



15 December 2021

**To: Each Member of the Council**

Dear Member

**MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 20 December 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 [memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

## AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 29 November 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 6 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 7 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14 December 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 PRESENTATIONS
  - 10.1 Presentation - Department for Infrastructure Roads Service Autumn Consultation
  - 10.2 Draft Rates Estimates Update 2022/23
- 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION
  - 11.1 Tourism NI National Events Sponsorship Scheme 2022/2023
  - 11.2 Department of Justice – Charlotte's Law – Public Consultation
  - 11.3 Body Worn Video Consultation
  - 11.4 Tidy Randalstown – Britain In Bloom

- 11.5 Tourism NI Product Development Programme – Delegated Authority
- 11.6 COVID-19 Sunday Opening Hours
- 11.7 Social Supermarket
- 11.8 Planning Policy Substantial Community Benefit – Loss of Open Space Assessment
- 11.9 Local Labour Market Partnership – Action Plan
- 11.10 COVID-19 Community Support Fund 2021/22
- 11.11 Newtownabbey Senior Citizens Forum

## 12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 12.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 12.2 Motion – Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Wealth Tax
- 12.3 Local Government Partnership Panel Meeting
- 12.4 Changes in Nomination, Membership of Committees and Working Groups by the Alliance Party
- 12.5 Changes in Nomination, Membership of Committees, External Bodies and Working Groups by the DUP
- 12.6 Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategic Leadership Group
- 12.7 City/Growth Deals Complementary Fund
- 12.8 Car Park Refurbishment Programme

## 13 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 13.1 Crematorium – Additional Cremator
- 13.2 Amendments to Standing Orders
- 13.3 ERDF Collaborative Digital Transformation Programme
- 13.4 COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme
- 13.5 Residual Waste Treatment Project
- 13.6 Tender for Provision of Contractor to Deliver the Antrim Boardwalk Refurbishment Works (Revitalise Blue/Green Infrastructure Activity)

13.7 Review of Leases for Sports Clubs

13.8 Confirmation of Funding - Greenways and Active Travel Projects

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 20 DECEMBER 2021**

**10 PRESENTATIONS**

**10.1 PRESENTATION – DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ROADS SERVICE AUTUMN CONSULTATION**

Members are advised that, as agreed at the October Council meeting, the Department for Infrastructure, Roads Service will be in attendance to provide an overview of the work being undertaken and future plans.

Colin Hutchinson, Divisional Roads Manager and Stephen Gardiner, Section Engineer, will be joining the meeting via Zoom.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## **10.2 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATES UPDATE 2022/23**

An update on the 2022/23 Estimates for Economic Development Section and the Chief Executive's Office will be presented at the meeting.

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

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

## 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 11.1 AC/EV/003 / AC/EV/007 TOURISM NI NATIONAL EVENTS SPONSORSHIP SCHEME 2022/2023

Members are advised that Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI) opened their National Tourism Events Sponsorship Scheme for 2022/23 on Wednesday 1 December and will close to applicants on Monday 17 January at 12 noon. The scheme is an open call process and applications will be assessed on a competitive basis. TNI aim to be in touch with all applicants by the end of February 2022 with an update on application assessments. TNI guidelines for applicants are enclosed.

The scheme provides support of between £6,000 and £30,000 including VAT for events taking place between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

The primary aims of the scheme are to support growth in visitor numbers and spend, enhance the visitor experience, elongate the tourism season and enhance the appeal and profile of the destination by generating positive coverage of Northern Ireland. To be eligible for funding events must have a minimum expenditure of £50,000 and generate a minimum income of £50,000 from ticket sales.

It is proposed to submit applications to the Scheme for £30,000 for Garden Show Ireland, scheduled for 29 and 30 of April and 1 May 2022 and Enchanted Winter Garden, scheduled for late November early December 2022. Both the events meet all of the criteria for funding and are very much part of the Councils visitor offer attracting significant numbers from outside the Borough and Northern Ireland. The outcome of both applications will be reported to a future meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the submission of the two applications for £30,000 each (including VAT), to the TNI Events Sponsorship Scheme for 2022/23, for Garden Show Ireland and Enchanted Winter Garden, be approved with the outcome to be reported back at a future meeting.**

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Planning

## 11.2 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – CHARLOTTE’S LAW – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Correspondence ([enclosed](#)) has been received from the Department of Justice advising of a public consultation in relation to Charlotte’s Law.

This consultation is designed to elicit your views on the need for new legislation, and on any other possible solutions. We encourage those with an interest in this area to engage with this important process, and look forward to considering your responses.

Full details can be found at [Charlotte’s Law Consultation](#) and responses can be made at [NI Direct - Citizen Space Link](#). The survey will be open until Monday, 7 February 2022.

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

**The Council’s instructions are requested**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive



### 11.3 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) BODY WORN VIDEO CONSULTATION

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) advising of the possibility of providing staff with body worn video imaging devices. The hope is that incorporating such devices into daily use will help enhance employee safety when carrying out daily workload activities.

Full details of the consultation and a link to the survey are available at <http://www.nias.hscni.net>. The consultation is inviting comments and feedback on this potential change at the earliest opportunity. The consultation will close on 14 February 2022.

Contacts in relation to the consultation are

Body Worn Video Public Consultation  
Equality & Public Involvement Office  
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health & Social Care Trust  
Site 30  
Knockbracken Healthcare Park  
Saintfield Road  
BELFAST  
BT8 8SG

Email - [consultation@nias.hscni.net](mailto:consultation@nias.hscni.net)

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

**The Council's instructions are requested**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

#### **11.4 PK/GEN/030 TIDY RANDALSTOWN – BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

Members are reminded that there has again this year been success in the Ulster in Bloom awards with Ballynure, Antrim and Randalstown all winning in the town/village categories.

Again this year, correspondence been received from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) **enclosed**, requesting Council's support for nominating Randalstown to represent Northern Ireland in the Small Town Category in the upcoming 2022 Britain in Bloom competition, subject to Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) approval.

Members will be aware that the success of Randalstown in Ulster in Bloom, Best Kept and Britain in Bloom is due to the many hours of volunteering by the Group and the productive partnership between them and Council.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Council supports NILGA's nomination for Randalstown to represent Northern Ireland in the Small Town category at the RHS Britain in Bloom competition.**

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

Agreed and Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

## 11.5 ED/TOU/073 TOURISM NI PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The Council applied to Tourism NI's Market Led Product Development Programme in response to Covid-19. The programme provides Local Authorities with funding towards projects to enhance the NI experience within their regions in support of the Northern Ireland 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' campaign. As a result the Council has entered into a Service Level Agreement with Tourism NI to achieve a project at a combined value of £227,000 (exclusive of VAT).

The project components include seasonal trails, taster sessions with local providers, a restaurant month, Harvest Festival, guided tours of Antrim Castle Gardens and supporting clusters of themed tourism experiences, summarized in the table below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Trails	Bespoke virtual reality seasonal trails generating 3,000 visitors by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 and £10,000 visitor spend.	£20,000
Attracting Visitors	Virtual Reality introduction to Lough Neagh at the Gateway building upon 'Protector of the Lough', generating £10,000 in visitor spend by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.	£75,000
Experience Development	Supporting Tourism Providers to help develop ten taster sessions by 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, generating 1,000 visitors by the end of March 2022.	£15,000
Food Initiative	A Restaurant Month supporting 35 hospitality businesses by the 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. Increasing visitor numbers by 1,500 and attracting £30,000 spend by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.	£50,000
Festivals	Halloween Harvest Festival generating 50,000 visitors over 10 days by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 generating £32,500 local revenue.	£13,000
Tours (Guided)	12 guided tours of Antrim Castle Gardens with 10 participants on each tour.	£10,000
Tours (Coach)	Five Lough Neagh Bastions and guided bounty tours with 25 passengers on each.	£5,000
Taster Sessions	Local tourism cluster experiences and taster sessions. This element links to DAERA Cluster Funding.	£5,000
Consultancy Support	Consultancy support to assist with the achievement of the projects detailed above.	£34,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£227,000</b>

One of the key components of the project is the development of a Virtual Reality introduction to Lough Neagh which will be located in the Gateway Centre. The forecast value of this project is £75,000 and it is currently out to tender. The tender closes at the end of the month and the timescale for achievement of project spend is the end of March 2022.

To help expedite the contract award and hence the delivery timescale it is requested that authority for award of the contract is delegated to the Chief Executive. The tender report will be tabled back to a future Council meeting for information.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Authority for granting the VR Contract for achievement of the Tourism NI Product Development Programme is delegated to the Chief Executive with a tender report to be tabled to a future Council meeting for information.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

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

A decision was previously taken by the Council in September 2021 to extend relaxed enforcement action in relation to Sunday Opening Hours of large supermarkets to the end of December 2021. It was originally extended to facilitate 'safe' shopping environments and social distancing for staff and customers to help retailers manage customer volumes and better facilitate key workers, healthcare workers and customers with disabilities.

In light of the continued pandemic risk, it is now proposed to extend this arrangement further, prolonging the current period of trading hours relaxation.

As before, 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 March 2022, should they choose to open or deliver on a Sunday from 10am onwards. This will apply to all retail units across the Borough.

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 March 2022.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 11.7 CP/CP/191 SOCIAL SUPERMARKET

Members are reminded that on 29 March 2021 the Department for Communities (DfC) awarded Council an additional £95,558.21 under the Covid-19 Food and Essential Supplies Transition Fund the aim of which is to **“enable the transition from emergency food support to the implementation of more sustainable pathways/responses to address food poverty insecurity”**

At the November Community Planning Committee direct awards to nine to community and voluntary partners were approved with the remaining £10,058.21 of budget to be used to engage a consultant to develop a model for a future Social Supermarket/s for the Borough

Members are advised that additional correspondence has been received from DfC regarding Social Supermarket Co-Design and the allocation for the Social Supermarket and COVID Food Support funding for 2021/22. The table below includes the allocation to the Council.

Council	Welfare Reform - SSM Money	Allocation of £500k COVID Food Support	Total Allocation
Antrim and Newtownabbey	£69,895.73	£25,900.00	£95,795.73

It is proposed the allocation of the COVID Food Support Tranche (£25,900) be awarded to the nine community and voluntary partners groups (£2,877 per group) currently involved in Covid-19 Food and Essential Supplies Transition programmes.

It is proposed the allocation of the Welfare Reform Social Supermarkets Money (£69,895.73) is used to develop wrap around services such as, but not limited to, advice on debt, benefits, budgeting, healthy eating, housing, education and training to enhance employability skills. It is also proposed white goods that will support the future development of a Social Supermarket/s should be prioritised. A draft memorandum of understanding in relation to the above allocations has been received **enclosed**. Through the Community Support Programme (CSP) mechanism a Letter of Variance will be issued to Council in early January.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that**

- (a) the allocation of the COVID Food Support Tranche (£25,900) be awarded to the nine groups currently involved and supporting food transition programmes**
- (b) the allocation of the Welfare Reform Social Supermarkets tranche (£69,895.73) is used to develop wrap around services and white goods that will support the future development of a social supermarket**

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 11.8 P/FP/LDP/01 PLANNING POLICY SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT – LOSS OF OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Both the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 8 “Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation”, seek to protect existing open space (documents can be viewed at [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/planning](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/planning)). Both planning policies operate a presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses irrespective of its physical condition and appearance.

However, there are a number of exceptions to the presumption, including where it is clearly shown that development will bring a substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of open space. The policy does not define what a substantial community benefit is however this may take the form of a financial contribution towards local provision e.g. sports or play facilities. The developer may also propose social clauses within the delivery of the scheme e.g. the employment of apprentices from the local area during the construction phase.

In all circumstances where the applicant seeks to provide a substantial community benefit, the Planning Section will require the applicant to submit a statement clearly outlining the details.

It is recognised that Elected Members who will have important knowledge of the local area should be consulted regarding the potential community benefit that could be derived from such a development.

*It is important to note that the process of determining any planning application remains the responsibility of the Planning Committee.*

It is therefore proposed that the Elected Members from the relevant DEA(s) are consulted on the developer's proposals regarding community benefit. The outcome of this consultation will be brought to the Council for information and following this, Planning Officers will progress the application under the normal development management process.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the process outlined above be approved.**

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning (Interim)

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

## 11.9 ED/REG/059 LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP – ACTION PLAN

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has established a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP). The aim of the Partnership is to improve labour market conditions by working on a coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency basis. This approach has been adopted to achieve regional objectives while flexibly meeting the needs of local employers and their prospective employees. LMPs are financially supported by funding from the Department for Communities (DfC).

Alongside individual LMPs a Regional Labour Market Partnership has been established to oversee the work of the 11 Local LMPs across Northern Ireland. Each LMP will operate as a 'service' with a funding agreement between the Department and the Council for the development and delivery of an agreed Action Plan. A budget of approximately £500,000 per annum is available for the delivery of the Action Plan subject to approval by DfC.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Local Labour Market Partnership is advancing an Action Plan upon which a future Letter of Offer for funding will be based. In line with the Outcome-Based Accountability (OBA) approach LMPs are required to:-

- Review and confirm priority employability and labour market issues locally based on a strategic assessment
- Describe what the LMP aims to achieve
- Explain how OBA will be used to measure and manage performance of LMP's and how the partnership will make best use of resources

Grant Thornton was appointed to assist the Council in implementing its LMP Action Plan a copy of which is new, in draft format and enclosed for Members' consideration. An outline of the strategic issues, emerging themes and potential activities were discussed at the first meeting of the LMP, held on 24 November 2021 (minutes enclosed). Draft Action Plans are to be submitted to the Department for Communities by the end of December 2021. The LMP agreed to recommend to the Council that it should proceed to submit the Draft Action Plan by the deadline in order to receive feedback with a view to making a final submission to the Department in January 2022.

Members will be aware that the Council is already proceeding with a number of Employability and Skills initiatives in the logistics, hospitality, taxi and stewarding events sectors. Officers will seek to recover the funding for these interventions from the project budgets. In addition to providing funding for agreed actions, the Department has also provided resource funding for staff costs and these appointments have now been made within the Economic Development Team in anticipation of the plan's approval.

A key element of the Action Plan is the creation of an employment pathway across five key stages namely: Recruitment, Triage, Work Ready Support, Career Specific Support and Employment. To build the pathway there is a



range of activities proposed to promote youth engagement, responsible employers, minority groups, graduate opportunities and to help address barriers to employment such as transport and child-care.

The Action Plan frames the strategic direction of travel and is supported by a draft Implementation Plan. The draft Implementation Plan is also **enclosed** which sets out the Partnership's intended interventions.

The next stage is to submit the Draft Action Plan to DfC for comment and in parallel to seek the views of the LMP partners regarding the draft content.

**RECOMMENDATION: that**

- a) the Council approves the content of the Draft LMP Action Plan and Implementation Plan 'in principle' for submission to the Department for Communities (DfC);**
- b) a final version of the Action Plan incorporating feedback from DfC and LMP Partners be brought back to the Council for approval in February 2022;**
- c) the Council approves the minutes of the Labour Market Partnership meeting held on 24 November 2021.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

## 11.10 CP/CD/432 COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND 2021/22

Members are reminded that a funding proposal for COVID-19 Community Support Fund 2021/22 was approved in November and it was agreed that an open call for applications under Community Recovery and Tackling Fuel Poverty Fund be opened on Monday 15 November 2021 with £40,000 and £30,000 of funding available for each fund respectively.

Members are advised that the closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 3 December 2021 and applications for £36,771.29 in Community Recovery Funding and £59,500.00 in Tackling Fuel Poverty were received and passed the threshold for award, with details **enclosed** for Members' information.

The total budget available is £70,000. If all applications are to be funded, then an additional £26,271.29 will need to be provided by the Council. There are two options proposed to address the funding shortfall:

**Option 1:** To fund all successful eligible requests at 100% (£96,271.29), with Council increasing the budget by an additional £26,271.29.

**Option 2:** To reduce all successful eligible requests by 27.3 % so that all successful applicants receive a reduced funding offer, which allows all to be funded from within the available budget.

**RECOMMENDATION: to fund all successful eligible requests at 100% (£96,271.29), with Council increasing the budget by an additional £26,271.29.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

## 11.11 EH/PHWB/012 NEWTOWNABBEY SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

Members are reminded that the Health and Wellbeing team within Environmental Health, delivers the Age Friendly Strategy through funding provided by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

In order to assist with delivery of the Action Plan, it is proposed that Newtownabbey Senior Citizens Forum is engaged to meet some of the objectives contained within it. The Forum has 137 members, 11 member groups and works with in excess of 20 groups across the Borough. The Forum has a full time Co-ordinator and an Administrator and is therefore has the resources to assist with the delivery of objectives in the PHA Action Plan.

One of the actions within the Action Plan and which is also a key objective of the Age Friendly Strategy, is completion of a survey of 100 residents from each DEA. This must be met in the current financial year. The survey will assess how age friendly the Borough is by using the World Health Organisation's eight domains of Age Friendly which are:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social Participation
5. Respect and inclusion
6. Civic Participation and employment
7. Communication and information
8. Community support and health services

The results from the survey will provide baseline data and be used to underpin and further inform the Age Friendly Strategy and three-year Action Plan.

As £15,000 from Public Health Agency funding has been set aside for completion of this work, it is proposed that this will be provided to the Forum via a detailed Letter of Offer to cover administration costs, officer time spent completing the surveys and collating the results.

**RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for Newtownabbey Senior Citizen Forum to be engaged to deliver the Age Friendly baseline survey utilising funding as set out above.**

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

## 12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 12.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

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

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

**12.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL – WEALTH TAX**

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding a Motion calling for support in relation to opposing the 1.25% National Insurance rise. The Motion proposes that a 'Wealth Tax' is put in place as a substitute and used to provide financial support for the National Health Service.

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

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

### 12.3 CE/OA/012 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP PANEL MEETING

The Local Government Partnership Panel provides a structured, political relationship between central and local government to discuss strategic policy and operational matters of mutual interest and concern.

The minutes and actions from the last meeting in October are enclosed (Paper A and B).

The next Partnership Panel meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 January 2022 with a local meeting of the local government side of the Panel taking place prior on 5 January 2022.

It is anticipated the Agenda will focus on the following areas:

- Covid-19 Update (DoH)
- LG Finances
- Task & Finish Group – Commissioning of Independent Report (DoF)
- Assistance and information on availability of sourcing potential capital funding options for Councils, e.g., UK Infrastructure Bank (DoF & DfI)
- Update on North / South Interconnector (DfI)
- Table of proposed items sought by Councils (enclosed Paper C)
- MOT & Driving Theory Testing
- Planning Act issue
- Purdah – next Partnership Panel meeting in April will be affected
- NI Departmental items

Members are reminded that Council have the opportunity to raise strategic issues, of regional significance for discussion at this Forum that are not being furthered through other avenues (template enclosed).

Members are invited to advise of any specific areas of importance which they feel should be raised at the meeting.

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

Prepared by: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance

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

**12.4 G/MSMO/002 CHANGES IN NOMINATION, MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS BY THE ALLIANCE PARTY**

Following the redesignation of Councillor Finlay as an Independent Member, the Alliance Party Nominating Officer has advised of the following changes in Memberships to Committees and Working Groups with immediate effect:

<b>Standing Committees</b>	
Policy & Governance Committee	Councillor Billy Webb
<b>External Bodies and Working Groups</b>	
Civic Lighting Group	Councillor Neil Kelly
Members Development Group	Councillor Tom Campbell
Belfast Regional City Deal Joint Member Forum	Councillor Julie Gilmour

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

Prepared by: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance

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

**12.5 G/MSMO/2 CHANGES IN NOMINATION, MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, EXTERNAL BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS BY THE DUP**

Following the resignation of Councillor Irwin, the Electoral Office have confirmed that Matthew Brady has been returned to the Macedon vacancy for the DUP, effective from 7 December 2021.

Following this confirmation, the Nominating Officer has advised of the following changes in Memberships to Committees, External Bodies and Working Groups with immediate effect:

<b>Standing Committees</b>	
Operations	Councillor Brady
<b>External Bodies and Working Groups</b>	
Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	Councillor Brady
Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group	Councillor Brady
Thrive Project Board – Macedon	Councillor Brady
Peace IV	Councillor Cooper (replacing Cllr Ross)

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

Prepared by: Liz Johnston, Head of Governance

Agreed and Approved by: Sandra Cole, Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance



## 12.6 AC/GEN/079 TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP GROUP

Members are advised that correspondence from Tourism NI was recently sent to the Chair of SOLACE, copy **enclosed**. SOLACE was advised of plans to build upon collaboration that had taken place during COVID-19 pandemic by establishing a Tourism, Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategic Leadership Group and were invited to nominate a representative for local government to join the Group.

Membership of the Group includes Tourism NI, the Department of the Economy, the Department for Communities, National Museums NI and the Arts Council. The Group are scheduled to meet quarterly with meetings to be hosted and chaired by TNI.

Members are advised that the SOLACE representative on the Group is the Director of Community Planning and updates on work of this Strategic Leadership Group will be brought to future meetings.

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

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Planning

## 12.7 ED/ED/204 CITY/GROWTH DEALS COMPLEMENTARY FUND

Members are reminded of the £100 million Complementary Fund, launched by the Finance Minister in May 2020. Applications under the first tranche were invited in July 2021 and the Council was a partner in two of the bids submitted, namely:

- i. Digital Transformation Fund (£6 million)
- ii. Hydrogen Technologies Accelerator Hub for Northern Ireland (part of £15 million).

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Finance confirming all of the successful bids under the first tranche, a copy of which is **enclosed**. The successful projects total £52.125 million. The Department intends to make further calls for applications in the future and to engage with SOLACE on the co-design of the Round 2 call for bids.

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

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

## 12.8 CD/PM/97\_8 CAR PARK REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

Council committed to invest in its towns and villages and improve the attractiveness of the Borough as an integral part of the Corporate Recovery Plan.

In February 2021 Members approved an indicative budget (works and fees) of £630,000 for the Phase 1 element of the car park improvements programme. This comprises resurfacing works and ancillary drainage work.

A framework of three contractors was appointed in May 2021.

### Progress to Date

Work is now substantially complete at the following locations:

- Antrim Central (Part 1) – **completed November 2021**
- Antrim Forum – **to be completed December 2021**
- The Square, Ballyclare - relining and drainage only- **completed November 2021**

The initial planned work programme included all of Central Car Park, Antrim, Harrier Way, Ballyclare and Farnley Road, Glengormley as per the packages of works below;

**Package 2:** Antrim Central (2<sup>nd</sup> stage), Harrier Way; Ballyclare and Farnley Road / Glenwell Road.

**Package 3:** A2 Shore Road; Shore Road Whiteabbey Village; Bridge Street Antrim; Castle Street, Antrim

**Package 4:** Portglenone, Randalstown; Railway Street, Antrim; John Street, Randalstown

Due to the delays in Antrim Central (2<sup>nd</sup> stage) and Farnley Road/Glenwell Road, due to alignment of works with other schemes, it is proposed to reallocate works into Package 2 to allow procurement of one package of works for multiple locations and therefore attract better value from both the consultant and the contractor.

The consultant currently has Portglenone Road, Randalstown and Bridge Street, Antrim progressed further than the other remaining sites that to be tendered along with Harrier Way, Ballyclare.

The planned works schedule is now:

**Package 2:** Harrier Way; Ballyclare, Portglenone Road Randalstown and Bridge Street Antrim;

**Package 3:** A2 Shore Road; Shore Road Whiteabbey Village; Farnley Road / Glenwell Road.

**Package 4:** Railway Street, Antrim; John Street, Randalstown, Antrim Central (2<sup>nd</sup> stage); Castle Street, Antrim

Works for Package 2 are planned to start early 2022.

An appropriate communication plan will be put in place to inform the public of the planned works and closures.

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

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

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