



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CHAMBER, MOSSLEY MILL
ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2025 AT 6.30 PM**

In the Chair	:	Councillor M Brady
Committee Members (In person)	:	Aldermen – L Boyle, J McGrath and S Ross Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, R Lynch, T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, S Ward and S Wilson
Committee Members (Remote)	:	Councillor L Smyth
Non Committee Members (In person)	:	Councillor J Burbank
Non Committee Members (Remote)	:	Alderman L Clarke Councillor L O'Hagan
Officers Present	:	Director of Community Development – U Fay Head of Finance – R Murray Head of Community Development – R McKenna Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick IT Systems Support Officer – C Bell Member Services Officer – E Skillen Member Services Manager – A Duffy :

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.9 – Councillors J Burbank, P Dunlop, R Lynch and S Wilson

Item 4.14 – Councillor M Cooper

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 FI/FIN/11 ESTIMATES UPDATE PRESENTATION

1. Purpose

An introduction to the 2025/26 Estimates for the Community Development Directorate was presented at the meeting by the Head of Finance

A presentation was provided by the Head of Finance and the Director of Community Development on the updates of the 2025-2026 Estimates for the Community Development Committee and Members' queries were addressed.

In response to a Members query The Director of Community Development agreed to provide the Member with further information on energy savings.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 28 November 2024, and for the appointment to the Panel of three new non-elected independent members.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the role of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel was to provide advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service to enable it to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030. The specific role of the Panel was set out as follows:

- To advise the Council on the programming of arts and cultural activity throughout the Borough
- To provide advocacy for the arts and cultural sector
- To provide the Council with an insight into current issues affecting arts and culture throughout Northern Ireland
- To represent the arts and cultural community both locally and regionally
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from specific genres for the benefit of the ongoing development of arts and culture in the Borough

The Panel was made up of one Elected Member from each Political Party and 12 non-elected independent members who were actively involved in the arts and culture sector. There were currently four vacancies for non-elected independent members.

The Panel would meet four times each year, and report to the Community Development Committee.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The establishment of the Borough Arts and Cultural Panel for the Council term was approved at the Council meeting in June 2023.

4. Advisory Panel Meeting

Members were advised that the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel met on 28 November 2024 in Mossley Mill. The draft minutes of this meeting were circulated for Members' information.

5. Recruitment of New Non-Elected Independent Members

The Panel currently had four vacancies for non-elected independent members. These posts were advertised publicly from 1-25 November 2024 and three applications were received. Following an assessment process, it was proposed that the following applicants were invited to join the Panel as non-elected independent members:

- Noreen McClelland, a former Elected Member of the Council, and a previous member of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel
- Gary Shaw, a practising visual artist, cultural management professional, creative producer, and programming curator who worked as Cultural Services Manager for the legacy Antrim Borough Council from 2002-15
- Callum Craig, Marketing, Communications and Events Manager at Belfast One, who had relevant operational experience of cultural event management as well as extensive experience of promoting arts programmes in Belfast

6. Summary

The Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel provided advice, support and advocacy for the Borough's Arts and Cultural Service. It was made up of four (4) Elected Members and twelve (12) non-elected independent members who were actively involved in the arts and culture sector. There were currently four (4) vacancies on the Panel for non-elected independent members and following a recruitment process in November 2024 three (3) new members were recommended for appointment to the Panel. The minutes of the last Panel meeting on 28 November 2024 were also recommended for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

(a) the draft minutes of the Borough Arts and Culture Advisory Panel of 28 November 2024 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, and

(b) the appointment to the Panel of three (3) new non-elected independent members be approved.

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

4.2 CP/PCSP/127 CONSULTATION ON THE VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIME BILL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' instructions in relation to the Department for Justice consultation on the proposals for inclusion in a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill.

2. Introduction/Background

The Department of Justice (DOJ) were undertaking a public consultation and seeking the views of the public on proposals for inclusion in a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill.

3. Key Issues

Members were advised that correspondence (circulated) had been received from DOJ advising of a public consultation on proposals for inclusion in a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill.

The proposals on which views were sought related to:

- The establishment of a statutory Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses of Crime.
- A provision to compel criminal justice organisations to provide or publish statistical victim information, including evidence of Victim Charter compliance.

- The right to pre-trial independent legal representation for complainants in serious sexual offence cases.
- Enhanced protections relating to disclosure applications in serious sexual offences cases.

The consultation documents and associated survey were available using the online facility on Citizen Space, accessible via the NI Direct website; <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/proposals-victims-and-witnesses-crime-bill/>

The consultation would run until 20th February 2025.

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

Members' respond on an Individual or party-political basis.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

4.3 CP/PCSP/154 NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD – CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' instructions in relation to the Northern Ireland Policing Board Corporate Plan Consultation.

2. Introduction/Background

The Northern Ireland Policing Board was in the last year of its current Corporate Plan and as such had been working towards the development of a new Plan for the period 2025 to 2030 to align with the new draft Policing Plan.

3. Key Issues

Members were advised that correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Northern Ireland Policing Board advising of a consultation on the new draft Corporate Plan.

The consultation document, equality screening document, and the associated survey were available on the Policing Board website; <https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/corporate-plan-and-business-plan>

The consultation would run until 3 March 2025.
Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

Members' respond on an individual or party-political basis.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

4.4 AC/GEN/009 & CP/CF/001 FACILITY CLOSURES 2025/2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the 2025/2026 schedule of Public Holiday closures for Arts, Culture and Community Facilities.

2. Introduction/Background

A proposed schedule of closures for Arts, Culture and Community Facilities was reported to Committee for approval at the start of each calendar year. This covered arrangements for facilities including community centres, theatres and visitor attractions.

The proposed schedules of Public Holiday closures for Arts, Culture and Community Facilities in 2025/2026 were circulated.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Approval for all Council 2024/2025 closures was given at the February 2024 Policy and Governance Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the 2025/2026 schedule of Bank Holiday closures for Arts, Culture and Community Facilities be approved.

ACTION BY: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events, and Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

4.5 AC/GEN/001 ARTS AND CULTURE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2025/2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the updated schedule of charges for the hire of Arts and Culture facilities in 2025/2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Council facilities managed by the Arts and Culture section were available for groups and individuals to hire, and an updated schedule of charges was approved by the Community Development Committee at the start of each

calendar year in accordance with the Council's Arts and Culture Pricing Policy.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024/2025 Schedule of Charges were approved at the January 2024 Community Planning Committee.

4. Key Issues

The schedule of charges included both standard rates, and discounted rates for voluntary, community and charitable organisations based or operating within the Council area.

The proposed schedule of charges for 2025/2026 was circulated for Members' information and included an average inflationary price increase of 2.5%. As a result of price checking with other comparable facilities, it was recommended that charges for Council theatres remain unchanged for 2025/2026.

5. Financial Position/Implication

An income target of £1,817million had been included in the draft 2025/2026 revenue estimates and included this proposed inflationary increase from 1 April 2025.

6. Summary

The Schedule of Charges for hiring Arts and Culture facilities was updated and approved by the Community Development Committee at the start of each calendar year. An average inflationary increase to the schedule of charges of approximately 2.5% (figures were rounded up for ease of reference) had been proposed from 1 April 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

the updated schedule of charges for the hire of Arts and Culture facilities in 2025/2026 be approved.

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

4.6 CP/CF/001 COMMUNITY FACILITIES SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2025/2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the updated schedule of charges and tenancy agreement charges for the hire of the Community Facilities in 2025/2026.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that a review of Community Facility charges were carried out annually.

The Community Facilities schedule of charges included both a standard rate, and a community rate, with the community rate being the lower.

There were a number of rentable offices in Community Facilities and tenants were currently charged at £115 per sqm, which included rental costs, service charges and utilities.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the current schedule of charges were approved at the Community Planning Committee in January 2024.

Members were also reminded it was approved at the June 2024 Community Development Committee that the rent rate of £115 per sq m be applied to all Community Facility Tenancy agreements from 1 October 2024 with an inflationary increase to be applied annually from 1 April 2025.

4. Key Issues

The Community Facilities schedule of charges included both a standard and community rate. The community charge was discounted for voluntary, community and charitable organisations based or operating within the Council area and groups were required to evidence their eligible status as part of the booking process.

It was proposed to apply an average inflationary increase of 2.5% to the current schedule of charges, for facility hire and tenancy agreement charges effective from 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026.

It was also proposed that all 'out of hours' booking requests were charged at the standard rate and that the booker is in addition charged for staffing costs, at £15 p/h as well as for additional furniture hire and transport costs, if required.

The proposed schedule of charges for 2025/2026 was circulated for Members' information.

5. Financial Position/Implication

An income target of £198,209 for Community Facility hire and tenancy agreement charges had been included in the draft 2025/2026 revenue estimates and included this proposed inflationary increase from 1 April 2025.

6. Summary

The Schedule of Charges for hiring Community facilities and tenancy agreements was updated and approved by the Community Development Committee at the start of each calendar year. An average inflationary

increase to the schedule of charges of approximately 2.5% (figures were rounded up for ease of reference) had been proposed from 1 April 2025.

Out of hours bookings had been reviewed and additional charges had been proposed to facilitate these booking requests.

In response to a Member's query the Head of Community Development agreed to bring back a further report on usage figures and proposals for off peak and seasonal usage in relation to Muckamore and Randalstown 3g pitches.

In response to a Member's query the Director of Community Development clarified the Directorates responsibilities in relation to the Community pitches, the Member further commented on the opportunity of Community facilities being locally operated through Service Level Agreements.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and agreed that

the updated schedule of charges for the hire of Community Facilities and tenancy agreement charges in 2025/2026 be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

4.7 CP/GR/200 DISTRICT COUNCIL GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the submission of the Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from The Executive Office (TEO), a copy was circulated for Members' information, inviting the submission of the Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26.

An annual submission was made by the Council to TEO requesting financial assistance for the delivery of a District Council Good Relations Programme.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded the 2024-25 Good Relations Action Plan had been approved at September 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Key Issues

TEO had invited the submission of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26. A copy of the draft plan was circulated for Members' approval.

The draft Good Relations Action Plan reflected the aims and objectives of the central government strategy Together Building a United Community (T-

BUC). It outlined how Government, stakeholders, community and individuals would work together to achieve change against the following key priorities:

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

The draft plan reflected the priorities identified through the Council's Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2020-25.

5. Financial Implication

TEO required match funding of a minimum of 25% from local Councils towards the overall Good Relations budget. The total amount required to enable implementation of the Good Relations Action Plan in 2025-26 was £193,000.

An amount of £144,750, equating to 75% of the Good Relations Action Plan budget had been requested from TEO. Provision of the remaining 25% had been included in the 2025-26 Council estimates for the delivery of the plan.

6. Summary

TEO had invited Council to submit an annual Good Relations Action Plan for 2025-26 through the District Council Good Relations programme. The total amount required to enable implementation of the Good Relations Action Plan in 2025-2026 was £193,000, with 75% of this requested from TEO and 25% included in the 2025-2026 estimates.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

4.8 CP/GR/196 CP/GR/197 CP/GR/198 CP/GR/201 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2024-2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the Good Relations Grant Funding awards being recommended.

2. Background

The Good Relations Grants Programme provided financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to £2,000 towards activities, events and

programmes that align with the aims of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan.

The Good Relations Grants Programme opened for applications on 4 October 2024 and would close on 6 January 2025.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

The Good Relations Grants Programme was approved at September 2024 Community Development Committee as part of the Council's revised Good Relations Action Plan 2024-25.

A Good Relations Grant application for £2,000 was approved at November 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were reminded that the total budget for the 2024/2025 Good Relations Grant Programme was £16,000 in the 2024/2025 Community Development budgets.

All Good Relations Grants were assessed against eligibility criteria and a scored assessment process. Applicants were required to score a minimum of 50% for an application to be recommended for approval.

During the month of November four applications were received and assessed by Officers, with four successful applications totalling £7,250 recommended for approval. The project details were circulated for Members' information.

All proposed awards were subject to a signed disclosure from the group confirming that all appropriate supporting documentation was in place and could be provided on request or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

5. Summary

It was proposed to award four Good Relations funding awards to the successful applicants as outlined.

Good Relations Grants would remain open until 6 January 2025 with any applications received reported to a future Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

the four Good Relations Grant applications requesting a total of £7,250 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

4.9 AC/TOU/009 LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the annual renewal of the Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd, and associated funding of £24,200 to Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd for core organisational costs.

2.. Introduction/Background

The Lough Neagh Partnership was a stakeholder organisation established in 2003 to help manage, protect and develop Lough Neagh. The Board of the partnership was composed of elected representatives, landowners, fishermen, farmers, and local communities. The Council's current representatives on the Partnership Board were the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Cushinan, Councillor Wilson, Councillor Burbank and Councillor Lynch.

Lough Neagh Partnership was the main organisation responsible for the sustainable development of Lough Neagh. Over the past two decades, the Partnership had been involved in enhancing, preserving, and promoting the distinctive attributes of the Lough Neagh area.

The Council, along with the four other Councils based around the shoreline of Lough Neagh, make an annual financial contribution to the Partnership to cover core organisational costs to support their work. Service Level Agreements, setting out what the Council receives in return for this contribution, had been in place since 2016, and support was previously provided by the legacy Council.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024/2025 Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd and payment of the annual fee of £24,200 was approved at the January 2024 Community Planning Committee. A presentation was also made by the Manager of Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd at the February 2024 Committee meeting. At the annual meeting of the Council on 3 June 2024 the Deputy Mayor Councillor Dunlop and Councillors Cushinan, Wilson, Burbank and Lynch were appointed to serve on the partnership for the year.

4. Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement 2025/2026

Lough Neagh Partnership had requested that the Council provide funding of £24,200 towards their core operational costs for 2025/2026 and agreed to a draft Service Level Agreement for the same period, which outlined what services the Council would receive from the Partnership. The Service Level Agreement was circulated for Members' information.

Provision for the requested funding of £24,200 had been made in the draft 2025/2026 revenue estimates.

A condition of the funding was the requirement for Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd to submit six-month and end-of-year progress reports for each year of the Agreement, showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. The progress report for the first half April to September of 2024/2025 was circulated.

The benefits to the Council of this agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership were as follows:

Tourism Development and Promotion: support for tourism initiatives around the Lough such as Artisan Food Markets at the Lock Keeper's Cottage in Toome, boat trips provided by River Bann Tours, familiarisation visits aimed at strategic tourist markets, and the promotion of attractions such as Antrim Castle Gardens.

Environmental Stewardship: Conservation efforts focused on key environmental areas including Farr's Bay, Rea's Wood, and Ram's Island.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Collaboration: Engagement with Shaftesbury Estates, which owned the bed of the lough, regarding heritage preservation and development issues; collaboration with local businesses to align tourism strategies and strengthen partnerships; liaison with government departments, and the development of environmental and tourism plans with DAERA and NIEA.

5. Summary

Lough Neagh Partnership was established in 2003 to help manage, protect and develop Lough Neagh. The Council had been supporting Lough Neagh Partnership through a Service Level Agreement since 2016, and the legacy Council also provided support before that. Lough Neagh Partnership continued to play a key role in the sustainable management and development of Lough Neagh, and the recommended renewal of the Service Level Agreement for 2025/2026 and provision of funding would ensure continued collaboration and support for projects that enhanced the region's tourism and environmental profile.

In response to a Member's query the Director of Community Development agreed to follow up and provide further information in relation to DAERA's funding.

The Chairperson requested and Members agreed that Lough Neagh Partnership be invited to present to Committee on the Council Investment.

Proposed by Alderman Boyle

Seconded by Councillor McGrann and agreed that

the annual renewal of the Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd and associated funding of £24,200 to Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd for core organisational costs be approved.

ACTION BY: Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

4.10 ACTE/ED/TOU/062 TOURISM EVENT FUNDING PROPOSALS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the delivery of funding support to tourism events in 2025/2026.

2. Background and Introduction

Members were reminded that the Council had supported the delivery of a variety of large scale tourism events in the Borough annually through what was known as a Corporate Events Sponsorship Scheme. Events which had been supported included the Steam Rally, the ISPS Handa Golf, the Irish Game Fair and STATSport SuperCup NI.

As part of the work associated with the establishment of the Councils Grant Funding Hub, Officers had revised the approach to funding support for events which were identified as being tourism events by driving visitors to the Borough.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the Council meeting in January 2020 funding was approved under the Corporate Events Sponsorship programme for a number of events including the May Day Steam Rally and the ISPS Handa Golf. At the February 2020 Council meeting funding was approved for the Irish Game Fair.

Members were reminded that it was also approved at the Council meeting in January 2020 that funding of £30,000 toward the Northern Ireland International Youth Tournament STATSport SuperCup NI be awarded and an indicative offer of funding at a similar level for the event in 2021 and 2022 was also approved.

The event was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the disruption to events as a result of the pandemic, a monthly Council Events Programme report was brought to Council Meetings from February 2021 and included updates on the various tourism events being supported by Council funding including those mentioned above.

It was reported to the Community Planning Committee in November 2022 that SuperCup NI was eventually held with this funding support during the summer of 2022 with an estimated £500,000 direct economic benefit to the Borough realised.

At the Community Planning Committee in March 2023 it was agreed to increase the funding support to STATSport SuperCup NI from £30,000 to £50,000 for delivery of their event in 2023 and 2024.

4. Tourism Events Funding

Large scale events held in the Borough raise the profile of the Borough as a tourist destination, attract visitors to the area and bring direct and indirect economic benefits to the Borough.

It was proposed to establish two Tourism Events Funds to support the delivery of such events:

(a) The Tourism Event Grant Funding Programme

This fund would open annually for applications of up to £15,000 to support delivery of events which could demonstrate how they benefit tourism in the Borough. It was proposed to open the Tourism Event Fund for applications on 1 February 2025 and close on 27 February 2025 with funding recommendations brought to the March Community Development Committee.

(b) The Tourism Flagship Event Grant Funding Programme

This fund would operate as a closed grant scheme, which could award from £15,000 up to £50,000 to organisers of events which demonstrate that they could be described as 'flagship' by delivering exceptional tourism benefits to the Borough. Awards from this fund would be made through a recommendation to Committee based upon proposals having been received from event organisers, which outlined how their event met the 'flagship' definition and criteria. Applications to this fund would therefore operate on an invitational basis only.

The application forms for both funds were circulated for Members' information.

These two funds formed part of the 2025/2026 Grant Funding Programme to be administered through the Grant Funding Unit.

SuperCup NI

SuperCup NI was an international youth football tournament that had been running for 41 years, and which had received financial support from the Council since 2022. It was one of the most prestigious youth football tournaments in the world, attracting over 70,000 spectators to 18 venues across Northern Ireland, and with a further 80,000 watching matches streamed online. The tournament had been an important milestone in the early development of world-famous footballers including David Beckham, Wayne Rooney, Sergio Busquets and Gerard Pique.

The 2024 tournament had been successfully delivered from 21–26 July, with the Girls' Tournament taking place exclusively in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area. In total, 299 participants competed in the tournament at 5 separate venues within the Borough: Chimney Corner FC (Antrim), Dixon Park (Ballyclare), The Diamond (Rathcoole), Mossley Park and Monkstown. A total of 14 teams from the UK, ROI and North America

competed, including high-profile clubs such as Manchester United and Aston Villa. Event evaluation figures demonstrated that the tournament attracted almost 5,000 visitors to the area from Northern Ireland, ROI, the UK and the US, and generated 1,695 bed nights for local hotels including Corrs Corner, The Dunadry, and the Holiday Inn Express, Antrim. In addition, the Girls' Tournament and tournament draw delivered £176,000 of media coverage, 41,000 organic social media impressions and 69 media coverage hits. The economic impact to the Borough of this event in 2024 had been estimated by organisers as follows:

- Total Visitor Spend: £0.6 million
- Total Participant Spend: £145,500
- Direct Economic Impact: £434,388
- Return on Investment: For every £1 invested by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC), £9 was returned to the borough in economic impact.

5. Financial Implications

Provisions had been made in the 2025/2026 draft estimates of £125,000 for the Tourism Event Fund and £50,000 for the Tourism Flagship Event Fund.

6. Summary

The delivery of events in the Borough could raise the profile of the area as a tourist destination attracting visitors to the area and bring direct and indirect economic benefits to the Borough. Grants of up to £15,000 would be available to support such events through an open call Tourism Events Fund and a separate Tourism Flagship Event Fund would be available to support exceptional events by invitation to or engagement with prospective events organisers.

It was proposed to open the Tourism Event Fund in February 2025 and bring back recommendations to the Committee in March.

It was also proposed to award SuperCup NI £50,000 annually to support delivery of their event in the Borough in 2025, 2026 and 2027 from the Flagship Event Fund subject to application and ongoing benefit assessment.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor Lynch and agreed that

- (a) the Tourism Event Grant Funding Programme, which provided up to £15,000 to support the delivery of tourism events in the Borough, be approved and opens on 1 February 2025 for applications;**
- (b) the Tourism Flagship Event Grant Funding Programme, which provides from £15,000 up to £50,000 for 'Flagship' events in the Borough, be approved along with an award of £50,000 annually to SuperCup NI to deliver the girls tournament in the Borough in 2025, 2026 and 2027, subject to application and ongoing benefit assessment.**

ACTION BY: Marie-Clare McGeachy, Tourism Officer

4.11 CP/CF/008 BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT GROUP – FUNDRAISING EVENT REQUEST

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval from Members for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14 February 2025.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group had made a request to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event in Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on Friday 14th February 8pm-11pm. This type of event was permitted with Council approval.

Members were reminded that Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group operated the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the request from Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold an event in The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025, including permission to apply for a licence to sell alcohol at the event, was approved at the December 2024 Committee.

It was further agreed that a report be brought back to a future Committee on the financial impacts associated with holding a 'Casino' type fundraising event.

4. Key Issues

The proposed event would be ticketed, with a maximum of 60 people permitted at the event. The Casino games would be supplied and operated by a professional casino provider.

Tickets for the event would cost £30 which included a fixed number of casino chips for participants on arrival. If they wished, participants could purchase up to a maximum of two additional sets of chips at a cost of £20 per set. The casino provider had indicated that most attendees do not purchase additional sets of chips in addition to those allocated on arrival.

The proceeds from the event would help fund an educational and historical project for young people, including a trip to the Somme.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Members were reminded that Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group operated the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff under a Service Management Agreement and manage all bookings and income generated at the centre.

6. Governance

Members were advised under clause 15.4 section 8 of the group's SMA conditions, the group must request prior approval of the Council for the Centre to be used for gaming.

The group would be required to submit a risk assessment and insurance in advance of the event.

7. Summary

A request had been received from Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' fundraising event at the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025.

Tickets for the event would cost £30, participants could purchase up to a maximum of two additional sets of chips at a cost of £20 per set.

The Council's approval was required in relation to the holding of a 'Casino' type event.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the request from the Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to hold a 'Casino' themed fundraising event in the Northern Ireland Centenary Centre Ballyduff on 14 February 2025 be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

4.12 CP/GR/171 ASYLUM SEEKERS – FULL DISPERSAL FUNDING 2024/2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for additional 2024/25 Full Dispersal funding from The Executive Office for the development and delivery of promotional and orientation information for newcomers within the Borough.

2. Background

The Executive Office (TEO) Full Asylum Dispersal funding was intended to develop capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers and promote integration within the Council area.

Through funding support in 2023/24, a scoping exercise was completed to inform programme content, with the wider purpose being to develop

capacity and infrastructure to meet the needs of asylum seekers in the Council area.

Following the conclusion of the previous programme, there were areas which required ongoing support to maintain the established support networks and continue with meaningful activities designed to assist integration.

3. Previous Decisions by Council

Members were reminded that the TEO Memorandum of Understanding for Asylum Full Dispersal funding 2024/25 of £38,914 was approved at the Community Development Committee in December 2024.

Members were also reminded that TEO Refugee Integration Funding Letter of Offer of £50,000 for the delivery of the Refugee Integration proposal 2024/25 was approved at the Community Development Committee in September 2024.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were advised that correspondence (circulated) had been received from TEO providing the Council with additional Full Dispersal funding of £8,081 for the development and delivery of promotional and orientation information for newcomers within the Borough.

The additional funds must be used to develop information resources to advise individuals of local support, services and attractions within the Borough; as well as the hosting of two orientation fairs targeted at asylum seeker and refugee individuals.

5. Summary

The Executive Office invited the Council on 19 December 2024 to avail of the additional funding to provide orientation support for newcomers placed within the Borough. An additional allocation for 2024/25 of £8,081 had been provided to the Council for the development and delivery of orientation information and activities.

Proposed by Councillor Lynch

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the additional £8,081 funding from The Executive Office for the development and delivery of promotional and orientation information for newcomers within the Borough, be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole, Good Relations Coordinator

4.13 CP/CD/445 THE KINGS AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the presentation and celebration events for the five (5) groups that were awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2024.

2. Background

The Queens Award for Voluntary Service was established in 2002 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II and was the equivalent of an MBE for volunteer led groups that had made an outstanding impact in their local community.

Following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen in September 2022 the Awards were suspended however, it was announced in February 2023 that the scheme would continue as the King's Award for Voluntary Service with an annual announcement of winners to be made on the King's birthday, the 14 November.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was approved at the August 2023 Council meeting that five (5) organisations be nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service in 2024. The groups nominated were as follows;

- All About Us – ASD Teens
- Queenspark Women's Group
- Monkstown Village Initiatives
- Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society
- The Breakaway Group

Members were reminded that a proposal to deliver a single award presentation event was deferred at the December 2024 Committee for consideration at a future Committee pending further information on options for the recognition of each groups achievements.

4. Kings Award for Voluntary Service 2024

On 14 November 2024, the second recipients of the King's Award for Voluntary Service were announced with 22 organisations from Northern Ireland successful. The 5 organisations nominated by Council were the only organisations from County Antrim to have been successful.

There were two options proposed for Members' consideration:

- (a) Option 1 – The delivery of a single civic event in Mossley Mill on Friday 28 March when all five groups would be presented with their awards by the Lord Lieutenant at an evening event including dinner at a cost of no more than £10,000.
- (b) Option 2 – The delivery of five smaller events, one for each of the groups, as outlined below, where the Lord Lieutenant would present each group with their award, at a cost of no more than £2,000 per event. Provisional arrangements for five individual events had been made as follows:

Group	Date and Time	Venue
Randalstown Ulster Scots Cultural Society	Thursday 20 February 2025, 7pm	The Old Courthouse, Antrim
Monkstown Village Initiatives	Friday 21 February 2025, 12.30pm	Mossley Mill
All About Us – ASD Teens	Wednesday 26 March 2025, 7pm	The Old Courthouse, Antrim
The Breakaway Group	Friday 28 March 2025, 12.30pm	Mossley Mill
Queens Park Women's Group	Friday 28 March 2025, 7pm	Mossley Mill

5. Financial implications

As for previous recipients of the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, it was proposed that Council support the delivery of a celebration event/events for all five groups to be formally presented with their award by the Lord Lieutenant.

Provision of £10,000 for the events had been made in the 2024/25 Community Development budget.

6. Summary

The Kings Award for Voluntary Service is the highest honour awarded to volunteer-led groups that make an outstanding impact in their local community.

Five (5) organisations from the Borough have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024 and were the only organisations from County Antrim to have been successful.

It was proposed that the Council supports the presentation of these awards by the Lord Lieutenant by either hosting a single event or five (5) separate events for each group early in 2025.

In response to a Member's query the Head of Community Development advised that invites would be extended to all Elected Members.

Proposed by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

(a) the delivery of five separate celebration events as outlined in Option 2, to formally present five (5) organisations with their King's Award for Voluntary Service, at an approximate cost of no more than £10,000, be approved.

(b) going forward the Council limit the nominations to two Organisations per year.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.14 CP/CP/244 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE – DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2025/2026 – 2027/2028

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' instructions in relation to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive draft Corporate Strategy Consultation 2025/2026 – 2027/2028.

2. Introduction/Background

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive had been working towards the development of a new Strategy for the period 2025 to 2028.

3. Key Issues

Members were advised correspondence (circulated) had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive advising of a consultation on the draft Corporate Strategy 2025/2026 - 2027/2028.

The Corporate Strategy was also circulated for Members' information. The consultation would run until 28 February 2025.

Members were advised that they may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party-political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor McGrann and agreed that

Members' respond on an Individual or Party Political basis.

ACTION BY: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for two Arts and Heritage Grant funding awards.

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme was 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 were available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production of artwork
- 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 were 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 would be subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation. The programme operated on a rolling basis linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year was exhausted.

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

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

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

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

Group / Individual Name	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Proposed Amount Awarded
Glengormley School of Traditional Music	Arts Support for Groups - the delivery of an event or festival, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public	The Glengormley School of Traditional Music was established in 2002 to promote appreciation for and knowledge of Irish traditional music, and to promote the education and training of people in all areas of Irish traditional musical skills and musicianship in Glengormley and the surrounding areas. The school intends to deliver a weekend of traditional music	80%	£600

		workshops at Edmund Rice College on Saturday 22/2/25 and Sunday 23/2/25. The workshops will be facilitated by accomplished, well known traditional master musicians and participants will benefit from the intensive tuition which will be provided over the two days. The event will be open to the general public, and participants will receive expert tuition in their instrument to improve their musical skills and help them reach their full musical potential.		
Dr Stephanie Conn	Arts Support for Individuals - participation in specialist training or study	Dr Stephanie Conn is an award-winning poet from Ballyclare, whose poetry collections have attracted critical praise. Dr Conn has requested grant support to allow her to attend a week-long River Mill Writing Retreat in Downpatrick in March 2025 during which time she will edit poems for her fifth poetry collection. This work explores her husband's devastating diagnoses of Motor Neurone Disease, and his rapid and aggressive decline and death, just 15 weeks after his diagnosis. Following the retreat, Dr Conn will read from her published collections at a special event in Sentry Hill Historic House.	75%	£490

5. Financial Position

The budget available for Arts and Heritage Grants in 2024/2025 was £14,000. Grants totalling £1,817.50 had been previously approved by the Committee, and the total amount proposed for the above awards was £1,090. If approved, this would leave a balance of £11,092.50 to fund any future applications in the current financial year.

6. Summary

Arts and Heritage Grant Aid applications had been received from The Glengormley School of Traditional Music for support in holding a weekend of traditional music workshops in February 2025, and from Dr Stephanie Conn, a Ballyclare-based poet, for support attending a writing retreat in March 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor O'Lone and agreed that

the two Arts and Heritage Grant funding awards as detailed, totalling £1,090, be approved.

ACTION BY: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with copies of minutes from the Northern Ireland Housing Council for 12 September, 10 October and 14 November 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Council providing copies of the minutes of their meetings of 12 September, 10 October and 14 November 2024, which were circulated for Members' information.

3. Previous Decision of Council

At the Council meeting held on 22 February 2023 the Northern Ireland Housing Council January Bulletin and minutes from their December 2022 meeting were noted.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the correspondence and minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council of 12 September, 10 October and 14 November 2024 be noted.

ACTION BY: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development

5.2 CP/CP/231 SPORT NI FUNDING TO DISTRICT COUNCILS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Sport Northern Ireland Community Planning Investment programme.

2. Background

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) was one of the Council's statutory Community Planning partners. SNI advised that rates of participation in sport and physical activity vary with those most inactive coming from the most deprived and minority communities, which included:

- Women and girls
- People with disabilities

- Children and young people (especially 11 to 18 years)
- Older people over 65
- Ethnically diverse communities
- LGBTQ+ communities
- People in areas of greatest need
- People in rural areas

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was approved at the November 2024 Committee that Officers would submit an Expression of Interest to Sport NI for funding for sport and physical activity projects, which promoted increased participation from those who were most inactive by their deadline of 25 November 2024.

4. Key issues

SNi invited Expressions of Interest from Councils for funding for sport and physical activity projects.

Projects must support the delivery of the community plan, delivery of sport and physical activity in each Council area and must be completed by 31 March 2025.

A key outcome of 'Love Living Here' the Council's Community Plan was that 'Our Citizens enjoy Good Health and Well Being' and the Council promoted access to and participation in sport and physical activity in order to achieve this outcome.

Officers from the Community Planning and Leisure Sections submitted an Expression of Interest to SNi by their deadline of 25 November 2024 indicating desire to participate in this programme, accompanied by a project outline for a programme, which targeted participation in sport and physical activity. A copy was circulated for Members' information.

The project would be based within local communities targeting areas of greatest need. It would be cognisant of the Community Planning ethos of co-production, working closely with community planning partners. The project would seek to take advantage of partnership working with local sports clubs with a view to offering participants a pathway to continue their sporting journey well beyond the lifespan of the project.

Monitoring and evaluation would be built into the project framework to ensure lessons could be learned for any future investment, as well as celebrating any success.

5. Financial Position / Implication

Members were advised that correspondence (circulated) had been received from SNi confirming that the Council was being offered £48,970 programme funding. Members were advised that this letter of offer of

funding had been accepted by the SNI deadline of 10 January 2025.

6. Summary

SNI invited Expressions of Interest from Councils for funding for sport and physical activity projects which promoted increased participation from those who were most inactive.

SNI had confirmed that the Council was being offered £48,970 programme funding. The letter of offer of funding had been accepted by the SNI deadline of 10 January 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

offer of funding from Sport Northern Ireland of £48,970 for the Community Planning Investment programme be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 CP/CD/433 CENSUS 2021

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members of the Census 2021 General Report.

2. Introduction/Background

The Census collects information every 10 years about people and households in Northern Ireland. It was used by central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to plan and run future services.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

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

Members were reminded at the September 2024 Community Development Committee an additional update [regarding origin-destination data for Northern Ireland was reported](#).

4. Census 2021 Update

Members were advised that on 19 December 2024 NISRA published the General Report on Census 2021. A copy of the report was circulated for Members' information

The report provided a full and comprehensive account of how the Census was conducted, including documenting key successes and lessons learned. The Census 2021 was the highest recorded response rate in recent censuses (97.1% of households).

Further information on Census 2021 General Report was available on the NISRA website; <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-general-report>

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the Census 2021 General Report update be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 CP/CD/480 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY PROGRAMME 2024 – REVIEW

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the 'Step into the Season' Christmas Lights Switch-On Programme and Spirit of Christmas Awards.

2. Background

Since November 2018, Council had been delivering Christmas Lights Switch-On Events in each District Electoral Area across the Borough.

The programme at each event encompassed a range of family entertainment to include: Children's Pantomime, Christmas Fun Rides, The Santa Express, Street Entertainment, Festive Food Stalls and a short programme of Christmas Readings, Carols and Music prior to the switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights.

Local School Choirs, Traditional Music Groups, Dance Academies and other local artists participated in the one-and-a-half-hour programme the theme for which changed on an annual basis. The theme in 2024 was a 'Health and Fitness' theme inspired by the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and 'The Spirit of Christmas' Awards were approved at the October 2024 Community Development Committee.

4. 2024 Programme Delivery

The dates, times, venues and attendances for each of the 7 DEA events are listed as follows:

DEA	Date & Time	Attendees (approx.)
Airport DEA - Crumlin Leisure Centre	Thursday 21 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm	800
Dunsilly DEA - Randalstown - John Street Car Park	Friday 22 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm	2000
Glengormley DEA - Lilian Bland Park	Saturday 23 November 2024, 4.30pm - 6.00pm	2000
Macedon DEA - Hazelbank Park	Tuesday 26 November 2024, 7.00pm - 8.30pm	2500
Threemilewater DEA – Mossley Mill	Wednesday 27 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm	300
Antrim DEA – Railway Street Car Park	Thursday 28 November 2024, 6.00pm - 7.30pm	2000
Ballyclare DEA - The Square Car Park	Saturday 30 November 2024, 4.30pm - 6.00pm	2500

Overall the programme attracted in excess of 12,000 attendees and 140,094 online views as detailed below:

Total Facebook Views Council: (3 Switch On Events) 15,600

Total YouTube Views: (3 Switch On Events) 1,894

Total Facebook Views: (Other Pages) 122,600

Total Views: 140,094

Following the delivery of all 7 events an online evaluation opened on Thursday 21 November and closed on Friday 6 December 2024, providing valuable feedback for future event planning and areas for review in 2025. The survey reported an 88% satisfaction rate with the Christmas Lights Switch-On Programme in 2024.

5. The Spirit of Christmas Awards

The 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' which were launched in November 2024.

In total 78 nominations were received and assessed by officers. Category winners were presented with an Award at a celebration event held in Antrim Castle Gardens on Wednesday 18th December 2024 and were detailed as follows:

Light Up Award – **Ballyclare Primary School (Not So Silent Night)**

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree Award – **L-A E School of Dance (Reindeer Ravers)**

The Reason for the Season Award – **First Antrim Presbyterian Church (Christmas Tree Festival)**

The Making an Entrance Award – **McManus Hardware, Randalstown (Festive Windows)**

Traditional Christmas Award – **Kathy Wolff (Mrs Claus and Maggie Elf)**

Get Fit and Festive Award – **Claire McIvor (Do It For Your Fitness)**

Mayors Award – **Mallusk Enterprise Park (Christmas Market)**

The 2024 Christmas Lights Switch-On Programme and The Spirit of Christmas Awards engaged and empowered local residents, increased the footfall and revenue in town centres and helped create a greater sense of community ownership, civic pride and celebration across the Borough.

6. Financial Implication

Members were advised provision of £97,500 for the 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and The Spirit of Christmas Awards was provided for in the 2024/2025 Community Development budgets.

7. Summary

The 2024 Christmas Festivity Programme and The Spirit of Christmas Awards aimed to engage and empower local residents, increase the footfall and revenue in town centres, help create a greater sense of community ownership, civic pride and celebration across the Borough.

Seven (7) Christmas Switch On events, one in each DEA, in the Borough took place from the 21-30 November.

Seventy eight (78) nominations for the 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' competition were received, with winners identified across seven categories.

A report outlining proposals for Christmas 2025 would be brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.5 **CP/GR/188 GOOD RELATIONS ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the offer of additional financial assistance from The Executive Office (TEO) for delivery of the District Council Good Relations Programme.

2. Background

Members were reminded since 1998, all Northern Ireland public bodies had a legal duty to promote good relations between people from different community, religious and racial backgrounds. In 2013, the Northern Ireland Executive furthered their commitment to good relations with the release of Together Building A United Community (T-BUC) strategy to improve community relations and continue the journey towards a more united and shared society.

The Council's Good Relations Programme aimed to improve day to day relationships by reducing all forms of prejudice, promoting equality and encouraging a society in which different cultures and traditions were understood, respected and accepted.

The Good Relations Action Plan reflected the aims and objectives of the central T-BUC strategy. It outlined how government, stakeholders, community and individuals would work together to achieve change against the following key priorities:

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

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that the District Council Good Relations Programme Letter of Offer was approved at September 2024 Community Development Committee for financial assistance from TEO of £94,166.27 towards The District Council Good Relations Programme for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

4. Letter of Offer

Members were advised that correspondence (circulated) had been received from TEO offering additional financial assistance totalling £32,910 towards The District Council Good Relations Programme for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

A proposal (circulated) for delivery against the additional funding was submitted to TEO in coherence with TEO's prescribed deadline of 4 December 2024, which was approved by TEO on 11 December 2024. The additional financial assistance did not require match funding from Council.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Additional financial assistance of £32,910 had been provided by TEO for delivery of the District Council Good Relations Programme, making the total TEO contribution to this programme £127,076.27.

The Executive Office did not require match funding towards the additional financial assistance, 100% of the additional funds could be claimed through the District Council Good Relations Programme.

6. Summary

Additional financial assistance of £32,910 had been provided by TEO for delivery of the District Council Good Relations Programme, making the total TEO contribution to this programme £127,076.27.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

6.1 In response to a Member's query the Director of Community Development advised that Officers were working on Council plans in respect of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and a report would be brought to the February Committee.

6.2 In relation to Item 5.4 The Christmas Festivity Programme 2024, Members' expressed their congratulations to Officers for their work particularly for the Switch-on and Spirit of Christmas Awards which were a huge success within the Communities.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.08pm.

MAYOR