



8 May 2024

Committee Chair: Councillor T McGrann

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor R Lynch

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle, J McGrath, P Michael and S Ross

Councillors – M Brady, P Dunlop, N Kelly, B Mallon,
V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, S Ward
and S Wilson.

Dear Member

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the
Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 13 May 2024 at 6.30 pm.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Baker', is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Baker, GM MSc

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.20

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 13 MAY 2024**

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/GEN/045 COMMUNITY ADVICE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the attendance at Committee of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey.

2. Introduction/Background

Representatives will provide a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which is **enclosed** for Members' information.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA Director of Community Planning

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

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/TD/050 SCHOOL UNIFORM RE-USE SCHEME 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the operation of the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme in 2024, including financial assistance of £200 to each participating group.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme was launched in 2020. The Scheme has a two-fold purpose, to relieve financial pressures on local families and to actively contribute to the reduction of items going to landfill, negating the detrimental impact on the environment.

The 2023 Scheme involved 10 community-based organisations delivering schemes in all 7 District Electoral Area's run by volunteers. Collectively over 7,500 good quality pre-loved school uniforms were received helping over 1,000 families.

In addition to community organisations, 13 schools registered their School Uniform Re-Use Scheme with the Council as part of the collective School Uniform Re-Use Scheme for 2023.

The Mayor hosted a Celebration and Networking Event at Mossley Mill on Monday 5 February 2024 to recognise the success of the community organisations that had participated in the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2023.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that an update on the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2023 including proposals for the 2024 Re-Use Scheme was approved at the October 2023 Community Planning Committee.

Areas to be developed for 2024 include:

- Further promotion of school uniform schemes as well as recording and collection of data in relation to performance of the schemes.
- Closer work with schools to develop recording of key data including items donated and families supported
- Exploration of funding opportunities to provide additional support to schemes
- Establishment of a School Uniform Providers Network to share best practise and meet biannually
- Development of a 'Back to School' event in August 2024, involving community providers, schools and Community Planning partners to promote the service

4. Key Issues

It is proposed that the 2024 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme will be launched on the week commencing 3 June 2024 and will be actively promoted across various channels including Borough Life, Social Media and through correspondence to community organisations and schools.

The Scheme will open for donations from 10 June to 28 June 2024 and then close to allow organisations time to sort and prepare donations. The Scheme will re-open for uniform collections from 22 July to 2 September 2024.

A total of 9 community-based organisations representative of each DEA have committed to participating in this year's scheme. A list of the community-based organisations is provided for Members information:

DEA	School Uniform Scheme Provider
AIRPORT	A Safe Space to be Me: Crumlin Hub
ANTRIM	1 st Antrim Presbyterian
BALLYCLARE	The United Parish -St John's Ballyclare & Christchurch
DUNSILLY	TIDAL – Toome House
GLENGORMLEY URBAN	Carnmoney Presbyterian Church Community Relations Forum Fit Moms & Kids
MACEDON	Listening Ear – Dunanney Centre
THREEMILEWATER	Monkstown Village Centre

Members are advised that Officers have established a School Uniform Providers Network. The first meeting of the network took place on Wednesday 20 March with actions from this including:

- The development of a School Uniform Scheme Brand.
- A targeted communication approach specifically streamlining information relating directly to each scheme
- Exploration of linkages with other statutory bodies. Libraries NI have agreed to take part in a 'pilot' within three Libraries (Antrim, Glengormley and Ballyclare) to act as a donation point for school uniforms.

Officers have developed a Find a School Uniform webpage located on the Council's website that provides a school uniform database, which will assist residents identifying uniforms that correspond to each school within the Borough.

5. Financial Position/Implication

It is proposed that the Council contributes up to a maximum of £200 per scheme, similar to last year to support groups with administration, promotion and storage. Officers have identified provision for 9 groups at a total cost of £1,800 within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2024, including financial assistance of £200 to each participating group, be approved.

Prepared by: Claire McAuley, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.2 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Member's approval for the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 15 April 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Anti-Poverty Steering Group seeks to bring together a group of Elected Members and Officers to create a more cohesive and coordinated response to tackling poverty within the Borough.

The establishment of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group aims to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy creating a single guiding strategic framework that provides, but not limited to;

- Agency for residents
- Fostering of economic empowerment
- Maximising stakeholder partnership opportunities
- Enhancing social inclusion
- Improved access to essential services for residents

3. Previous Council decision

Members are reminded that Community Planning Committee approved the Terms of Reference for the Anti-Poverty Steering Group on 11 March 2024.

4. Governance

Members are advised the Steering Group elected a Chair and a Vice Chair from within the Elected Members at the first meeting held 15 April.

Officers will provide all secretarial and administrative services. The appropriate Officers from the relevant sections will attend meetings and present reports to the Steering Group.

Minutes of meetings will be reported at the earliest opportunity to the next available Community Development Committee.

5. Partnership Minutes

Members are advised that the first meeting of the Steering Group was held in Mossley Mill on Monday 15 April. The draft minutes of the meeting are **enclosed** for Member's approval.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 15 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Service Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community Planning

4.3 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Member's approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 17 April 2024.

2. Background

Members are reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group is to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group is set out as follows:

- To advise the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare Community and wider Borough Community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community Planning Committee. Membership consists of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who are actively involved in the local community.

3. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 17 April 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed.**

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 17 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Planning

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.4 AC/EV/015 MRS JOAN CHRISTIE CVO, OBE LEGACY BURSARY SCHEME 2024 (GRANT FUNDING)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for an amendment to the terms of reference of the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme by widening the eligibility criteria in relation to the horticulture awards so that they are open to all schools in the Borough.

2. Introduction/Background

The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme was established in 2019 on the occasion of Mrs Christie's retirement from her role as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant. The annual scheme provides eight awards of £1,000 each, with two awards given to talented young musicians from the Borough, two awards given to young volunteers from the Borough and their group or organisation that they volunteer with, and two awards given to special schools in the Borough for use in horticultural projects.

To apply for a bursary, applicants must complete a short form. A shortlisting exercise is carried out by officers, and interviews with shortlisted candidates are then carried out by a panel made up of one Elected Member from each political party and chaired by Mrs Christie's daughter, Harriett Roberts.

Applications are due to open in early June 2024 and close in late August 2024. Interviews will take place in September 2024 with the awards being presented at a celebratory lunch at the Theatre at the Mill in October.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the August 2018 Council meeting to establish the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme to be delivered on an annual basis from 2019. The 2023 scheme was approved at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee, and the terms of reference of the scheme were last amended and approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

4. Proposed amendments to the 2024 scheme

Although previous awards have been popular and successful, the third award category – the Special Schools Bursary for Horticultural Projects – has limited appeal due to the small number of schools who are eligible to apply. To address this while retaining a meaningful connection to horticulture for young people with special needs, it is proposed to broaden the eligibility criteria to include all primary and post-primary schools wanting to undertake a horticulture project focusing specifically on the needs of pupils with special needs. This proposal is supported by Mrs Christie's daughter, Harriett Roberts.

A second change to this year's scheme is the introduction of a mentoring programme for young musicians who are shortlisted for a bursary. Any young musician reaching the interview stage will be eligible to join this programme and receive free support, advice, and potentially performance opportunities through pairing up with professional musicians and promoters and previous bursary award winners around the Borough. The mentoring scheme will be managed by Arts and Culture officers using professional musicians who regularly perform at Council events, and mentors will participate in the scheme on a voluntary basis.

The proposed revised terms and conditions for the scheme are **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Funding for the eight bursaries awarded through the scheme are included in the 2024/25 budget estimates.

6. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

(a) the revised terms of reference for the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme be approved;

(b) the proposed mentoring scheme for talented young musicians shortlisted for the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme be approved.

Prepared and Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.5 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 24 April 2024.

2. Background

Armed Forces Day 2024 will take place at Jordanstown Loughshore Park on Saturday 22 June. This will be the first time that the event has been held in the Borough since 2016, when it took place in Antrim Castle Gardens.

The theme of Armed Forces Day will be Veterans and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the event will be filled with entertainment, military displays, stalls, live demonstrations and family fun.

A Military Working Group meets monthly to co-ordinate the specific military aspects of the event, and a Council Working Group also meets monthly to oversee the delivery of Armed Forces Day in its entirety.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The delivery of Armed Forces Day 2024 on Saturday 22 June was approved at the June 2023 Council meeting when it was agreed to establish a Working Group.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Armed Forces Day 2024 Working Group met on 24 April 2024 in Mossley Mill. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 24 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Planning

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.6 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS' FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum aims to relieve poverty, advance education and promote the preservation and protection of health among seniors (50+) in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and its environs.

They provide facilities and programmes in the interests of social welfare for the education, recreation and leisure time for senior citizens. Officers have continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, and NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that at the April 2023 Committee Meeting it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 for the 2023/24 financial year to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum. As part of the corresponding Service Level Agreement; the Forum are tasked with providing quarterly performance reports.

The 2023/24 Quarter 3 Performance Report was approved at the February Community Planning Committee and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum was provided for in the 2023/24 Community Planning budget. Other Community Planning partners also provided a financial commitment to support this group as outlined below;

Community Planning Partner	Financial contribution to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum 2023/24
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

5. Governance

Officers continue to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners to manage the Service Level Agreement and performance of

this Group. A quarterly performance report is provided to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Quarter 4 Report is enclosed for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Conor Cuning, DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.7 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report.

2. Introduction

The THRiVE Project is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was previously agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report on The THRiVE Project be provided to the Community Planning Committee from September 2022.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members are reminded it was agreed at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to THRiVE for 2023/24 subject to a quarterly performance report being provided.

5. Governance

Elected Members from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA were nominated to serve on the THRiVE Board at the Annual Council Meeting on 30 May 2023 with Cllr Brady and Cllr Gilmour nominated for their respective DEA's to serve on the Board for 2023/24.

Officers continue to work with the THRiVE Project and Community Planning partners to manage the performance of the Project. Quarterly performance reports will continue to be reported to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Thrive Live issue is **enclosed**. Quarter 4 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report be approved.

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.8 AC/GEN/037 ARTS AND HERITAGE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for two Arts and Heritage Grant applications.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme is to provide support to individuals and constituted groups based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote a range of art forms and heritage projects.

Arts grants are available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production of art work
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of an event or festival, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public
- The attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification

Heritage grants are available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production or development of a heritage product, such as publication or exhibition which must relate to local history
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of a heritage event, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public

To be successful, applicants must score a minimum of 50% in their application and all proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation. The programme operates on a rolling basis linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year is exhausted.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a revised Arts and Culture Grant Aid Programme was approved by the Committee in April 2022.

4. Applications for 2024/2025 Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme

Two applications have been received and assessed by officers under the appropriate funding category and maximum award available.

A summary of the applications is set out below along with the proposed award:

Group / Individual Name	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Proposed Amount Awarded
Mia White	Arts Support for individuals - the attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	The applicant is a young violinist who has been accepted through audition to attend a one-week residential course in Greenmount College Antrim with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, finishing with two performances in the Derry-Londonderry Guildhall on Friday 16 August and the Ulster Hall Belfast on Saturday 17 August. Funding will assist in part payment towards the residential course. In return, the applicant has offered to play the violin at an event of the Council's choosing. NB – this applicant and the applicant below are sisters who hope to attend the residential course together.	85%	£408.75
Young person under the age of 18 living in the Borough	Arts Support for individuals - the attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	The applicant is a young cellist who has been accepted through audition to attend a one-week residential course in Greenmount College Antrim with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, finishing with two performances in the Derry-Londonderry Guildhall on Friday 16 August and the Ulster Hall Belfast on Saturday 17 August. Funding will assist in part payment towards the residential course. In return, the applicant has offered to play the cello at an event of the Council's choosing. NB – this applicant and the applicant above are sisters who hope to attend the residential course together.	85%	£408.75

5. Financial Position

The budget available for Arts and Heritage Grants in 2024/2025 is £14,000. The total amount proposed for the above awards is £817.50 leaving a balance of £13,182.50 to fund any future applications in the current financial year.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the two Arts and Heritage Grant applications totalling £817.50 be approved.

Prepared by: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.9 AC/ACG/012 USE OF EVENT GAZEBOS BY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a new procedure to allow community, voluntary and charitable groups to continue to use the Council's event gazebos.

2. Introduction/Background

In 2019, the Council's Rural Development Team (Grow South Antrim) availed of external funding to invest in portable gazebos for use in relation to the delivery of a wide range of Council events. There are currently 25 such gazebos, 3m by 3m in size, held by the Council's events team and used as required for Council events.

Requests to borrow the gazebos by various external organisations who are delivering activities and events across the Borough have been increasing in recent years.

To date, officers in the Council's Parks and Property Services teams have been able to manage the delivery and collection of these gazebos. This however is no longer possible given the volume of requests and impact upon the duties of these teams. In order to continue this practice external contractors will be required to transport the gazebos for the groups at a cost of approximately £300 on each occasion.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a report was brought to the April 2024 Committee and it was agreed the item be deferred and a report with options be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

4. Way Forward

Officers, having considered options, are proposing to implement a hire procedure, which will enable groups to continue to use the gazebos for free providing they can make their own arrangements for collecting and returning them.

It is proposed that the procedure operates as follows:

- Groups complete an online application for loan of the gazebos (**enclosed** for Members' information);
- Groups make their own arrangements for the collection, erection and return of the gazebos which are stored at the Environmental Services Depot in Antrim;
- Groups must pay a deposit of £50 per gazebo which is fully refundable providing gazebos are returned in the same condition as when loaned; (Members are asked to note that a replacement gazebo costs approximately £500);

- Groups must have their own insurance and sign a liability disclaimer form (see **enclosed** form);
- Groups will be provided with full instructions in relation to the safe transport, erection and dismantling of the gazebos. If required groups can be provided with a practical demonstration;
- Gazebos when collapsed can be transported in an estate car

It is proposed that only community, voluntary or charitable groups based in the Borough can avail of this service and gazebos will not be available for use by private bodies or business organisations.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the procedure outlined above to allow community, voluntary or charitable groups to continue to loan gazebos from the Council be approved.

Prepared and Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.10 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF OLD COURTHOUSE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members that the Bridge Association in Antrim is given permission to use the Old Courthouse free of charge for two days of rehearsal before a fundraising performance on 5 July 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Bridge Association is an Antrim-based not-for-profit organisation providing vocational training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ years.

The Bridge Vocational Training Unit has been operational in Antrim town since 1988 and moved into new, purpose built premises in 2004. The Unit is committed to providing high quality vocational training opportunities to adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ years and currently offers accredited courses which are tailored to suit the ability and needs of each individual trainee in 3 key areas encompassing catering, retail and horticulture/propagation. Trainees can also avail of courses in personal development, Information Technology and numeracy/literacy to encourage them to recognise their full potential in all aspects of their daily living.

The Bridge Association has booked the Old Courthouse for a fundraising night on 5 July, and officers have agreed a 75% hire discount in accordance with the Council's Policy. In order to allow their members time to get used to the theatre surroundings, and to give them sufficient time to prepare for their performance, the Association has asked for the opportunity to rehearse in the theatre for two days on 3 and 4 June.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Bridge Association has not previously asked to use Council venues for free, but permission has previously been granted by the Committee for the free use of venues by other organisations. The last such approval was given at the February 2024 Committee for the free use of the Courtyard Theatre by the Education Authority.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The waiver of community hire charges for the two rehearsal days represents potential lost income of £600. No additional staffing costs are anticipated for these days.

The usual community rate for hire of the Old Courthouse is £300 and the group have been offered a 75% discount of this, which is £225. Staff costs of £215 will be incurred to deliver this event against an income of £75.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Bridge Association in Antrim is given permission to use the Old Courthouse free of charge for two days of rehearsal before a fundraising performance on 5 July 2024.

Prepared and Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.11 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to the Community Development Small Grants Funding Programme awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provides financial assistance to groups with the Borough towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Small Grants Programme, was approved by the Council in October 2014 as part of the Council's new Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2024/25 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000 approved by Council in October 2021) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards are subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation is in place and can be provided on request or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

4. Financial Implication

Members are advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Small Grants Programme has been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Planning budget. During the month of April 5 applications totalling £4,818.55 were received and assessed by Officers with details **enclosed** for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 5 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £4,818.55 be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.12 CP/CD/442 VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to support Volunteers Week 2024.

2. Introduction

Volunteers' Week is an annual event, which sees charities, voluntary groups, social organisations, and volunteers themselves come together to recognise the incredible impact that volunteering has in communities around the UK.

Volunteers' Week will run from the 3-9 June and will be brought to a close by the Big Help Out (7-9 June) giving organisations the opportunity to not only show their appreciation but also encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week.

3. Key issues

Members are advised Volunteer Now will provide resources through its website to support organisations to recognise and thank their volunteers. Case studies and stories from both organisations and volunteers will be shared online during the course of the week.

Volunteer Now have requested that the Council join with them in promoting one or all of the following initiatives within the Borough:

- Promotion of Volunteer Week events on the Council website and social media platforms.
- A light up of civic buildings purple on Monday 3rd June 2024 to celebrate the start of Volunteer Week.
- Promote organisations on the Council website and social media platforms who have existing volunteering opportunities.
- Use of the Council website and social media platforms to publicise 'volunteering good news stories' from across the Borough leading up to and following Volunteer Week.
- Creation of awareness and promotion of The Big Lunch facilitated by the Eden Project. The Eden Project are able to offer food vouchers to support events, particularly aimed at those who might not otherwise have the resources to host an event.

Council Officers have taken into consideration all of the above initiatives and would propose that participation in all of them be approved.

In addition, it is proposed that Council supports the promotion of two volunteer led events in the Borough:

- Hazelbank Park – A community clean up supported by Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum, on Tuesday 4 June
- Antrim Castle Garden – A community clean up supported by the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens. on Friday 7 June

4. Financial Position/Implication

The total approximate cost for hospitality to support the two events listed is £300. Officers have identified provision for the cost within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

5. Summary

Volunteers' Week will run from the 3-9 June giving organisations the opportunity to not only show their appreciation but also encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week. It is proposed that the Council shows its support for Volunteers Week and Volunteers by delivering a range of initiatives and community events as outlined.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council supports Volunteers Week 2024 and that the Civic Buildings be lit up in purple on Monday evening 3 June 2024 to celebrate the start of Volunteers Week.

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.13 CP/PCSP/087 PCSP SUMMER/SCHOOL HOLIDAY INTERVENTION 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the free use of Council facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) delivers a youth intervention programme annually during July and August.

BEAT ('Be Educated, Be Active, Be Together') is designed to be more than a conventional summer scheme by engaging with detached young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and providing a mix of positive physical, developmental and educational activities.

Young people are encouraged to participate in activities that include drugs/alcohol awareness, fire safety, team building, mental health awareness, developing healthy inter-personal relationships, arts and music, good relations, and sports.

The programme operates in a number of areas across the Borough, delivering diversionary activities to young people 2-3 nights per week in the evening across 6-8 weeks of the summer period.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that free use of Council facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August 2023 was approved at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee. The Council has historically supported the annual BEAT programme through the free use of facilities for the delivery the programme.

4. Key Issues

The BEAT programme will be targeted in areas within the Borough that are highlighted and agreed through a multi-agency forum (PCSP Children and Young Person's Steering Group), as experiencing increased levels of anti-social behaviour.

Members are advised Officers have engaged with the Education Authority Youth Service to work collaboratively to deliver the BEAT Programme, utilising EA buildings and staff with the PCSP programming and funding the activities.

Local community groups are encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process to ensure local ownership and support for the programme.

Delivery agents will be tasked to engage with local youth providers and community groups to secure their involvement and provide greater long-term engagement and relationship building opportunities for the young people within their own communities.

Historically the Council has supported the annual BEAT programme through the free use of facilities including Community, Leisure and Parks in areas that BEAT will be operating. Free use of facilities would be subject to availability with no regular activities or bookings displaced.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Provision of £20,000 has been made within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget for the delivery of the Summer BEAT Programme. An application to the NIHE Community Safety Fund for £12,000 has been submitted and the outcome will be reported to a future Committee.

If PCSP were required to pay for the Council facilities, the scope of the programme would have to reduce accordingly.

6. Governance

The BEAT programme is managed by the PCSP, involving collaboration with Community Planning partners including Education Authority and the PSNI.

7. Summary

The BEAT Programme is designed to provide diversionary and educational activities to children aged 11+, at a time when other school, uniformed and sporting activities reduce or stop, thereby addressing and reducing anti-social behaviour across the summer months.

To support the delivery of this summer's BEAT programme it is proposed to permit free use of Council facilities including Community, Leisure and Parks in areas that BEAT will be operating.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that that the free use of facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August 2024 be approved.

Prepared by: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.14 CP/PP/016 PEACEPLUS FORAS NA GAEILGE/ULSTER UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP REQUEST IRISH AND ULSTER SCOTS LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Council to indicate in principle support for participation in a proposed PEACEPLUS Project being led by Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University, with an application for funding to PEACEPLUS 1.3 Building Positive Relations being submitted to SEUPB by 13 June 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

Correspondence has been received from Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster University, who are leading a project consortium to develop a funding application to the PEACEPLUS Theme 1.3 Building Positive Relations programme, copy **enclosed** for Members' information. They are requesting that the Council indicates in principle if it would like to participate in the proposed project.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed in principle at the Council meeting in August 2023 to partner 4C UR Future in relation to their Employability Skills Awareness and Development Programme funding application to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 3.1. It was also agreed that any partnership agreement be brought back to a future meeting of the Community Planning Committee for approval.

Members are also reminded that it was reported to the Community Planning Committee in October 2023 that Monkstown Boxing Club had submitted an application for The Box project to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 1.4. It was agreed that a letter of support for the project from the Council be approved retrospectively.

3. Key Issues

This project consortium includes:

- Ulster University
- Foras na Gaeilge
- The Ulster Scots Agency
- East Belfast Mission
- Comhaltas Ulaadh
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- Galway University

The project aims to improve community relations in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland by promoting mutual respect for Irish and Ulster Scots language and heritage. The proposed project is four years running from January 2025 - December 2028.

The project will focus on three main activities for building positive relations:

- (1) Organising community level discussion workshops with participants from all sections of society.
- (2) Improving the capacity of local authorities to deal sensitively with language and culture issues.
- (3) Actively engaging young people in discussing the shared, indigenous heritage of Northern Ireland and the border region.

It is proposed that a bespoke Continuous Professional Development course will be developed for Council employees. This CPD course will focus on raising awareness of basic facts relating to Irish and Ulster Scots and on providing Council staff with the know-how to deal sensitively with language and culture issues.

In conjunction with the CPD course, the project proposes to work with Council's Good Relations officers to develop protocols for supporting citizens who wish to communicate with council staff through the medium of Irish or Ulster Scots.

The Council has been invited to join the project as an Associate Partner and to work with the consortium on activity 2.

4. Financial Position

There is no request for any financial contribution from the Council for this project.

5. Governance

Should the project be successful in its funding application to SEUPB for PEACEPLUS funding then a partnership agreement outlining the role of the Council as an Associate Partner would be drawn up and brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee for approval.

6. Summary

Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University, who are leading a project consortium on a funding application to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 1.3 Building Positive Relations, have requested that the Council indicate in principle if it would agree to being an Associate Partner of the project. The project aims to improve community relations in Northern Ireland and the border Counties of Ireland by promoting mutual respect for Irish and Ulster Scots language and heritage over a four year term running from January 2025 to December 2028. There is no request for any financial contribution from the Council. If the project is successful in its funding application then a partnership agreement between the Council and the project consortium will be drawn up and brought to a future meeting for approval.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that an agreement in principle to be an Associate Partner with Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University in relation to their PEACEPLUS application to SEUPB Investment Area 1.3 Building Positive Relations, be approved, with any partnership agreement to be brought back to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee for approval.

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

5. ITEM FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/GEN/051 CHIEF OFFICERS 3RD SECTOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Chief Officers 3rd Sector Leadership Awards.

2. Background

The Chief Officers 3rd Sector (CO3) Leadership Awards shine a spotlight on the exceptional leaders and initiatives that make a significant impact on the community.

The Chief Officers 3rd Sector (CO3) Awards bring people together to witness each other's achievements and gain recognition for the hard work that has made a difference in the communities they serve.

Earlier this year, Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager, was nominated in the 'Leading Cross Sectoral Initiatives' category.

Lynda, was nominated in recognition to her commitment to ensuring the successful delivery of the Peace IV Building Positive Relations Cultural Expressions Programme that comprised of;

- The Key Institutions Programme
- The Key Institutions Cross Border Programme
- The Williamite programme

Over 170 participants completed the programme receiving accredited and non-accredited training, fostering a network of collaboration on common issues whilst developing new relationships.

3. Chief Officers 3rd Sector Awards Ceremony

Members are advised that winners were officially announced on 14 March, at an Awards ceremony at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

Lynda was highly commended in the 'Leading Cross Sectoral Initiatives' category.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director Community Planning