



24 March 2021

**To: Each Member of the Council**

Dear Member

**MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A remote meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 29 March 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

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

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

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 [memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](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 remotely on Monday 22 February 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held remotely on Monday 1 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 1 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 2 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
10. To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 March 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION
  - 11.1 To approve the Sealing of Documents
  - 11.2 Disposal of Land at Tarragon Park
  - 11.3 The Right to Sell Foodstuffs and Hot/Soft Drinks in Council Parks
  - 11.4 Memorial to Those Who Lost Their Lives to COVID-19
  - 11.5 Summer Entertainment

- 11.6 COVID-19 Sunday Opening Hours
- 11.7 Centenary of Northern Ireland – Centenary Charter
- 11.8 Memorial Plaque
- 11.9 Strategic Economic Working Group Minutes/Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
- 11.10 Policy to Support Direct Investment
- 11.11 Policy to Support the Development and Refurbishment of Workspace
- 11.12 Economic Development Revitalise Funding
- 11.13 Town Centre Recovery Action Plans
- 11.14 Council Events Programme Update 2021
- 11.15 European Social Fund (ESF) Awards
- 11.16 Visit Belfast Funding 2021-22
- 11.17 Grow Programme – Proposal to Utilise Remaining Budget
- 11.18 Collaborative Tourism Cluster – Partnership Agreement
- 11.19 Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- 11.20 Department for the Economy - Research Into the Economic, Environmental and Social Impacts of Petroleum Licensing Policy
- 11.21 Department for Infrastructure Notice of Opinion relating to Planning Application Reference U/2014/0096/F For Modification of Planning Condition No 7 (To Increase Annual Waste Tonnage From 180 000 To 280 000 Tonnes Per Annum) And Condition 11 (Cell Numbering/Order Of Phasing) of Planning Approval Ref: U/2014/0096/F which was for a Quarry and Inert Landfill
- 11.22 Capital Projects Prioritisation Proposals
- 11.23 Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors 2021-22
- 11.24 Princes Trust Funding Awards
- 11.25 EU Peace Plus Programme – GSNI Geothermal Project Bid
- 12 ITEMS FOR NOTING
  - 12.1 Motion – Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – NILGOSC

- 12.2 Motion – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Universal Credit Payments
- 12.3 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 12.4 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel Minutes
- 12.5 Correspondence from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs – Animal Welfare
- 12.6 City Growth Deal – Complementary Fund
- 12.7 Belfast Region City Deal – Glider Project
- 12.8 Centenary of Northern Ireland Our Story in the Making Programme including Shared History Fund
- 12.9 Submission of Draft Plan Strategy to Department for Infrastructure to Cause an Independent Examination
- 12.10 Northern Ireland Partnership Panel Local Government Meeting
- 12.11 Department for Communities COVID-19 Funding

### 13 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 13.1 CCTV Camera Replacement Option Appraisal
- 13.2 Land adjacent to Nursery Park, Antrim
- 13.3 Pensions Discretions Policy Statement
- 13.4 The Queen's Green Canopy – the Platinum Jubilee 2022
- 13.5 Expression of Interest in Land at Springfarm for Playground Improved Access and Inclusive Play Works

### 14 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Mark Cooper  
 Seconded by Councillor Julie Gilmour

*"That this Council commits to being a Deaf Friendly Council, undertakes to ensure all council services are accessible to those who are Deaf, commits to providing signing on social media videos to highlight important events and announcements within the Council area, promotes the introduction of Sign Courses for staff, appoints a "Deaf Champion" within the Council and commits to working with neighbouring Councils and Deaf organisations to promote Deaf awareness. Commits to signing up to the BDA's, BSL/ISL Charter to improve access and rights for Deaf people who use sign language."*

15 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Alison Bennington  
Seconded by Councillor Jeannie Archibald-Brown

*"The Council recognises women's concerns across the United Kingdom after the disappearance and subsequent murder of Sarah Everard. It has placed a spotlight on the safety of women and girls.*

*The motion requests that the Council:*

- Request the Dept of Justice to bring forward a Safer Places Fund which enables PSNI and Local Authorities to bid for investment in initiatives, such as street lighting and CCTV security cameras that have been proven to prevent crime of all types.*
- Request the Northern Ireland Assembly initiate a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy,*
- Endorse and promote the Women's Aid petition calling for a VAWG Strategy to be implemented,*
- To form a task force to develop publicity campaign promoting Safety Apps and engaging with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Women's Aid and Soroptimists within Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*
- Request that other Councils do the same."*

16 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Roisin Lynch  
Seconded by Alderman Thomas Burns

*"This Council acknowledges the prevalence and impact of violence against women and girls locally, and throughout the world, resulting in the loss of lives, implications for the health and wellbeing of survivors, discrimination and the violation of human rights.*

*This Council notes that at present there is no specific Strategy in the North on the eradication of violence against women and girls, noting that we are the only part of these islands without such a strategy.*

*This Council calls on the Justice Minister, supported by the Joint First Ministers, to bring forward a strategy to eliminate violence against women and girls as a matter of urgency.*

*This Council agrees to consider developing a financial support fund for women's groups across our district.*

*This Council declares its commitment to making our area a safe place for everyone and acknowledges that women should feel safe in public places everywhere."*

17 MOTION

Moved by Councillor Michael Goodman

Seconded by Councillor Roisin Lynch

*"This Council recognises that we are in a climate emergency, notes that this motion builds on the 2015 Strategic Planning Policy Statement presumption against the exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbon extraction in Northern Ireland, acknowledges its responsibility to protect public health and the environment, and in light of the NI Assembly's unanimous motion on 13 October which called for a moratorium and legislative ban on petroleum licensing for all hydrocarbon exploration, drilling and extraction, this Council calls upon the Northern Ireland Executive to enact an immediate ban on all such petroleum licensing and agrees to write to the Minister for the Economy requesting that the current applications (PLA1/16 and PLA2/16) for petroleum licences be immediately rejected."*

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021**

**11. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**11.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

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

- Form of Agreement – Mechanical Plant Upgrades at Antrim Forum and Sixmile Leisure Centre
- Lease with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey for the lease of Offices at the Dunanney Centre
- Lease with Tribe Technology Group Limited or the lease of an office at Mossley Mill

**RECOMMENDATION: that the documents be signed and sealed.**

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

## 11.2 CE/GEN/017 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT TARRAGON PARK

Members are advised that a D1 form, a copy of which is enclosed, has been received from Land and Property Services regarding land declared surplus by the Housing Executive at Tarragon Park, Antrim. Officers have reviewed the information provided and have not identified a need for this asset.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council does not express an interest in this land.**

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning



### 11.3 PK/GEN/171 THE RIGHT TO SELL FOODSTUFFS AND HOT/SOFT DRINKS IN COUNCIL PARKS

Members are reminded that there are currently approved opportunities for catering vendors in a number of Council parks where no permanent catering facilities exist; supplying hot and cold soft drinks, hot food, light snacks or ice cream to park users.

Current on-site provisions are:

- Hazelbank Park, Newtownabbey
  - Ice cream van
  - light snacks and hot/soft drinks
- Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare
  - light snacks and hot/soft drinks
- Lillian Bland Park, Glengormley
  - Ice cream van

In recent months, Officers have received a number of enquiries from both, vendors expressing an interest in providing a service at other parks and, park users requesting these services be made available.

A review of the suitability of additional locations was carried out and it is proposed that the following new opportunities are offered to vendors for the period 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022 (with an option, by the Council, to extend by a further period of up to 12 months).

- Threemilewater Park
- Crumlin Glen
- The Whitehouse
- Wallace Park,
- Market Square/Barbican Gate (to be offered to the catering franchisee at the Old Courthouse)
- Lough Shore Parks (to be offered to catering franchisees)
- Cranfield

If approved, opportunities will be offered at the new locations for ice cream vans and hot/soft drinks and light snacks. The ice cream van opportunity at Sixmilewater Park, will be re-advertised as well as the hot/soft drinks and light snacks at Lillian Bland Community Park.

#### **Flower Vending**

Members are reminded that there was previously an opportunity offered for flower selling at Carnmoney cemetery. Some interest has been received in this opportunity recently and it is also proposed to advertise this.

A report on the results of the entire process will be brought to the Operations Committee in due course.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the vending opportunities set out above be approved for the period 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022 (with an option, by the Council, to extend by a further period of up to 12 months).**

Prepared by: Glenda James, Administration Supervisor

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

#### **11.4 PK/GEN/001/VOL3 MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO COVID-19**

Following a number of requests Officers have considered appropriate ways to remember those people from the Borough who lost their lives to COVID-19 over recent months.

It is proposed that a tree will be planted by the Mayor at each Civic Centre with a plaque in memory of those who have lost their lives and that, in addition, two flowerbeds are created, one at Whiteabbey and one at Antrim. Details of proposed locations and planting will be brought for consideration to the Grass Management sub group.

**RECOMMENDATION: that a tree is planted at each Civic Centre and flower beds created at Whiteabbey Village and Antrim in memory of those from the Borough who have lost their lives to COVID-19.**

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

## 11.5 L/LEI/004/VOL2 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Officers have been considering the potential to run summer schemes this year and due to the uncertainty regarding the timing of the easing of restrictions in the coming months, it has become clear that it will not be possible to run the schemes.

Following the success of the Mayor's virtual Christmas Programme and the uptake of the Culture Lounge, it is proposed to offer a range of virtual entertainment opportunities older children together with content for younger children, provided through the Arts and Culture team including competitions, story-telling by Mr Hullabaloo, sketches and music all of which will be made available through the More Live platform.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed summer entertainment programme be approved.**

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure, Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations, Nick Harkness, Head of Community Planning

## 11.6 ED/ED/183 COVID-19 SUNDAY OPENING HOURS

A decision was taken by Council in April 2020 to relax enforcement action in relation to Sunday Opening Hours of large supermarkets. It was reviewed and extended in November 2020 in the run up to Christmas to facilitate 'safe' shopping environments and social distancing for staff and customers and again in January with an extension until the end of March to help retailers manage customer volumes and better facilitate key workers, healthcare workers and customers with disabilities.

In light of the ongoing restrictions linked to the pandemic, it is now proposed to extend this arrangement until the end of June 2021.

The period between 10am and 1pm will be set aside to facilitate key workers, healthcare workers and customers with disabilities. Normal liquor licencing provisions are not affected by this relaxation. Retailers are in all cases expected to comply with all current COVID-19 related legislation and regulations.

To this end, it is recommended that the Council does not undertake enforcement action against large retail shops (in excess of 280 m<sup>2</sup>) through to the end of June 2021, should they choose to open or deliver on a Sunday from 10am onwards. Normal liquor licencing provisions would not be affected by this relaxation. This will apply to all retail units across the Borough.

This arrangement is temporary and has been put in place to cover the period Sunday 28 March 2021 to Sunday 27 June 2021 inclusive. There is no change to smaller retail shops (under 280 m<sup>2</sup>), which can continue to trade up to 24 hours.

The legal advice is that during the current COVID-19 pandemic it is reasonable and proportionate for the Council to relax its enforcement powers in relation to Sunday trading hours under The Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 for the period as outlined above.

The new arrangements will be communicated to relevant retailers across the Borough.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Sunday Trading arrangements be extended until the end of June 2021.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

## 11.7 AC/GEN/066 CENTENARY OF NORTHERN IRELAND – CENTENARY CHARTER

Members are reminded that the NI Centenary Working Group continues to meet regularly, with the minutes of the meetings reported regularly to the Community Planning Committee. The planned NI Centenary programme was approved by the Community Planning Committee on 8 March 2021.

In addition to the programme the Group has proposed the creation of a Council Centenary Charter, which the Mayor will commit to on behalf of the Council on 3 May 2021, the date marking 100 years since the creation of Northern Ireland as a separate legal entity. It is proposed that the Charter is then sealed and framed for permanent display in both Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre.

A copy of the Draft Centenary Charter is **enclosed** for Members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council Centenary Charter be approved and placed on permanent display in Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

## 11.8 AC/HE/027 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Members are advised that a request has been submitted for a Memorial Plaque to the Merchant Navy to be added to the rear wall at the Whiteabbey War Memorial. The Merchant Navy were awarded the Freedom of the Borough by Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2012.

In the First World War, the Merchant Navy supplied services to the Royal Navy, transporting troops and supplies, raw materials to overseas munitions factories and munitions from those factories, maintaining ordinary import and export trade, supplying food to the UK and provided both personnel and ships to supplement the existing resources of the Royal Navy. By the end of the war, 3,305 merchant ships had been lost with a total of 17,000 lives. In the Second World War, losses were again considerable in the early years, reaching a peak in 1942. In all, 4,786 merchant ships were lost during this war with a total of 32,000 lives. More than one quarter of this total were lost in home waters.

It is proposed that a memorial plaque, which fits in with the existing character of the memorial, be added to the Whiteabbey War Memorial. The insignia of The Merchant Navy along with the following wording are proposed for inclusion on this memorial:

**In Memory of all those members of The Merchant Navy,**

**including those who served in the First and Second World Wars and gave their lives in service for others.**

**Lest We Forget**

**RECOMMENDATION: that the addition of a memorial plaque to the Merchant Navy at the Whiteabbey War Memorial with the insignia of The Merchant Navy and the wording as proposed be approved.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

**11.9 ED/ED/173 STRATEGIC ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP/OUR PROSPERITY  
OUTCOME DELIVERY GROUP MINUTES**

The Strategic Economic Working Group/Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group met on 23 February 2021 to review progress on strategic economic development and tourism matters and to consider priorities as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 23 February 2021 is enclosed for Members' consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Strategic Economic Working Group of 23 February 2021 be approved.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning



## 11.10 ED/REG/061 POLICY TO SUPPORT DIRECT INVESTMENT

Members will be aware that the Council continues to promote the promotion of the Borough as a key investment location particularly due to its accessible location, availability of prime sites and property and the proximity to over 59% of households in NI within 10 miles of the Borough.

These locational advantages combined with an efficient and responsive planning service and supportive economic development function create an attractive proposition for those seeking to invest for the first time within the borough or those seeking to relocate within the area.

Through engagement with potential investors, it has been identified that there are barriers which may delay or prevent investment from proceeding including land purchase costs, infrastructure requirements, suitability of existing accommodation etc. In response to this a policy to support direct investment is proposed as follows:-

This policy is designed to remove barriers to investment by strategically supporting new and expanding businesses in the following growth sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
- Transport & Logistics
- Construction & Materials Handling
- Life & Health Sciences
- Food & Drink
- Aerospace & Defence
- Creative, Digital & Technology
- Professional & Financial Services

The policy will support foreign and indigenous businesses with mobile strategic growth plans who can add economic value by locating in the Borough, to create jobs and enhance opportunities for residents to gain employment/skills and provide added value to the local economy. It will also support businesses based in the Borough with strategic growth plans to relocate or expand to larger and/or more suitable premises to facilitate increased employment and productivity.

It will provide a practical financial incentive to actively support businesses investing in the Borough by way of either grant assistance (De Minimis funding requirements to be adhered to) or improvements to infrastructure to facilitate Planning requirements.

The level of grant aid provided will be equivalent to 6 months' rates valuation or estimation plus a multiplier based on; Job creation, Scale of Investment, Scale of Expansion and other economic opportunities/benefits

A copy of the policy is enclosed for Members' consideration. The policy will benefit the Council by increasing job opportunities and skills for residents, increasing the local rates base.

A Section 75 Screening exercise has now been completed and it is the recommendation of Officers that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required. The screening form is **enclosed** for Members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. the Policy to support direct investment be approved;**
- ii. the Section 75 screening form be approved.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

## 11.11 ED/ED/168 POLICY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND REFURBISHMENT OF WORKSPACE

This draft policy is aimed at developing a network of modern, accessible, fit for purpose workspace to meet the needs of businesses, social enterprises and entrepreneurs. In the first instance, support will only be available to local social enterprises, trading for a proven period of time. including the 3 local enterprise agencies; Mallusk Enterprise Park, Antrim Enterprise Agency and LEDCOM.

Funded projects be required to use a common brand and offer a consistent portfolio of business start-up and development support services.

This strategic policy will deliver against the following outcomes as detailed in the Council's Economic Development Action Plan:

- Regeneration of vacant properties;
- Promotion of entrepreneurship and business start-up;
- Business skills development and capacity building;
- Stimulate COVID-19 recovery.

In the development of this policy, the Council has consulted with the Enterprise Agency Network, Enterprise Northern Ireland and property agents.

The policy will support applicants with 50% of the cost of technical assistance towards a scoping study and/or business case for their intended scheme. If the business case is positive the applicant can then proceed to access a 65% grant with the remaining 35% to be provided by the project promoter. The indicative eligible grant range is noted below:

Refurbishment: £300 - £500 per square metre (£30 - £50 per square foot)

New Build: Indicative award will be £1,500 per square metre (£150 per square foot)

The pipeline of potential projects identified indicates that there are no immediate requests for financial assistance in excess of £250,000, therefore the intended funding will be provided via a contract and Service Level Agreement, depending on the individual circumstances of each project.

A copy of the draft policy is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

A Section 75 Screening exercise has now been completed and it is the recommendation of Officers that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required. The screening form is **enclosed** for Members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the policy and outcome of the screening exercise be approved**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

## 11.12 ED/GEN/015 & ED/ED/184 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVITALISE FUNDING

The implementation of the Action Plan for 'Revitalise Funding' administered by the Department for Communities (DfC) is progressing well with an extension to the funding timescale confirmed which means that projects can be delivered through to the end of September 2021, with a possibility to extend this timescale further upon request if required.

An updated Revitalise Action Plan is **enclosed** for Members' information. All COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Funding calls are now closed. Across the different calls 233 businesses have been supported through a direct award at a total committed budget of just over £200k.

Members will note that the action plan indicates a profiled balance of £22,925.87 however a number of actions within the plan have provisional sums allocated to them and it is anticipated that the balance will be required for these expenditure areas including; Promotional banners and sound systems for town centres.

In the expectation that further funding will be made available in the 2021/22 financial year, officers will present a draft outline plan for Members' consideration in due course.

Authority was previously delegated to the Chief Executive to award letters of offer to businesses to expedite the release of funds. **Enclosed** is a summary of COVID-19 grant letters of offer issued since the previous delegated authority report which was tabled to Council in February 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. the updated Action Plan be approved;**
- ii. the micro grant for businesses awarded under delegated authority since the previous tranche be noted;**
- iii. authority continue to be delegated to the Chief Executive to implement any new requests which meet the broad criteria of the funding provided should an underspend be identified as the Council reaches the deadline for expenditure.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAllister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

### 11.13 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS

Draft Action Plans for each of the five main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown are **enclosed** for Members' information.

Members are advised that new masterplans are also being developed for each Town. As part of this process site visits will be arranged to each of the Towns for Members on a DEA basis during April 2021. In terms of delivery the relevant staff assigned to each area of work are **enclosed** for Members' information.

The Action Plans consist of a range of improvements, which are intended to achieve the following:

- Physical enhancements and cosmetic improvements to various parts of the towns including installation of street art, branding, street dressing, floral displays and planting.
- Repurposing of vacant spaces to support the hospitality and retail sectors.
- Improved wayfinding throughout the towns to encourage and direct visitors to experience the full range of town centre attractions including connected leisure and tourism spaces.
- Implementation of potential capital projects which can address long term issues such as parking and creation of civic realm spaces to support ongoing economic recovery.

In summary the plans 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 in our towns and therefore support economic recovery of all sectors. The plans also aim to support the delivery of both the Corporate Plan and Community Plan objectives.

The Town Centre Action plans have also been developed in tandem with the Councils Tourism Action Plan and are intended to support and complement the delivery of the Tourism Plan. In addition, the Action Plans are linked to the Council Events Programme for 2021 an update on which is included within this meeting agenda.

The development of Village Improvement Plans have also been initiated and will be brought to the Council in due course.

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

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

## 11.14 ED/ED/080/VOL3 COUNCIL EVENTS PROGRAMME UPDATE 2021

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the January Council meeting that the Council Events Programme for 2021 be implemented and kept under review and that regular updates be brought to future Council meetings.

As plans have been developed there are a number of changes to the Council Events Programme for 2021 and the Schedule of Events has been updated as follows:

### **Council Events Programme – Schedule of Events**

<b>Month/ Date Normal</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)	Included in Centenary Budget	Open to reduced numbers if restrictions permit with events recorded for broadcast on social media.
Sat 8th	Darkness into Light	£2,000	Proposed Option: Virtual Content but may also be delivered depending on local restrictions.
25-29 <sup>th</sup>	May Fair	£25,000	This event will not take place this year.
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Antrim Live	£15,000	Incorporated into One Giant Weekend.
May to August	Summer Sunday Music	£9,000	Sunday concerts to be delivered on Sundays in JLSP and ACG. Delivery over 9 weeks of July and August 4 July to 29 August reduces cost to £3,600. Members may wish to consider expansion of concerts to include Hazelbank Park, Market Square Antrim, Town Hal Ballyclare, Antrim Loughshore Park and Lilian Bland Community Park with the remaining budget.
<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.
Sat 19th	Antrim and Newtownabbey Pipe Band Championship	£15,000 plus £5,000 in kind support	A request has been made by RSPBNI for the Council to host the Pipe Band Championships in ACG in June subject to restrictions with the option to push the date back to later in the summer if required. Combined branding to include The Centenary
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	Schools Out for summer	£5,000	V36 at The Valley. Event delivered in its traditional format or rescheduled if restrictions in place.
<b>July</b>			
Fridays in July and	Brighter Nights	£18,600	Lilian Bland Community Park Glengormley

August 2 July to 27 August			Event delivered in its traditional format, Friday evenings 6pm to 8pm, of family fun depending upon restrictions in place with Covid secure measures.
W'ends end July to end August	Theatre Ticketed Shows	Theatre budget income to cover cost	Civic Square at Mossley Mill The Square can accommodate a socially distanced capacity of 450 outdoors and it is proposed to programme a range of typical theatre shows including comedy and music ticketed for performance on an outdoor stage from end of July through to end August in the early evening. Streaming and screening options to be included if possible.
<b>August</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Party in the Park	£20,000	Antrim Castle Gardens Event delivered in its traditional format subject to restrictions. Combined branding to include The Centenary
28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup>	Shoreline Festival	£31,000	Jordanstown Loughshore Park To be included as part of One Giant Weekend 3 to 5 September in V36 at The Valley subject to consultation with Whiteabbey traders. Combined branding to include The Centenary
<b>September</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>	One Giant Evening One Giant Picnic	£50,000	Main Centenary events with Garden Show Ireland promotional element, Antrim Live and Shoreline Festival to be included. Combined branding to include The Centenary
5 <sup>th</sup>	Spinning Yarns	£10,000	Mossley Mill – To be held on Sunday 5 September Combined branding to include The Centenary
<b>October</b>			
30 Oct	2 x Halloween events	£38,000	V36 at The Valley The Junction, Antrim – To be confirmed
<b>December</b>			
TBC	Enchanted Winter Garden	£46,000	Antrim Castle Gardens over multiple evenings in December. A decision on whether this event can proceed is needed by June to allow sufficient time for planning.

Members are reminded that the Council has agreed to organise animation events in the town centres when restrictions permit. Planning is underway to deliver artisan markets, street theatre, live music, animated trails, treasure hunts and busking as examples of activities which will create entertainment and atmosphere in all of our towns.

In terms of additional animation, a proposal has been received from a Big Wheel operator as follows:



- Antrim Market Square – A Panoramic Wheel to operate 30 April to 27 June, open daily 12 noon to 9 pm.
- Jordanstown Loughshore Park - A Panoramic Wheel to operate mid-August to end September, open daily 12noon to 9pm, with the addition of a Panoramic Park of mini attractions in the bowl area where a mini seaside park of small attractions would complement the Wheel.

The operator would pay a parks daily hire fee of £100 to the Council for the duration of hire periods for both the Wheel and the Panoramic Park and take on full responsibility for operation and management of the attractions. Big Wheels are designated as Outdoor Visitor Attractions under COVID regulations so can operate when restrictions permit this sector to open. The operator will supply COVID-19 Risk Assessments, insurance and has committed to robust COVID safety measures.

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

- May Day Steam Rally – Organisers have announced that the event planned for Sunday 2 and Monday 3 May 2021 is cancelled however they are investigating the possibility of running the event at Shanes Castle over the last weekend in August. There are currently no Council events planned for this weekend.
- The Irish Game Fair and Food Festival is scheduled for 26 and 27 June in Shanes Castle and is being supported by Council funding of £15,000 from the Economic Development budget.
- ISPS Handa World Golf Invitational 2021 – Event promoters planning to deliver the event from 27 July to 1 August 2021 with sponsorship support from the Council approved at the January 2021 meeting.
- Statscup Supercup NI – Officers are still having discussions with event organisers about the feasibility of this event in 2021 and a separate report will be brought to a future meeting.
- Antrim Festival Group – A week long Festival is traditionally delivered by the Group in Antrim in June annually culminating in an outdoor event on the final Sunday in Antrim Castle Gardens. Organisers have indicated that they think this is not feasible and they require a longer lead in time so they have proposed running two family day outdoor music events in Antrim Castle Gardens and Market Square. The first alongside Party in the Park on Sunday 8 August and a second on Sunday 5 September as part of One Giant Weekend. There is an opportunity for the Saturday event infrastructure to be used by the Festival Group on both dates which reduces their cost. An application for funding support of £5,000 from the Community Festival Fund has been submitted and will be assessed and presented to the April Community Planning Committee

- Radox Antrim Agricultural Show is scheduled for Saturday 24 July in Shanes Castle however to date no application for Council funding has been submitted for this event

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. the updated Events Programme be approved**
- ii. the proposal to operate a Panoramic Wheel in both Antrim Market Square and Jordanstown Loughshore Park from April to September as outlined, be approved**
- iii. monthly regular updates on the Events Programme be presented to the Council**
- iv. any budget from events that do not proceed, be directed to the Town Centre and Villages Recovery programme**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning/  
Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.15 ED/ED/102 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) AWARDS – FINAL YEAR FUNDING

The European Social Funding (ESF) Programme aims to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity and increasing the skills base of the present and emerging workforce. In January and March 2018 the Council agreed to provide match funding to organisations that had successfully secured ESF funding over four years from April 2018 until March 2022, subject to an annual review of performance. To date, collectively the projects have supported 529 participants in Antrim and Newtownabbey since commencing in April 2018, and 224 participants have secured jobs as a result of participating on the programme. The total jobs created throughout project delivery until the end of December 2020 is 224. This exceeds the target of 191 set at the outset of the programme funding period.

Six organisations received support in the 2020-21 financial year and have requested funding to continue their projects for the final year of the ESF programme up to March 2022. Delivery since March 2020 has been impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. These projects support the most vulnerable participants in our community, namely, those most removed from the labor market and persons with a disability. The ability to engage with these groups has been more challenging as they have been shielding during the pandemic. For a period of time referrals from the local Jobs and Benefits Offices were suspended by the Department for Communities due to workload and it became increasingly difficult for the project promoters to engage with local employers. The project promoters listed below have continued to directly employ job coaches to fulfil their funding obligations. The delivery target across all project promoters to the end of December 2020 was forecast as 176 participants however the predicted out-turn is 101 participants due to the factors outlined. Promoters have stated that the support offered to participants has been more resource intensive during these challenging times.

The Department for the Economy and the European Social Fund continue to support projects to sustain the longer-term delivery of services. The project promoters have adapted the learning and training to online resources where possible. The target and match funding requests for the 2021-22 year are as follows:

Organisation & Project	Target Group	Total ANBC Participants	Total Local Jobs Created	Funding Request (Year 4)
Workforce Online: Path 2 Employment	Long term unemployed / Economically Inactive	18	4	£6,350
Network Personnel: Jobmatch	Long term unemployed / Economically Inactive	98	17	£10,332
NOW Group: Verve Project	Disability	32	8	£12,500
USEL: Stride Project	Disability	20	6	£12,500
Enterprise NI: Exploring Enterprise	Long term unemployed / Economically Inactive	33	7	£6,215

GEMS NI Limited: Co-Ment Project	Young people, NEET's	15	4	£7,902
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>216</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>£55,799</b>

**RECOMMENDATION: that the match funding for the current 6 European Social Fund programmes be approved at a total cost of £55,799.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAllister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.16 ED/TOU/35 VISIT BELFAST FUNDING 2021-22

Members are reminded that the Council agreed in April 2019 to fund Visit Belfast in 2019/2020 at a cost of £20,000 giving the Council access to a wide range of marketing networks and media to promote the Borough. Visit Belfast operates the Welcome Centre in Belfast and also Visitor Information Services at Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport.

In 2020/2021 Visit Belfast reduced their request to £5,000 due to COVID-19. The funding requirement from Antrim/Newtownabbey Borough Council to remain as a key partner in 2021/2022 would be at a reduced rate this year again of £5,000 per annum. The Benefits package for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council as a partner and key funder at Belfast International Airport Visitor Information Centre (BIA VIC) are:

- The Business plan for 2021/2022 is projecting that the team will handle 110,700 enquiries,
- Have three destination images on the rotating holding screen (with literature racking space underneath) in a key area of the airport right next to UK arrivals and baggage reclaim at a point where visitors are actively looking for tourist information.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council branding on the front desk.
- Handle any Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough enquiries and provide a signposting service to attractions, products and events in that area.
- Priority Literature racking and distribution service for key print from a branded counter literature holder/rack at both Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport.
- Signpost and book any accommodation enquiries into the area.
- Literature ordering service when stocks are running low.
- Opportunity to provide platforms for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to promote specific events from the BIA VIC.
- Excellent opportunity to profile the borough and its attractions to visitors both out of state and NI residents using the airport.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey to have two resting screen images at the Applegreen M2 screen (North Bound)
- PR opportunities in local and NI Travel Trade publications on the support role and partnership at BIA VIC

This year all efforts will be made by Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to build back Tourism Business as soon as it is safe to do so. The main markets that will drive the return of business will be the English, Scottish and Welsh markets returning first with European markets estimated to start returning when travel restrictions are lifted.

Visit Belfast has targeted to handle 450,000 enquiries in 2021/22, approximately 55% of what was handled in 2019/20. There are many sentiment surveys indicating high levels of demand for staycations and the appeal of smaller cities such as the Belfast Metropolitan area including Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Visit Belfast expect a slow start to Quarter one in April and May until travel restrictions are lifted and will tailor shifts at BIA to meet the flight patterns reducing to 5 day opening and as demand builds services will return to 7 day opening in the summer season.

Visit Belfast has also asked Council down the line to consider Regional Tourism Partnership Membership alongside Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Belfast City Councils. The 2020-21 proposal does not preclude the Council from participating in Visit Belfast's other marketing and promotional platforms at a later date should the Council wish to avail of such a collaborative opportunity.

**RECOMMENDATION: that funding for Visit Belfast be renewed at a cost of £5,000 (plus VAT) for 2021-2022, provision for which exists in the 2021-22 Economic Development budget.**

Prepared by: Karen Steele, Tourism, Town Centre and Regeneration Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: M McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.17 CD/PM/142 GROW PROGRAMME – PROPOSAL TO UTILISE REMAINING BUDGET

The GROW Rural Development budget is almost exhausted with £18,098 left to spend on Village Renewal. Applications under this measure can only be made by the Council and must 'fit' with the activities proposed under the Village plans. The grant rate which can be secured is 75% of the total project cost and the remaining 25% can be made up of 5% cash and 20% in kind, if necessary.

As noted, the application must be in the name of the Council and the scheme needs to be presented to the next board meeting of GROW on 19 March 2021 after it has been reviewed internally by officers. Any application coming forward must have both its procurement and planning permission well advanced by this date.

### **Proposal**

Only 1 proposal has been identified which is at an advanced stage of readiness and could be proposed for this funding which is the provision of portacabin facilities in Toome to provide changing, toilets and storage to meet the needs of those using the waterway including the canoeing club. The facilities will be located beside the Lockkeepers Cafe and will directly link to the Council's tourism ambitions as well as supporting people to take part in leisure and recreation thereby improving their health.

The local community group TIDAL has sought to progress the scheme 'at risk' by securing the land required, submitting the necessary planning application and seeking a number of quotes. In addition, and conscious of the demand on council resources they have made an application to the Enkalon Foundation which, if successful, will cover the 25% funding needed as match, therefore there would be no requirement for the Council to provide funding.

Due to the deadline for submission this report is being presented retrospectively to the Council for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the provision of portacabin facilities in Toome as outlined above be approved retrospectively to secure the remaining budget available from the Village Renewal measure of the GROW programme.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development & Planning

## 11.18 ED/TOU/067 COLLABORATIVE TOURISM CLUSTER – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Members are reminded that the Council agreed in September 2020 to submit an application to DAERA for the development of experience tourism and product development clusters with a maximum match funding contribution of £16,666 from the Council. Opportunities to develop a collaborative project with neighbouring Councils under the themes of 'Living Loughs' and 'Castles and Gardens' were also to be explored.

Officers can now report that the funding application to DAERA has been successful for an Ancient Buildings, Castle and Gardens Cluster and also a joint Lough Neagh Shoreline cluster with Mid Ulster District Council. Mid Ulster has proposed to take the lead on the Lough Neagh Shoreline Cluster and to enter into a partnership agreement with Antrim and Newtownabbey, subject to approval from both Councils.

The funding is for £50,000, with the match funding of £16,666 from Council and the project must be complete by 31 March 2022. Officers are in the process of procuring a consultant to develop the Ancient Buildings, Castle and Gardens Cluster. The Programme objectives will be achieved by the facilitator engaging with rural tourism businesses, attractions and experiences to develop individual and collaborative experiences which will be marketed in the media and online. It is essential that these experiences deliver on both visitor experience and economic development outcomes, from those outlined below, as well as being aligned to Tourism Northern Ireland's 'Northern Ireland – Embrace a Giant Spirit' branding.

The key tasks for both clusters are to:

- Identify and bring together members of the Ancient Buildings, Castles & Gardens and Lough Neagh Shoreline clusters
- Develop a measurable action plan on how to bring the experiential tourism offering to the marketplace
- Identify any skills/digital gaps and how to address these
- Develop and implement a marketing plan to deliver the final experience product
- Identify stakeholders and partners who could benefit from the new experience offering

The expected outcomes as a result of the investment are:

### Visitor Experience Outcomes

- Enhanced visibility and accessibility of individual products and combined experience (including where appropriate pre-visit and season extension)
- Expanded services or product offerings to improve the visitor experience
- Access new visitor segments
- Greater visitor satisfaction



### Economic Development Outcomes

- Increased visitor spend
- Increased visitor numbers
- Increased dwell time
- Increased employment opportunities

**RECOMMENDATION: that Council enters into a partnership with Mid Ulster Council to lead on the Lough Neagh Shoreline cluster.**

Prepared by: Karen Steele, Tourism, Town Centre and Regeneration Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.19 ED/ED/193 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

In recognition of the Council's commitment to a low carbon future, a Climate Change Working Group was established in March 2020 which has produced an action plan detailing the specific initiatives to be progressed by the Council. The action plan reflects the growing ownership of electric cars in the Borough and references the need for Electric Vehicle Charging Point infrastructure both internally at Council facilities and externally at accessible locations for public use.

### Background

The Council owns and maintains a number of charging points which were installed through a government funded programme some years ago. All of these charging points are intended for the use of staff and visitors to Council facilities and are currently free of charge and operational. These charging points are nearing the end of their useful life and options for their replacement are being developed.

In addition to the Council charging points, ESB owns and operates the wider EV charging point network across Northern Ireland. It is understood that they are reviewing their network at present however it is unclear what their future upgrade/replacement plan will be and what level of financial investment will be required.

The Council is committed to exploring the potential for low carbon solutions and as part of these efforts is discussing with partners how current EV Charging Points can be improved across our borough and indeed additional points added to meet the growing demand from electric car users. As the Council also has responsibility for off street car parks which are generally well located in town centres, these will provide a further opportunity for such provision and officers are exploring relevant funding opportunities.

### Working in Partnership

To achieve a better coverage of charging facilities, the Council is engaging with a range of partners including DfI, ESB and the other 10 Councils. This includes exploring funding opportunities such as the Energy Saving Trust (EST) which is administering the On-street Residential Charge Point scheme (ORCS) on behalf of the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) across GB-NI.

This funding has a number of challenges for local Councils including the fact that Councils do not have responsibility for streets and roads however the Department for Infrastructure is keen to work with Councils where funding bids are being proposed as indicated in the **enclosed** correspondence issued to Sustainable NI.

There is a need for initial research and mapping to be undertaken to establish where the optimum locations would be for additional points both on street and off street and how the Councils will engage with the private sector to ensure ongoing upkeep of the points once installed. It is understood from the recent

correspondence that the Department for Infrastructure intends to commission some initial feasibility work to inform a way forward.

Officers will provide a further report in due course.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- i. a study is progressed in relation to the Council's own fleet and how the transition to low carbon solutions can be achieved**
- ii. a scheme for additional charging points in the Council's carparks be developed**
- iii. charging points be provided as appropriate at Council facilities for use by staff and members**
- iv. the Council liaises with the Department for Infrastructure, other Councils, private sector partners and suppliers in order to achieve the best possible EV infrastructure for the Borough**

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

**11.20 P/FP/LDP/091 DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY - RESEARCH INTO THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY**

The Department for the Economy is responsible for licensing onshore exploration for the extraction of oil and gas under petroleum licensing legislation and is currently undertaking a review of policy in this area. The Department has appointed a consultancy Hatch Regeneris to engage with local stakeholders.

A copy of correspondence from the Department and the engagement questionnaire is **enclosed**. Whilst Officers can respond to the factual information requested by Questions 1 to 17 on the questionnaire, Questions 18 and 19 in particular seek the Council's views on whether the Northern Ireland Government and the relevant agencies should take any measures to encourage or prevent activity in the future.

The Department will use the information to consider policy options and develop, through further stakeholder engagement and consultation, evidence based petroleum policy proposals. Recommendations will be referred to the NI executive for decision. A response is required by the end of the first week of April 2021.

The Council may wish to provide a corporate response or alternatively respond individually or on a party political basis.

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

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Forward Plan Manger

Agreed by: John Linden, Head of Planning

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

**11.21 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE NOTICE OF OPINION RELATING TO PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE U/2014/0096/F FOR MODIFICATION OF PLANNING CONDITION NO 7 (TO INCREASE ANNUAL WASTE TONNAGE FROM 180 000 TO 280 000 TONNES PER ANNUM) AND CONDITION 11 (CELL NUMBERING/ORDER OF PHASING) OF PLANNING APPROVAL REF: U/2014/0096/F WHICH WAS FOR A QUARRY AND INERT LANDFILL**

The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) has written to the Council to advise that it has issued a Notice of Opinion that approval should be granted for the modification of planning conditions No 7 and No 11 as outlined below. A copy of the letter from Dfi and the accompanying Notice of Opinion (NOP) are enclosed.

Application Reference	U/2014/00961/F
Proposal	Planning Application for Modification of planning condition No. 7 (to increase annual waste tonnage from 180 000 to 280 000 tonnes per annum) and condition 11 (cell numbering/order of phasing) of planning approval Ref: U/2014/0096/F which was for a quarry and inert landfill
Location	Hightown Landfill, 59 Upper Hightown Road Newtownabbey, BT14 8RR
Applicant	Macwill Services

Full details on the above application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)

The application being considered seeks to amend two conditions on the previous grant of planning permission ref: U/2014/0096/F which allowed both quarrying and the infilling of inert material at the site on the Hightown Road.

Condition 07 limits the throughput of waste through the facility to 180,000 tonnes per annum and the applicant is proposing to raise this limit to 280,000 tonnes as the applicant advises that the current limit would not be sufficient to meet market demand for inert landfilling in future years.

Condition 11, requires works to proceed in accordance with a previously approved phasing plan. The applicant has indicated that they wish to switch cells 2 and 3 around so that the applicant can progress with the landfilling component and a smaller quarrying operation at the present time.

This is a Section 54 to amend the planning conditions attached to the grant of planning permission and is not a complete reconsideration of the original planning permission and the latter will continue to exist whatever the outcome of the current application to amend the wording of the conditions which were previously granted.

The Council was previously consulted on the application and took no corporate opinion on the merits of the application, rather it allowed individual

Members or parties to express support for or object to the development if they so wish. There were no third party representations made to the Department on the application.

On foot of the NOP now received there are in effect only 2 options available to the Council in responding to the Department:-

1. To request a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission on the Department's Notice of Opinion or
2. To note the Department's Notice of Opinion and advise that the Council will not be seeking a Hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission.

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

Prepared by: John Linden, Head of Planning

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.22 CD/PM/117 CAPITAL PROJECTS PRIORITISATION PROPOSALS

Members are reminded that Capital Projects were deferred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A prioritised Capital Projects proposal Report updated to March 2021 is enclosed for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Council approves the Capital Projects Prioritisation Proposals, subject to the approval of Business Cases, in due course.**

Prepared by: Claire Minnis, Capital Projects Development Manager

Agreed by: Reggie Hillen, Head of Capital Development

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

### 11.23 G/MSMO/1 SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS 2021-22

Members are reminded that the Council is required under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 to make a scheme for the payment of allowances to councillors and committee members in respect of each year.

Circular LG 07/2021 Consolidated Councillor Allowances – Updated March 2021 (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department for Communities reflecting an increase in the maximum rates for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance from 1 April 2020 and an increase in the maximum rates for Dependants' Carers' Allowance applicable from 1 April 2021. The Council's Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors has been updated to show the new maximum rates applied from the valid dates (**enclosed**).

Should the Department for Communities issue any future notifications in relation to changes to the allowances payable for the 2021-22 financial year, the Scheme shall be updated and reported to Members for their approval.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Scheme of Allowances Payable to Councillors for 2021-22 be approved.**

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Management Accountant

Agreed by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance



## 11.24 ED/ED/19 VOL 5 PRINCE'S TRUST FUNDING AWARDS

The Prince's Trust is a charity that supports young people, aged 16-30, who are unemployed, unskilled and at risk of exclusion. The Prince's Trust has also been delivering an ESF programme over the last 3 years, and has highlighted a particular need for employability support for young people following the COVID-19 pandemic. The youth unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds across Northern Ireland has risen to 12.1% in January 2021, compared to circa 2.6% for older age groups, meaning that young people are now 4 times more likely to be unemployed than older age groups.

Since its formation in 2015, the Council has supported the Prince's Trust annually with a budget of up to £10,000 to provide small grants to help young people towards the cost of course and professional fees, equipment needed for a qualification or job, interview attire, short-term childcare or travel costs to access skills and qualifications and enhance their ability to gain employment. This year, the Princes Trust is aligning these to the ESF programme, to ensure they are available to those received mentoring support from the ESF projects and the cost for these has been built into the Prince's Trust request for support from the Council which is **enclosed**.

The Prince's Trust is therefore requesting funding from the Council of £36,313 to support 55 young people in Antrim and Newtownabbey aged 16-30 to move into further education or training (target 26) and/or to gain employment (target 7

**RECOMMENDATION: that funding of £36,313 be awarded to the Prince's Trust.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

Approved by: Majella McAllister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 11.25 CP/P4/047 EU PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME – GSNI GEOTHERMAL PROJECT BID

Members are advised that the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) approached the Council in 2020 regarding a potential Peace Plus bid for a geothermal project. The potential local government project partners namely, Antrim and Newtownabbey, Belfast and South Dublin City councils have been identified to have significant geothermal potential within their areas. In the case of ANBC, particularly in Antrim town and around Lough Neagh.

A sustainable, low-carbon project of this type would achieve a strategic fit both at a Northern Ireland level and at a Council level particularly in relation to Economic Infrastructure and Climate Change objectives.

A summary of the PEACE PLUS programme for geothermal is available [here](#) (p. 52 of the document) which will involve the establishment of shallow geothermal district heating scheme pilots and drilling of deep geothermal pilots to achieve off-grid, sustainable, low-carbon heat at domestic and community scales. This is a significant cross-border project requiring funding of approximately £20million.

The GSNI is leading the project and developing the comprehensive bid together with project partners at Geological Survey Ireland for EU PEACE PLUS funding, when the programme call goes live later this year. They have indicated that they would like to access some Council land for a borehole and to erect a small plant. This will not require significant land and ideally will be close to the town centre potentially at Allen Park. No further details are available given the early stage of the development.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- (i) the Council continues to support the EU PEACE PLUS funding bid as a key partner;**
- (ii) the Council agrees to provide 'in principle' an area of land for the borehole and associated plant, subject to further detail being provided.**

Prepared & Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 12. ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 12.1 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL – NILGOSC

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

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

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

**12.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL – UNIVERSAL CREDIT PAYMENTS**

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council.

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

**RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council be noted.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

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

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's March 2021 monthly bulletin is enclosed for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 11 February 2021 is also enclosed.

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

#### **12.4 ED/ED/171 BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL (BRCD) COUNCIL PANEL MINUTES**

The BRCD Council Panel has been established to fulfil an oversight role, ensuring that the BRCD continues to be aligned with the vision for inclusive economic growth. The Panel will meet regularly during the development of the BRCD.

The Panel met on 27 January 2021 and agreed that the minutes of the meeting should be presented to each individual Council. A copy of the minutes is **enclosed** for Members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the 27 January 2021 meeting be noted.**

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 12.5 CE/GEN/015 & EH/EHS/002 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS - ANIMAL WELFARE

Members are reminded that at the January meeting of Council, a motion was passed condemning animal cruelty, and it was agreed that correspondence be sent to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) requesting the introduction of:

- a Register of Banned Animal Welfare Offenders for those convicted of animal cruelty; and,
- a publicly accessible list of licensed dog breeders.

Correspondence has been received from Gordon Lyons MLA, (enclosed) setting out that both the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and Department of Justice are working together to identify a way forward in relation to the Register of Banned Animal Welfare Offenders and in relation to the banned list of dog breeders that it is possible for councils to establish one for the Borough. Officers will progress a proposal for a Council list for consideration by Members, however it will not be compulsory for dog breeders to have their data published.

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

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Executive Assistant to Director of Operations

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

## 12.6 ED/ED/170 CITY GROWTH DEAL – COMPLEMENTARY FUND

Members are advised that on 4 March 2021 the NI Executive approved the £100m capital City/Growth Deals Complementary Capital Fund.

The Complementary Fund can be used for projects where economic benefit to the local region can be demonstrated in response to the impact of COVID-19. A copy of the information published is **enclosed** for Members' information.

Members are advised that areas such as Low Carbon, Green Economy and Digital support are likely to be opportunities for the Complementary Fund. SOLACE is identifying some key areas for collaboration and will bring forward a proposal for the Fund in due course.

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

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning



## 12.7 ED/ED/166 BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL – GLIDER PROJECT

Members will be aware that the Department for Infrastructure is progressing the business case for the expansion of the Belfast Rapid Transit project (Glider) into Antrim and Newtownabbey and Lisburn & Castlereagh Council areas. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by June 2021.

John Irvine and Clive Robinson previously provided a briefing for Members on 24 September 2020 and an overview of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan was also presented to the Council by Stephen Wood in February 2021.

The Department has now written to advise that the Options Assessment Report (OAR) which considers the various route options for the Glider extension is nearing completion by Atkins, the appointed consultants. The Department officials would like to provide a briefing to Members in early April, with arrangements to be confirmed. A copy of the correspondence is **enclosed** for information.

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

Prepared and Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## **12.8 AC/GEN/066 CENTENARY OF NORTHERN IRELAND OUR STORY IN THE MAKING PROGRAMME INCLUDING SHARED HISTORY FUND**

Members are reminded that the NI Centenary Working Group has been developing the Council's NI Centenary Programme. The Council has also been engaging with the NI Office in relation to its plans to mark the Centenary of NI.

As part of the ongoing work of the Group an application for funding was submitted to The Shared History Fund in January 2021. This is a £1m fund being distributed by the Heritage Fund on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office to mark the Centenary of the establishment of Northern Ireland in 1921. The fund supports projects that;

- Mark the Centenary in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation, in line with the Community Relations Council Principles for Remembering and
- Facilitate local and national awareness of the Centenary of Northern Ireland and of the United Kingdom as we know it today.

A maximum of £100,000 in funding was available for any single application by a group or organisation. An application for £94,600 was submitted in January 2021 for the Council's 'A Country's Centenary for Our Community' project for the following additional programme strands:

1. Community Engagement - Scripts, Collection and Citizens – a range of community projects through narrative, objects and recognition of unsung heroes.
2. Reflections of a Centenary – Creation of a historical travelling exhibition featuring 100 years of history in a Global, UK, ROI, NI and Borough context.
3. An Unlikely Alliance – An original drama production telling a previously untold story of the unusual friendship and political alliance between Sir Edward Carson and Lady Jean Massereene of Antrim Castle.
4. A Shared History Through The Eyes of Seniors – A Reminiscence Project which will celebrate older people and capture their untold stories in oral recordings for dramatic interpretation.
5. Daughters of the Decades – A project which will explore the changed role of Women in Politics over 100 years.
6. An Alien's Guide to NI – A primary school educational project linked to the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding element of the curriculum, which will engage children in exploration of identity through digital animation.

The Council has been awarded £94,600 for the project which represents 100% funding for delivery of the projects outlined. The deadline for spend is March 2022. A total of 39 groups and organisations across the UK were awarded funding of £1million, with the award to the Council being the largest of the 39 successful projects.

The outcome of the Shared History Fund was announced on Friday 12 March 2021 by the NI Office as part of their announcement on the detail of their

Centenary Programme – Our Story in The Making. Full details of this programme are **enclosed** for Members' information.

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

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

## **12.9 P/FP/LDP/001 SUBMISSION OF DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY TO DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO CAUSE AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION**

Members will recall the update regarding the Local Development Plan - Draft Plan Strategy in February 2021. Officers updated the Local Development Plan submission documentation as requested following receipt of legal advice. The updated information was submitted for further legal consideration and was found to be satisfactory.

As a result, the Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy and its documentation were submitted to the Department for Infrastructure on 8 March 2021 in accordance with Section 10 (i) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act) and Regulation 20 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (the LDP Regulations) to cause an Independent Examination. All documentation relating to the current stage is available to view on the Council's website and copies of new documentation have been uploaded onto Members' iPads. All statutory consultees and those who made representations to the Draft Plan Strategy will be notified in writing.

Copies of the DfI submission letter are **enclosed** for information. The response from the Department is expected within 8 weeks. The response will be brought forward for Elected Members consideration once received.

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

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Forward Plan Manager

Agreed by: John Linden, Head of Planning

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

## **12.10 CE/OA/012 NORTHERN IRELAND PARTNERSHIP PANEL LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETING**

Members are advised that correspondence has been received (**enclosed**) in relation to the Northern Ireland Partnership Panel Local Government Meeting. The next meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 in preparation for the next Partnership Panel meeting on 21 April 2021.

Strategic policy issues that Council wishes to be raised can be forwarded by completion of the attached template (**enclosed**).

A copy of the draft Partnership Panel minutes held on 20 January 2021 is **enclosed** for Members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted and any issues Council wishes to raise be sent to NILGA.**

Prepared by: Denise Lynn, PA to Director of Finance and Governance

Agreed and Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

## 12.11 FI/FIN/011 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES COVID-19 FUNDING 2021/22

Members will recall that the rates set for 2021/22 assumed continuing income losses of £2.4m spread across the main income generating cost centres of Leisure facilities, theatres, planning and building control.

It was anticipated that these income losses would be compensated by Government funding.

Confirmation has now been received from the Department that £34.8m from the £85.3m Executive funding for COVID-19 will be carried forward to 2021/22 to cover anticipated income losses should facility closure continue for a prolonged period in the new financial year.

A copy of the letter from the Department is **enclosed**. The estimated Antrim and Newtownabbey allocation for 2021/22 is approximately £1.5m. This money, along with HMRC 'Furlough' claims being extended into 21/22, will ensure that all anticipated income losses in 21/22 will be covered by compensatory funding.

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

Prepared by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Agreed and Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance