



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2024 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor M Brady
- Committee Members** : Aldermen – J McGrath and S Ross
Councillors – P Dunlop, J Gilmour, T McGrann, M Ní Chonghaile, S Ward and S Wilson
- Non Committee Members** : Councillor B Webb
- In attendance:** : Fiona McGinn, Future Schools Officer, Integrated Education Fund
Sean Pettis, PEC Manager, Integrated Education Fund
- Officers Present** : Director of Community Planning – U Fay
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
IT Change Officer – A Cole
PA to Mayor and Deputy Mayor – S Fisher
Member Services Officer – C McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman – L Boyle
Councillors - M Cooper, R Lynch, A O'Lone, L Smyth and V McWilliam

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.12 – Councillor P Dunlop

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/CD/386 INTEGRATED EDUCATION FUND – FUTURE SCHOOL'S PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members of the attendance at Committee of Integrated Education Fund who would be making a presentation to Members.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that in response to a request from Integrated Education Fund at the February Committee it was agreed to invite the Integrated Education Fund to a future meeting of the Committee to make a presentation.

The Chairperson welcomed Fiona McGinn, Future Schools Officer, Integrated Education Fund and Sean Pettis, PEC Manager, Integrated Education Fund to the meeting who provided a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

Following responses to Members' questions, the Chairperson and Members thanked both for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/GR/055 Vol 2 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Working Group held on 9 May 2024.

2. Background

The Equality and Diversity Working Group was established in 2018 to replace the previous Good Relations Working Group with the objective of bringing together relevant Officers and Elected Members to focus on accessible services.

The focus of the Group had evolved to include all aspects of equality and diversity including but not limited to:

- Accessible Services
- Good Relations
- Inclusive Services
- Newcomer Issues
- Supporting the Vulnerable

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that arrangements for the re-establishment of the Equality and Diversity Working Group, including membership, were approved at the September 2023 Community Planning Committee meeting. The Working Group reports to the Community Development Committee.

4. Working Group Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group meeting held on 9 May 2024 were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group held on 9 May 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

4.2 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME - SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was 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 with 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 new Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members were advised that groups who apply for a small grant were not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2024/25 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 would be subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation was in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

Members were advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Small Grants Programme had been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Development budgets. Following previous awards there was a budget of £10,181.45 remaining.

During the month of May, 5 applications were received and assessed by Officers. 3 applications were deemed ineligible with 2 applications totalling £2,000 recommended for approval, details of which were circulated for Members' information.

5. Summary

It was proposed to award 2 Small Grant funding awards to the successful applicants as outlined. If the awards were approved, there would be a budget of £8,181.45 remaining for Small Grant awards in 2024/25.

Community Development Small Grants would remain open as a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a monthly basis until the allocated budget is maximised.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McGrann and agreed that

the 2 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £2,000 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that Rathenraw Youth Scheme in Antrim would be given permission to use Rathenraw

Community Centre free of charge for their two week Summer Scheme from 22 July-2 August 2024 including keyholder status.

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 22 July to 2 August, delivered Monday to Friday 9am-3:30pm.

The Summer Scheme would accommodate 100 Juniors and 80 Seniors. The Youth Scheme had 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 were reminded that permission for free use of Rathenraw Community Centre for the delivery of the 2023 Summer Scheme was previously provided to Rathenraw Youth Scheme at the June 2023 Council Meeting.

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

4. Financial Position/Implication

The waiver of community hire charged for the two week scheme represented potential lost income of £1,170. However, provision of keyholder status to the Scheme alleviated the need for any staff expenditure.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

Rathenraw Youth Scheme be given permission to use Rathenraw Community Centre free of charge, as a keyholder, for their two-week Summer Scheme from 22 July-2 August 2024.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

4.4 CP/CP/074 MULTI AGENCY SUPPORT HUB

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members that financial assistance of up to £3,600 from the Department of Justice towards administration of the Multi Agency Support Hub.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded of the ongoing work of the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) that was established within the Borough in July 2017. The Hub is a multi-agency partnership of statutory agencies all working together and sharing information and resources in order to improve the lives of the most vulnerable individuals within our Borough.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey MASH, is led by the Council and includes representation from a range of key statutory organisations including;

- Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Youth Justice Agency
- Northern Health & Social Care Trust
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
- Northern Ireland Probation Board

Since its inception the MASH had received 186 referrals, of these 93 were accepted. The MASH had 17 live cases, where service users were receiving continual support and 2 review cases (service users who had already benefitted but were monitored for a period of time).

The Department of Justice had provided an annual financial contribution towards administration costs associated with the Multi Agency Support Hub, since 2017, which the Council had accepted.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the provision of funding from the Department of Justice of up to £3,600 for the 2023-2024 financial year was approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

4. Financial implication

Following the launch of the Support Hub, the Department for Justice provided an annual financial contribution of up to a maximum of £3,600 per annum, towards administration costs of the Hub this was initially for 3 years until 2021, which had been extended at the same funding rate in the ensuing periods.

Members were advised that the circulated correspondence had been received from the Department of Justice to confirm funding of up to £3,600 is being provided for the 2024-2025 financial year.

5. Governance

The Multi-Agency Support Hub is led and managed by Council Officers with representation from a range of key statutory organisations and oversight from a Regional Steering Group.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Community Planning advised that the Multi-Agency Support Hub could be invited to present to a future Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the financial assistance up to £3,600 from the Department of Justice towards administration of the Multi Agency Support Hub, be accepted.

ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

4.5 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 22 May 2024.

2. Background

Armed Forces Day 2024 would take place at Jordanstown Loughshore Park on Saturday 22 June. This would be the first time that the event had been held in the Borough since 2016, when it took place in Antrim Castle Gardens.

The theme of Armed Forces Day would be Veterans and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the event would be filled with entertainment, military displays, stalls, live demonstrations and family fun.

A Military Working Group met monthly to co-ordinate the specific military aspects of the event, and a Council Working Group also met monthly to oversee the delivery of Armed Forces Day in its entirety.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The delivery of Armed Forces Day 2024 on Saturday 22 June was approved at the June 2023 Council meeting when it was agreed to establish a Working Group.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Armed Forces Day 2024 Working Group met on 22 May 2024 in Mossley Mill. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 22 May 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

4.6 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 15 May 2024.

2. Background

Members were 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 was set out as follows:

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

The Working Group 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 were actively involved in the local community.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 15 May 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Ward

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 15 May 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

4.7 AC/GEN/111 IRISH LANGUAGE BURSARY GRANT PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to award ten bursaries from the Deputy Mayor's Gaeltacht Bursary Programme 2024.

2. Introduction / Background

For post primary school children learning the Irish Language, Gaeltacht colleges in Donegal would be popular and established summer activities, which focus on the development of Irish language skills, in particular conversation and vocabulary. Attendance at a Gaeltacht college would be on a residential basis and course fees range from £300 to £500 per pupil.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the delivery of the Deputy Mayor Gaeltacht Bursary Programme for 2024, with a maximum budget of £2,500, was approved at the April Community Planning Committee. It was agreed that the Bursary Programme would support 10 young people from the Borough with a bursary of £250 each to attend Gaeltacht colleges during the summer of 2024.

At the Policy and Governance Committee in April, it was agreed to establish a Grant Funding Hub, initiated by the recruitment of a Grant Funding Hub Manager, with a six-month progress report to be brought to a future meeting.

4. Gaeltacht Bursary Grant Programme 2024

Members were advised the bursary scheme opened for online applications on Friday 3 May and closed on Monday 13 May 2024.

Applicants had to meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of the Borough.
- Had parental/guardian permission to attend if under 18.
- Be in post primary education.
- Be registered to attend a Gaeltacht course in Summer 2024.
- Not already be in receipt of a public fund scholarship such as Liofa.
- Complete the course by attending for the full duration.
- Provide proof of payment of fees and attendance in order to receive the bursary.
- In addition to demonstrating how they meet the criteria above applicants were asked to submit a paragraph on why they wish to attend the Gaeltacht.

Members were advised that 77 applications were received with 70 meeting the criteria above. The Assessment Panel made up of the Deputy Mayor and

Officers met on 16 May to evaluate all applications and allocate the 10 bursary awards. Details of the successful applicants were circulated for Members' information.

5. Finance

Provision of £2,500 from the Deputy Mayor's budget would be used to fund 10 bursaries of £250.

6. Governance

In order to receive the bursary successful recipients would be required to provide proof of payment and attendance in order to receive the bursary. They would also be required to write a short paragraph about their time in the Gaeltacht when they return with submissions reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

7. Summary

It was proposed to award ten bursaries of £250 to the successful applicants as outlined for attendance at a Gaeltacht College over Summer 2024. Given the level of interest shown in this scheme the inclusion of an annual Gaeltacht Bursary Programme would be considered within the current review of grant funding. This would be within the context of the establishment of the Grant Funding Hub as approved previously. Officers would report back to the Council on this project.

Following questions from Members, the Director of Community Planning clarified the process of funds being disbursed through the Grant Funding Programme.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

- (a) ten bursary awards of £250, as outlined, for attendance at Gaeltacht College over the Summer of 2024, be approved.**
- (b) an annual Gaeltacht Bursary programme be considered within the current review of grant funding. This is within the context of the establishment of the Grant Funding Hub in accordance with the April 2024 Council decision. Officers would report back to the Council on this project.**

Alderman Ross and Councillor Dunlop asked that their objection to recommendation (b) be recorded.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

4.8 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 13 May 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Anti-Poverty Steering Group sought to bring together a group of Elected Members and Officers to create a more cohesive and coordinated response to tackling poverty within the Borough.

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

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

3. Previous Council decision

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

Members were reminded that the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 15 April 2024 were approved at the May Community Development Committee.

4. Governance

Members were advised the Steering Group elected a Chair and a Vice Chair from within the Elected Members at the first meeting held 15 April.

Officers would provide all secretarial and administrative services. The appropriate Officers from the relevant sections attend meetings and present reports to the Working Group.

Minutes of meetings would be reported at the earliest opportunity to the next available Community Development Committee.

5. Steering Group Minutes

Members were advised that the second meeting of the Steering Group was held in Mossley Mill on Monday 13th May. The draft minutes of the meeting were circulated for Members' approval.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 13 May 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

4.9 CP/CF/006 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE, BALLYDUFF – POLLING STATION REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the Electoral Office Northern Ireland to use the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Thursday 4th July 2024 as a polling station.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that the next UK General Election would take place on Thursday 4th July 2024.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland had previously requested the use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station for Local Council, NI Assembly and UK General Elections.

Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group operated the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement with the Council.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded it was approved at the February 2023 Community Planning Committee that the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff was used as a polling station for the 2023 Local Council Elections on 18th May 2023.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised that correspondence had been received (circulated) from The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland regarding the UK Parliamentary Election, which would be held on Thursday 4th July 2024.

The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland had requested the use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff as a polling station on Thursday 4th July 2024.

5. Financial Position/Implication

There is no financial impact upon the Council.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the request from Electoral Office Northern Ireland to use the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Thursday 4th July 2024 as a polling station be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

4.10 CP/GR/190 GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the 2024 Good Relations Week programme.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised Good Relations Week 2024 would run from Monday 16 to Sunday 22 September 2024. The initiative is co-ordinated regionally by the Community Relations Council and supported by the Northern Ireland Executive's, Together Building a United Community Strategy.

The 2024 theme is 'OpportUNITY' – a call to action to create a brighter, inclusive future for all. 'OpportUNITY' is a collective moment to UNITE and be architects of change in helping build a region where every voice matters.

Good Relations Week provides an opportunity to showcase the dynamism, creativity and dedication of local groups, organisations and individuals and to spotlight the transformative power of collaboration to address challenges such as sectarianism, racism, inequality, health and well-being, poverty and education.

Groups and organisations were invited to host a variety of activity that promotes diversity and inclusion across Northern Ireland.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the Good Relations Action Plan 2024/25 was approved at the January Community Planning Committee.

4. Good Relations Week

It was proposed that the Council's Good Relations Team would deliver activities across the Borough to include:

- A Good Relations Week social media campaign
- The launch of Hate Crime Awareness Programme developed in partnership with PCSP
- A Let's Connect Football Championship Tournament
- Cultural music and storytelling workshops in partnership with Libraries NI
- Asylum and Refugee Awareness Sessions
- A Peace Dialogue Workshop for community leaders
- Good Relations Workshops for staff

All activities would be free of charge to participants. Further information on dates, times and venues would follow when finalised and be shared with Elected Members.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Members were advised provision of £2,500 for Good Relations Week activity had been made in the 2024/25 Good Relations Action Plan and budget.

An amount of £144,871.25, equating to 75% of the Good Relations Action Plan budget had been requested from The Executive Office. Provision of the remaining 25% had been included in the 2024/25 Council estimates towards the delivery of the plan.

6. Summary

Good Relations Week 2024 would run from Monday 16 to Sunday 22 September 2024. The 2024 theme is 'OpportUNITY' a call to action to create a brighter, inclusive future for all.

Officers had developed a programme that promotes diversity and inclusion across the Borough.

Further information about all the activities planned for Good Relations Week could be found at www.goodrelationsweek.com

Proposed by Councillor Ward

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the 2024 Good Relations Week programme, as outlined, be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

4.11 AC/GEN/085 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUND GRANT AID

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to reopen the Community Festival Fund Grant Aid Programme and make a further call for applications to this programme in 2024/25.

2. Background

As part of the Council's Community Development Grant Aid Programme, community and voluntary organisations could apply for community festival funding to support the delivery of community events.

A community festival is defined as a series of events with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period. It was developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents. Community festivals were about participation, involvement, inclusion and the creation of a sense of identity and were important in contributing to the social well-being of a community. The fund

wais available to properly constituted community, voluntary and charitable groups based in the Borough.

A budget of £80,000 was included in the 2024/25 Arts and Culture budgets for community festival grant funding. In addition, a contribution of £27,700 was anticipated from the Department for Communities (DfC) Community Festival Programme but is yet to be confirmed. If this contribution is realised the total budget available for the Community Festival Fund category of the Community Development Grant Aid programme in 2024/25 would be £107,700.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the revised Community Development Grant Aid Programme was approved by the Community Planning Committee in September 2022. As part of this, groups were able to seek funding for up to three years for festivals funded through the Community Festival Fund. Of the 22 applications approved for funding in 2023/24 17 organisations were eligible for year 2 funding of £97,000.

At the Community Planning Committee in April 2024, it was agreed that successful community festival applications for funding of £8,750 in 2024/25 were approved and it was agreed that there were no further calls to the grant programme in 2024/25 as there was insufficient budget remaining.

Within this report, Members were advised that the total cost of funding all year 2 festival grants in 2024/25 plus the additional two approved awards would be £105,570 with an available budget of £107,700.

At the Council meeting in April 2024, an amendment to the Community Planning minutes was approved resulting in the removal of the agreement to make no further calls to the programme in 2024/25. In addition, Officers were asked to look at other budgets for potential underspends to enable a further call to the Community Festival Fund to be made.

4. Community Festival Funding – Additional Call 2024/25

Officers had identified a potential underspend of £15,000 in the tourism budgets, which relates to the cancellation of the Irish Game Fair, usually held in Shanes Castle in June, by the event organisers. It was proposed to transfer this underspend to the Community Festival Fund budget to enable an additional call to the Community Festival Fund to be reopened. If approved then any additional requests for funding support for tourism events in 2024/25 cannot be supported, as this budget would now be fully committed. It was proposed to open a second call for applications to the Community Festival Fund on Friday 28 June, closing on Monday 15 July 2024.

It was also proposed that funding through this call would only be available for one year for events to be delivered in 2024/25 pending the ongoing review of grant funding being carried out as part of the establishment of a Grant Funding Hub.

5. Financial Position

In order to fund additional grant awards from this programme £15,000 would be transferred from the tourism event budget to the Community Festival Fund budget.

6. Governance

The Community Festival Fund would reopen on Friday 28 June and close on Monday 15 July 2024 following which applications would be evaluated and any funding recommendations brought to the July Council Meeting if applications were time sensitive and required a prompt decision.

7. Summary

In response to an amendment to the April Community Planning minutes, it was proposed to make another call to the Community Festival Fund for one year of funding only for 2024/25. A transfer of £15,000 from the tourism budget would be used to fund this. The future provision for community festival funding would be addressed in the ongoing review of grant funding being carried out as part of the establishment of the Grant Funding Hub. Further reports on this would be brought back to future Committee Meetings.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Community Planning advised that the re-allocation was for this year only with the aspiration that the Game Fair would return for 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

a further call for applications to the Community Festival Fund for one year funding in 2024/25 only be opened on Friday 28 June and closed on Monday 15 July 2024, the outcome of which would be brought to the July meeting of the Council if applications were time sensitive.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

Councillor Ní Chonghaile joined the meeting at Item 4.12.

Having declared an Interest in Item 4.12, Councillor Dunlop left the Chamber.

4.12 CP/CD/468 CAPITAL PREMISES AND EQUIPMENT GRANT FUND RECOMMENDATIONS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to proposed financial awards under the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund.

2. Background

The Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund provides financial assistance to support groups within the Borough that had been established for at least 10 years to update, enhance and improve their community facilities or equipment, providing they can clearly evidence need, particularly where financial need is limited from other funding sources.

The First Call for applications to the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund opened on Monday 8 April 2024 and closed on Monday 13 May 2024. To support applications to this programme, Officers delivered five grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to all groups upon request. The opportunity was promoted on the Council's social media channels.

A pass threshold of 50% was applied to applications to the Programme and groups were not required to demonstrate match funding. Members were asked to note that proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund was approved by Council in October 2023 with a further update including the outcome of the Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing exercises approved at the March 2024 Community Planning Committee.

Details of this funding programme as reported to the October 2023 meeting were outlined below:

Capital Premises Grant Fund

The aim of this programme was to support long established community organisations based in the Borough, provide community support and to update and enhance their facilities.

It was proposed that organisations may apply for up to £25,000 for eligible projects which had included refurbishment of existing facilities and external ground enhancements.

Equipment Grant Fund

The aim of this programme was to support long established community organisations based in the Borough and providing community support to update and purchase essential equipment.

It was proposed that organisations may apply for up to £5,000 for equipment that they can demonstrate would deliver benefit to their community activity.

Principles of these new grant funding programmes would include:

- Grants would only be awarded to constituted groups based in the Borough who had been operational for at least ten years.
- All applicants must provide robust information on grant purposes.
- Applications must be accompanied by core supporting documentation including (but not limited to) copies of the organisation's constitution, the organisation's most recent accounts, confirmation of insurance and the organisation's safeguarding policy (if relevant).
- All applications would be scored by officers against defined criteria relevant to the scheme and recommendations presented to the Community Planning Committee.
- Evidence of match funding would not be an essential requirement for grant aid however where an organisation can demonstrate match funding, this would be positively reflected in the scoring process.
- Awards would be made up to 100% of the funding requested (subject to consideration of the financial viability of the proposed project as part of the assessment process), up to a maximum of the specific grant category ceiling.
- All awards would be 100% vouched.
- Groups applying must be able to demonstrate clear financial need.
- Payment would be 50% in advance upon receipt of the signed acceptance form and 50% upon satisfactory vouching of the first payment.
- Risk assessments and insurances must be in place, where relevant, for all planned activities before payments were issued.
- Retrospective funding would not be considered.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council support must be acknowledged in all publicity material. The Council logo must be used on all material relating to the funding awards.
- Applicants must participate in post event evaluations if required. Failure to do so may result in awards having to be re-paid.

4. Financial Implication

Members were reminded the total budget available for the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund for 2024 was £150,000 with an indicative allocation of £100,000 for premises and £50,000 for equipment.

Under the First Call, a total of 9 applications were received and assessed by a panel of Officers with 6 applications (1 Capital Premises and 5 Equipment) totalling £49,850 achieving the required 50% pass threshold, details of which were circulated for Members' information. A business case as submitted for the Capital Premises application was also circulated for Members' information.

Should Members approve these awards it was proposed that the remaining budget of £100,150 be used to fund a further call for applications to this fund, it was proposed the second call for applications would open on Monday 17 June and close on Monday 12 August 2024.

8. Summary

In the First Call for applications, it was proposed to award 1 Capital Premises and 5 Equipment Grant Fund awards to the successful applicants totalling £49,850 as outlined. If the awards were approved, there would be a budget of £100,150 remaining for awards in 2024/25.

It was proposed that a second call for the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund would open on Monday 17 June and close on Monday 12 August 2024 with applications being reported to the September Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

(a) the 6 successful applications for funding under the Capital Premises and Equipment Grant Fund totalling £49,850 be approved.

(b) a second call for applications be opened on Monday 17 June and closed on Monday 12 August 2024.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Councillor Dunlop returned to the Chamber

4.13 CP/GEN/048 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/2027

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to proposed financial awards under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

2. Background

The Community Development Grant Aid Programme provides financial assistance for a three-year period to groups within the Borough towards the costs associated with their Community Facility, Programmes and Activities.

A second call for applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for the 3-year period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2027 opened on Monday 8 April 2024 and closed on Monday 13 May 2024. To support applications to this programme, Officers delivered five grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to all groups upon request.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was approved at the Community Planning Committee in September 2022 that the new Community Development Grant Aid Programme awards would be made for up to three years. A pass

threshold of 50% was applied to applications to the Programme and groups were not required to demonstrate match funding. Members should also note that proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

The total budget for the 2024/25 Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities under the 2024/25 Community Development Grant Aid Programme was £578,448 as provided for in the 2024/25 estimates. Following previous awards there was a budget of £44,800 remaining.

Members were advised £50,428 (similar to the amount awarded in 2023/24) was anticipated from the Department for Communities (DFC) under its Community Support Programme for 2024/25 and the remaining £528,020 from the Council.

Under the second call a total of 5 applications were received and assessed by a panel of Officers with 3 applications totalling £12,020 achieving the required 50% pass threshold, details of which were circulated for Members' information.

Members were reminded that Year 2 and Year 3 funding is subject to satisfactory monitoring and evaluation. All successful applications under this call were being awarded financial assistance for a 3-year period. A summary of the successful applications for the 2024/27 funding programme were shown below:

Summary of Community Development Grant Aid Requests 2024/27				
Grant Stream	Successful Applications (Scored 50% and above in 2024/25)	Total Requested Year 1 2024/25	Total Requested Year 2 2025/26	Total Requested Year 3 2026/27
Community Facilities and Programmes	1	£3,900	£4,300	£4,600
Community Programmes and Activities	2	£8,120	£8,120	£8,120
Total	3	£12,020	£12,420	£12,720

Officers would arrange to meet with any unsuccessful groups to provide feedback on their applications and to signpost to other relevant funders.

Community Development Small Grants would remain open on a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Development Committee on a monthly basis until the allocated budget was maximised.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the 3 successful applications for funding under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme totalling £12,020 of Year 1 funding in 2024/25 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.14 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF MOSSLEY MILL MEETING ROOM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that an application from the North of Ireland Family History Society for the free use of the Spinning Room, Mossley Mill, every month from September 2024 until June 2025 is not approved.

2. Introduction/Background

The North of Ireland Family History Society is a registered charity with particular reference to the province of Ulster and the six counties of Northern Ireland as well as the three other border counties of Ulster. It had, for 40 years, promoted and encouraged private and public study of family history, genealogy, heraldry and local history.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Branch of the society is based in Newtownabbey and draws membership from the local area. There were 88 members of this branch, of which around 35 attended monthly branch meetings in person.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In September 2017 the Operations Committee approved an amendment to the Arts and Culture Pricing Policy clause relating to Requests for Free Use as follows:

Only one request per organisation/group within any one year period can be considered under this Policy.

In September 2023 the Committee approved a request from the North of Ireland Family History Society to use the Spinning Room, Mossley Mill, for its monthly meetings from October 2023 to May 2024, on condition that a

donation would be made to the Mayor's charities. A donation of £250 was made in February 2024.

4. Request for further free use

Officers had received correspondence from the group requesting the free use of the Spinning Room, Mossley Mill, for ten further monthly meetings from September 2024 to June 2025.

5. Financial Position/Implication

The evening community rate for hiring the Spinning Room is £185. If this request is approved, the potential lost revenue from room hire would be £1,850.

Given that the Council supported this request in 2023/24 and that a relatively small number of branch members attend monthly meetings in person, it was proposed that the community rate for hire of the Spinning Room be applied and that free use was not approved.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the application from the North of Ireland Family History Society for the free use of the Spinning Room, Mossley Mill, every month from September 2024 until June 2025 is not approved.

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

4.15 AC/GEN/111 BELFAST TRADFEST BURSARY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to issue eight (8) bursary awards of £125 to young musicians to enable their participation in Belfast TradFest by attending this year's Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music from 22nd-26th July. Funding was available from the 2023/2024 Office of the Deputy Mayor.

2. Introduction

Belfast TradFest acknowledged and celebrated the cultural diversity of different traditions in Northern Ireland bringing people together in a shared celebration of traditional music.

The festival of music would be taking place in Ulster University from 22-26 July 2024. Bursaries would secure places for young musicians to attend and experience a week-long intensive and immersive summertime learning course of traditional music, song and dance.

Beneficiaries of bursaries attended over five days and the course included:

- Three-hour long Music Masterclass in their chosen instrument, taught by world-class traditional musicians.
- Access to a programme of afternoon events, demonstrations, talks and workshops in traditional music technique, history and other aspects of traditional music that were generally unavailable outside of higher education programmes.
- The opportunity to play alongside top class traditional musicians in daily learner's slow session which would enhance their musical skills.
- Access to full programme of open sessions alongside the best traditional musicians in the world.
- A performance opportunity at an end of Summer School concert in Belfast Cathedral.

3. Bursary Support for Belfast TradFest

The Office of the Deputy Mayor came with a budget allocation of £5,000 to meet expenses of the Office. The 2023/2024 Deputy Mayor had requested that £1,000 of this budget be used to issue eight (8) bursaries of £125 to young people resident in the Borough who plan to attend the Belfast TradFest in 2024. The cost of a bursary place at Belfast TradFest is £150 per young person.

Given the timescales involved, it was proposed that officers had delegated authority to design and deliver an application process and award the eight bursaries of £125.

4. Summary

It was proposed that eight (8) bursaries of £125 be awarded to young musicians resident in the Borough who wish to participate in the Belfast TradFest Bursary Programme. Given the timescales involved officers would design and deliver an application process and select the successful eight bursary recipients.

Following a question from a Member, the Director of Community Planning explained the approval process for the use of the Deputy Mayor's budget for these bursaries.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the eight bursaries of £125 be awarded to young musicians from the Borough to participate in the 2024 Belfast TradFest Bursary Programme, using funding of £1000 from the office of the Deputy Mayor in 2023/24 and that officers had delegated authority to design and deliver an application process to select successful bursary recipients.

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

4.16 CP/TD/096, CP/TD/100, CP/TD/002, CP/CD/477 - DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES FUNDING POSITION UPDATE 2024/2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members regarding the Department for Communities Equality Impact Assessment consultation on the initial budget allocations for 2024-25

2. Introduction

DfC recognises the important role that the voluntary and community Sector had in delivering support and services to people and local communities. Members were reminded that the Council manages a range of DfC funded contracts that financially support a number of voluntary and community sector organisations. These include the;

- Areas at Risk Programme
- Community Support Programme
- Neighbourhood Renewal Programme
- Social Supermarket

The Finance Minister announced the 2024-25 Budget for Northern Ireland on 25 April 2024.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee that in the absence of the 2024-25 budget settlement interim funding awards for DfC programmes to the end June 2024 would be retained at 2023/24 levels.

Members were further reminded it was agreed that an update on the DfC current budget position be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2024/25.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised that the circulated correspondence had been received from DfC outlining 2024/25 initial budget allocations.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation on The Department's initial budget 2024-25 allocations would launch on 11 June 2024 and run until 3 September 2024. The EQIA consultation and further information on this is available on the website; <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-launch-budget-consultation>

It was proposed that the Council's response to the EQIA would be brought to a future meeting.

5. Financial implications

Members were advised that the NI Executive 2024-25 budget allocations result in the Department facing a resources funding gap of £115.8m (17%) and a £167.3m (48.5%) shortfall in Capital against bids submitted.

Members were advised that the DfC had indicated that Voluntary and Community sector groups receiving funding support from the Community Empowerment Division (CED) and the Voluntary and Community Division (VCD) had an additional Resource funding of £1.45 million in 2024-2025.

The Council had in place an interim funding award until 30 June 2024 and were waiting on an update from the Department for Community to advise on the funding position from 30 June 2024.

1. Summary

DfC initial budget allocations for 2024/25 had been announced. An EQIA consultation on the initial budget would be launched on 11 June 2024.

The Councils response to the EQIA and funding awards would be brought to a future meeting.

In response to a question from a Member regarding if there was any indication as to whether the DfC would reduce their funding award, the Head of Community Planning clarified that the consultation had only just been launched.

Proposed by Alderman Ross
Seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed that

the Council's response to the Department for Communities Equality and Impact Assessment consultation on the initial budget allocations for 2024-25 be reported to a future meeting.

ACTION BY: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 PT/CI/049 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24 PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT (COMMUNITY PLANNING) QUARTER 4

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Progress Report Quarter 4 be noted.

2. Background

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

The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 was approved in June 2023. This set out a range of robust performance targets, along with six identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

3. Previous Decision of Council

As agreed at the August 2023 Council meeting, quarterly performance reports would be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group.

4. Key Points

A fourth quarter performance progress report for Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Events and Community Planning was circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Progress Report (Community Planning) Quarter 4 be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 CP/CP/223 HARDSHIP SCHEME 2023/2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update on the outcomes of the 2023/24 Hardship Scheme.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) provided Hardship Funding to the Council to support the most vulnerable in the 2023/24 financial year. The purpose of the funding was intended to support those experiencing both food and fuel poverty and should be used to support and sustain projects and organisations who offer support with food and fuel to those experiencing financial difficulties including food and fuel distress.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the proposed delivery model for the Hardship Scheme was approved at the August 2023 Council Meeting. The total amount of funding made available from the Department was £4 million with a Council allocation, based on population, of £306,432.

It was agreed to deliver the funding by two means:

- Direct Awards to established community partners delivering food relief;

- An open funding call to constituted community groups who can contribute to providing additional food relief.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised the Department's monitoring and evaluation requirements for the Fund included the development and completion of a Benefits Realisation Plan, based on Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) reporting, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

Key outcomes included:

- 19,749 vulnerable people supported
- 2070 vulnerable households supported with food relief
- 604 Households supported with fuel relief
- 332 young families supported by Baby Banks
- 82 Community and voluntary organisations supported
- 14 organisations supported by Fareshare NI with 101 food orders
- 6 Community Fridges and Network established in the Borough

5. Financial Implication

The Council was awarded £306,432 in funding for the Hardship Scheme which was fully committed by 31 March 2024.

DfC had advised that this funding was non recurrent and may not be available in future years.

6. Summary

The 2023/24 Hardship Scheme had extensively supported individuals and families experiencing both food and fuel poverty in the Borough, whilst helping to support and sustain projects and organisations who offer support with food and fuel to those who were experiencing financial difficulties including food and fuel distress.

The outcomes of the Scheme had been reported in the Benefits Realisation Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the outcomes of the 2023/24 Hardship Scheme be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 **CP/TD/023 THE PERIOD PRODUCTS (FREE PROVISION) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the implementation and launch of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised that the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (NI) was made by the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2022 and required that period products would be available from May 2024 free of charge to those that need them.

Period inequality contributes to the mental health and well-being experience of those who were unable to access the basic health essentials of period products. This had become a growing issue particularly in light of the increased cost of living.

The Act came about as a result of the recognition that period products were essential items of personal care to address a biological need and should therefore be available to everyone who needs them regardless of economic status.

The Executive Office (TEO) had been tasked with the responsibility for implementing the Act in particular the Section 1 duty which is:

- to ensure that period products were available free of charge on a 'universal basis' in appropriate locations from 12 May 2024

TEO had been engaging with various stakeholders across a wide range of sectors to establish how to implement Section 1 of the Act. Local Councils had been represented through SOLACE, who were asked by TEO to nominate three representatives to participate in the engagement and sit with TEO on a working group, with one of these representatives the Council's Director of Community Planning.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that an update on the implementation of the Provision of Free Period Products across Northern Ireland was noted at the October 2023 Community Planning Committee with a further report to be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Members were advised in this report that TEO wished to engage with Councils to reach agreement to work in partnership to support TEO deliver its Section 1 duty.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised correspondence circulated had been received from TEO advising that Libraries NI had agreed to act as a primary delivery partner to ensure universal free period products would be made available from all

public library locations, including mobile libraries, from Monday 13th May. A local launch of the scheme was held at Antrim Library on 20 May 2024.

Free period products would be accessible to anyone who needs them and could be picked up by another person on their behalf. This makes Northern Ireland only the second place in the world to legislate for the provision of free period products.

From Monday 13th May, the existing PickupMyPeriod app (which can be downloaded from the Apple or Android store) would include the location of all public libraries, including the routes covered by the mobile libraries, the opening times of each library and the range of products available. Information would also be available on NI Direct, the TEO website and the Libraries NI website.

5. Financial Position/Implication

There is no financial implication for the Council.

6. Summary

TEO had advised that Libraries NI had agreed to act as a primary delivery partner to ensure universal free period products from all public library locations, including mobile libraries, from Monday 13th May.

Engagement between TEO and Councils through SOLACE is ongoing. The opportunity to learn from the Libraries NI experience as a delivery partner would be used to inform design of future potential partner arrangements with TEO and the Councils in relation to this legislation.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the update on the implementation and launch of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 **CE/CA/003 SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE 2023/24**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update on the Council's Social Media Performance for 2023/24.

2. Introduction/Background

The Council had 26 active social media accounts across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube (details circulated). The social media channels were used to promote, educate, inform and engage with users and to communicate key corporate messages.

3. Main Report

The Council's Social Media Performance April 23 - March 24 was circulated for Members' information. Key statistics for the Council's Social Media performance were as follows:

- Followers: 105k
- Audience growth rate from previous year: 19%
- Number of posts published: 5k
- Number of views: 33 million
- Average engagement rate: 9.9% (industry average 1.3%)
- % video content: 23%

Benchmarking

A recent benchmarking exercise with five other NI Councils* had identified that the Council's corporate Facebook account is the best performing with:

- the highest engagement rate
- the highest number of followers per population (*the third highest number followers (after Belfast and ABC)*)

** Belfast City, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Ards and North Down, Armagh Banbridge Craigavon, Mid and East Antrim.*

Accounts for the Flagship Events Garden Show Ireland and Enchanted Winter Garden also had a substantial increase in followers and engagement rate as shown below:

Garden Show Ireland

- Followers: 9,473
- Audience growth rate on previous year: 23%
- Number of posts published: 342
- Number of views: ~2m
- Average engagement rate: 4.8% (industry average 1.2%)
- % video content: 21%

Last year Council ran the social media campaign internally (previously outsourced) which resulted in an 928% increase on reach and 138% on engagement, proving that our in-house talent promoted this event more effectively than outsourcing to an agency.

Enchanted Winter Garden

- Followers: 9,128
- Audience growth rate on previous year: 59%
- Number of posts published : 277
- Number of views: ~1.4
- Average engagement rate: 5.1% (industry average 1.2%)

- % video content: 43%

4. Summary

Building on the 2023/2024 performance the Communications, Marketing and PR Section would continue to develop plans to ensure growth and engagement rate remained high and the Council's social media strategy continued to deliver key messaging and engagement with residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the Social Media Performance Report for 2023/24 be noted.

NO ACTION

5.5 CP/GEN/019 COMMUNITY PLANNING SECTION - PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

1. Purpose

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

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

File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
D/Gen/91	11/09/22 18/12/23	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey
D/CSP/48	13/12/23	Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
D/DP/67	-	Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
D/DP/67	-	Grange Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
CP/GR/43	23/02/24	Traveller Issues Local Government Partnership

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the Partnership Minutes be noted.

NO ACTION

The Chair advised that the following three supplementary reports would be taken at this point of the meeting.

5.6 CP/PCSP/075 CLOSURE OF NEWTOWNABBEY POLICE STATION ENQUIRY OFFICE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on correspondence with the PSNI and Department of Justice in relation to changes to delivery of PSNI services in the Borough.

2. Background/Introduction

The PSNI announced in April 2024 that 11 enquiry offices at PSNI stations would be closing. The front desks were open to the public and there were 28 of them across Northern Ireland.

The PSNI advised at the time that an extensive review of the service included an analysis of the volume and type of demand in enquiry offices and the decision to close some of them was taken in the context of unprecedented financial pressures. One of the 11 enquiry offices to close was the Newtownabbey office, which was located on the Shore Road.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the April Community Planning Committee a Member requested that the Director of Community Planning send a letter to the Department of Justice and the PSNI Chief Constable expressing the Council's concerns about the withdrawal of front facing services in the Borough.

4. Correspondence

A letter was sent to the Minister for Justice, Mrs Naomi Long MLA, the PSNI Chief Constable, Mr Jon Boutcher and the Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Mr Mukesh Sharma MBE DL on 10 May 2024 and a copy was circulated for Members' information.

Members were advised that letters of response from each official above had now been received and the three letters were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members regarding the appointment of the PCSP Chairperson for 2024-2025

2. Introduction/Background

Members were 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 were 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 were reminded that Councillor Matthew Brady, DUP, was appointed to the position of PCSP Chairperson at the Council Annual Meeting in May 2023 for a period of 12 months. Sinn Féin as the second largest party were now allocated this position for 2024/25.

The Sinn Féin nominating officer had advised officers that Councillor Goodman would be their nomination for the position of Chairperson of Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP for the 2024-25 with the 12 month term commencing immediately.

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 Goodman of Sinn Fein had been nominated for the position of PCSP Chairperson for 2024/2025 as they were the second largest party represented on the Council. This appointment would commence immediately.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the appointment of Councillor Michael Goodman to the position of Chairperson of the PCSP for 2024/2025 be noted.

NO ACTION

5.8 CP/CP/241 LAUNCH OF THE RAISE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on correspondence received from the Department of Education in relation to the Launch of the RAISE Programme

2. Background / Introduction

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Department of Education and a copy was circulated for Members' information. The letter highlights the announcement of a major new initiative to be delivered across Northern Ireland to raise achievement and reduce educational disadvantage.

3. The RAISE Programme

The RAISE Programme was announced by the Education Minister on 31 May 2024 and would involve a collaborative approach between educational settings, families and the wider community.

The Department had secured funding of £20 million for a two year period from the Shared Island Investment Programme.

The RAISE programme would support a whole community place based approach in disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland.

Members were advised that 15 eligible areas had been selected as specific localities within which the programme would operate. The localities had been selected using objective criteria based on data and Members were advised that both Antrim and Newtownabbey were part of the 15 eligible areas.

As part of the Council's Community Planning responsibility the Council had been identified as a stakeholder to the programme and would be invited to meet with all relevant stakeholders in each of the 15 localities in the autumn to begin programme delivery. Updates on the RAISE programme would be brought to future meetings of the Community Development Committee.

4. Summary

Correspondence had been received from the Department of Education in relation to the launch of the RAISE programme. The programme would operate in 15 localities across Northern Ireland including Antrim and Newtownabbey. The Council as a stakeholder to the programme would be invited to meet with all relevant stakeholders in the autumn. Updates on the

programme would be brought to future meetings of the Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

A Member highlighted that there was a recent pricing policy change for 3G pitches and asked if this could also be considered for the MUGA pitches, particularly over the summer months, to facilitate local summer schemes.

The Director of Community Planning advised that, as there was a financial implication which would impact income targets, Officers would need to review the options and bring a paper to Council for consideration.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

In response to a question from a Member regarding how much of the summer diversionary money had been spent and which Groups had received grants, the Director of Community Planning advised that she would revert directly to the Member and bring a report to the September Community Development Committee.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

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

6. ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/289, CP/CD/343 and CP/PV/001 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES TENANCY CHARGES REVIEW

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to Community Facilities Tenancy Agreement Charges.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that there were a number of rentable offices in Community Facilities and tenants were charged at £■■■ per sq m, which included rental costs, service charges and utilities.

Current rent was last reviewed in 2018 and Officers had asked external property consultants to review this rate.

Tenants were renewed on an annual or bi-annual term, subject to Council approval. Details of current tenants and rental income is listed below for Members' information:

Community Facility	Organisation	Current Rental Income £■■■/sqm (per annum)
Dunanney Centre	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Barnardo's	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Abbey SureStart	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Rathcoole Achieving Transforming Helping (RATH)	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Listening Ear	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Rathcoole Crew	■■■■■
Mossley Pavilion	CORE Community Group	■■■■■
Stiles Community Centre	Home Start	■■■■■
TOTAL		■■■■■

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that rent was approved at a cost of £■■■ per sq m per annum at the February 2018 Council meeting. This rate was originally agreed for Dunanney Centre and had been applied to subsequent tenancy requests across other Community Facilities.

4. Key Issues

Members were advised that a short form valuation report was commissioned to assess the appropriate market rental value of the Dunanney Centre, which can be applied to tenancy requests across all Community Facilities. Osbourne King were appointed to conduct this valuation, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

Members were advised that based on a comparative property the report recommends a new rental charge of £■■■■ per sq m representing an increase of 24%. This charge includes service charges and utilities.

However, mindful of 24% being potentially cost prohibitive, it was proposed to introduce a new annual rental charge of £■■■ per sq m representing an increase of 10.5% with an annual inflationary increase to be applied from April annually commencing in April 2025.

It was also proposed that this increase would be applied to all Community Facility Tenancy Agreements from 1st October 2024, which allows tenants to be given three months' notice of the increase.

Members were reminded that tenants were responsible for payment of any rates directly with Land and Property Services or registering for exemption. As per tenancy agreements, tenants were also responsible for ensuring they had suitable insurance in place for their appropriate activity.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Tenants were charged at £■■■ per sq m, which includes rental costs, service charges and utilities. The current annual rental income across all Community Facilities from tenancy agreements is £■■■■.

Based on the proposed new rental charge of £■■■ per sq m, the annual rental income across all Community Facilities Tenancy Agreements would increase to £■■■■■ generating an additional £■■■■ of rental income per annum.

A list of current tenants and proposed rental income, including increase, is listed below for Members' information:

Community Facility	Organisation	Proposed Rental Income £■■■ /Sq m (per annum)	Increase £
Dunanney Centre	Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey	■■■■■	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Barnardo's	■■■■■	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Abbey SureStart	■■■■■	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	RATH	■■■■■	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Listening Ear	■■■■■	■■■■■
Dunanney Centre	Rathcoole Crew	■■■■■	■■■■■
Mossley Pavilion	CORE Community Group	■■■■■	■■■■■

Stiles Community Centre	Home Start	████████	████████
TOTAL		████████	████████

6. Summary

There were a number of rentable offices in the Community Facility Buildings. Tenants were charged at £████ per sq m that includes rental costs, service charges and utilities.

Current rent was last reviewed in 2018, an independent review of this rate had been undertaken, and it was proposed that all tenancy agreements were charged at £████ per sq. m rate from 1st October 2024.

Based on the proposed new rental charge of £████ per sq m, the annual rental income across all Community Facilities Tenancy Agreements would increase to £████ an increase of £████ per annum with an annual inflationary increase to be applied in future years.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the proposed increased rent rate of £████ per sq m be applied to all Community Facility Tenancy agreements from 1 October 2024 with an inflationary increase to be applied annually from 1 April 2025.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor McGrann
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

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

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.13pm.

MAYOR

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