



23 February 2022

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 28 February 2022 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

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 31 January 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 7 February 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 8 February 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 14 February 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 14 February 2022, 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 21 February 2022, 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 21 February 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 10.1 Legitimate – Presentation Request
 - 10.2 Department of Health Public Consultation of the Reform of Adult Social Care
 - 10.3 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme – Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI)
 - 10.4 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Working Group
 - 10.5 Labour Market Partnership

- 10.6 Masterplan Progress Update
- 10.7 Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 – Draft for Consultation

- 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING
 - 11.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
 - 11.2 Motion - Fermanagh & Omagh District Council – Public Enquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of Care Home Residents
 - 11.3 Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure regarding Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2 Motion
 - 11.4 Boundary Commission Consultation Period and Hearings
 - 11.5 Correspondence from Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs Regarding Animal Welfare Motion
 - 11.6 Grow South Antrim Local Action Group Minutes

- 12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
 - 12.1 Northern Ireland Civil Service Regional Hub – Mossley Mill
 - 12.2 Gilbert Student Exchange Programme
 - 12.3 Request to Purchase Land in Crumlin
 - 12.4 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
 - 12.5 Tender for Provision of Contractor to Deliver the Antrim Riverfront Regeneration Project Works
 - 12.6 The Steeple Site Update
 - 12.7 Ulster Bar Corner
 - 12.8 Peace Plus Geo Thermal Project Bid

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022**

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 G/MSMO/017 VOL 3 LEGITIMATE – PRESENTATION REQUEST

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from Caoimhe Donnelly, Head of Operations for Legitimate, following their recent presentation to the National Association of Councillors NI, requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Councillors.

Legitimate is a free to use platform providing the option of a safer way to communicate with the public and press on social media. It eliminates trolling and abuse, as a verified identity/profile will be required for users to engage. All social media posts can be controlled through this one site, if desired.

RECOMMENDATION: that Legitimate be invited to present at a future Policy & Governance Committee meeting.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.2 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REFORM OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Members are advised that the Department of Health is launching a public consultation on the reform of adult social care. This consultation is designed to provide a wide range of stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals that have been laid out at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-reform-adult-social-care>

The consultation will run for 16 weeks from 26 January 2022 to 18 May 2022, the impact assessments will be consulted on for the same period. Full details of the consultation and a link to the survey are available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-reform-adult-social-care>

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

10.3 ED/ED/154 RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME – TACKLING RURAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL ISOLATION (TRPSI)

Members will recall that during the 2021-22 financial year the Council administered a Rural Business Development Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). This followed a successful pilot programme which the Council delivered in 2019-20 and subsequent follow up in 2020-21. The programme was open to micro businesses based in the rural areas of the Borough who hadn't previously been supported with TRPSI funding and in 2021-22, 21 applicants were successful in securing grants of up to £4,999. The scheme supported capital spend by businesses, such as purchasing new equipment. The total value of grants accepted in the Borough in 2021-22 was just under £56,000 leading to a total investment of over £121,000.

Due to the success of the scheme and ongoing need for business recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, DAERA has approached the Councils to administer another programme, subject to the outcome of a Business Case, which is currently underway. The grant scheme will be a capital grant scheme of up to £4,999 to support rurally based micro businesses to invest in new equipment to enable them to remain sustainable or to diversify and develop. A micro business is a business with up to 10 full-time equivalent employees and the rural area is defined as any village or area with less than 5,000 residents. In Antrim and Newtownabbey, this will include villages and rural areas outside of the 5 main towns of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown and outside of the Newtownabbey Urban area, which includes Mallusk and Whiteabbey. Grant funding will be offered at a maximum 50% grant rate, so at least 50% of project costs will be provided by the participating business. DAERA considered Councils feedback to include previously supported businesses for funding, and subject to the business case, expects that the grant will be open to businesses who have not previously received funding, and those who received funding in either of the first 2 years of the programme. Businesses successful in securing funding in the 2021-22 year will not be eligible to apply.

It is anticipated that £62,000 of funding will be made available to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area in the 2022-23 financial year to deliver this programme and that approximately 20 rural businesses will benefit from grant aid. There is no direct financial contribution required from the Council. DAERA will provide 10% of the funds awarded through Letters of Offer (so £6,200 if all funding is allocated) for administration purposes, to promote and deliver the programme, which will be managed by the Economic Development Team.

It is anticipated that the programme will launch in mid-April, with an application call planned for May, and outcomes of assessment notified by early September 2022. To help expedite the release of Letters of Offer it is requested that authority for approving the funding awards is delegated to the Chief Executive. A schedule of the supported projects will be presented to a future Council meeting for information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council agrees to participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme in 2022-23, subject to the award of funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme.

Prepared by: Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

10.4 CP/CP/182 HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING GROUP

Members are reminded that Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group has been meeting monthly since Tuesday 21 September 2021, with the minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2021 approved at the January 2022 Community Planning Committee and the minutes of 19 January 2022 approved at the January 2022 Council meeting.

A further meeting of the Working Group was held on Wednesday 23 February 2022 and the minutes are **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group meeting of 23 February 2022 be approved.

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

10.5 ED/REG/059 LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) – ACTION PLAN

Members will be aware of the recently established Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP). The aim of the Partnership is to improve labour market conditions by working on a collaborative basis with a range of partners. The previous meeting of the Labour Market Partnership was held on 27 January 2022 and a copy of the minutes is **enclosed**. At this meeting the Partnership Members reviewed feedback from the Department for Communities (DfC) relating to the Draft Action Plan which was presented to the Council and submitted to DfC in December 2021.

In response to feedback from the Department the Partnership agreed three thematic priority areas for the Action Plan, as follows:

- Theme 1: Reducing Youth Unemployment amongst persons aged 18 – 24 years who are in receipt of an unemployment benefit;
- Theme 2: Reducing Economic Inactivity amongst persons not in employment and who have not been seeking work within the last 4 weeks and /or are not able to work within the next 2 weeks;
- Theme 3: Reducing the Claimant Count by supporting persons who are able to work to find employment and to encourage them off Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.

A core element of the LMP Action Plan is a co-ordinated intervention across multiple stakeholders that will help guide the persons identified within the themes above onto a tailored and specific support provision. The support aligns to five key intervention stages;

1. Recruitment: Targeted at the three thematic areas identified above with referrals accepted from stakeholder organisations including community partners.
2. Triage: A customer led assessment of need managed through a dedicated shared resource through DfC and the Council assessing needs based on motivation levels, health, skills, experience and any barriers to employment such as travel or childcare costs.
3. Work Ready Support: 'Soft Skills Training' and support to help get participants ready for exposure to work.
4. Career Specific Support: Sector specific taster sessions sector specific academies with career relevant training and qualifications.
5. Employment: Supporting access to employment for participants and incentivising employers to offer an opportunity to participants via grant funding.

The development of the Action Plan has been supported by Grant Thornton. A further draft of the Action Plan encompassing the Department's suggestions is **enclosed**. It is proposed that the plan be submitted to DfC for further consideration. The next stage is for the Department to undertake a business-case assessment of the Action Plan. Upon completion of the business-case it is anticipated that funding will be awarded in March 22 for the financial year 22 / 23. However, DfC has raised a potential issue regarding budget certainty for the 22 / 23 year and hence there may be a longer lead-in time for receipt of a

Letter of Offer. The budget required for delivering the programme activity contained within the plan is noted in the table below.

	Year 1 21/22	Year 2 22/23
DFC	£160,000 (pending)	£400,186 (pending)
DFE	£10,000 (received)	£40,000 (received)
Total Programme Budget	£170,000	£440,186

The Draft Action plan is still subject to review by the Labour Market Partnership at its next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION that the Council approves

- **the content of the further updated LMP Action Plan for submission to the Department for Communities (DfC);**
- **the minutes of the Labour Market Partnership held on 27 January 2022.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

10.6 ED/REG/048 MASTERPLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

The Council previously approved draft town-centre masterplans with further views to be sought through local consultation. The masterplans spatially plot regeneration and investment projects across the following areas:

Town Centres: Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Glengormley and Randalstown.

Arterial Routes:

- A57 Belfast International Airport to Ballyclare
- A52/A26 Crumlin / Nutts Corner / Antrim
- A8 Glengormley to Ballynure
- A6 / M22 / M2 Randalstown to Glengormley

Key economic nodes: Abbeycentre, Belfast international Airport, Beverley Shopping Area, Carnmoney, The Junction, Mallusk, Nutts Corner and Whiteabbey.

To date, Officers have facilitated a series of engagements, including Town Team Meetings, Public Engagement Events, Virtual Events and Public Sector Stakeholder Engagement. Throughout February, Officers have been engaging at a local District Electoral Area level to ensure that Members are aware of the types of regeneration initiatives contained within the masterplan document, in particular projects relating to the arterial routes and economic nodes referred to above.

Once finalised and adopted by the Council, the masterplan documents will become the Council's 10 year investment plan. Further refinement of the plans are taking place and Officers are proposing the following milestones towards completion of the work:

- March to April 2022: Formal Public Consultation Period
- May 2022: Refinement of the action plans to reflect public consultation findings
- June 2022: Council Approval of the final draft document
- September 2022: Launch of the Council's 10 year Investment Plan

Prior to the formal public consultation going live Members will have an opportunity to view the collated final draft action plans via: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/towncentremasterplans . Email communications will be issued to advise Members when the final draft plans are live for review.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council notes the progress of the new masterplans to date and the timescales for their completion with a final draft document to be considered by the Council at its meeting in June 2022.

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

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

10.7 PT/C1/046 CORPORATE RECOVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23 – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services, in the context of strategic objectives and issues.

Section 85 of the Act requires a Council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives. These objectives must be framed so that each improvement objective so as to bring about improvement in at least one of the specified aspects of improvement as defined in Section 86: Strategic Effectiveness; Service Quality; Service Availability; Fairness; Sustainability; Efficiency; Innovation.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council approved a Corporate Recovery Plan 2021-23. While we are still operating in a period of uncertainty, the Council is ambitious and an updated Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 (Draft for consultation) has been drafted (**enclosed**) which will guide and assist the Council in working towards the goals and ambitions we have already committed to and fulfils our statutory performance duty.

The Plan provides an overview of some achievements to date, details our statutory targets and identifies improvement objectives for customer service, leisure, staff attendance and prompt payments. The Plan also details performance targets for all service areas and these will be reported quarterly to Committee/Council, however do not form part of the Council's legislative duty.

Departmental guidance, indicates that Councils should *'develop an on-going dialogue with our communities and areas that it serves, so that the setting of improvement objectives is a jointly owned process centred on a balanced assessment of the needs of the community as a whole, rather than any particular organisation or interest group within it.'*

To this end, it is proposed to conduct a twelve-week consultation period to encourage feedback from our stakeholders, commencing on 7th March and running to 24th May 2022.

Following the consultation, a summary report of the responses will be presented to the Policy and Governance Committee, and a revised draft of the Plan will be brought to Members' attention in June 2022.

The Plan has been screened for equality and there are no implications to the equality of opportunity or good relations of the Section 75 equality categories. A copy of the Screening Form, is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

A Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the Plan has been carried out to ensure Rural Proofing and is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 (Draft for consultation), Equality Screening Form and Rural Needs Impact Assessment are approved, subject to consultation.

Prepared by: James Porter, Performance and Transformation Officer

Agreed by: Helen Hall, Head of Performance and Transformation

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

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's February 2022 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 13 January 2022 is also **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.2 G/MSMO/14 MOTION - FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL - PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO NORTHERN IRELAND'S HANDLING OF CARE HOME RESIDENTS

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council regarding a Motion adopted by that Council calling for support for the Commissioner for older People's request for a public enquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of care home residents during the COVID-19 pandemic and requesting support for this.

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

11.3 CE/GEN/015 AND ED/ED/166 VOL 2 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING BELFAST RAPID TRANSPORT PHASE 2 MOTION

Members will recall that at the Council meeting held on 27 September 2021, a Motion was unanimously carried in relation to the Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2 Project. As requested the Chief Executive had written to the Ministers for Finance and the Minister for Infrastructure (copies **enclosed**).

The Private Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure has now replied and a copy of the response is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.4 G/MSMO/008 VOL 3 BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION PERIOD AND HEARINGS

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Boundary Commission advising that the secondary consultation period of the 2023 Boundary review has commenced.

The secondary consultation period provides an opportunity to submit further written representations with respect to the representations from the initial consultation period, which are available on the Commission's [website](#). It also includes three public hearings, at which representations can be made about any of the Commission's initial proposals, and about any alternative proposals.

The hearings will take place as follows:

- Wednesday 2 March 2022 at the Clayton Hotel, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast
- Tuesday 8 March 2022 at the City Hotel, Queen's Quay, Derry/Londonderry
- Friday 11 March 2022, at the Glenavon Hotel, Drum Road, Cookstown

Each hearing will run from 11am until 7pm, with morning (11am – 1pm), afternoon (2pm – 4pm), and evening (5pm – 7pm) sessions. You can find more details about the hearings, and a registration form [here](#).

Contacts in relation to the consultation are BCNI Secretariat:
www.boundarycommission.org.uk

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.5 CE/GEN/015 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS REGARDING ANIMAL WELFARE MOTION

Members will recall that at the Council meeting held on 31 January 2022, a Motion was carried in relation to animal cruelty. As requested the Chief Executive had written to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (copy **enclosed**).

The Permanent Secretary has now replied and a copy of the response is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.6 ED/ED/140 GROW SOUTH ANTRIM LOCAL ACTION GROUP MINUTES

A meeting of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group was held on Friday 29 October 2021 and the minutes recorded at the meeting are enclosed.

Members should note that some commercial business details have been redacted in line with operational requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group Meeting held on Friday 29 October 2021 be noted.

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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