



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Alderman J McGrath
- Committee Members (In Person)** :  
Councillors – M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper,  
P Dunlop, N McClelland, R Lynch, V McWilliam and  
V Robinson
- Members Present: (Remote)** :  
Alderman P Michael  
Councillors - P Bradley, T McGrann, L Smyth and  
M Stewart
- Non Committee (In Person )** :  
Councillors - B Webb and R Wilson
- Non Committee (Remote)** :  
Councillors - J Montgomery, A McAuley and N Ramsay
- Officers Present** :  
Director of Community Planning – U Fay  
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna  
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick  
Deputy Director of Finance – J Balmer  
ICT Systems Support Officer ICT – C Bell  
ICT Change Officer – A Cole  
Member Services Officers – E Skillen

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

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

The Chairman expressed deepest sympathy to Councillor Julie Gilmour and husband Gareth on the passing of her mother-in law.

Although the COVID restrictions had been relaxed, to manage numbers and minimise risk, members of the public and press could continue to access those parts of the Council meetings which they are entitled to attend through the livestream on the Council's website.

## **1 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Julie Gilmour.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 5.3 – Councillor Smyth

## **3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

None

## **4 PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESIMATES UPDATE 2023/24**

The Director of Community Planning provided a presentation on the 2023/24 Rates Estimates and responded to Members questions. Following which the Chairperson and Members thanked her for the presentation.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed

**that the presentation be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **5.1 ED/ED/057 WORLD OF OWLS RANDALSTOWN**

Members were reminded that in 2004 the legacy Antrim Borough Council entered into a 20 year lease with the Forestry Service for lands in Randalstown Forest. The lands were then sub-let to World of Owls, a registered charity, for 20 years to allow them to operate as a visitor attraction.

Members were further reminded that at the Community Planning and Regeneration Meeting in February 2018 a range of development options in relation to World of Owls, had been prepared by Consultants appointed by the Council and were considered. At this time the Forestry Service had indicated that it would only renew any lease with the Council if the Council was willing to take on responsibility for the development and management of the entire forest, which exceeds 172 hectares.

It was agreed at this meeting that the Council did not wish to renew the lease with any part of the site at the end of the current lease period on 12 January 2024.

Officers were advised earlier this year of a change in the position of Forestry Service in relation to any lease to the Council. They now have no objection to the Council continuing a separate arrangement with World of Owls, irrespective of any commitment to recreational or any other responsibility in the forest.

The building used by World of Owls is owned by the Forestry Service and has been there since the 1950s. Prior to World of Owls arrival, the building was used by DAERA as an education centre. The current cost of leasing the land and premises from the Forestry Service is £1,600 per annum, which is paid to the Council by World of Owls. This amount is subject to a market valuation every five years with the last valuation carried out in 2021.

Members were advised that World of Owls had approximately 40,000 visitors per annum prior to the pandemic and is on target to recover to this level. World of Owls had previously been voted best small visitor attraction in Northern Ireland by Trip Advisors Director of Destination Marketing, and is a former recipient of the World Host Customer Service Award and past runner-up at the Tourism NI Awards in the small visitor attraction category.

Proposed by Councillor Burbank  
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed

**that the Council enters into a ten year Lease with Forestry Service NI for land at Randalstown Forest, which is sub-let to World of Owls at no cost to the Council.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

## **5.2 CP/CP/219 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INVESTMENT PLAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

Members were advised that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan for Northern Ireland was published on 5 December 2022 and a guidance document dated 14 December was circulated for Member's information.

Members were advised that an overview of the Fund was given by officers to the Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group in December 2022 as follows:

Announced on the 5 December 2022 that £126,854,145 of funding was available for local investment to March 2025 across three broad pillars:

1. Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to innovate, thrive and grow, further unleashing the potential of the private sector
2. Supporting individuals furthest from the labour market and by moving more people into work with the right skills
3. Investing in the places where people live, restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging

Investment Priority	Communities and Place	Supporting Local Businesses	People and Skills	Multiply
Capital (£M)	12.3	10		
Revenue (£M)	2.8	28.7	47.8	9
Total (£M)	15.1	38.7	47.8	9

The 'Communities and Place' investment priority seeks to prioritise the creation of renewed community spaces and civic relationships throughout Northern Ireland. This investment priority would support the building of resilient healthy and safe places and a strong sense of community spirit through a wide range of place based initiatives such as active transport, neighbourhood support, infrastructure, and cultural and artistic engagement. There is a desire to thread volunteering opportunities across funded initiatives to garner a sense of community ownership and install a renewed sense of pride in place. The overarching goal of this funding is to improve people's pride and satisfaction with towns and villages ensuring these areas were attractive for new residents, potential investors and visitors.

The UKSPF provides an opportunity to foster local pride and belonging through investment in activities that enhance the physical, cultural and social capacity of local areas. It was recognised that the physicality of a place – aesthetic design and public realm, the integration of green space and the arts and culture offer all combine to support the 'live ability factor' of a local area.

The total fund for delivery by local Councils is £15.1 million to be allocated on a per capita basis. Using this allocation method, the Council is anticipated to receive £1,155,690.41. Councils are expected to be commissioned early in 2023 with the main programme to launch in 2023/24 running to the end of March 2025.

However, correspondence was received on 20 December to advise that the UKSPF would like to work with Councils to invest £1.34m (of the 15.1m) in this financial year across Northern Ireland on projects to create and improve local green spaces, community gardens, watercases and embankments. These should be small scale short term capital projects for implementation in the current financial year. This funding may be used for additions to green space projects already underway. They would then be followed by a larger commission for a package of projects in the Council area over 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The Councils allocation was anticipated to be in the region of £1,155,690.41 for 2023 to 2025 and would be deducted from the Councils overall allocation.

The indicative timeline for the UKSPF Green Spaces Projects is:

5 January 2023 – Introductory Session on Fund  
16 January 2023 – closing date for applications  
17 January 2023 – January to 30 January 2023 – assessment of applications  
Week commencing 6 February 2023 – Indicative timing for outcome of the assessment process

It is anticipated that Communities and Place funding could be used to build upon much of the work already delivered by the Council across the Borough as part of its recovery, further development of blue/green infrastructure and green space improvements. In addition, many elements of the 'Award Winning Botanical Borough' initiative approved by Council in December 2022 would meet the aims of this fund.

In addition, Members would be aware of the ongoing development of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan by co-design process under the three themes of 'Building a Thriving and Peaceful Community, Building Respect for all Cultural Identities and Local Community Regeneration and Transformation'.

There was significant alignment and complementarity between the UKSPF 'Communities and Place' Fund and PEACEPLUS and Officers would ensure this was reflected as proposals for 'Communities and Place' funding and the PEACEPLUS Local Area Plan were developed in early 2023/24.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

- (a) That the update on the UKSPF 'Communities and Place' investment be noted and a further report on funding proposals be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.**
- (b) Delegated authority for officers to submit an application for Green Spaces Projects to the UKSPF to be approved with details brought back to a future meeting for retrospective approval.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

### **5.3 CP/CC/009 MUCKAMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE – LADYHILL FLUTE BAND REQUEST**

Members were advised that Ladyhill Flute Band had made a request to hire Muckamore Community Centre on Saturday 18 March 2023, 6pm to midnight for a cultural evening. In addition, they had requested permission to apply for a license to sell alcohol at this event. The consumption and sale of alcohol was permitted with agreement by Council if the relevant licence is obtained by the event organiser.

Members were reminded that a previous request by the band to hold the event last year on Saturday 19 March 2022 was approved at the Community Planning Committee on 14 February 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

**that permission for Ladyhill Flute Band to apply for an alcohol licence to sell alcohol in Muckamore Community Centre on Saturday 18 March 2023 be granted.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator*

*Councillor Smyth declared an interest in item 5.3.*

#### **5.4 AC/GEN/071 CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE STRATEGY – LOCAL GOVERNMENT CATALYST GROUP**

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding the Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy – Local Government Catalyst Group (copy circulated).

DfC was taking forward a co-design process to develop a Culture, Arts and Heritage (CAH) Strategy for Northern Ireland. The 'Way Forward' document set out the ambition of this approach and was circulated for Members' information. The document highlighted the importance of Local Government to the Culture, Arts and Heritage sectors.

All eleven Councils had been invited to participate in a Local Government Catalyst Group along with central government stakeholders to advance this work. The Council would be represented on the Group by the Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events and the Arts and Theatres Manager.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed

**that participation in the Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy Local Government Catalyst Group be approved with an update on the work of the Group to be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

#### **5.5 AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL**

Members were reminded that the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel meet quarterly. The Panel met on 14 December 2022 at Theatre at the Mill and the minutes of this meeting were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 14 December 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay Director of Community Planning*

## **5.6 CP/GR/055 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

A copy of the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group meeting held on 14 December 2022 were circulated for Members' consideration.

A Member noted that the Equality and Diversity Working Group did not discuss all diversity categories.

Proposed by Councillor McClelland  
Seconded by Councillor Burbank and agreed

**that the minutes of the Equality and Diversity Working Group on 14 December 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning*

## **5.7 CP/CP/213 CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting in October the establishment of a Sub Committee of twelve Elected Members, to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to plan for the Coronation of King Charles III was approved with Members to be nominated by Group Leaders by D'Hont. The first meeting of the Sub Committee was held in Mossley Mill on Tuesday 29 November 2022.

The minutes of the Sub Committee meeting of 19 December 2022 were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Brady  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed

**that the minutes of King Charles III Coronation Sub Committee meeting of 19 December 2022 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

## **5.8 CP/CD/345 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYDUFF – FREE USE REQUEST**

Members were advised that a request had been received from Scripture Union Northern Ireland for the free use of Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for a Summer Scheme (Shine).

It was proposed the scheme would run 16 – 22 July 2023, 10am-1pm for a kids' club and 6:30pm-9pm for youth club and community engagement. The group had been granted free use of the facilities in the past and would provide youth engagement activity for a local demographic.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the request for free use of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff by Ballyduff Shine Scripture Union for their Summer Scheme (16-22 July 2023) be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator*

**5.9 CP/CD/446 NORTHERN IRELAND CENTENARY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYDUFF – COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Members were advised that a request had been received from Ballyduff Community Regeneration Group, tenants at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre, Ballyduff.

The group currently had a licence in place with the Council, approved at the August Council Meeting, to use the grass area behind the play park adjacent to the Community Centre to develop a Community Garden. As part of the licence the group must submit any development requests to Council for approval. The group was requesting permission to:

- develop a Community Garden and build 20 raised flower beds for community use on the land along with erecting some sheds to store equipment and tools.
- engage a fencing contractor to install 1.8m high mesh panel fencing along the currently open side of the site to provide security and protection to the flower beds. There would be a gate for access. The group had provided an estimated cost for the fencing of £2,900.00.

Costs for both requests including installation and insurance were being covered by the Group, who would also be responsible for maintenance.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

**that permission to develop a community garden including installation of perimeter fencing by Ballyduff Community Regeneration Group at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator*

**5.10 CP/GR/169 GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN 2023-24**

Members were reminded that an annual submission was made by Council to The Executive Office (TEO) requesting financial assistance for the delivery of a local Good Relations Action Plan. A Draft Action Plan 2023/24 was circulated for Members' approval.

Members were advised that the draft Good Relations Action Plan reflected the aims and objectives of the central government strategy Together Building a United Community (T-BUC). It outlines how Government, stakeholders,



community and individuals would work together to achieve change against the following key priorities:

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

The draft 2023/24 Action Plan reflected the priorities identified through the Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2020-25.

Members were reminded that The Executive Office required match funding of a minimum of 25% from local Councils towards the overall Good Relations budget. The total amount required to enable implementation of the Good Relations Action Plan in 2023/24 was £193,161.66.

An amount of £144,871.25, equating to 75% of the Good Relations Action Plan budget had been requested from The Executive Office. This consisted of £79,480.28 programme costs and £65,390.97 staff costs. Provision of the remaining 25% had been included in the 2023/24 Council estimates towards the delivery of the plan.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the Good Relations Action Plan 2023-24 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Jen Cole Good Relations Coordinator*

#### **5.11 AC/GEN/001 ARTS AND CULTURE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2023/24**

Members were advised that a review of arts and culture venue hire charges was carried out annually, with the current Arts and Culture Schedule of Charges agreed at the Community Planning Committee in March 2022.

The proposed schedule of charges for 2023/24 (circulated) had been updated to include the option to hire Theatre at The Mill for non-theatrical use. Given the current economic situation, prices were in the main unchanged, and all prices had been benchmarked against similar venues outside the Borough.

Members were advised of the following proposed changes:

- Theatre at the Mill (theatrical bookings): standard half-day hire rate increase from £550 to £600 (no change to community rate); standard full-day hire rate increase from £900+ to £1,000 (no change to community rate); cost of converting theatre to flat floor reduced from £600 to £250. Changes made to bring charges more into line with other theatre hire fees.

- Theatre at the Mill (non-theatre bookings): hire options now available for the use of the foyer alone, or use of the auditorium, foyer and hospitality suite together.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
 Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the 2023/24 Arts and Culture Schedule of Charges be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings Conference & Events Manager  
 and Greg Fox, Arts and Theatres Manager*

## **5.12 AC/GEN/084 PROPOSED YOUTH THEATRE PARTNERSHIP WITH NEWTOWNABBEY ARTS AND CULTURE NETWORK**

Members were advised that the Newtownabbey Arts and Culture Network (NACN) was a registered charity that delivers a range of arts and cultural programmes for young people from its base in Rathcoole. NACN had received Good Relations Grants from the Council for the past three years as well as a Technical Assistance Grant to help it develop a strategic plan to become more self-sufficient. Further funding for the group was provided by the National Lottery's Empowering Young People Programme, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, as well as from membership fees (currently £25 per month).

NACN has a membership of around 115 young people aged 8-25, who mainly live in Newtownabbey but were also drawn from Randalstown, Antrim, and as far afield as Co Down. The charity offers a wide range of arts and cultural activities including performing arts (NACN staged a successful youth theatre production of *Grease* at the Theatre at the Mill in 2022); a Vocal Academy for developing aspiring singers; Maker Space which creates props and other fabrication for events, theatre and film sets; guitar and piano tuition; an Ability Project for young people with disabilities; a DJ Academy; a Game Development Group which creates video game content in partnership with Ulster University and Epic Games; a Rap Music group; and a Volunteer Parent Group, which gives practical help with things like costume making for theatre shows.

Following a request from NACN to work more closely with the Council to help it grow and create more arts and culture opportunities for young people throughout the Borough, Officers proposed delivering a pilot youth theatre partnership from February to July 2023, during which time NACN would produce two shows at the Courtyard Theatre - *Matilda* and *Into the Woods* - under a joint Council / NACN brand. These productions would then be reviewed by Officers against agreed operational and artistic criteria, with a view to developing a longer-term partnership.

A detailed proposal on the pilot was circulated for Members' information, with the following points highlighted:

- Around 25 young people would participate in each production, with a requirement for participants to first become members of NACN (NACN would retain membership fees). Casting would be carried out through an audition process
- NACN would be given free use of the Courtyard Theatre for rehearsals on Saturday mornings and up to two evenings each week during the trial period
- All production and management costs (including fees for the creative team) for the two shows would be the responsibility of NACN
- NACN would agree to adhere to all safeguarding and health & safety requirements as set out by the Council for rehearsals and performances, and Officers would make regular checks to ensure compliance
- The Council would contribute up to £2,000 to support the marketing of the productions
- Officers would also provide an agreed level of free in-kind support, including marketing advice and staff to support performances
- The Council would manage ticketing, with net box office revenue split 80/20 in NACN's favour
- The pilot would not be displacing any other bookings nor incur any additional venue running costs.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann

Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed

**that the proposed six-month youth theatre pilot in partnership with Newtownabbey Arts and Culture Network, including a contribution of £2,000, be approved with an update reported to a future meeting of the Committee.**

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

### **5.13 CP/CD/426 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TOY SCHEME UPDATE**

Members were reminded that the delivery of the Community Christmas Toy Scheme 2022 was approved by the Community Planning Committee in October 2022 in partnership with Community and Voluntary Organisations, Habitat for Humanity (NI) and Council Recycling Centres.

Community and Voluntary Organisations were contacted to establish interest in participating in the scheme with the following groups taking part:

- Fit moms & Kids (Glengormley DEA)
- A Safe Space to be Me (Airport DEA)
- Listening Ear (Macedon DEA)

A social media campaign was launched at the beginning of November to encourage donations of 'pre-loved' toys directly into the local community schemes or directly at any one of five Council's Household Recycling Centres.

The Community Christmas Toy Scheme delivered the following outcomes in 2022:

- Over 500 local families supported by the Community partners compared to 150 families in 2021;
- Over 6000 toys donated to Recycling Centres compared to 4000 in 2021;
- 7,535 new and pre-loved toys donated and distributed.

The 2022 scheme had exceeded the performance of the 2021 scheme significantly and a proposal for a Community Christmas Toy Scheme for 2023 would be brought back to a future meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed

**that the update on the Community Christmas Toy Scheme be noted and a proposal for delivery of the scheme in 2023 will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.**

*ACTION BY: Stef Buchanan, Community Planning Manager*

#### **5.14 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTERSHIP MINUTES**

Members were reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council.

As such the minutes of the following PEACEPLUS Partnership meetings,

- Full Partnership meeting minutes 11 October 2022
- Full Partnership meeting minutes 20 December 2022

were circulated for consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed

**that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership meetings, as detailed, be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager*

#### **5.15 CP/GR/164 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAMME**

Members were reminded that the Holocaust Memorial Programme proposal was deferred at the December 2022 Community Planning Committee and it was agreed to bring a report back to the January Committee meeting.

Members were reminded that Holocaust Memorial Day was remembered globally each year on 27 January. To mark the Holocaust Memorial, it was proposed that a special programme would be delivered that would include a series of learning workshops, followed by a visit to a former concentration and extermination camp, where acts of the Holocaust were committed.

Following the successful Youth Intervention Programme delivered by Impact Network NI in 2021 that included a visit to Poland, Impact Network NI had

been invited by officers to develop a proposal to deliver a Holocaust Memorial Programme.

This programme was circulated for Members' information. It aims to promote an understanding of the impact of hate, division and inequality through the exploration of the Holocaust and other genocides, working to address issues around sectarianism and racism.

Anticipated costs for the programme are £28,000, to include facilitation, administration and one overseas visit to Krakow, Poland. Due to the current war in Ukraine and its proximity to Poland a contingency option had also been developed to visit Prague, Czech Republic.

Participation in the programme was proposed as follows:

- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- 7 x Elected Members (1 per DEA)
- 7 x Community representative's (1 per DEA) via a nomination process by DEA Member Engagement Groups
- 2 x Council Officers

It was proposed a further report on the outcomes of the programme would be presented to Committee in April 2023, with a view to embedding this programme within the annual Good Relations Action Plan and future participation being targeted at young people and future community leaders.

Provision for this Holocaust Memorial Programme had been made within the Good Relations Action Plan 2022/23.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

**that Holocaust Memorial Programme be approved on a cross party basis.**

*ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator*

#### **5.16 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR**

Members were advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group resumed in October 2022 to commence planning for the May Fair which would be delivered from 21 to 27 May 2023. The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2023 were circulated for Members' information.

Members were advised that at this meeting the Working Group was informed that the Ulster Scots Agency had offered £20,000 of funding toward delivery of the event in 2023 through a partnership approach.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

- (a) that the minutes of the May Fair Working Group meeting of the 5 January 2023, be approved.**
- (b) the offer of £20,000 funding support from the Ulster Scots Agency for delivery of the Ballyclare May Fair 2023 be approved.**

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

#### **5.17 CP/P4/047 AND CP/PP/007 PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME**

Members were reminded that the establishment of a PEACEPLUS Partnership was approved by the Committee in February 2022 and the appointment of Elected Members and Statutory Partners were noted at the August 2022 Council meeting when the appointment of Social Partners was also approved.

Members were also reminded that at this meeting the Council's allocation of €5,103,757 of funding for the delivery of the Council's Co-designed Local Community Action Plan was accepted.

The PEACEPLUS partnership was now fully established and the process of co-design of the Local Community Action Plan had commenced, being led by the Partnership. This process commences with extensive consultation from January to March when it is anticipated that the call for applications would be opened by SEUPB. There was a significant resource required within the Community Planning team to progress the PEACEPLUS programme now that the co-design process had commenced.

In addition, Members were advised of the extension of Peace IV to the end of September 2023, which brings with it another significant resource requirement.

It is proposed to recruit 2 FTE PEACE Support Officers to support the existing PEACE Co-Ordinator to conclude the delivery of the PEACE IV programme and resource the delivery of PEACEPLUS from 2023 to 2027. Members were reminded that it was reported to the December 2021 Committee that each Council could utilise up to €100,000 to resource the development of the PEACEPLUS plan from their overall funding and use of the funding for this purpose was subsequently approved at this meeting. This funding would be used to cover the recruitment and initial salary costs of the PEACE Support Officers.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and agreed

**that the recruitment for 2 FTE PEACE Support Officers be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning*

#### **5.18 AC/THB/008 BALLYCLARE TOWN HALL**

Members were advised that Ballyclare Memorial Flute Band had made an application to hire Ballyclare Town Hall on Saturday 11 March 2023 for a

concert and culture evening. In addition, they had requested permission to apply for a license to sell alcohol at this event. The current terms and conditions of hire for the Town Hall state the following in relation to alcohol:

- Alcohol is not permitted on the premises without prior consent from the Council.
- In addition, if a group wish to sell alcohol then they must seek the Council's permission to apply for a license to do this.

Members were advised a number of previous requests to the Council seeking permission to serve and sell alcohol at functions had been approved including a request by Protestant Boys Flute Band for an event in February 2023, which was approved by the Committee in November 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Brady  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed

**that permission for Ballyclare Memorial Band to apply for an alcohol licence to sell alcohol in Ballyclare Town Hall on 11 March 2023 at their concert be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager*

## **6 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **6.1 CP/CD/433 CENSUS 2021 RESULTS**

Members were reminded that at the June Community Planning Committee the first results from Census 2021 were reported following publication on 24 May 2022. The first release of data consisted of headline population statistics by age, sex, number of households with usual residents, and communal establishment population.

Further results from Census 2021 had been published on 15 December 2022. The results would be available on the NISRA website. These results were in relation to Health and Housing. The results had been published and were at Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels.

Other main Census 2021 statistics would be released in stages up to Summer 2023.

The results and further information on Census 2021 were available on the website; [www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021)

Proposed by Councillor McGrann  
Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed

**that the report be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager*

## 6.2 CP/CP/218 NORTHERN IRELAND SAFER AGEING INDEX

Members were advised that a report had been received from Hourglass NI, a copy of which had been circulated, in relation to the first ever Safer Ageing Index for Northern Ireland.

This report had been published by Hourglass in partnership with the Hallmark Foundation and would be produced annually.

Hourglass is a charity focused on ending harm, abuse and exploitation of older people. More than one million older people across the UK experience some form of abuse on an annual basis.

Hourglass had developed the first Safer Ageing Index for Northern Ireland to illustrate and examine how Northern Ireland was progressing towards a safer ageing society for all and to highlight the challenges older people may face. The Safer Ageing Index seeks to provide a data sheet, marking and score card measurement for each Council area in Northern Ireland focused around five categories.

A summary of the Council rankings on the safer ageing indices is provided below. Overall, the Council is mid-table in a final position of sixth out of 11 council areas, with a final score of 94.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Ranking Position.

CATEGORY	RANKING POSITION OF 11
POPULATION	6/11
HEALTH	5/11
ECONOMICS	11/11
CRIME	4/11
ISOLATION	9/11

A summary of the overall performance of the Council area was circulated for Members' information.

The Council had achieved a broad mix of table rankings performing very well in terms of crime and isolation indices but with improvements to be made in relation to health and crime.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the Northern Ireland Safer Ageing Index report be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager*

## 6.3 CP/TD/025 PEOPLE AND PLACE REVIEW



Members were reminded that an update on the Department for Communities (DfC) People and Place Review was noted at the Committee in November 2022.

Members were advised that a further update from DfC had been received and was circulated for Members' information.

The update provides a diagrammatic view of the co-design structures along with a short overview of the role, membership and update on each group. The current Neighbourhood Renewal Programme would continue to be delivered until the review was complete and a succession strategy and implementation plans were in place to transition to any new approach. It was anticipated that the review and strategy development process would take 12 to 18 months. Within this timescale transition to the successor strategy would begin during the 2024/25 year.

Members were advised that the People and Place online page was now live and available on:

People and Place Review Department for Communities ([communities-ni.gov.uk](https://communities-ni.gov.uk)).

If Members had any questions or comments regarding the Review they could contact the Review Team on:

[PeoplePlaceReview@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:PeoplePlaceReview@communities-ni.gov.uk)

This update would also be shared with Community Planning Partnership external members.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the update on the Department for Communities People and Place review be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning*

#### **6.4 CP/CD/450 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY PROGRAMME 2022 – REVIEW**

Members were reminded that the "Let Us Light Up Your Night" themed Christmas Switch-On Programme was delivered live in each DEA and streamed online from Wednesday 23 – Saturday 26 November 2022.

Following a review of the 2021 programme the following changes were approved at September Community Planning Committee for 2022:

- All events to be delivered within the same week.
- All events to be delivered earlier to ensure young families can enjoy the full experience of the events.

- A hybrid approach to delivery to continue in order to facilitate the increasing numbers of online viewers.

In total the programme attracted in excess of 12,000 attendees and 18,929 online views as detailed below:

**Total Facebook Views: 14,100**

**Total YouTube Views: 4,829**

**Total Views: 18,929**

Each event was hosted by a Cool FM Presenter and included: School Choirs, Traditional Music Groups, Bands and other local artists along with an exciting acrobatic performance by the internationally acclaimed, award winning touring circus company, Tumble Circus.

In addition, there was also a range of family entertainment on offer to include a Christmas market, street entertainment and a short programme of Christmas readings, carols and music.

Concluding each event either Paddington Bear or a Singing Santa graced the stage to assist the Mayor light the respective DEA Christmas Tree.

Following the delivery of all 7 events an online evaluation opened on Thursday 1 December and closed on Saturday 17 December 2022, this provided valuable feedback for future event planning and highlighted areas for review in 2023 which include event times and duration, programme content, the number of events delivered across the Borough and the provision of Christmas markets.

A summary of the results is detailed below for Members' information:

- 77.1% were satisfied with the festive entertainment on stage
- 54.3% were satisfied with the Christmas market, although 25.7% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 48.6% were satisfied with the Switch-On, and 14.3% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 8.6% watched a virtual live stream and commented favourably on the quality of the stream
- 85.7% rated as good, the accessibility to Council facilities, events and services

### **Spirit of Christmas Awards 2022**

In addition, Members were also reminded of the 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' which were launched in November 2022.

In total 174 nominations were received and assessed by Officers and the following winners were presented with an award at a celebration event held in Antrim Castle Gardens on Tuesday 20 December 2022:

**Light Up Award** – Carnmoney Village Community Group

**Rockin Around the Christmas Tree Award** – The Legendary Character, Mr Scott Wilson

**The Reason for the Season Award** – Riverside School, Antrim

**The Making an Entrance Award** – The Fig Design Company, Ballyclare

**Traditional Christmas Award** – Ms Tracey Hefferon

**North Star Award** – Doagh Cultural Society

**Mayors Award** – Fairview Primary School, Ballyclare

A report outlining proposals for Christmas 2023 would be presented to Committee in June 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

**that the report be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator*

## **8 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

The Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events responded to a Members query regarding an update on the Battle of Antrim, being that the year 2023 would be 225 years since the Battle. He confirmed that the following items were being progressed and that a further report would be brought back to a future meeting.

1. Walking Tour of Antrim Town Centre focusing on the Battle.
2. A theatre performance at The Old Courthouse telling the story of the Battle.
3. An exhibition to be delivered with support of the Ulster Scots Agency telling the Story of the Battle.

### **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Alderman Michael

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed

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

## **7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

### **7.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/343 STILES COMMUNITY CENTRE TENANCY REQUEST HOMESTART**

Members were advised that a request had been received from Home-Start for tenancy, including key holder option, of the small Annex Room in Stiles Community Centre, Antrim.

Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers offering support to families with young children. The group currently had larger first floor premises in the town centre. As a charity, the group was looking to relocate to ground floor premises for improved access and to help reduce running costs. Their current tenancy was due to expire in February 2023.

Home Start already had a regular booking at the Centre and rent the Main Hall on Wednesday mornings. Their board carried out a site visit of the small Annex Room in November 2022 and would like to take up tenancy of this space from 1 March 2023.

The group had also expressed an interest in hiring the Social Area on a casual basis for training and meetings.

Members were reminded that the rentable offices in the Dunanney Centre, Northern Ireland Centenary Centre, Ballyduff and Mossley Pavilion are charged at a rate of £104 per square metre per annum, approved at the Council meeting on 26 February 2018 and it was proposed to offer the same rental rate for Stiles Community Centre and agree a tenancy on the following basis:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Room Requested for Rental Renewal</b>	<b>Tenancy Start Date and Term</b>	<b>Rental Income £104/sqm (per annum)</b>
Homestart	Small Annex Room	From 1 March 2023 for 1 year	£1,257.36

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop  
 Seconded by Councillor McClelland and agreed

**that the tenancy including key holder option for Home-Start for 1 year from 1 March 2023 at a cost of £1,257.36 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator*

## **7.2 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/435 SOCIAL SUPERMARKETS PILOT UPDATE 2022-23**

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the October 2022 Community Planning Committee to engage Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey through Service Level Agreement to deliver an interim Social Supermarket for the Borough at a cost of £149,987. The Social Supermarket delivers a wrap-around support service to those referred as a result of food poverty as well as food vouchers as part of this service.

The interim Social Supermarket model (circulated) opened in November on a referral only basis from recognised partners and existence of this new support scheme was communicated extensively with partners.

From November 2022 to December 2022 the following support had been provided:

### **Social Supermarket**

- 493 people (248 adults and 245 children) supported through the interim Social Supermarket
- 205 households have accessed the Social Supermarket from all DEA's
- 61 households have been referred by partners and networks
- 71 households have accessed additional benefits
- 48 households have engaged in budgeting and specialist debt advice
- 102 households have been referred/signposted to other support services
- 43 of the clients are in work
- £57k worth of food vouchers have been issued up to 22 December 2022.

In addition, Save the Children provided approximately 700 new toys to be distributed by Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey through the interim Social Supermarket Scheme.

The Head of Community Planning responded to a Members query regarding emergency access to foodbanks during weekends and bank holidays, he advised that he would liaise with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey to find a solution and would report back to Members directly with a report being brought to a future meeting.

A Member highlighted concern regarding public access to information on the Council website and Social Media regarding help available and requested if this could be followed up.

The Head of Community Planning responded to a Members query regarding eligibility for the Social Supermarket Pilot scheme and confirmed that there had been an Interim modification made to the scheme at the October 2022 meeting of the Committee. He further advised that a copy of the minutes would be sent for Members Information. As this scheme would end in March 2023, a further report would be brought back to the April meeting for the scheme to be reevaluated.

A Member advised that Foodbanks would be happy to supply Councillors with food vouchers upon request.

Proposed by Councillor McGrann  
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed

**that the update on the Social Supermarket be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager*

**PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Councillor Lynch  
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed

**that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.**

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

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7:44 pm.

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**MAYOR**