring that children's voices are heard and respected in shaping the sentencing framework. The child-friendly consultation aims to address this, but questions remain about how effectively children's views will influence final decisions.
- **Effectiveness and Outcomes:** The proposed sentence must demonstrate positive outcomes in reducing reoffending and supporting the rehabilitation of children. Stakeholders are invited to share evidence, concerns, and suggestions about how this can be achieved.
- **Implementation and Resourcing:** There are likely to be operational challenges, including the need for appropriate support services, training for staff, and funding to ensure the new sentence is implemented effectively and sustainably.

- **Partnership Working:** The success of the new sentence may depend on strong collaboration between justice agencies, social services, education providers, and voluntary/community organisations.
- **Safeguarding and Support:** Ensuring the safety and well-being of children throughout the sentence is vital. The consultation may raise questions about safeguarding practices and the availability of tailored support interventions.
- **Public Perception and Confidence:** Community and stakeholder understanding of, and confidence in, community sentences for children will be an important factor in their acceptance and success.

The consultation opened on 14 April and will close on 4 July 2025. The Department of Justice wishes to hear from a wide range of interested persons and organisations.

The consultation documents and associated survey are available online via [Consultation on Court-Ordered Community Sentences for Children | Department of Justice](#)

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

4. Summary

The Department of Justice has launched a consultation on a new Court-Ordered Community Sentence for Children. Input is welcomed from all interested parties, with a special emphasis on hearing directly from children and young people. A child-friendly version of the consultation document is available to support engagement from younger audiences.

The consultation closes on Friday 4th July 2025. Full details and documentation can be accessed via the Department's website.

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

5. Recommendation

Members' instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Service Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members provide an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum Quarter 4 2024-25 performance report.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum aims 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 that at the April 2025 Community Development Committee it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 through a service level agreement for the 2025/26 financial year to the 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 it was agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report be provided to the Community Planning Committee, from September 2022 onwards.

The 2024/25 Quarter 3 Performance Report was approved at the February Community Development Committee and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum has been provided for in the 2025/26 Community Planning budget. Other Community Planning partners also confirmed their financial commitment to continue to support this group as outlined below:

Community Planning Partner	Financial contribution to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum 2025/26
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

A Service Level Agreement between Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum for 2025/26 has been developed.

5. Governance

Officers continue to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners to manage the Service Level Agreement and performance of this Group. A quarterly performance report is provided to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum 2024-25 Quarter 4 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers can confirm that Quarter 4 targets have been met.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2024-25 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Service Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Development

4.6 ACTE/ED/ED/055 LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to renew the five-year funding agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue for £12,000 per annum, and to approve the continuation of the agreement to lease facilities at the Gateway Centre to Lough Neagh Rescue for a further five years following the mid-contract review.

2. Introduction/Background

Lough Neagh Rescue is a limited company and registered charity that was founded following the drowning of a member of the public on the lough in 1989. They are funded through private donations and by the Councils that border Lough Neagh, and have three Coast Guard / Rescue Stations at the Gateway Centre Antrim, Kinnego Bay Lurgan, and Battery Harbour Cookstown.

Lough Neagh Rescue currently operates six lifeboats and four riverboats, and responds to around 40 callouts each year for emergencies including broken down or sinking vessels, missing persons, serious medical emergencies and flooding. In addition, Lough Neagh Rescue provides regular information sessions for schools and for the general public about its work and about water safety.

The Council has provided £12,000 of funding for Lough Neagh Rescue annually since 2013, and this contributes to maintenance costs, insurance premiums for equipment and public liability, annual audit fees, fuel, direct operating expenses for the service, and costs associated with crew training and the purchase of service equipment. This agreement is now due for renewal.

The Council also has a 10-year agreement in place with Lough Neagh Rescue allowing them to rent storage and launch facilities at the Gateway Centre, Antrim, for a peppercorn rate of £1 per annum. This agreement includes a break clause at year five which is now due for review.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The previous agreement to provide £12,000 of funding to Lough Neagh Rescue each year was approved at the January 2019 Community Planning and Regeneration Committee.

The current agreement to rent storage and launch facilities at the Gateway Centre for a peppercorn rate of £1 per annum was agreed at the January 2020 Council Meeting.

4. Key Issues

Lough Neagh Rescue relies on the financial support of the Councils bordering Lough Neagh for its existence. Without the renewal of the support agreement, it is unlikely that Lough Neagh Rescue could continue to provide vital services on the Lough.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Provision for the requested funding of £12,000 has been included in the 2025/2026 tourism budget.

6. Governance

Funding to Lough Neagh Rescue is contingent on officers successfully vouching all relevant documentation including financial statements, insurance certificates, and health and safety documentation.

7. Summary

Lough Neagh Rescue provide a vital emergency response service on the Lough, and the agreement to provide £12,000 of annual funding, which has been in place since 2013, is now due for renewal. In addition, the separate 10-year agreement to allow Lough Neagh Rescue to rent storage and launch facilities at the Gateway Centre for a peppercorn rate of £1 per annum contains a five-year break clause, which is now due for review.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a) A new five-year funding agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue for £12,000 per annum be approved; and**
- b) The continuation of the existing 10-year agreement, following a mid-contract review, allowing Lough Neagh Rescue to rent storage and launch facilities at the Gateway Centre for a peppercorn rate of £1 per annum be approved.**

Prepared by: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.7 CP/CC/012 RATHENRAW COMMUNITY CENTRE – SUMMER SCHEME FREE USE REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members that Rathenraw Youth Scheme in Antrim is given permission to use Rathenraw Community Centre free of charge for their two-week Summer Scheme from 21 July – 1 August 2025 and are granted keyholder status to facilitate this.

2. Introduction/Background

Rathenraw Youth Scheme makes regular bookings at Rathenraw Community Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Rathenraw Youth Scheme also deliver an annual Summer Scheme, established over 25 years ago. This year the scheme is scheduled to take place over two weeks from 21 July to 1 August, delivered Monday to Friday 9am-3:30pm.

The Summer Scheme will accommodate 100 Juniors and 80 Seniors. The Youth Scheme has requested free use of Rathenraw Community Centre, as a keyholder, for the delivery of the two-week Summer Scheme.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that permission for free use of Rathenraw Community Centre for the delivery of the 2024 Summer Scheme was previously provided to Rathenraw Youth Scheme at the June 2024 Community Development Committee.

Members are also reminded that free use requests for one off bookings continue to be accommodated under the relevant policy with any requests which are outside of the policy are brought to the Community Development Committee for approval.

4. Financial Position

The waiver of community hire charges for the two weeks scheme represents potential lost income of £1,199.25. However, provision of keyholder status to the Scheme alleviates the need for additional staff expenditure during the booking.

5. Summary

Rathenraw Youth Scheme have requested free use and keyholder access to Rathenraw Community Centre for their two-week Summer Scheme, from 21 July – 1 August 2025. Approval of this request including provision of keyholder status alleviates the need for any expenditure on additional staff costs.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Rathenraw Youth Scheme is given permission to use Rathenraw Community Centre free of charge, as a keyholder, for their two-week Summer Scheme from 21 July-1 August 2025.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to commence an Expression of Interest process to determine interest amongst community groups for a Service Management Agreement for the operation of Council owned Community Facilities.

2. Introduction/Background

There are 8 Community Facilities managed by the Community Development Section as follows;

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

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

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

Members are also reminded that the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month period,

commencing on 1 January 2024, was approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

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

4. Key issues

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

It is proposed to initiate an EOI process to explore further community involvement in managing Council facilities through Service Management Agreements. A further report on the outcome of this process will be brought to a future Committee for Members consideration.

The purpose of this stage in the process is to determine interest before assessing the capacity of organisations through development of robust business plans to potentially operate facilities through a Service Management Agreement.

5. Financial Position

There is no financial cost to commence an Expression of Interest process to determine interest for a Service Management Agreement for the operation of Council owned Community Facilities.

The current operating costs of Community Facilities is in excess of £600,000 per annum.

6. Summary

The Council owns 11 Community Facilities, three of which are currently operated under Service Management Agreements in partnership with community organisations.

It is proposed to initiate an Expression of Interest process to explore further community involvement in managing Council facilities through Service Management Agreements, aiming to improve efficiency and increase community development outcomes compared to direct Council operation.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that an Expression of Interest process to determine interest amongst community groups for a Service Management Agreement for the operation of Council owned Community Facilities be progressed.

Prepared by: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.9 CP/GR/200 DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME 2025-2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the offer of District Council Good Relations Programme funding from The Executive Office and seek Members approval in relation to the revised Good Relations Action Plan 2025/26.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded since 1998, all Northern Ireland public bodies have a legal duty to promote good relations between people from different community, religious and racial backgrounds. In 2013, the Northern Ireland Executive furthered their commitment to good relations with the release of Together Building A United Community (T-BUC) strategy to improve community relations and continue the journey towards a more united and shared society.

The Council's Good Relations Programme aims to improve day to day relationships by reducing all forms of prejudice, promoting equality and encouraging a society in which different cultures and traditions are understood, respected and accepted.

The Good Relations Action Plan reflects the aims and objectives of the central T-BUC strategy. It outlines how government, stakeholders, community and individuals will work together to achieve change against the following key priorities:

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that The Executive Office (TEO) District Council Good Relations Programme funding 2024/25 of £127,076.27 was approved at the January 2025 Community Development Committee. The 2024/25 funding offer equated to a 4.35% increase in funding of £121,783.35 received in 2023/24.

Members are reminded that the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2025/26 was approved at the January 2025 Community Development Committee, subject to anticipated funding of £144,750 requested from TEO equating to 75% of the Good Relations overall Action Plan budget.

4. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from TEO offering financial assistance totalling £108,562.50 towards The District

Council Good Relations Programme for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.

The 2025/26 funding offer is a decrease of £18,513.77 (16%) on the 2024/25 allocation, and £36,187.50 (25%) less than the £144,750 that was requested.

To reflect the less than anticipated funding allocation from TEO a revised annual Good Relations Action Plan is **enclosed** for Members approval.

5. Financial Implication

The Executive Office requires match funding of a minimum of 25% from local Councils towards the overall Good Relations budget. The required 25% contribution, £36,187.50, was included within the approved 2025/26 Council estimates for the delivery of the plan.

The TEO LOO of £108,562.50 and Councils contribution of £36,187.50 equates to £144,750 for the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan 2025/26.

6. Summary

The Council has received an offer for funding of £108,562.50 from TEO for the costs associated with the District Council Good Relations Programme for 2025/26. This is a £36,187.50 (28%) reduction on funding requested from TEO.

The 2025/26 Good Relations Action Plan has been revised to reflect the offer of funding from TEO.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the offer of District Council Good Relations Programme funding from The Executive Office of £108,562.50 and the revised Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26 be approved.

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4.10 CE/CA/003 SOCIAL MEDIA OPERATING PROTOCOL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the revised Social Media Operating Protocol including user terms of use.

2. Background and Introduction

The Council operates a number of social media accounts across multiple platforms to communicate and engage with people who live, work and visit the Borough.

There is a Social Media Operating Protocol, which outlines how the social media channels and accounts are managed both in terms of the communications staff role and also terms of use for those who engage with the Council through social media.

3. The Social Media Operating Protocol

The Protocol has been reviewed and updated and is **enclosed** for Members' information.

Each of the Council's social media channels carries a link to this document so anyone engaging with the Council has access to full details of how channels and accounts are managed as well as terms of use and the consequences of improper use.

In general terms social media is a very effective way for the Council to communicate and engage with residents and visitors. However social media societally can also be subject to improper and negative use.

The Social Media Operating Protocol sets out the Councils approach to monitoring and managing all of the social media channels and accounts and advises all of those who engage with the Council through these platforms what the acceptable terms of use are and how inappropriate commentary will be addressed.

Within the Protocol users are advised that the Council will remove, ban or report users who violate the social media terms of use. There is also a mechanism to appeal such a ban.

4. Finance and Governance

The Social Media Operating Protocol will be reviewed on an annual basis with any changes brought to the Committee for approval.

The operating context of social media is particularly dynamic, ever evolving at pace so should any changes be required more frequently than annually they will be brought to the Committee for approval.

5. Summary

The Council operates a number of social media channels and has 141,000 followers across all of these in combination.

A Social Media Operating Protocol outlines the Council's approach to the management and monitoring of these accounts including acceptable terms of use by users. The Protocol has been reviewed and updated and will remain under review given the ever-changing social media landscape.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Social Media Operating Protocol be approved.

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

4.11 ACTE/ED/TOU/062 WALL ART ON THE DIAMOND SPORTS PAVILION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the installation of football related wall art panels on the exterior wall of the Diamond Sports Pavilion in Rathcoole.

2. Introduction/Background

The Council owns and operates the Diamond Sports Pavilion in Rathcoole. Over recent months this building has been subject to repeated unwanted graffiti often sinister in nature. There is an opportunity to animate the wall with football themed perspex wall art panels with a view to preventing this ongoing issue.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Committee in April that the delivery of the Street Art Project be paused. It was reported to this meeting that £19,228 of the approved budget for this project remained. The Street Art Project was originally approved at the Council Meeting in August 2023.

4. Key Issues

The Borough has a rich football heritage with many Northern Ireland men's and women's internationals coming from the area. A number of these successful footballers, past and present, have come from the Rathcoole area itself including Jonny Evans and Jimmy Nicholl.

The Council owns and operates a pitch and pavilion at the Diamond Rathcoole, which is home to local teams and also host venue for the international girl's tournament SuperCup NI in 2025, 2026 and 2027. The pavilion has been subject to ongoing unwanted and often sinister graffiti, which is removed on each occasion by the Councils estate services team or contractors at a cost.

An exterior wall art installation on the pavilion has the potential to eliminate this ongoing issue of graffiti in particular if it depicts and celebrates local football heroes from Rathcoole.

It is proposed to create a number of perspex wall art panels of local football heroes carrying information about where they lived and their football achievements to cover the wall.

There is significant evidence that such an approach within a local area and at a graffiti 'hot spot' helps to solve such an ongoing anti-social issue.

5. Finance

There was a budget of £150,000 approved to deliver the Borough Street Art Project, now paused, with £130,772 spent to date. The installation of a football themed wall art panels on the exterior of the Diamond Sports Pavilion can be achieved at an approximate cost of £5,000 using this identified underspend.

The ongoing frequent removal of graffiti from this building is resulting in ongoing unbudgeted revenue costs.

6. Governance

The final designs and content being proposed will be issued to the Macedon DEA Elected Members before proceeding to installation. A procurement exercise to identify a suitable supplier to carry out this work will be carried out with Council's in house design team included in creation of the panels.

7. Summary

The Diamond Sports Pavilion in Rathcoole has been the target of ongoing unwanted and often sinister graffiti. This venue will be hosting SuperCup NI the international girls football tournament in July 2025.

It is proposed to install football themed wall art panels, celebrating local football stars, on the exterior of the building in an effort to put an end to the nuisance of this graffiti and to celebrate local football heritage on the building for the enjoyment of all users but in particular international visitors to SuperCup NI.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the installation of a football themed wall art piece on the exterior of the Diamond Sports Pavilion Rathcoole, at an approximate cost of £5,000, be approved.

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

4.12 AC/GEN/114 ULSTER SCOTS SMALL GRANT SCHEME PILOT PROPOSAL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for an Ulster Scots Small Grant Scheme Pilot to support individuals and groups in the Borough wishing to engage with Ulster Scots culture.

2. Background and Introduction

Both individuals and groups can engage with Ulster Scots tradition in areas of language, history, religion, music, dance and other cultural areas. The Council annually supports Ulster Scots Leid Week in November and incorporates Ulster Scots culture in a range of programming and events throughout the year.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the Community Planning Committee in April 2024, it was agreed that the Council deliver a Gaeltacht Bursary Grant Programme for 2024 with a maximum budget of £2,500 to provide 10 bursaries of £250 with funding being provided from the Office of the Deputy Mayor.

4. A Wheen o Words and Dances

The Office of the Deputy Mayor comes with a budget allocation of £5,250 to meet expenses of the office. The Deputy Mayor has requested that £2,000 of this allocated budget be used to fund ten small grants of £200 to individuals, schools or community groups to explore Ulster Scots culture.

Proposed guidelines for the grant programme including eligibility criteria are **enclosed** for Members' information. The application process will operate through the Council's online Grant Funding portal accessed through the Council's website.

5. Finance

A transfer of £2,000 from the Deputy Mayors budget will be used to fund up to ten bursaries of £200 per applicant for eligible purposes as outlined in the grant guidance document.

6. Governance

Grant guidelines outlining eligibility criteria for applicants and activities as referred to above have been developed. These will be made available to all applicants as part of the online grant application process.

It is proposed to open the grant scheme on Friday 30 May and close on Monday 16 June with funding recommendations to be brought to the June Council meeting. In the event of over subscription grant scoring will be used

to identify the ten highest scoring applications to be recommended for funding.

7. Summary

It is proposed to deliver an Ulster Scots Small Grant Scheme Pilot in 2025 which will award ten grants of £200 to individuals and groups resident in the Borough who wish to engage in Ulster Scots culture. The budget of £2,000 will be provided by the Office of the Deputy Mayor.

It is proposed to open the scheme on Friday 30 May and close on Monday 16 June with funding recommendations to be reported to the June Council meeting. In the event of over subscription grant scoring will be used to identify the ten highest scoring applications for funding.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the delivery of an Ulster Scots Small Grant Scheme Pilot proposal with a maximum budget of £2,000 to provide up to ten grants of £200 to individuals and groups in the Borough to engage with Ulster Scots culture, using funding from the Office of the Deputy Mayor.

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

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with copies of minutes from the Northern Ireland Housing Council for 13 March 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Council providing a copy of the minutes of their meeting of 13 March 2025, which are **enclosed** for Member's information.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that at the Community Development Committee in April 2025 the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council meetings held on 13 February 2025 were noted.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council of 13 March 2025 be noted.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

5.2 CP/PCSP/70 APPOINTMENT OF POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the appointment of the PCSP Chairperson for 2025-2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the Justice Act 2011 states that the position of Chairperson of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership is held by an Elected Member for a period of 12 months, or for a period ending with the reconstitution date. The Justice Act also states that position is held in turn by each of the 4 largest parties represented on the Council immediately after the last local general election. The position of Vice-Chairperson is held by an Independent Member, appointed by the Independent Members.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023 that 10 Members be appointed to PCSP for the term of Council allocated using the d'Hondt method and Chairperson be appointed for a period of 12 months at a time and in turn by each of the 4 largest parties following the election.

4. Appointment of PCSP Chairperson

Members are reminded that Councillor Michael Goodman, Sinn Féin, was appointed to the position of PCSP Chairperson at the Community Development Committee in June 2024 for a period of 12 months. The Alliance as the third largest party are now allocated this position for 2025/26.

The Alliance Party nominating officer has advised that Councillor Julie Gilmour is their nomination for the position of Chairperson of the Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP for 2025-26 with the 12-month term commencing on 02 June 2025.

5. Summary

An Elected Member holds the position of Chairperson of the PCSP for a period of 12 months, or for a period ending with the reconstitution date.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, 10 Members were appointed to PCSP for the term of Council, allocated using the d'Hondt method and Chairperson is appointed annually and in turn by each of the 4 largest parties following the election.

Councillor Julie Gilmour of the Alliance Party has been nominated for the position of PCSP Chairperson for 2025/26 as they are the third largest party

represented on the Council. This appointment will commence on 02 June 2025.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the appointment of Councillor Julie Gilmour to the position of Chairperson of the PCSP for 2025/2026 be noted.

Prepared by: Amy Lynch, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

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