



7 February 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 PLANNING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community Planning Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 12 February 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

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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3 PRESENTATION

3.1 AC/TOU/009 LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the attendance at Committee of Lough Neagh Partnership who will be making a presentation to Members.

Members are reminded that in response to a proposal from a Member at the January Committee it was agreed to invite the Partnership to a future meeting of the Committee to make a presentation.

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

RECOMMENDATION: 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/CD/386 INTEGRATED EDUCATION FUND – FUTURE SCHOOL'S PROJECT

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the Integrated Education Fund to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Community Planning Committee.

A request (**enclosed**) has been received from the Integrated Education Fund requesting the opportunity to make a presentation at a future Community Planning Committee Meeting to provide information on the Future School's Project, which has been set up by them in collaboration with the Ulster University.

RECOMMENDATION: that representatives from the Integrated Education Fund be invited to present to a future Community Planning Committee on the Future School's Project.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.2 CP/PV/001 COMMUNITY FACILITIES - MOSSLEY FOOTBALL CLUB KEYHOLDER

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval in relation to key holder status of Mossley Pavilion for Mossley Football Club.

Members are reminded that there are currently two Council approved keyholders at Mossley Pavilion - CORE Community Group (tenant) and Mossley Outdoor Bowling Club.

A request has been received from Mossley Football Club for a key to the building. The club's 'home' venue is Mossley Pitch which includes access to the changing facilities within the Pavilion. The club plays on Saturday afternoons and during the Spring/Summer months on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. They have a key for an outdoor storage container which is used to keep equipment.

The club have requested a key to access the changing room inside the pavilion building. Access would be on an infrequent basis when they may need to leave kit out in advance or access their changing room earlier than the pavilion opens.

RECOMMENDATION: that provision of keyholder status of Mossley Pavilion to Mossley Football Club be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.3 CP/CD/457 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2023/2024

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

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

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity. 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 2023/24 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) 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.

During the month of January one application totalling £970 was received and assessed by Officers with details **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Small Grant application requesting a total of £970 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

4.4 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S THE THRIVE PROJECT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Barnardo's Thrive Project Quarter 3 performance report.

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.

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.

An Elected Member from each of the Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's was nominated to serve for one year on the Thrive Project Board at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2023.

The Quarter 3 Performance Report is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Quarter 3 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

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

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 3 2023 performance report.

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.

Officers have continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, NHSCT, PSNI, NIFRS) to manage the service level agreement. The Quarter 3 Report is **enclosed** for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Quarter 3 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

4.6 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the most recent minutes of the Armed Forces Working Group.

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.

The most recent meeting of the Working Group was held in Mossley Mill on Wednesday 31 January and the minutes are **enclosed** for Members' information.

Members are advised that following recent updates that current membership of the Group is as follows:

Councillor Mark Cooper BEM (Chair)
Councillor Alison Bennington (Vice Chair)
Councillor Sam Flanagan
Councillor Paul Dunlop
Councillor Michael Goodman
Councillor Annie O'Lone
Councillor Jay Burbank
Alderman Paul Michael BEM

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Armed Forces Working Group meeting of 31 January 2024 be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.7 AC/EV/003 CRAFT NI PROPOSAL FOR GARDEN SHOW IRELAND 2024

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to appoint Craft NI to deliver the craft elements of Garden Show Ireland, which is scheduled to take place from 14-16 June 2024 at Antrim Castle Gardens.

The involvement of craft makers in Garden Show Ireland is well established, and craft stalls form an important part of the event. Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Committee in March 2023 that Craft NI source and manage craft maker involvement in the 2023 Garden Show. The partnership worked very well with a much improved craft offer delivered at the event.

Craft NI is the sector-led body for the promotion and development of the design-led contemporary craft industry in Northern Ireland. Craft NI supports and promotes the craft industry as an integral, entrepreneurial and vibrant part of the region's economic and cultural infrastructure. Its key partners include regional government and agencies, local government, cultural organisations, universities and colleges of further and higher education, private business and industry.

Members are advised that officers have met with Craft NI to ascertain if they would be interested in sourcing and managing high-quality craft makers for Garden Show Ireland 2024. Craft NI have indicated that they would be keen to do this.

Under the terms of the proposal, Craft NI would be responsible for sourcing and managing 12-15 high quality craft makers who would offer their crafts for sale to the public and provide craft demonstrations. Craft NI propose to charge each craft maker £250 to participate, with 50% of this being retained by Craft NI as a management fee and 50% paid to the Council. Craft NI have committed to ensuring that any craft makers based in the Borough will be encouraged and supported to participate in the event.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed partnership arrangements with Craft NI to deliver the craft element of Garden Show Ireland 2024 be approved.

Prepared by: Chris Lynn, Culture and Events Co-Ordinator

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.8 AC/HE/046 AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF POGUES ENTRY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Antrim School of Music to be offered the use of the Pogues Entry apartment and craft workshop for an initial 12-month period.

Members are reminded that approval was given at the November 2022 Community Planning Committee to the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens to use the Pogues Entry apartment and craft workshop, to operate the site as a visitor attraction on behalf of the Council in lieu of rent. In April 2023 the group wrote to officers to say that they no longer wished to take up this lease.

Members are advised that Antrim School of Music have put forward a proposal to use the same facilities at Pogues Entry, which would allow them to extend their services and facilitate educational workshops. Antrim School of Music is a not-for-profit organisation started in 2021 to provide facilitated group and individual lessons in music, performance, music production / technology and the creative arts.

They would operate in a similar way to that proposed for the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens:

- The School would occupy the apartment for use as an office and meeting space, and run workshops and creative activities in the adjoining craft workshop
- The garden would remain under the care of the Irish Garden Plant Society who have developed this space in partnership with the Council for a number of years, and they would continue to have right of way access to the toilet and kitchen facilities in the apartment
- The Council would retain responsibility for maintenance and repair of all of the buildings
- The School would not be charged rent, but would pay for utilities. In lieu of rent, the School would operate Pogues Entry as a visitor attraction from Easter until September, on Thursdays and Fridays from 2pm-5pm and Saturdays 10am-5pm. The School would be responsible for opening and closing the site, and providing information to visitors.

This arrangement would realise staff cost savings of approximately £3,000 which are currently required to open Pogues Entry as above. It is proposed to review the arrangement towards the end of the initial twelve month period with a report to be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposal to permit the use of the Pogues Entry apartment and craft workshop to Antrim School of Music for an initial 12-month period, as outlined, be approved.

Prepared by: Philip Magennis, Culture & Heritage Officer

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.9 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF THE COURTYARD THEATRE

The purpose of this report is to obtain Members approval in relation to a request received from the Education Authority Music Service for the free use of the Courtyard Theatre for a rehearsal on Tuesday 7 May 2024 and a concert on Monday 13 May 2024 by the Southern Area String Orchestra which is based in Newtownabbey.

The waiver of community hire charges for this booking represents potential lost income of £600. In addition, staffing costs of £380 will be incurred to support the event.

The Education Authority has received free use previously for a number of concerts in recent years, the most recent for the use of Ballyclare Town Hall on 5 December 2023 for a Christmas concert given by the Southern Area String Orchestra.

RECOMMENDATION: that the request for the free use of the Courtyard Theatre by the Education Authority Music Service on Tuesday 7th and Monday 13th May 2024 be approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.10 AC/GEN/109 DRAFT ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND TEN YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for a corporate response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) public consultation on their draft 10 year Strategic Plan 2024-2034.

Members are advised that the ACNI has launched a public consultation on a proposed 10 year strategic plan which outlines their plan to develop and champion the arts in Northern Ireland. A copy is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The proposed strategic plan sets out an ambitious roadmap that charts ACNI's course towards a future where the arts sector in Northern Ireland flourishes. It outlines their commitment to supporting artists, promoting inclusivity and diversity, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that the arts are accessible to all. It aims to put artists at the centre of the change to ensure the vibrant and diverse artistic landscape of Northern Ireland is recognised, celebrated and funded.

The consultation opened on 12 January 2024 and will close on the 5 April 2024. It is proposed to respond to the consultation on a corporate basis.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council responds to the consultation on the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's proposed 10 year Strategic Plan 2024 – 2034 on a corporate basis.

Prepared by: Katherine Gardiner, Arts & Theatres Manager

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.11 CP/CD/426 CHRISTMAS TOY SCHEME 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 2023 Christmas Toy Scheme, which was established to provide support to local families at Christmas by relieving financial burdens whilst also positively contributing to sustainability through recycling of pre-loved toys.

Members are reminded that the delivery of the Christmas Toy Scheme 2023 was approved by the Community Planning Committee in September 2023 in partnership with Community and Voluntary Organisations, Habitat for Humanity (NI) and the Council's Recycling Centres.

A social media campaign was carried out following this seeking expressions of interest from community and voluntary organisations interested in supporting the delivery of a scheme. It was agreed at the Committee in October 2023 that the following organisations be delivery partners for the 2023 Christmas Toy Scheme, which included provision of £200 funding per organisation:

Organisation/Group	DEA
A Safe Space to Be Me	Airport
Listening Ear	Macedon
Fitmoms & Kids	Glengormley Urban
Queen's Park Women's Group	Glengormley Urban
Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary	Antrim
Sensory Kids	Antrim
Antrim School of Music	Antrim
Learning Rooms	Antrim
Marks and Spencer - Abbeycentre	Macedon
Sensata – Turkington & Breen	Antrim
Muckamore Parish Development Association	Antrim – Pop Up Toy Scheme
Mayfield Community Association	Airport/Glengormley
Save the Children	All DEA's
Habitat for Humanity (NI)	All DEA's

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

The Christmas Toy Scheme delivered the following outcomes in 2023:

- Over 600 local families supported by the Community partners which is a 20% increase on uptake in 2022;
- 7,992 new and pre-loved toys donated and distributed which is a 6% increase on donations received in 2022.

The 2023 scheme has exceeded the performance of the 2002 scheme and a proposal for a Christmas Toy Scheme for 2024 will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: that the update on the Christmas Toy Scheme be noted with a proposal for delivery of the scheme in 2024 to be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Prepared by: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

4.12 CP/TD/002 AREAS AT RISK FUNDING 2024/2025

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the proposed funding awards for the Areas at Risk Programme 2024/25.

Members are reminded that the Areas at Risk (AAR) programme is delivered across six Super Output Areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Historically the Newtownabbey AAR programme is part funded by the Department for Communities (DfC), whilst the Antrim AAR programme is fully funded by the Council. Confirmation of DfC funding for 2024/25 is yet to be received.

Members are further reminded that a request to amend the delivery of the Areas at Risk programme from a direct award process to an open competitive format, approved by the Council in August 2020 was suspended in November 2020. It was agreed at the Community Planning Committee in November 2021 that the Councils review of Areas at Risk be deferred until DfC review findings are published.

The DfC review has commenced and DfC have indicated that programme changes can be expected to be communicated in the 2024/25 funding year.

The anticipated Areas at Risk Funding for 2024/25 is set out below:

	DfC Contribution 2024/25 TBC	Council Contribution 2024/25 TBC	Totals TBC
Newtownabbey AAR	£66,750 TBC	£60,170	£126,920
Antrim AAR	£0	£111,210	£111,210
Totals	£66,750	£171,380	£238,130

Newtownabbey AAR Projects Funded 2023/24

- The Areas at Risk Newtownabbey Project covers Carnmoney, Monkstown and Mossley.
- The contribution committed by the Council in 2023/24 to the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Projects was **£60,170**
- A Letter of Offer from DfC to confirm their 2024/25 contribution is anticipated for the same amount.

Based on previous allocations the following awards are proposed for 2024/25, subject to receipt of costed delivery plans from organisations:

Organisation	Council £	DfC TBC £
Monkstown Community Association	15,500	9,500
Monkstown Community Forum	12,650	4,750
Monkstown Boxing Club	10,200	4,750
Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown	1,000	5,000
Hollybank Primary School, Monkstown	13,820	4,750

Hollybank Pre-school, Monkstown	2,500	2,500
Carnmoney Presbyterian Church	2,500	22,500
New Mossley Presbyterian Church Youth Club (DAM Project)	2,000	13,000

Antrim AAR Projects Funded 2023/24

- The Antrim Areas at Risk Project covers Farranshane, Ballycraigy and Steeple
- The contribution committed by the Council in 2023/24 was **£111,210**.
- Project plans are subject to Council approval following submission of Project Proposals by Groups (this is completed retrospectively of the Newtownabbey Letter of Offer from DfC being received by Council).
- Council officers have proactively engaged with Areas at Risk organisations in Antrim to confirm their intent to commit to funding process in 2024/2025.

Members are advised that Farranshane Community Trust merged with GEMS NI and GEMS NI are the lead organisation. It is proposed that GEMS NI are invited to apply to the Areas at Risk programme following the merger with Farranshane Community Trust.

Based on previous allocations the following awards are proposed for 2024/25, subject to receipt of costed delivery plans from organisations:

Organisation	Council £
St Joseph's Nursery School Steeple Nursery School	16,500
Antrim Enterprise Agency	6,000
St Joseph's Primary School	12,980
Ballycraigy Primary School	16,000
Parkhall Primary School	14,420
Muckamore Parish Development Association	14,810
Rathenraw Youth Scheme	8,500
Antrim Grammar School	6,500
Inter-Estate Partnership	10,500
GEMS NI *	5,000

* Subject to approval

RECOMMENDATION that:

- (a) the proposed Areas at Risk Programme including funding awards for 2024/25 be approved, subject to receipt of costed delivery plans from organisations and confirmation of funding from the Department for Communities; and**
- (b) that GEMS NI be invited to apply to the 2024/25 Areas at Risk Programme.**

Prepared by: Stefanie Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/CD/445 KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the presentation and celebration events for the groups that were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2023.

The Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their communities. It is the MBE for volunteer groups. Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the award. Each group is assessed on the benefit it brings to the local community and its standing within that community.

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the Committee in December 2023 that events to formally present Mayfield Village Community Association and Muckamore Parish Development Association with their KAVS at an approximate cost of no more than £10,000 be delivered.

Members are advised that arrangements for both events are proposed as follows:

- Mayfield Village Community Association – Friday 22 March 2024 at 7pm in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill;
- Muckamore Parish Development Association – Friday 1 March 2024 at 12.30pm in the Old Courthouse Theatre, Antrim.

Officers will support planning and delivery of the events by working in partnership with the Groups, representatives of the KAVS and the Antrim Lieutenancy.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.2 CP/CF/001 COMMUNITY FIRST AID AND LIFESAVING SKILLS PROGRAMME

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Community Development First Aid and Lifesaving Skills Programme.

Members are reminded that the installation of 10 AED's at Community Facilities including community and staff training was approved at the June 2022 Community Planning Committee. AED's have been installed at the following facilities:

- Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff
- Dunanney Centre
- Lillian Bland Pavilion
- Mossley Pavilion
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Greystone Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- The Sovereign Complex, Rathfern
- Monkstown Jubilee Centre
-

The Community First Aid and Lifesaving Skills Programme was developed following concern that many people lacked confidence in how to operate and utilise an Arterial Emergency Defibrillators (AED's) in an emergency. Without immediate defibrillation and CPR when cardiac arrest occurs, the chances of survival are less than 5%. With a defibrillator being used alongside effective CPR the odds of survival can be increased to 50%.

As part of the Community Capacity Building Programme Community First Aid and Life Saving Skills classes were delivered across the Borough in September 2023. The 3 hour accredited classes were delivered by trained nurses in various Community Facilities. The programme included; the responsibilities of a first responder, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and use of AED. 312 residents have completed the training. Each Community Facility also received a Stryker Heartsine v Trainer, which enables refresh training on operating a defibrillator through a smartphone.

Participant numbers by DEA are listed for Members' information;

DEA	Numbers Trained
ANTRIM	72
AIRPORT	32
BALLYCLARE	42
DUNSILLY	22
GLENGORMLEY	94
MACEDON	22
THREEMILEWATER	28
Total	312

Following the positive response to this programme, the delivery agent has also partnered with Abbey Centre to deliver a Lifesaving Skills Schools Initiative, with 105 pupils from schools located in the Borough participating in the programme. Participant numbers by school are listed for Members' information.

SCHOOL	Numbers Trained (Pupils and Staff)
Ballyclare High School	17
Antrim Grammar School	19
Integrated College Glengormley	11
Ulidia Integrated College	16
Belfast High School	16
Jordanstown School	19
Edmund Rice College	16
Total	105

RECOMMENDATION: that the update on the Community First Aid and Lifesaving Skills Programme be noted.

Prepared by: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5.3 CP/GR/162 THE EUROPEAN MAYORS SUMMIT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

The purpose of this report is to provide an update as agreed on the attendance at the European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism by the Mayor and Director of Community Planning.

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the October Council meeting that the Mayor and Director of Community Planning attend the European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Dortmund Germany on 29 November to 1 December 2023 with a report on shared learnings from the Summit to be brought back.

The focus for the Summit, was 'Fostering Cultural Diversity' and the detailed programme is enclosed for Members' information. The Summit brought together Mayors and local officials from across Europe and beyond. Discussions took place on how to build social cohesion, strengthen community lives at local levels and establish understanding between citizens of different cultural and religious backgrounds.

The following learnings from the event can be taken forward to inform the ongoing delivery of community and good relations in the Borough:

- Local community life is increasingly affected by international events;
- Polarising political discourse and hate speech can have direct consequences within communities;
- Violence motivated by hatred of the other must be addressed.
- Councils have a leading role to play in building a strong community without hate and intolerance;
- Relationships between citizens of different cultural and religious backgrounds need to be fostered and nurtured
- Councils have a vital role to play in developing good relations and fostering trust between the different groups in a community. Trust can be achieved when all groups feel safe and free to participate in public life.

The Summit also provided networking opportunities and the opportunity to experience cultural programme features which included an art installation, immersive exhibition and visits to sites of industrial heritage.

The focus of the Summit and its entire programme was to facilitate an exchange of innovative approaches on how to build social cohesion and forge tolerance and understanding across all backgrounds and was very relevant to the delivery of positive community relations in the Borough.

Following the event, the Mayor wrote to the Combat Antisemitism Movement, Summit organisers, expressing thanks to them for their warm welcome and delivery of the Summit. The email response received is enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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