



18 August 2021

**To: Each Member of the Council**

Dear Member

**MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 23 August 2021 at 6.30 pm** in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

**For any queries please contact Member Services:**

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

[memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

## AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 26 July 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 August 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION
  - 6.1 Request to Present to Council – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
  - 6.2 Department for Infrastructure - Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 (BrT2) Route Options Public Consultation
  - 6.3 Local Government Boundaries Commissioner – Provisional Recommendations Public Consultation
  - 6.4 NI Assembly – Call for Evidence – Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill
  - 6.5 Northern Ireland Electric Vehicle Consortium Working Group
  - 6.6 NILGA Annual Conference 2021
  - 6.7 HM Treasury Consultation on Public Service Pensions Costs Control Mechanism
  - 6.8 Hazelbank Park – Sensory Garden
  - 6.9 Consultation on Point of Care Manufacturing
  - 6.10 Consultation on Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS)
  - 6.11 Consultation to Expand Access to Naloxone

- 6.12 Ballyearl Driving Range Improvements – Top Tracer
- 6.13 Community Capacity Building Programme 2021/2022
- 6.14 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2022
- 6.15 Council Events 2021 Update
- 6.16 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Recommendations 2021/2022
- 6.17 Motorcycle Awareness Project
- 6.18 Youth Voice
- 6.19 Digital Transformation Programme Delegated Authority
- 6.20 Gilbert Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme 2022
- 6.21 Town Centre Recovery Action Plans and Revitalise Funding
- 6.22 CCTV Grant Programme for Business Operators
- 6.23 Global Entrepreneurship Week: Young Enterprise Schools Masterclasses 21/22
- 6.24 Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland: Consultation
- 6.25 Logistics Training Academy Proposal
- 6.26 Town Team Minutes - Town Centre Masterplans
- 6.27 Corporate Recovery Plan 2021-23 Consultation Report
- 6.28 Belfast Youth Cup
- 6.29 Peace Plus Programme
- 6.30 City/Growth Deals – Complementary Fund Bids

## 7 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 7.1 Correspondence from Minister of Education In Relation to CPR Training in Schools Motion
- 7.2 NILGA Correspondence Regarding Dissolution of Local Government Staff Commission
- 7.3 Quarterly Screening Report and Rural Screening

- 7.4 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 7.5 Budget Report
- 7.6 Good Relations Week 2021
- 7.7 Bonfire Management Programme 2021

## 8 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 8.1 Burial Provision
- 8.2 Dunanney Centre – Tenancy Agreement
- 8.3 Newtownabbey Senior Citizens Forum 2021-2022
- 8.4 Residual Waste Treatment Project
- 8.5 Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure – Greenway and Active Travel Projects
- 8.6 Mossley Mill Office Accommodation
- 8.7 D1 Land at Rathenraw Industrial Estate
- 8.8 Organisation Structures

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 23 AUGUST 2021**

**6 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**6.1 G/MSMO/7/VOL 3 REQUEST TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

Members are advised that a request has been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to present to the Council on the Housing Investment Plan (HIP) for the area (enclosed) and a provisional date of October 2021 provided, pending Members' approval.

A further request has been received (enclosed) requesting that extra time be allocated at the end of the HIP presentation to allow the Chief Executive, Grainia Long, to address the meeting with details of the Housing Executive Revitalisation Programme.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the request to present to Council be approved and that additional time be allocated to accommodate the NIHE Chief Executive's request.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

**6.2 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE - BELFAST RAPID TRANSIT PHASE 2 (BRT2) ROUTE OPTIONS PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department for Infrastructure advising of the BRT2 Route Options Public Consultation which will run from 26 July until 4 October 2021.

An online consultation platform to view information about the proposals and leave comments can be accessed at [www.brt2.org](http://www.brt2.org).

Hard copies of the consultation material can be made available by contacting 0800 054 1160 or [BRT2@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:BRT2@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk). The closing date for responses is Monday, 4 October 2021.

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

### 6.3 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSIONER – PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner advising that her Provisional Recommendations have been published and are open for public consultation.

Additional information in relation to the consultation is available at [www.lgbc-ni.org.uk](http://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk).

Full details of how to respond are available at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/consultation> or alternatively a response can be submitted by e-mailing [consultation@lgbc-ni.org.uk](mailto:consultation@lgbc-ni.org.uk). The closing date for written feedback and suggestions is 21 September 2021.

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

#### **6.4 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) NI ASSEMBLY – CALL FOR EVIDENCE – JUSTICE (SEXUAL OFFENCES AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS) BILL**

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the NI Assembly Committee for Justice advising that the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill was introduced into the Assembly on 5 July 2021 and it is anticipated that the Committee Stage of the Bill will commence in September 2021.

The Committee would welcome views/comments on the contents of the Bill and also the four planned amendments under development.

Information regarding the Bill can be obtained from the Assembly's website <http://nia1.me/4nh> or can be provided on request by email the Committee at [justicesexualoffencesandtraffickingvictimsbill@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:justicesexualoffencesandtraffickingvictimsbill@niassembly.gov.uk).

Information provided by the NSPCC to the Committee on the 'Close the Loophole Campaign' to extend the Abuse of Trust legislation, the intention of the Minister to widen the scope to beyond the existing statutory settings and the position and recent developments in other jurisdictions and the Summary of Responses and Proposed Way Forward produced by the Department of Justice following the consultation on 'Consent to Serious Harm for Sexual Gratification: Not a Defence' can also be accessed at <http://nia1.me/4ni>.

Written submissions in word format should be provided to [justicesexualoffencesandTraffickingVictimsBill@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:justicesexualoffencesandTraffickingVictimsBill@niassembly.gov.uk) by Friday 24 September 2021.

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive



## 6.5 ED/ED/193 NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONSORTIUM WORKING GROUP

Correspondence has been received in relation to the creation of a Northern Ireland Electric Vehicle Consortium Working Group, from Derry City and Strabane District Council. A copy of the correspondence is enclosed. This Working Group will continue the work already undertaken by an informal group of officers to date.

The scope of the Group will be to create and develop a shared knowledge base of best practice from other UK and EU cities in order to develop agreed approaches across Northern Ireland.

The Consortium Working Group membership will be open to a number of public stakeholders including the 11 Councils across Northern Ireland, Department of Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Executive and Sustainable Northern Ireland. The group will meet quarterly, facilitated by Derry City and Strabane District Council.

The meetings will focus on a number of key objectives as detailed in the correspondence including;

- Provide collaborative partnership to deliver electric vehicle charge point infrastructure in Northern Ireland
- Secure funding and prepare applications on a Northern Ireland wide basis

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council participates in the Working Group and nominates a relevant officer to attend.**

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

## 6.6 G/MSMO/018 NILGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Members are advised that correspondence (enclosed) has been received in relation to the 2021 NILGA Annual Conference.

The event will be held on Wednesday, 24 November 2021 in the Clondeboye Lodge Hotel, Bangor and online. The theme for this year's event is "A Better Northern Ireland: Councils Make It Happen".

At present this is a "Save the Date" so there is no indication of free places being available or the costs involved, however in previous years NILGA has allocated 2 free places to Council.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council's NILGA representatives attend the event as an approved duty.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 6.7 FI/GEN/013 HM TREASURY CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS COSTS CONTROL MECHANISM

Cost control mechanisms for public service pension schemes exist to ensure a fair balance of risk regarding the cost of the pension scheme between the scheme members and the pension provider.

These mechanisms have now been reviewed by the Government Actuary and the proposed changes are now out for consultation. The consultation document is **enclosed**.

As members will be aware, the majority of Council staff and Councillors are members of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC).

NILGOSC have prepared a response **enclosed** to the consultation which by its nature, requires an in-depth working knowledge of pension and pension legislation. Of note in the response is question 4 "regarding proposal to introduce an economic check". This should ensure that benefits would not be increased if the pension provider could not afford to fund these increases and likewise benefits would not be reduced if the provider could afford to continue paying the current funds of benefits.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Council endorses the NILGOSC consultation response.**

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

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

## 6.8 EH/EHS/LR/007 HAZELBANK PARK – SENSORY GARDEN

Members are reminded that a number of Dog Control Orders (DCOs) are currently effective throughout the Borough.

These DCOs identify areas, mainly in Council owned parks, where dogs may be exercised off-lead, must be kept on a lead or are excluded.

The development of a sensory garden at Hazelbank Park has created an enclosed area beside the pavilion which features raised beds, a sandpit, seating and a range of sensory equipment. This sensory garden has been developed in order to provide a quiet enclosed space suitable for those with special needs and is located in an area not currently covered by the current DCOs.

It is proposed to amend the Dogs Exclusion (Newtownabbey Borough Council, Children's play parks and recreation grounds) Order 2012 to reflect this change of use. If approved, dogs would be excluded from the sensory garden with the exception of assistance dogs.

The proposed amendment is highlighted on the **enclosed** maps.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Members approve the amendment to The Dogs Exclusion (Newtownabbey Borough Council, Children's play parks and recreation grounds) Order 2012 to reflect the change of use.**

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

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

## 6.9 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) CONSULTATION ON POINT OF CARE MANUFACTURING

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Health advising that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched a UK wide consultation on a proposed regulatory framework for Point of Care (POC) manufacturing which, if accepted, will require amendments to the UK Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

Full details of the consultation are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/point-of-care-consultation>  
The consultation will be open for six weeks and runs until 11:45 pm on 23 September 2021. The response form can be accessed at: [Point of Care survey \(mhra.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/point-of-care-consultation)

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 6.10 G/MSMO/008 (VOL 3) CONSULTATION ON EARLY ACCESS TO MEDICINES SCHEME (EAMS)

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Health advising that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched a UK wide consultation on the Early Access to Medicines Scheme which, if accepted, will require amendments to the UK Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

Full details of the consultation are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-access-to-medicines-scheme-eams-consultation>)

The consultation will be open for six weeks and runs until 11:45 pm on 17 September 2021. The response form can be accessed at: <https://www.surveys.mhra.gov.uk/60decbb30f01ca5f644799e4>.

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 6.11 G/MSMO/008 (VOL 3) CONSULTATION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO NALOXONE

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Health advising that the Department of Health and Social Care has launched a UK wide consultation on measures to expand access to the lifesaving drug Naloxone which, if accepted, will require amendments to the UK Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

Full details of the consultation are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-expanding-access-to-naloxone/consultation-on-expanding-access-to-naloxone#introduction-to-naloxone>)

The consultation will be open for eight weeks, closing on 28 September 2021. The response form can be accessed at: <https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/60e8601f8a321f259e2f104b> .

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

**The Council's instructions are requested.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 6.12 L/LEI/BE/002 BALLYEARL DRIVING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS – TOP TRACER

### Background

Members are reminded that at May 2021 Council, approval was given to improve the customer experience at Ballyearl driving range by installing digital software through a monitor in each driving range bay which provides options to give detailed data on each golf shot, or to play virtual golf on a selection of the world's most iconic courses. Following a recent procurement exercise the successful submission was from a company called Top Tracer with installation scheduled to be complete by early September 2021.

### Pricing

The current approved pricing for the driving range is £4.30 for a large bucket (105 balls) and £3.20 for a small bucket (70 balls). This will remain in place for customers that do not wish to use the Top Tracer software. For use of the Top Tracer software the pricing includes provision of golf balls, use for a maximum of two people per bay, and is proposed as follows:

Amount of Balls	Time on Bay	Price
70 Balls	30mins	£ 5.70
105 Balls	60mins	£ 9.50
140 Balls	90mins	£ 13.90
175 Balls	120mins	£ 18.00

Officers have benchmarked the proposed pricing, and there is only one other provider of this product in Northern Ireland which charges £10 for 96 balls and one-hour use of a bay.

### Opening Hours

Approved opening hours for the centre are 9am – 10pm Monday to Friday, 9am – 6pm weekends. Due to the nature of the new product and the anticipated appeal for groups and individuals to use at weekends it is proposed to increase the opening hours to 9pm Saturdays and 7pm Sundays.

### RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. **approval is given for the inclusion of the proposed pricing for Top Tracer as set out above into the current Leisure Pricing Schedule;**
- ii. **approval is given to amend the opening hours for Ballyearl Leisure Centre as set out above.**

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks & Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations



### 6.13 CP/CD/424 COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME 2021/2022

Members are reminded that provision was made in the estimates for a Community Capacity Building Programme to be delivered in 2021/2022. The purpose of this programme is to develop the capacity and skills of individuals and groups within the Borough, to equip them to participate more fully in society and have a positive impact on the number and quality of successful community development projects delivered across the Borough.

The basis for this year's Community Capacity Building Programme is derived from a community survey which was conducted online in June 2020 and subsequent consultation with the Community/Voluntary sector.

It is proposed that a hybrid Community Capacity Building Programme be delivered between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 as detailed in the table below:

#### COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2021 – MARCH 2022

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>
1. Digital Awareness Training (Virtual)	£1,200.00
2. Organising A Successful Community Event (Live)	£3,000.00
3. Happiness Is An Inside Job (Mental Health/Virtual)	£500.00
4. Financial Management (Virtual)	£500.00
5. Tailored Mental Health Programmes* (Virtual)	£3,000.00
6. Cookery Demonstrations Using A Slow Cooker (Virtual)	£1,000.00
7. Food Safety in Catering* (Live)	£500.00
8. Emergency First Aid* (Live)	£350.00
9. Safeguarding Children* (Virtual)	£260.00
<i>Hospitality for Live Courses</i>	£500.00
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£10,810.00</b>

\*Accredited courses

Similar to last year this year's programme will be advertised and promoted through the Council's website and through an electronic and direct marketing campaign to all community and voluntary groups within the Borough. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

The total budget available for delivering the Community Capacity Building Programme in 2021/2022 is £18,000, of which £3,507.08 is funded by the Department for Communities. The total cost of delivering the Programme outlined above is £10,810.00 which leaves a balance of £7,190 should further training needs be identified and delivered before the end of the current financial year.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Community Capacity Building Programme for 2021/22 be approved at a total cost of £10,810.00.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6.14 CP/CD/106 QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2022

Members will be aware of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which operates on a UK wide basis. The Award is the highest accolade given to local volunteer groups to recognise the outstanding work done in their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Any organisation that is doing volunteer work in the local community, whether social, economic or environmental, can be nominated for an award. Assessment is based on the benefit that it brings to the local community and its standing within that community. Organisations must have been running for three years or more to be nominated.

Nominations must be submitted by Wednesday 15 September 2021 for the 2022 Awards. Awards are published annually on 2 June, Coronation Day. Winners will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a glass crystal presented at a ceremony organised by the recipient organisation. Representatives from the group may also be invited to attend a Royal Garden Party.

Over the past three years the following Borough groups have received the award:

- A Safe Space To Be Me (2021)
- Rathfern Community Regeneration Group (2021)
- Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens (2021)
- Girls Brigade NI (2019)
- Monkstown Boxing Club (2019)
- Tidy Randalstown (2019)
- Antrim Festival Group (2019)

Previously nominated groups, who were unsuccessful, cannot be re submitted for a period of three years, but can be considered for future years and this would apply to the following groups:

- Good Morning Antrim (2021)
- Good Morning Newtownabbey (2020)
- Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey (2020)
- Antrim Rovers Football Club (2018)

Which will be kept under consideration for future nominations.

The following organisations have been proposed by Officers for nomination to the 2022 Awards based on the extent of volunteering that takes place within their respective organisations.

- River Bann and Lough Neagh Association Company
- Whiteabbey Community Group

Should Members wish to nominate additional groups within their respective DEA's these should be provided to Group Leaders no later than Friday 27 August 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) that the two organisations proposed above be nominated for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2022;**
- b) should Members wish to nominate additional groups within their respective DEA's they should advise Group Leaders by Friday 27 August 2021.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6.15 ED/ED/080/VOL4 COUNCIL EVENTS 2021 UPDATE

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the January Council meeting that the Council Events Plan for 2021 be implemented and kept under review. At the July Council meeting updated event plans were approved with regular updates on the events programme to be presented to the Council.

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

### Council Events Update 2021

<b>Month/ Date <u>Normal</u></b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations &amp; Branding</b>
<b>May</b>			
Mon 3rd	NI Centenary (lighting of 2 beacons and the opening of 2 Centenary Woods)	Included in Centenary Budget	Events held by invitation only to elected members and members of NI Centenary Working Group.
Sat 8th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Completed Virtually
25-29 <sup>th</sup>	May Fair	£25,000	This event did not take place this year.
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Antrim Live	£15,000	Incorporated into One Giant Weekend.
July to August	Summer Sunday Music	£9,000	Sunday concerts booked weekly in JLSP, ACG, V36 and Antrim Loughshore Park at a cost of £8,000. Commencement of concerts delayed from 4 July due to live music restrictions with the programme extended into September to mitigate.
<b>June</b>			
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Show Ireland	£35,000	Garden Show Ireland 2022 promotional element incorporated into One Giant Weekend on 4 September. A promotional show garden will feature celebrity gardener Diarmuid Gavin with sales for the 2022 event going live at the event.
Sat 19th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Bands	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	RSPBNI ran a Pipe Band Festival on Saturday 7 August with a reduced budget of £8,000 and an attendance of approximately 800.
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley. Given Covid 19 restrictions this event did not go ahead. A virtual Cool FM roadshow event delivered to post primary pupils across the Borough on 24 June as part of the programme to recognise children's resilience in

<b>Month/ Date Normal</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations &amp; Branding</b>
			relation to Covid 19. This achieved reach of 5.500 and excellent feedback.
<b>July</b>			
Fridays in July and August 2 July to 27 August	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lilian Bland Community Park Glengormley Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm, of family fun depending with Covid secure measures. Brighter Nights commenced on Friday 2 July with the addition of an Urban Market for Glengormley from 5pm with a combined attendance of 1000 across the evening. Attendances have remained high with very positive feedback.
W'ends end July to end August	Theatre Ticketed Shows	Theatre budget income to cover cost	Civic Square at Mossley Mill and Parterre Garden Antrim Castle Gardens. Some shows are fully booked with healthy sales levels across the programme and very positive feedback.
<b>August</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event rescheduled to Sunday 8 August with a capacity limit of 2000 set. Attendance was in the region of 1500 in spite of wet weather and very positive feedback received.
28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup>	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Following consultation with traders Shoreline Festival will not be held but instead it is proposed to deliver small 'Taste and Sea' Whiteabbey events on the last Saturday in July/August/September, which will feature artisan markets in the Council car park in the village with various food, drink and retail offers from the village businesses along with animations in the village and JLSP seaside themed potentially to include Kite Festival, Sand Sculptures and Treasure Trail. With a reduced budget of £12,000. The market in September will be a twilight market to support the night time economy. An introductory 'Taste and Sea' event was delivered on Saturday 26 June without a market given identification of capacity within the budget and was very well received. The second event was held on Saturday 31 July with more positive feedback from the business community.
<b>September</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup>	One Giant Weekend	£50,000	One Giant Evening V36 at The Valley including fireworks and One Giant Picnic ACG: Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element and Antrim Live included at ACG.
5 <sup>th</sup>	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – To be held on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend

<b>Month/ Date Normal</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Delivery Option / Considerations &amp; Branding</b>
5th	Cultural Colours	£5,000	A 'Mela' event celebrating community diversity was due to be delivered by Antrim Festival Group but is now going to be incorporated into the Saturday programme at Antrim Castle Gardens.
<b>October</b>			
31 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	Spooked Out at V36 31 October 2021 in V36 at The Valley. Officers are exploring options for the Screams and Tricks at V36 funfair in the lead up to Spooked Out at no additional cost to the Council.  Officers are liaising with The Junction regarding a refresh of the traditional Halloween Spooktacular event. Because of Covid-19 and limitations at The Junction site it is proposed that the event will transition from a showcase event and fire-works display to a programme of satellite family friendly events at The Junction and other town centre locations, potentially including The Gateway and Antrim Castle Gardens. It is anticipated that the Council's contribution to this programme of activity will remain as per the annual Spooktacular budget of £18,000 from the Council with a further £10,000 contribution from other private sources. Negotiation regarding the format, location(s) and final budget for the event is ongoing.
<b>December</b>			
TBC	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in November/December. Options approved at the June Council meeting and planning has commenced.
TBC	Christmas Switch On's	£74,000	A combination of a live and virtual event switch on programme as approved at the July Council meeting at an estimated cost of £40,000.

In terms of additional animations in the form of the Panoramic Wheel and a Panoramic Park Members are advised that the Panoramic Wheel was installed in Jordanstown Loughshore Park on 21 August 2021, with the Panoramic Park of smaller funfair attractions operating in the 'bowl' area of the Park from 9 July 2021.

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

- Steam Rally (formerly the May Day Steam Rally) – The event is proceeding on 28 and 29 August 2021 and the Council funding of £15,000 has been awarded to the event.
- The Irish Game Fair and Fine Food Festival which is managed by Country Lifestyle Exhibitions received a commitment from the Council in February 2020 for £15,000 funding. An indicative funding offer at a similar level was

approved for the event in 2021 and 2022 subject to the outcome of an annual evaluation. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the event didn't proceed in 2020 but the Council supported a virtual event at a value of £2,500. Re-instatement of the main event has been postponed until 25 and 26 June 2022. Council Officers are still in negotiation with the event promoters to finalise supported elements of the 2021 virtual activity with a view to awarding a grant up to a maximum of £5,000.

- ISPS Handa World Golf Invitational 2021 – Event promoters delivered the event from 27 July to 1 August 2021 with sponsorship support from the Council. An end of event evaluation is awaited for review.
- Statscup Supercup NI – At the May Council meeting it was agreed to support the organiser's alternative event proposal with an associated budget of £25,000 to comprise of a community fun day, football match and hosting of the Manchester United youth team within the Borough. The first event was held on Friday 30 July 2021 at Dixon Park, Ballyclare.
- Antrim Festival Group – The Group revised plans to combine their Festival Family Sunday with Party in The Park on Sunday 8 August 2021 in Antrim Castle Gardens and deliver a 'Cultural Colours' family event celebrating diversity on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend. It was reported to the July meeting that the Group advised officers that given capacity restrictions on the numbers who could attend the Festival Family Sunday they did not wish to proceed. As a consequence, officers expanded the Party in The Park offer to include live music which was held on Sunday 8 August 2021. The Festival Group have since advised that they do not wish to proceed with the Mela event planned for 5 September 2021. Officers will incorporate elements of this into the Antrim Castle Gardens programme for the Saturday of One Giant Weekend.
- Radox Antrim Agricultural Show, scheduled for Saturday 24 July 2021 in Shanes Castle, was cancelled for 2021.
- V Fest at V36 at The Valley – A Dance Music Festival originally planned for September 2021 has now been postponed to March 2022. Officers are supporting NACN in planning for this event, which has received £5,000 from the Community Festival Fund.
- Antrim Food Festival - At the May Council meeting it was agreed that Antrim Castle Gardens and Antrim Loughshore Park host elements of this new event and provision of financial assistance of approximately £12,500 to Castle Mall and The Junction towards event was approved from economic development budgets. Alongside this sponsorship, it was agreed to provide in-kind support in the form of gazebos, waste collection, undertaking visitor surveys and provision of Covid Aware Ambassadors. Officers worked with Castle Mall and The Junction to deliver the event and provided a programme of animation at The Gateway Centre as part of this. An end of event evaluation is awaited for review.



**RECOMMENDATION: that**

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

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

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

**6.16 CP/CD/389 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME  
RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022**

Members are reminded of the decision taken in April 2021 to permit Mallusk and District Community Support to resubmit their application for a Premises Grant for the 2021/22 financial year as their initial application failed to reach the required 50% pass threshold for funding.

A revised application has been received and assessed by Officers as follows:

<b>Group Name/Project Promoter</b>	<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Mallusk and District Community Support	Premises Grant	64%	£5,000.00	<b>£5,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>£5,000.00</b>	<b>£5,000.00</b>

Having exceeded the 50% pass threshold for funding it is proposed that the group be awarded financial assistance totalling £5,000.00 towards the running costs of their premises situated at Hyde Park War Memorial Orange Hall, 106 Mallusk Road Newtownabbey, subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation.

It is also imperative that the group ensure compliance with all relevant and applicable COVID -19 Government and Public Health Guidance and Regulations relating to their premises in the 2021/22 financial year.

This award brings the total amount of financial assistance awarded under the premises grant category to £204,068.92 and the overall total of financial assistance awarded under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme in 2021/22 to £298,793.20 creating an overspend of £58,793.20

**RECOMMENDATION: that a grant of £5,000 be awarded to Mallusk and District Community Support for the 2021/22 financial year.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6.17 CP/PCSP/135 MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS PROJECT

Members will be aware of the anti-social problem connected with the illegal damaging and frequently dangerous use of off-road motorcycles in some locations in the Borough. In response to this an outreach pilot Motorcycle Awareness Project (MAP) youth education programme proposal has been developed and is enclosed.

Using a multi-agency approach (Council, Department for Justice, PSNI, NI Housing Executive) the vocational education course is aimed at creating positive change in the attitudes and behaviours of the students who participate.

The aim is to provide the safest possible learning environment and fully qualified and experienced coaches that give the student the best opportunity to learn, minimising the risk of injury whilst doing so. A priority objective is to promote understanding of the dangers associated with off-road motorcycling and teach the fundamental skills needed to ride safely.

The programme focuses on early intervention for young people who are involved, or likely to become involved in anti-social behaviour through the use of off-road motorcycles, with participants to be identified by PSNI and other partner agencies.

It is proposed the six-week project will take place on vacant land at Global Point, refer to enclosed map, during September and October 2021. Invest NI, landowners, have agreed in principle to the project taking place. The project would take place two afternoons/early evenings per week, for 4 hours per session, culminating in a total of 48 hours' delivery over six weeks.

The overall budget to deliver the project is £18,882. The Department of Justice have committed to cover 25% of the cost and an application has been submitted to the NI Housing Executive's Community Safety fund for a further 25% (decision pending). It is recommended that Council as lead partner commit 50% (£9,441) to enable this project to be fully delivered.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Motorcycle Awareness Project pilot project, to be delivered at Global Point, be approved at a cost of £9,441.**

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

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

## 6.18 CP/GR/119 YOUTH VOICE

Members are advised that correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Education Authority regarding the establishment of a YouthVoice in the Borough.

YouthVoice is a participation structure to allow young people in a Council area to voice their opinions and ideas, participate in consultations and ensure that key issues are brought to the attention of the Council. A legacy is provided to participants in relation to life skills, accreditation and training.

YouthVoice derives its significance from statutory requirements. Legislation is now in place for young people to have a say in the development of services and policies that affect their lives, namely:

- Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014,
- Statutory Guidance for Community Planning 2015
- Children's Services Co-Operation Act (NI) 2015
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Article 12
- Priorities for Youth (2013)

It is proposed to establish a YouthVoice structure for the Borough along with a partnership agreement detailing the relationship between the EANI Youth Service and the Council, setting out the funding arrangements and reporting structures. Further to this, a project board, with membership from Council Elected Members, Senior Youth Officers, regional EA participation staff, and other statutory and voluntary organisations be established and uses a 'terms of reference' sample **enclosed**, to set out their roles and responsibilities.

The EA Youth Service, through the Department of Education, provides the majority of funding for the YouthVoice across Northern Ireland, paying for staff, residentials, travel and accreditation, so that young people gain maximum benefit from their commitment. However, there is an expectation on the Council to provide additional funding from their own sources, and by this very nature, funding sources are diverse, and have included PCSP, PSNI, PHA, Peace IV, Good Relations, Arts Council and 'other' funding.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the establishment of a YouthVoice structure for the Borough be approved.**

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## **6.19 ED/ED/186 REGIONAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

At the July Council meeting Officers provided Members with an update report on the NI Digital Transformation Programme which Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is leading. The project is supported by European Regional Development Funds and Invest NI.

Officers are advancing the project as quickly as possible as the targets have to be achieved by 31 March 2023. Any delay in appointment of the delivery agent will impede the Council's ability to achieve the targets for the regional programme. The procurement is being facilitated by Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) which has a significant waiting list of projects to advance.

To help expedite contract award and hence delivery it is requested that authority for entering into the contract with the successful delivery agent for the programme is delegated to the Chief Executive.

**RECOMMENDATION: that authority for entering into the contract with the successful delivery agent for the Regional Digital Transformation Programme is delegated to the Chief Executive.**

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

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

## 6.20 ED/ED/159 GILBERT SISTER CITIES STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2022

Members will be aware that the Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme provides two students from Antrim and Newtownabbey and two from Gilbert, Arizona with an opportunity to develop an understanding of a different country, its culture, and its people through a family living experience. The programme lasts approximately six weeks during the summer with half the time spent in Gilbert and half in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Members are reminded that the Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Correspondence has been received from our colleagues in Gilbert, with the invitation to run another Sister Cities Student Exchange programme in the summer of 2022, should government Covid-19 advice and travel restrictions permit.

The process to recruit two students from Antrim and Newtownabbey will follow that of previous years, which would include promotion and advertisement of the opportunity through schools, colleges and via social media, an application and selection process, and an informal interview with the Mayor, an elected representative and a staff member from the Economic Development Section. The two highest scoring candidates would be offered the opportunity, with a reserve list being created if appropriate.

Members are reminded that historically, this programme has been open to young people aged 16 or 17, the equivalent of year 13, or lower sixth. The cancellation of the 2021 programme resulted in the programme not being offered to that year's cohort of year 13 students.

Financial provision for the 2022 Gilbert Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme will be made within the Economic Development 2022/23 budget at a cost of £5,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. a Sister Cities Student Exchange Programme with Gilbert for two young people from the Borough, at a cost of £5,000, provision for which will be made in the 2022-23 Economic Development budget, be approved**
- ii. the Mayor and Chair of the Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group or their nominees sit on the interview panel to recruit the young people, alongside a member of the Economic Development team.**

Prepared by: Carly Long, Economic Development Project Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 6.21 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS AND REVITALISE FUNDING

Members are reminded that draft Action Plans for each of the five main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown were agreed at the March Council meeting with monthly updates to be brought to the Council. Updated plans were approved at the July Council Meeting. Various actions within the plans are being delivered on an ongoing basis with others planned and the Action Plans will continue to be updated monthly. Urban Markets, Summer Town Music and other animations planned for summer across the five towns continue and are being well received. Officers are now looking at continuing the animations to support the NI Retail Voucher Scheme, which will be delivered in September as well as on an ongoing basis to include Christmas 2021 and Easter 2022. Officers are also engaging with local traders to assess their willingness to 'top-up' or further incentivise the NI Retail Voucher Scheme by offering discounts or additional offers. Billboard and AdShell advertisements have been booked across the Borough in September to support any offers and to promote the 'Shop Local' message. The updated Action Plans are enclosed for Members' information.

Since the announcement by the Executive of the easing of further restrictions Officers undertook a range of actions to support the safe re-opening of businesses. The schemes were supported by the Department for Communities under their 'Revitalise Funding' which included financial contributions from The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Department of Infrastructure. Projects included Covid-19 grants, marketing and promotion to support 'shop local', PPE and health and safety supplies, planting, environmental improvements and approaches to managing town centre data such as vacancy rates. The grant scheme for the installation of awnings is the only grant scheme which remains open. Capital Blue / Green Infrastructure Schemes such as Glas na Braden Trail and Antrim Boardwalk phase one are continuing to progress.

In summary the recovery action plans and the DfC Revitalise Funding Initiatives focus on the creation of connected, clean and vibrant spaces across the Borough which will be attractive and welcoming spaces for both residents and visitors and encourage increased footfall and dwell time in our towns and therefore, support economic recovery of all sectors. The various Covid related support measures outlined above would ensure that the Council is providing the required support to traders, residents and visitors as the economy continues to recover.

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

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

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

## **6.22 ED/GEN/017 CCTV GRANT PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESS OPERATORS**

Over recent months, concerns have been raised by members and businesses reporting increased anti-social behaviour and crime in town centres and local commercial areas. Following engagement with the PSNI, it is proposed to introduce a programme of support for businesses which wish to introduce CCTV, on the proviso that they commit to providing the PSNI with access to the footage recorded, etc, on request. Officers are currently developing a specification for the type of camera system which would be required and an agreement which would be put in place by them with each business which would be a pre-condition of the grant support from the Council.

Business owners would also be required to comply with signage/notification requirements for customers and visitors who enter their premises i.e. 'Images are being recorded for the purposes of crime prevention and public safety.

It is proposed that an application process be devised and a call for applications made as soon as practicable.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- (i) a CCTV Grant Programme for Business Operators be progressed as outlined;**
- (ii) the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to approve the awards.**

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



## 6.23 ED/ED/152 GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK: YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCHOOLS MASTERCLASSES 21/22

Young Enterprise NI (YENI) is a charity that delivers a range of enterprise and financial education programmes to children and young people from all backgrounds.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it was not possible for the Council to host the very successful schools enterprise initiatives in 2020 in their traditional form. The programme is normally held in November and all primary and post primary schools in the Borough are invited to participate. As a replacement programme for 2020 the Council awarded YENI £2,550 to deliver a virtual Business Challenge Programme. This too was open for all Primary 6 pupils across the Borough to compete in. The Challenge included business volunteer videos, virtual presentations and a competition to design a new juice carton. This programme was anticipated to reach a minimum of 400 pupils but 786 pupils participated. 401 students completed the exercise at home as part of a home schooling activity and 385 completed it as a class based activity on return to school after lockdown.

Feedback from the schools has been extremely positive, the majority stated a preference for face to face delivery where possible but agreed that the online delivery was a very worthwhile alternative under the circumstances. They also valued the competition element with entries increasing this year to 191 students from 13 schools.

YENI has submitted a proposal to the Council to run a further series of school masterclasses in the Antrim and Newtownabbey area to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week 2021; a copy of the proposal is enclosed. This year's Global Entrepreneurship Week will take place from 8-12 November 2021 to help promote entrepreneurship and raise awareness of self-employment opportunities to young people.

YENI's proposal to the Council is to deliver another series of workshops to primary, secondary and special education needs schools in the Borough. The primary school workshops will introduce the concept of entrepreneurship using a variety of practical and interactive tools to demonstrate how businesses can collaborate through supply chains to create jobs for the local economy. At the secondary school workshops students will be challenged to come up with a new 'app' for the digital market. At the end of the event students will present their ideas and related business plans at a 'Dragon's Den' style event to a panel of judges, including the Mayor and local business representatives.

All schools in the Council area will be offered the opportunity to participate on a 'first come first served' basis.

Due to uncertainty around Covid-19 restrictions YENI have built in flexibility to the proposal and will, if necessary, move the dates of the workshops, or provide alternative online delivery.

The total cost of delivering the programme of activity is estimated at £9,000, broken down as follows:

- Project management via YENI: £3,000 to deliver potentially 7 workshops to a minimum of 4 secondary schools and 12 primary schools, a minimum of approximately 480 pupils;
- Hospitality costs met by Council: £3,400
- Prizes and equipment costs met by Council: £600
- Council contributions to school transport costs to the event(s): £2,000

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council**

- i. provides funding in the sum of up to £3,000 to YENI to deliver a series of face to face or online workshops for a minimum of 480 school pupils from local primary and secondary schools in the Borough to promote youth entrepreneurship;**
- ii. covers the cost of the remaining elements detailed in the report at a total cost of £6,000.**
- iii. if required by the schools, provides transport to and from the events at a maximum cost of £2,000, provision for all of which exists in the economic development budget for 2021-22.**

Prepared by: Michelle Pearson, Economic Development Project Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 6.24 CP/CD/423 RURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NORTHERN IRELAND: CONSULTATION

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has launched a consultation on a Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland, with responses due by 6<sup>th</sup> September. An abridged version of the Framework is **enclosed**, along with a draft response.

The Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland sets out a vision for rural Northern Ireland to 'create a sustainable rural community where people want to live, work and be active'. It is a policy response to the cessation of the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which relied on European policy for allocation of funds for rural development activity. It is anticipated that once the Framework is in place, DAERA will design a Rural Business and Community Investment Programme of support as a successor to the current Rural Development Programme, which has been delivered locally by GROW South Antrim and directly by DAERA.

Five key thematic pillars have been identified in the Framework being:

1. Innovation and Entrepreneurship
2. Sustainable Tourism
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Employment
5. Connectivity

The Framework commits to working in partnership with other Government Departments, Statutory Bodies, Councils and the private and community sectors to address the needs of rural dwellers and businesses, however does not specifically consider delivery mechanisms for any future Programme.

Officers have reviewed the Framework and recommend that the Council broadly welcomes the pillars and priorities proposed and highlights its complementarity with existing Council programmes such as the Digital Transformation Programme. It is recommended that the response recognises the excellent work undertaken to deliver previous rural development programmes in the area by GROW South Antrim and encourages DAERA to work closely with Councils and local stakeholders during future programmes set up and delivery.

### PILOT PROGRAMMES

In advance of the Framework being finalised, DAERA has released a number of pilot funding schemes to ensure continued support to rural areas and to trial different funding and delivery mechanisms. The Department has indicated an intention to pilot a village renewal scheme within the current financial year with a 90% grant rate, with a requirement of 10% funding from the Council. The Department has also indicated that it intends to support a staffing post(s) within the Council to support development and delivery of projects in the area. Officers have reviewed existing Village Renewal plans and the DEA Action plan to identify suitable projects that can be developed

and delivered by March 2022 for DAERA's consideration. A summary is provided in the enclosure.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. The Council approves the draft response to the Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland and encourages collaboration with local government in the implementation phase.**
- ii. Officers submit Expressions of Interest for pilot Village Renewal projects as outlined to DAERA.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 6.25 ED/ED/144 LOGISTICS TRAINING ACADEMY PROPOSAL

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the availability of labour across Northern Ireland. It has caused significant challenges in those sectors where there is a greater requirement for anti-social hours or shift-work. Hence, the Council was approached by local employer, Pamela Dennison in her capacity as the Head of Road Haulage Business Engagement at the Department for Transport (DfT) who wished to highlight these challenges and discuss how they might be addressed. Since this initial discussion Council Officers have engaged with local haulage businesses and have identified the following priority needs:

- The need to up-skill existing warehouse staff into driving positions;
- The need to recruit and train vacant warehousing positions;
- The need for particular knowledge in customs, clearance and the NI Protocol;
- A more general need for in-depth learning within the transport, haulage and logistics sector;
- The need for more localised promotion and co-ordination of existing services and benefits to the industry.

Eleven businesses were contacted in total and eight responded and discussed their specific business challenges with Council Officers. Each business was very supportive of the Council's involvement in developing a co-ordinated programme to help address some of the needs highlighted above.

Members will recall that the Council previously delivered a Driver Training Academy in partnership with Bluestone Staffing who are based in Newtownabbey. The programme was successful albeit the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the achievement of some of the outputs. In total there were 13 participants, 10 of whom have secured driving employment as a result of their participation. A further two participants are shielding due to personal health reasons and the one remaining participant is awaiting a re-test. The employers include Bond Delivery, Hendersons, Woodsides, Wilsons Auctions, a concrete company and a horse transportation company.

The wider industry has expressed a need for more drivers and Bluestone Staffing and Transport Training Services (TTS) believe that the demand exists from the general public to achieve the necessary skills/licence to access employment. In addition to this Council Officers have been liaising with the Department for Communities Jobs and Benefits Offices (JBO) and they are willing to work with the Council to progress an appropriate support programme. The JBO's are willing 'in principle' to support driver training costs through their Advisor Discretionary Fund at a maximum of £1,500 per individual. TTS also currently delivers training for apprenticeships for the Department of the Economy. This is available at no cost to the employer and includes either van, rigid lorry or articulated lorry driver training depending on entry point. Employers taking on apprentices before 31 March 2022 are also entitled to a Government incentive of up to £3,000. In June Northern Regional College launched a Supply Chain and Logistics course for Higher Level Apprenticeships. The intake was limited to 15 apprentices who would

work four days a week and attend the College one day to complete a Foundation Degree.

Members are reminded that the Council is forming a Labour Market Partnership (LMP) with support from The Department for Communities (DFC). The first stage in this process is the development of an Action Plan. There is the potential for funding within the current financial year from DFC, however, this is subject to approval of the action plan and spend by 31 March 2022. It is proposed that a Logistics Training Academy be advanced to co-ordinate and promote the support detailed in this report to the sector and to persons currently seeking employment via the JBO's.

The indicative cost assumptions for the Logistics Training Academy are:

- 20 participants in receipt of driver licence: £40,000
- 20 participants attending warehousing skills development: £6,000
- 10 participants availing of stand-alone modules relating to specific challenges eg. NI Protocol: £5,000
- Provision for project management and co-ordination: £9,000

Subject to demand it is intended that the Logistics Training Academy would commence as soon as possible with the targets to be achieved by March 2023. The indicative costs above may be off-set through the various funds referenced in this report including JBO and LMP contributions and by ensuring that pathways such as the DfE Apprenticeship scheme are included in the provision.

Officers are also aware of an existing skills gap within the Hospitality Sector and will explore ways of addressing this in the short term.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

**(i) a Driver Training Academy be established for the Borough at an approximate cost of £60,000 and the potential for funding for the Academy be explored; and**

**(ii) options to address the skills gap within the Hospitality Sector be explored.**

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

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

**6.26 ED/REG/005 VOL4, ED/REG/002 VOL2, ED/REG/009/VOL2, ED/REG/003, ED/REG/006 VOL4 TOWN TEAM MINUTES - TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLANS**

The Town Teams met recently to consider the draft Town Centre Masterplans which were approved in principle by the Council in June. The meetings were very constructive with attendees generally supportive of the proposals with some minor amendments to the plans and improvements to the labelling required. A copy of the minutes of each Town Team meetings are enclosed for Members' consideration.

The next stage to advance the draft Town Centre Masterplans is a series of public engagement events. The proposed timing and location of the events are noted below. Flyers will be distributed to Town Centre Businesses in advance to promote the events.

Wednesday 25 August from 6-7pm	Lillian Bland, Glengormley
Tuesday 31 August from 6-7pm	Town Hall, Ballyclare
Thursday 2 September from 6-7pm	Crumlin Leisure Centre
Wednesday 8 September from 6-7pm	Old Court House, Antrim
Thursday 9 September from 6-7pm	Neillsbrook Community Centre, Randalstown

Officers are also planning drop-in sessions at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre subject to ongoing restrictions. These sessions will be supported by online briefings. Further detail on these sessions will be emailed to Members once finalised.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- (i) the minutes of the recent Town Team Meetings be approved;**
- (ii) the dates of local engagement events for the town centre masterplans be noted.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 6.27 G/GEN/017 CORPORATE RECOVERY PLAN 2021-23 CONSULTATION REPORT

Members are reminded that as a result of the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the Borough, a Corporate Recovery Plan 2021- 2023 was approved in April 2021 subject to consultation. The Plan provided a roadmap to make sure we rejuvenate our places, support our people and re-build for prosperity.

On 24 May 2021 an eight-week public consultation was initiated to derive feedback from Residents and Stakeholders; Local Businesses; Statutory and Community Planning partners; and other bodies with which collaborative working is taking place or is being planned.

An online questionnaire on the Council's corporate website / consultation hub enabled the Council to seek opinions on the key priorities identified within the draft Plan. In addition, Officers emailed a copy of the Plan to all their key stakeholders and Section 75 consultees for their comment and feedback. The public consultation closed on 19 July 2021 and 45 responses (42 questionnaires completed and 3 independent responses) were received. The responses were extremely positive and provided reassurance of the appropriateness of the principles identified to assist recovery of our Borough. All respondents received an acknowledgement, and their comments were passed on to officers as appropriate.

A summary of the consultation responses is **enclosed** for Members' information. The feedback from the consultation will be considered for incorporation into the implementation plans to ensure the Borough continues to develop, improve, grow and be a place where people choose to invest, learn, work, visit and live in.

The Council normally publishes a Corporate Improvement Plan annually and we will continue to measure and monitor our performance during this period of uncertainty using the Corporate Recovery Plan which fulfils our statutory performance duty.

The impact of the pandemic is yet to be fully understood and the needs of our businesses and residents may change as new challenges emerge. The plan will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure we recover, renew and rebuild our Community and Economy and emerge a more green, resilient and prosperous Borough.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Corporate Recovery Plan 2021-23 be approved.**

Prepared by: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance

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



## 6.28 CP/GR/135 BELFAST YOUTH CUP

Members are advised that the inaugural Belfast Youth Cup took place at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown in 2019 and was the UK and Ireland's leading grassroots football tournament. The event did not take place in 2020 but took place at the University of Ulster from 12-15 August 2021, with 96 teams and 1500 young people from all over Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland participating. Games were also played at Seaview and Ulidia Playing Fields, Belfast. The 2021 event was impacted by ongoing restrictions with teams from Great Britain and Europe not able to participate and this has created a funding shortfall.

The majority of participants stayed in the student accommodation at UUJ so the event had a significant economic return for the Borough. Given this and the good relations impact on young people, Officers were asked to provide a contribution of £1,000 to Belfast Youth Cup from the Good Relations budget.

**RECOMMENDATION: that a contribution of £1,000 be retrospectively approved to support Belfast Youth Cup for the 2021 event from the Good Relations budget.**

Prepared by: Mark Kent, Good Relations Officer

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 6.29 CP/P4/047 PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME

Members are reminded of previous correspondence from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) outlining six thematic areas for the PEACE PLUS Programme as follows:

- Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities
- Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation
- Empowering and Investing in our Young People
- Healthy and Inclusive Communities
- Supporting Sustainable Future
- Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

These themes clearly align with the Councils strategic vision under themes of People, Place and Prosperity as well as the Councils Corporate Recovery Plan and Community Plan.

Members were advised that SEUPB launched a public consultation on the PEACE PLUS Programme on 10 March 2021, which closed on 12 May 2021. At the April Council Meeting the Councils draft response to the PEACE PLUS Public Consultation was approved.

It was reported to the June Council meeting that SEUPB had appointed consultants across all 17 local authorities to support the development of a PEACE PLUS Local Action Plan Model and Governance Structure. Each local authority could utilise up to a maximum of £100,000 to resource development of the plan.

Correspondence has been received from SEUPB, copy **enclosed**, updating on Local Authority PEACE PLUS Actions Plans.

Each PEACE PLUS Action Plan will comprise component localised views/inputs/plans for a number of designated areas, which collectively span the entire local authority area. A suggested approach is to utilise a DEA approach to establish localised PEACE Action Plans. SEUPB advise that the approach undertaken to configure the Council PEACE PLUS structures will be at the discretion of each Council.

The role of the Councils PEACE PLUS structures, which are advisory in nature will be to co-design the community's PEACE PLUS input specific to their area, which feeds into the Councils overall Action Plan. Given the advisory nature there is no requirement to include any governance arrangements separate to existing structures.

The existing Recovery Governance Structure is **enclosed**. It is proposed to utilise this existing Council framework to co-design the Borough's PEACE PLUS Action Plan rather than establish an additional body. The PEACE PLUS themes align closely with Council Plans and therefore embedding PEACE PLUS within the existing Community Planning framework ensures PEACE PLUS plans deliver against Council's Strategic Plans across the themes of People, Place and Prosperity.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the existing Recovery Governance Structure be used to develop the Council's PEACE PLUS Action Plan.**

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

### 6.30 ED/ED/204 CITY/GROWTH DEALS – COMPLEMENTARY FUND BIDS

Members are advised that the Department of Finance has now invited bids for the City/Growth Deal's Complementary Fund – budget 2022/25. A copy of the correspondence is **enclosed** for Members' information. The Department has indicated that bids received will inform the Executive's next Budget process which it is hoped will cover a 3-year period, subject to the UK Spending Review.

Any projects agreed under the Complementary Fund will be funded from the Executive's Capital DEL budget. It is envisaged that the total funding agreed for projects as part of this round will equate to no more than 50% of the £100 million Complementary Fund, even if some funding for a project is required in the next budget period.

Complementary Fund bids need to be supported by the Department with policy responsibility for the area before being submitted for consideration. Bids must therefore be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 1 September 2021.

The criteria for the Fund is summarised in the enclosure and includes areas such as;

- Demonstrate local benefit, preferably aligned to local economic strategies, where available;
- Alignment with zero carbon commitments
- Complements City/Growth Deals, not displacing previous approvals

Members are advised that the recently completed Levelling Up Fund bids broadly align to the criteria for the Complementary Fund and therefore it is proposed that the Antrim and Glengormley regeneration schemes be submitted for consideration. These schemes already benefit from support from the Department for Communities which is a prerequisite for applications.

In addition, Councils are collaborating on a number of strategic partnership initiatives which may also be appropriate. The most advanced of such collaborative initiatives is a Digital Small Capital Grant Programme which will be a follow on to the Digital Transformation Programme being delivered collaboratively by the Councils. It is proposed that this would be a fund of £3-4 million and would assist businesses to implement their digital transformation plans by, for example the purchase of new software or equipment.

The other areas of collaboration are;

- Low Carbon / Green Solutions
- Regeneration

Whilst these proposals are not at an advanced stage of development, it is proposed that the broad concept is submitted for consideration with work ongoing thereafter to bring forward relevant business cases.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. The Antrim and Glengormley Regeneration schemes be submitted for consideration;**
- ii. A Digital Small Grant Capital Programme be submitted as a collaborative bid by all Councils;**
- iii. The Council supports and contributes to agreed, collaborative bids under the themes of Low Carbon/Green Solutions and Regeneration.**

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

**7. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

**7.1 G/MSMO/60 CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN RELATION TO CPR TRAINING IN SCHOOLS MOTION**

Members will recall that at the Council meeting of 28 June 2021 a Motion was carried regarding the provision of compulsory CPR training and AED awareness for all pupils in years 8-12, and requesting a funding package for certified instructors to deliver CPR in schools be provided.

The Chief Executive had written to the Minister (copy **enclosed**) and a response has been received (**enclosed**)

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 7.2 HR/ER/002/Vol 2 NILGA CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING DISSOLUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the NI Local Government Association (NILGA) re-stating its long held policy on the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission to assist Council in responding to recent correspondence from the Communities Minister and the Commission.

Copies of NILGA correspondence to the Minister for Communities and Labour Relations Agenda are provided for formal consideration by the Council (**enclosed**).

As a Council we look forward with anticipation to the formal consultations and correspondence.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

### 7.3 CCS/EDP/007 QUARTERLY SCREENING REPORT AND RURAL SCREENING

Members are advised that in line with the Council's Equality Scheme it was agreed to provide quarterly updates on the screening of policies under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the Council gave a commitment to apply screening methodology to all new and revised policies. Where necessary and appropriate, these new policies would be subject to further equality impact assessment.

The policies noted below have been screened between April to June 2021.

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>SCREENING DECISION</b>
Good Relations Audit and Strategy	1
Leisure Grant Aid	1
Leisure Capital Projects Antrim Forum Fitness Suite Refurbishment	1
Leisure Capital Projects Ballyearl Driving Range Improvements	1
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy	1
Anti-Bribery Policy	1
Full Fibre NI Scheme Wayleaves Approval Process	1

- (1) Screened with no mitigation
- (2) Screened with mitigation
- (3) Screened and EQIA required

**RECOMMENDATION: that the quarterly screening report be noted.**

Prepared by: Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Customer Services Officer

Agreed by: Nicola McCullough, Communications and Customer Services Manager

Approved by: Simon Hope, Interim Director of Communications and Customer Services



#### **7.4 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL**

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's August 2021 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 10 June 2021 are also **enclosed**.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 7.5 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – JULY 2021 – PERIOD 4

A budget report for July 2021 – Period 4 is enclosed for Members' information. The Council's financial position at the end of July 2021 shows an adverse variance of £297k before exceptional costs.

Central Government advanced £1.4m at March 2021 to Council for the 2021/22 financial year which was allocated to a Covid Losses Reserve at year end and will be used to offset these operational losses. This reserve will be applied as required during the course of the 2021/22 financial year.

After exceptional Covid-19 costs of £244k and furlough income of £348k the Council's overall position is £193k adverse, which will be met from the Covid Losses Reserve.

Members should also note that contained within the result is Council planned contribution to other reserves of £249k as per the 2021/22 Estimates process. This contribution is to provide funds for future strategic projects and potential rates appeals.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

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

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

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

## 7.6 CP/GR/134 GOOD RELATIONS WEEK 2021

Members are advised that Good Relations Week 2021 will run from Monday 20 to Sunday 26 September 2021.

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 2021 theme is 'Brighter Days Ahead', which celebrates and spotlights the range of projects young people are involved in to engage, inspire and educate, acting as a catalyst to create opportunities for personal development and skills attainment to create a prosperous future. It will explore many of the issues affecting the youth of today and how society can better meet their needs.

The Council's Good Relations Team will showcase activities of young people across the Borough through the creation of up to four videos to be distributed through Council social media channels. Provision for this has been made in the Good Relations Action Plan budget for 2021/22.

Participation has been sought from various groups who have received funding from the Council for Youth Engagement in 2021:

<b>Programme:</b>	<b>Delivered by:</b>
Youth Empowerment Programme	Impact Network NI
The Flex Programme	Stoneworks Gym
Summer Outreach Diversionary Programme	Croi Eanna, Rathenraw Youth Centre, Mayfield Community Association, Ionad Teaghlaigh Ghleann Darach, Bawnmore District Residents Association
Creative Diversionary Youth Programme	Newtownabbey Arts and Cultural Network (NACN)

A celebration event hosted by the Mayor will be held during Good Relations Week to recognise the achievements of young people involved in the projects listed in the report.

Further information about all the activities planned for Good Relations Week can be found at [www.goodrelationsweek.com](http://www.goodrelationsweek.com).

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Jen Cole, Good Relations Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 7.7 CP/CD/388 BONFIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2021

Members are reminded that the 2021 Bonfire Management Programme was approved by the Council in March 2021 at a cost of £101,000. In total 19 sites across the Borough participated in the programme as detailed below:

Site	Site Status
Ballyduff	Bonfire
Burnside	Beacon
Doagh	Double Beacon
Grange	Bonfire
Monkstown Abbeytown Square	Bonfire
Monkstown Devenish Drive	Bonfire
New Mossley	Bonfire
Old Mossley	Bonfire
Queenspark	Bonfire
Rathcoole Derrycoole Way	None
Rathcoole Rathmullan Drive	Bonfire
Mallusk	None
Ballycraigy	Bonfire
Parkhall Kilgreel Road	Beacon
Parkhall Kilbride Gardens	Beacon
Steeple Oaktree Drive	None
Newpark and Caulside	None
Townparks	Beacon
Neillsbrook	Double Beacon

A pre-collection inspection across all sites took place on Thursday 13 May 2021 and was followed up by further inspections on Thursday 17 June and Friday 9 July 2021.

Townparks in Antrim, an area which had not participated in the programme since the amalgamation of both Councils in 2015 signed up to this year's programme.

Unfortunately due to a Covid-19 cluster the festival/family fun day event planned for Derrycoole Way had to be cancelled less than 24 hours before it was due to take place and the entertainment booked for this site had to be reallocated to other sites within the Borough.

The total cost of this year's programme to include the delivery of the festival/family fun day events and the repair, filling, delivery and collection of the six beacons was £96,768 producing a saving of £4,232 to be utilised across other areas within the Community Planning budget.

An evaluation of the 2021 programme and a planning session for the delivery of the programme in 2022 will take place with Members, Statutory Partners and site representatives in January 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning