



19 August 2026

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 24 August 2026** 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

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

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AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 27 July 2026, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2026, a copy of which is to **follow**.
- 5(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2026, a copy of which is to **follow**.
- 6 PRESENTATION
 - 6.1 Local Development Plan, Progress Update – Presentation
- 7 NOTICE OF MOTION
- 8 NOTICE OF MOTION
- 9 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 9.1 Consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Proposed Amendments to Annual Average pm10 and pm2.5 Limits, Targets and Objectives
 - 9.2 Ask Capital Grant Programme Grant Awards
 - 9.3 Rural Investment and Growth Fund
 - 9.4 UK Active Awards
 - 9.5 Dual Language Street Sign Applications
 - 9.6 International Relations
 - 9.7 Awards – Apse Service Awards 2026 Update
 - 9.8 NILGA Conference 2026

10 ITEM FOR NOTING

- 10.1 Use of CCTV on Council Sites to Deter High Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour, Vandalism and Mitigate Associated Repair Costs

11 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

- 11.1 Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) for Theatre at the Mill Lighting Upgrade
- 11.2 Framework for the Supply, Delivery, and Maintenance of a Range of Vehicles - Further Competition 4
- 11.3 Banking Arrangements
- 11.4 Provision of Dog Pound Facilities and Related Services
- 11.5 Peaceplus Design, Build and Maintenance of Heritage Trails and Associated Application
- 11.6 Car Loan Scheme

6 PRESENTATION

6.1 P/FP/LDP/1 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PROGRESS UPDATE – PRESENTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with a progress update on the Council's Local Development Plan.

2. Introduction

Members are reminded that since the transfer of planning powers to local government in 2015, the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 establishes the process for the preparation and delivery of a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Antrim and Newtownabbey area. This comprises two parts, the (1) Plan Strategy (PS), and (2) the Local Policies Plan (LPP) which will be brought forward by the Council once the PS is adopted. When read together, the PS and LPP comprise the LDP for the Borough.

The PS was adopted in July 2025, and work on the second stage of the LDP, the Draft Local Policies Plan (DLPP) formally commenced in November 2025. Since then, Officers from the Planning Section have held monthly workshop meetings with all Members to informally discuss a range of LDP topics and emerging evidence papers.

In addition, following adoption of the PS in July 2025, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) issued the Council with a Section 14 (s14) Direction on 28 October 2025 instructing the Council to make changes to its adopted PS in relation to the Abbey Centre. The Direction requires the Council to prepare new strategic and operational planning policy in respect of the Abbey Centre. To date, Officers have been progressing work on this proposed amendment, which will be subject to Members consideration and approval at Planning Committee.

Members are also reminded that the Council's published Revised LDP Timetable (November 2025) sets out a timeline for delivery of the LDP consistent with the Council's Planning Statement of Community Involvement (November 2025).

Members are advised that a presentation on the current progress of the Council's LDP will be made by senior officers from the Council's Planning Section, Ms Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director for Planning and Building Control, and Mr Simon Thompson, Local Development Plan and Enforcement Manager is (enclosed).

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Simon Thompson, Local Development Plan and Enforcement Manager

Agreed by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning and Building Control

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

7 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by: Councillor Ní Chonghaile

Seconded by: Councillor McLaughlin

Aithníonn agus molann an Chomhairle seo an obair den scoth a rinne Comhairle Cathrach Bhéal Feirste, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann agus a gcomhpháirtithe uilig i bpleanáil agus i réachtáil Fhleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026.

Aithníonn sí na blianta d'fhís, de phleanáil, d'ullmhúchán agus d'obair chrua a bhí taobh thiar de Fhleadh Cheoil na hÉireann a thabhairt go Béal Feirste den chéad uair ina stair.

This Council acknowledges and commends the outstanding work of Belfast City Council, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and all their partners in the planning and delivery of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026.

It recognises the years of vision, planning, preparation and hard work behind bringing Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to Belfast for the first time in its history.

Déanann an Chomhairle ceiliúradh ar rath iontach na seachtaine. Cé go raibhothas ag súil le thart ar 800,000 cuairteoir, tugann na meastacháin tosaigh le fios go bhféadfadh an tinreamh agus an líon coisithe ar fud na cathrach a bheith chomh hard le 1.6 milliún, rud a sháraigh na hionchais go mór agus a thug na deiceanna de mhilliúin punt de thairbhe eacnamaíoch, agus gnólachtaí áitiúla san earnáil fáilteachais ag tuairisciú méaduithe eisceachtúla sa trádáil.

Council celebrates the extraordinary success of the week. While approximately 800,000 visitors had been anticipated, initial estimates indicate that attendance and footfall across the city may have reached approximately 1.6 million, significantly exceeding expectations and delivering tens of millions of pounds in economic benefit, with local hospitality businesses reporting exceptional increases in trade.

Cuireann an Chomhairle seo a buíochas ar taifead d'achan duine a chuir leis an rath sin; foirne na Comhairle a d'ullmhaigh, a mhaisigh agus a ghlan an chathair; na hoibrithe deonacha; na ceoltóirí agus na damhsóirí; na seirbhísí éigeandála; agus na mílte duine a d'oibrigh uaireanta fada sna hóstáin, sna beáir, sna bialanna, sna caiféanna, sa trádáil agus san earnáil fáilteachais.

This Council places on record its thanks to everyone who contributed to that success – Council staff who prepared, decorated and cleaned the city; volunteers; musicians and dancers; the emergency services; and the thousands of people who worked long hours across hotels, bars, restaurants, cafés, retail and the hospitality sector.

Molann an Chomhairle go háirithe nádúr uilechuimsitheach na Fleidhe, a thug daoine ó phobail, ó chultúir agus ó thraidisiúin éagsúla le chéile agus a líon sráideanna Bhéal Feirste le ceol, damhsa, teanga, gáire agus cairdeas,

ag léiriú an chuid is fearr dár gcathair chomharsanachta agus dá muintir. Aithníonn muid freisin an Roinn Geilleagair mar an Roinn urraíochta agus molann muid an infheistíocht atá déanta aici i dtionscnamh dá leithéid.

Council particularly commends the inclusive nature of the Fleadh, which brought people from different communities, cultures and traditions together and filled the streets of Belfast with music, dance, language, laughter and friendship, showcasing the very best of our neighbouring city and its people. We also acknowledge the Department for Economy as sponsoring Department and praise their investment in such an excellent initiative.

Dá réir sin, déanann an Chomhairle comhghairdeas le Comhairle Cathrach Bhéal Feirste, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, a gcomhpháirtithe agus achan duine a chuidigh le rath iontach Fhleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026, gabhann sí buíochas leo, agus guíonn sí gach rath orthu agus an obair ag tosú arís do 2027.

Accordingly, Council congratulates and thanks Belfast City Council, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, their partners and everyone who contributed to the outstanding success of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026, and extends its very best wishes as the work begins again for 2027.

Fáiltíonn an Chomhairle fosta roimh an deis atá ann d'Aontroim agus Baile Nua na Mainistreach, agus don réigiún níos leithne, tógáil ar oidhreacht shuntasach chultúrtha, phobail, turasóireachta agus eacnamaíoch na Fleidhe agus deiseanna a fhiosrú le páirt a ghlacadh inti agus tacú lena fillleadh ar Bhéal Feirste in 2027.

Council further welcomes the opportunity for Antrim and Newtownabbey, and the wider region, to build upon the significant cultural, community, tourism and economic legacy of the Fleadh and to explore opportunities to engage with and support its return to Belfast in 2027.

8 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by: Councillor Magill
Seconded by: Alderman Bradley

"That this Council acknowledges the excellent work already undertaken by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to foster welcoming, accessible and inclusive spaces for our residents and visitors.

Notes the importance of our existing Changing Places facilities at several council sites across the Borough, and their benefit to service users with profound learning disabilities or complex physical needs.

Further notes, with concern, the current reliance on the hiring of mobile facilities for outdoor council events, resulting in restrictive booking dates, high cumulative costs and a lack of availability across the full calendar of outdoor council-led events, along with the accessibility gaps that this situation is creating.

Subject to the application of council's relevant processes (short business case to confirm need and expenditure justification, and procurement), the Council therefore agrees, in principle, to the purchase of a dedicated mobile Changing Places Facility for use at council-led and council-partnered events".

9 ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1 EH/EHS/EP/003 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT AIR QUALITY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026 – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANNUAL AVERAGE PM10 AND PM2.5 LIMITS, TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the submission of the Council's response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

2. Background

This consultation proposes legislative amendments to tighten existing air quality standards for particulate matter, namely PM10 and PM2.5, in Northern Ireland. This would result in protecting public health, through reducing harmful air pollution and aligning with current World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and emerging standards across the UK and Ireland.

Particulate matter is recognised as one of the most significant pollutants affecting public health. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is associated with respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer and premature mortality due to its ability to penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream. While particulate emissions have reduced significantly over recent decades due to cleaner technologies, transport, domestic solid fuel combustion and agriculture remain important sources of emissions.

The proposed amendments are intended to reduce long-term exposure to particulate matter and bring Northern Ireland's air quality standards closer to current WHO guidance and the direction of travel being taken elsewhere within the UK.

A copy of the full consultation document can be accessed at the link below:

[Consultation on the Draft Air Quality \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2026 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

3. Key Issues

The consultation proposes significant reductions to the existing annual average standards for particulate matter, with compliance proposed from 1 January 2028.

Pollutant	Existing Standard	New standard
PM10 Annual Mean Limit	40 µg/m³	20 µg/m³
PM10 Annual Mean Objective	40 µg/m³	20 µg/m³
PM2.5 Annual Mean Limit Value	25 µg/m³	10 µg/m³
PM2.5 Annual Mean Target Value	25 µg/m³	8 µg/m³

These amendments would approximately halve the permitted annual concentration for PM10 and reduce the PM2.5 standards by up to 60%.

A draft consultation response is (enclosed).

The draft response from Officers proposes support for the targets of the proposed Regulations and recognises the significant public health benefits associated with reducing long-term exposure to particulate matter. Monitoring data published for Northern Ireland indicates that all monitoring sites have achieved the proposed annual mean levels since 2019.

Continued compliance will require sustained action at regional and national level. Many of the principal sources of particulate matter including road transport, domestic solid fuel combustion, agriculture and transboundary pollution lie outside the direct control of district councils.

The draft consultation response supports the proposed amendments whilst emphasising the need for continued Government investment, appropriate resourcing for local authorities, updating the Local Air Quality Management guidance and publication of the Northern Ireland Clean Air Strategy.

4. Financial Implication

There are no immediate financial implications arising from the consultation.

DAERA currently provides grant funding to district councils to support statutory Local Air Quality Management functions. Consequently, the proposed Regulations are not expected to result in additional costs to Council or require additional Air Quality Management Areas. The draft response nevertheless highlights the importance of continued DAERA funding, updated technical guidance and appropriate monitoring resources.

In addition, Officers are currently exploring the potential to utilise DAERA Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) grant funding to enhance particulate matter monitoring within ANBC area during 2026/2027. Specifically, consideration is being given to the procurement of PM2.5 and PM10 monitoring equipment and this would strengthen the existing monitoring network and improve the local evidence base for particulate matter concentrations.

5. Equality Screening & Rural Needs Requirements

DAERA has completed both an Equality Screening and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment. The Equality Screening concludes that the proposed Regulations are expected to have positive impacts through improved air quality, particularly for people with respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The Rural Needs Impact Assessment concludes that the proposed amendments are unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on rural communities. The draft response broadly agrees whilst recognising that future implementation measures should continue to consider rural transport, domestic solid fuel use and agricultural activities

6. Summary

The Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 represent a significant strengthening of Northern Ireland's air quality standards for particulate matter. The draft response supports the proposed amendments, recognising that they are evidence-based and proportionate. Continued compliance will depend upon coordinated Government action to address emissions beyond the direct control of Councils.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft consultation response be approved.

Prepared by: Mark Sloan, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

Agreed by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Environment Services and Sustainability

9.2 ED/DI/005 ASK CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAMME GRANT AWARDS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval for the award of six grants under the ASK Capital Grant Programme.

2. Background

The ASK (Advice, Skills and Knowledge) Mentoring Programme was launched in September 2025 and supports local businesses through tailored one-to-one mentoring and business development support.

Through the programme businesses can access up to 10 hours of mentoring support across a range of areas such as Advanced Digital Technologies, Digital Infrastructure & Strategy, Innovation & Product Development, Business Strategy and Planning and Sales & Marketing.

To support the implementation of mentor-led recommendations, the Council introduced the ASK Capital Grant Programme, which provides eligible businesses with grant assistance towards capital investment projects.

Following completion of mentoring eligible businesses may be invited to apply for an 80% funded capital grant of up to £1,500 to support investment in software, systems, equipment and other innovation-enabling technologies aligned with Economic Development objectives.

3. Previous Council Decision

In May 2026, Members approved the extension of the Ask Capital Grant Programme, with a budget allocation of £75,000 for the 2026/27 financial year.

4. Capital Grant Applications Received

Members are advised that during the period 2 July 2026 to 6 August 2026, a total of six applications were received, with a maximum of £8,540.77 being recommended for approval, subject to the receipt and verification of all relevant supporting documentation. Grant awards are set out in the table (enclosed).

5. Financial Position

The overall ASK Capital Grant Programme budget for 2026/27 is £75,000. To date, £29,500 has been awarded. Should Members approve the six grant recommendations within this report the remaining programme budget would be £36,959.23

6. Summary

This report makes six grant recommendations under the ASK Capital Grant Programme for the period 2 July 2026 to 6 August 2026, with a total value of £8,540.77.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the six grant awards totalling a maximum of £8,540.77 to the successful applicants under the ASK Capital Grant Programme, subject to the receipt and verification of all relevant supporting documentation.

Prepared by: Natasha Donald, Economic Development Manager

Agreed by: Steven Norris, Deputy Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

9.3 ED/ED/315 RURAL INVESTMENT AND GROWTH FUND

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the applicants which have reached the threshold for funding under the Pilot Rural Investment & Growth Fund and to seek approval to progress the applications through the grant processing and award stage, in accordance with the agreed programme criteria and available budget allocation.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that at Economic Development Committee in January 2026, it was agreed that a pilot Rural Investment & Growth Fund would be delivered to provide financial support to micro and SME businesses in rural areas. The grant rate available to businesses is £10,000 - £20,000 at a 50% grant rate, ensuring a minimum project value of £20,000. This emphasises the fund's strategic intent to deliver meaningful and impactful investments while avoiding duplication with other business support programmes.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Economic Development Committee approved the delivery of a new Pilot Rural Investment & Growth Fund with an allocated budget of **£150,000** in January 2026.

4. Programme Update

The pilot Rural Investment & Growth Fund aims to provide substantial capital support to micro and SME businesses operating in rural areas across the Borough.

The Scheme opened for applications from Monday 13 April 2026 and closed at midnight Friday 8 May 2026.

A total of 24 applications were received requesting a total grant amount of £418,398.06 well in excess of the budget available. Officers have processed applications through eligibility checks and assessments and determined that 7 applications have exceeded the scoring threshold to the sum of **£136,000**. The following table provides a summary of the applications and the proposed grant award:

Application ID	Business name	DEA	Project	Amount requested	Score	Proposed Grant Award
RIGF\100060	OD Contracts and Maine Drains	Dunsilly	Propose the purchase of a telescopic loader, to enable the business to grow sales in installations of waste water systems, repairs and replacements, with improved accessibility and a reduced environmental impact.	£20,000.00	97	£20,000.00
RIGF\100008	Glendale tree Services	Dunsilly	Delivery & supply of biomass fuel using multi-functional drying trailer.	£20,000.00	97	£20,000.00
RIGF\100061	Ai Services NI	Airport	SMART Stud environmental monitoring system with software data collection and analysis	£20,000.00	94	£20,000.00
RIGF\100009	Logan Construction	Ballyclare	Our project is to purchase an Avant 640 mini loader, specifically suited to the restricted access and tight outdoor spaces	£20,000.00	82	£20,000.00
RIGF\100068	Ecopart NI	Airport	As part of our business expansion, we are investing in a new counterbalance forklift truck to enhance our outdoor operations in handling End of Life Vehicle	£20,000.00	80	£20,000.00
RIGF\100041	Gary Cobain Building Contractor	Dunsilly	Purchase of a mini excavator (2.7 tonne) to enhance the operational capacity of our construction contracting business	£16,000.00	79	£16,000.00
RIGF\100080	Conveyortek	Airport	Seeking grant support to modernise and optimise the material handling processes within its overband magnet production area	£20,000.00	77	£20,000.00

5. Financial Position

Given the strategic nature of the proposed pilot programme, Council received a high level of demand for funding, with a strong standard of applications submitted. In recognising the overall quality and competitiveness of the applications received, the scoring threshold was set at 75/100 to ensure that the highest-scoring applications may be progressed for funding consideration whilst remaining within budget. This approach will ensure that the available funding is targeted towards those proposals demonstrating the strongest strategic alignment with the programme objectives and which will create the greatest potential impact.

Summary

A total of £150,000 has been ringfenced within the 2026/27 Economic Development budget for the delivery of the pilot programme. It is proposed to allocate £136,000, subject to members' approval, meaning that the programme can be delivered within the agreed budget allocation. Officers will provide feedback to the applicants that have not been successful under this call.

Given the high demand for this pilot programme Officers will closely monitor the implementation and should funding become available within the Economic Development budget provide an update to members regarding the feasibility of a further call for applications.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the grant funding awards to the seven applications as set out in the report which will be met from the 2026/27 Economic Development Budget.

Prepared by: Michael McKenna, Deputy Director Investment and Business Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

9.4 L/LEI/001 UK ACTIVE AWARDS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the 2026 UK Active Awards shortlisting and seek approval for nominees to attend the awards ceremony at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham on Thursday 8 October 2026.

2. Introduction

UK active is a national leisure industry body representing the public, private and third sectors. Its annual awards are among the sector's most prestigious, recognising excellence and innovation in health, wellbeing and fitness. The 2026 awards attracted a record number of entries. Judging is independently led by Proinsight, with the Centre of the Year category including mystery shops and customer feedback.

Council Leisure Services has a strong recent record at the UK Active Awards. The Valley Leisure Centre was Regional Centre of the Year in 2022, while Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre won Regional and National Centre of the Year in 2023 and retained the Regional title in 2024.

In 2025, Arlene McMinn, Health Intervention Officer, was named 'Physical Activity Hero of the Year', recognising the impact of Council's Health Intervention Programme and its contribution to improved health and wellbeing outcomes across the Borough.

3. 2026 Awards Shortlisting

Council has again received national recognition, with two leisure centres and one individual shortlisted in the 2026 unactive Awards.

Category: Regional Public Club/Centre of the Year – Northern Ireland and Wales

Council finalists: (i) Crumlin Leisure Centre and (ii) The Valley Leisure Centre.

This reflects the continued strength of Council's leisure facilities, customer experience and community impact.

Category: Outstanding Individual Leadership Award

Council finalist: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations.

This recognises leadership within the physical activity sector and reinforces the reputation of Council's Leisure Services regionally and nationally.

4. Awards Ceremony

The winners will be announced at the UK Active Awards Ceremony at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham on Thursday 8 October 2026. Attendance would recognise the shortlisted centres and staff, support the

Borough's profile within the sector and celebrate the continued success of Leisure Services.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves attendance by the Mayor and the Chair of the Operations Committee, or their nominees, and relevant Council Officers, at the UK Active Awards Ceremony in Birmingham on Thursday 8 October 2026.

Prepared and Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: John News, Director of Estates and Recreation

9.5 CCS/EDP/025 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGN APPLICATIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current status of Dual Language Street Sign applications.

2. Introduction/Background

The Dual Language Street Sign Policy was adopted by Council in May 2022. This report provides an update on current applications and seeks approval where required in accordance with the Policy.

3. Applications Update

- Petition received

An application has been received for Moneynick Road, pending a verification of the petition at the Electoral Office of Northern Ireland.

- Stage 1 – Petition Verification (For Noting)

No applications are at stage 1.

- Stage 2 – Residents Canvass (For Noting and Approval)

Approval was given to progress the following applications to Stage 2 at Council meeting on 27 July 2026. Canvass letters are being prepared to be sent to residents.

- Brecart Road, BT41 3TH and BT41 3PJ
- Pakenham Court, BT29 4EP
- Mayfield Park, BT36 7WP

Three further applications are at stage 2:

- Hollybrook Gardens, BT36 3ZS

Canvass letters have been issued and returned from occupants of Hollybrook Gardens. This application met the required threshold of two thirds of residents. Approval is requested for this application to progress to Stage 3 of design, fabrication and installation of street signs.

- Cargin Road, BT41 3NS
- Loup Road, BT41 3TW

Canvass letters have been issued to the occupants of Cargin Road and Loup Road and the outcome will be reported back to the Policy and Governance Committee.

- Stage 3 – Street Sign Installation (For Noting)

No applications are at Stage 3.

4. Map and Costs

Relevant maps and associated costs are (**enclosed**) for Members' information.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the progress of the applications relating to Brecart Road, Pakenham Court, Mayfield Park, Cargin Road and Loup Road, and to approve the progression of the Hollybrook Gardens application (BT36 3ZS) to Stage 3 of the process.

Prepared by: Claire Webb, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

Approved by: Collesa Brown, Director of People and Organisational Transformation

9.6 ED/ED/131 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the outcomes of the Corporate Workshop on International Relations Activity and to recommend the approval of the following subsequent actions.

2. Background

International Relationships have been a feature of the work of many NI Councils including Antrim and Newtownabbey Council for decades. They are important in positioning the Council as an outward and forward- looking region, that seeks to learn from best practice elsewhere, share what we do well with partners and ultimately attract and create opportunities for our citizens.

The Council's engagement in international relationships has evolved over time, reflecting a blend of civic diplomacy, cultural exchange, educational collaboration, and economic ambition.

The current relationships are summarised below:

- Gilbert, Arizona (Sister City),
- Dorsten, Germany (Twinning),
- Rybnik, Poland (Twinning), and
- Leshan, China (Friendship).

The Council has also been approached more recently by the Poppy County, France to develop a formal relationship and some initial engagement has taken place.

The Economic Development section has delegated authority via the Council's Scheme of Delegation to support this activity as part of its overall programme delivery. There is no formal action linked to each relationship nor a dedicated resource within the team which focusses on this area of work.

The Youth Exchange programme with Gilbert is the only activity which is undertaken and budgeted for on an annual basis. All other visits and associated programming etc are dealt with on an ad hoc basis. In addition, there is currently no framework through which any request to initiate such relationships are assessed and therefore they are brought through Committee for consideration.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members will recall that at its meeting in March 2026, the Council considered the International Relations Review undertaken by Export Explore and approved the adoption of a new International Relations Framework to guide the assessment and management of both existing and future international partnerships. The framework provides a structured approach to evaluating

opportunities based on strategic alignment, anticipated outcomes, resource implications and potential risks.

At that meeting, the Council also agreed that a Corporate Workshop be convened to allow Members to consider in greater detail the findings of the review and the emerging recommendations in respect of the Council's existing international relationships.

The framework approved by the Council is based on the following principles:

- Initial approach or expression of interest from a jurisdiction.
- Assessment of alignment with the Council's strategic priorities.
- Consideration of whether meaningful outcomes can be achieved through proportionate resource investment.
- Commencement of new relationships at Friendship level where appropriate.
- Evaluation of mutual benefit, organisational capacity and community interest.
- Progression to Twinning or Sister City status only where there is evidence of value, sustainability and strategic benefit.

4. Corporate Workshop Outcomes

A Corporate Workshop was held on 30 June 2026 at which Declan Barry, CEO of Export Explore, presented the findings of the International Relations Review and the proposed framework for assessing existing and future international partnerships. A copy of the presentation is (enclosed).

The review confirmed that international engagement can support a range of Council objectives including economic development, tourism, education, culture and community development and assessed each current relationship against agreed criteria relating to economic impact, civic engagement and resource commitment.

The review identified that the Council's relationship with Gilbert, Arizona is currently the most active and strategically aligned partnership. Members noted the success of the long-established youth exchange programme and agreed that there may be merit in exploring how the relationship could be expanded to include areas such as trade development, skills, education and civic collaboration. Members therefore considered that a more detailed Action Plan should be developed for future consideration, including associated resource requirements and costs.

In relation to Leshan, China, Members noted the findings that the relationship remains at an exploratory Friendship level and that there is currently insufficient evidence of economic or community benefits to justify progression to a higher level of engagement. Members were therefore supportive of maintaining the current position and undertaking no further activity at this stage pending the emergence of a clear business case and strategic rationale.

The review concluded that both Dorsten and Rybnik currently have limited measurable outcomes, although Members recognised the historical and civic importance of these relationships. Discussions highlighted that there may be opportunities to better understand and develop future collaboration with both jurisdictions and that further scoping work should be undertaken before any long-term decisions are made. Members also noted the recent Mayoral visit to Rybnik and the invitation for a reciprocal visit and considered that maintaining the relationship at a civic level while facilitating appropriate reciprocal engagement would be proportionate at this time.

Members also discussed opportunities for future international engagement, including the recent approach from Pays du Coquelicot (Poppy County), France, and the potential value of developing relationships closer to home within Ireland and Great Britain. It was acknowledged that any future opportunities should be considered through the newly approved framework to ensure they are strategically aligned, capable of delivering measurable outcomes and proportionate to available resources. Accordingly, Members indicated support for further assessment work in relation to Dorsten, Pays du Coquelicot and potential partner locations within Ireland and Great Britain.

Following discussion, Members were supportive of a more structured and outcome-focused approach to international relations activity, with future engagement being guided by agreed objectives, clear governance arrangements and regular review of outcomes.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members:

- a) Approve the continuation of the Sister City relationship with Gilbert, Arizona and agree that officers develop and present a proposed International Relations Action Plan for Gilbert, including opportunities for trade development, skills and educational collaboration, civic engagement, resource requirements and associated costs.**
- b) Agree that the Council's Friendship relationship with Leshan, China be maintained at its current level, with no progression to a more formal arrangement at this stage, pending the identification of clear strategic benefits and resource requirements**
- c) Agree that the twinning relationship with Rybnik, Poland be maintained as a civic relationship with limited engagement and approve the facilitation of an appropriate reciprocal visit following the Mayor's visit to Rybnik in June 2026.**
- d) Approve the commissioning or completion of further assessment work, at an indicative cost of £30,000 to be met from the Economic Development budget, in relation to:**
 - i. the potential for enhanced collaboration with Dorsten, Germany.**
 - ii. the potential for developing a formal relationship with Pays du Coquelicot (Poppy County), France; and**
 - iii. the identification and assessment of potential partner cities or regions within Ireland and Great Britain for consideration through the Council's approved International Relations Framework.**

- e) Note the outcomes of the Corporate Workshop on International Relations held on 30 June 2026 and endorse the application of the Council's approved International Relations Framework in the assessment of all future partnership opportunities.**

Prepared by: Steven Norris, Deputy Director of Regeneration and Infrastructure and Michael McKenna, Deputy Director of Investment and Business Development

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

9.7 PT/CI/061 AWARDS – APSE SERVICE AWARDS 2026 UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update members on the recent APSE Awards submissions and to seek approval on attendees to the awards ceremony.

2. Introduction/Background

Members will recall the Council was awarded UK Council of the Year status at the APSE Award ceremony in September 2024 and Finalists in September 2025.

The APSE Service Awards uniquely recognises the profound contribution of local council frontline services to local communities and local people. These awards celebrate those contributions to the delivery of excellence on the frontline and striving to achieve continuous improvement in public sector delivery.

Council submitted entries to the following categories in the APSE service awards:

- Best Health and Wellbeing Initiative – Antrim and Newtownabbey Health Intervention Team
- Best Services Team – Leisure & Cultural Services
- Street Cleansing and Street Scene – Waste Management
- Best Services Team – Cemetery and Crematorium Service
- Best Services Team – Parks and Green Spaces

3. Judging Results

Submission to the APSE Service Awards having been considered by the judging panel and it has been confirmed that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council have been nominated as finalists in the following categories:

- **Best Services Team, Leisure – Sports, Leisure & Cultural Service**, prepared by Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager
- **Street Cleansing & Street Scene Service – Waste Operations Street Cleansing**, prepared by Charlene McAdams, Waste Operations Manager
- **Best Health and Wellbeing Initiative – Antrim and Newtownabbey Health Intervention Team** prepared by Kevin Madden, Sport and Physical Activity Manager
- **Best Services Team Cemetery and Crematorium – Bereavement and Cemetery Services Antrim and Newtownabbey** – prepared by Paul Mawhinney Head of Parks

The shortlist for the prestigious Overall Council of the Year is Award has been announced and for the third year in a row Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has been nominated as Finalists.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Finalists are invited to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 17 September 2026 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Liverpool.

It is proposed that due to the exceptional performance, Members consider a table of ten at approximately £1,800 +VAT and travel expenses.

It is proposed that The Mayor, Deputy Mayor Chair of Operations Committee Council APSE Representative: or their nominees and relevant Officers attend as an approved duty.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the approval is granted for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor plus the Chair of the Operations Committee, Council APSE Representative or their nominees and relevant Officers attend the Awards Ceremony as an approved duty.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

Approved by: Collesa Brown, Director of People and Organisation Transformation

9.8 G/MSMO/018 NILGA CONFERENCE 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) Conference 2026 and invite expressions of interest to attend.

2. Key Points

Members are advised that correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from NILGA regarding its 2026 Local Government Conference being held at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn on Thursday 8 October 2026. The theme will be - The Politics of Delivery: Leading through Uncertainty.

As NILGA's only conference during the current council mandate, it provides an opportunity for elected members and officers to share learning, gain insight from expert speakers and contribute to discussion on the future direction of local government.

Members are encouraged to attend the conference where a 50% discount will apply reducing the delegate fee to £25 (+vat) per person which will be covered by Council. NILGA Executive Members, or their nominee, can attend free of charge.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and that any Member or Officer wishing to attend the NILGA Conference 2026 liaise with Member Services, who will coordinate and arrange bookings on their behalf.

Prepared by: Member Services

Agreed by: Liz Johnston, Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

Approved by: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

10 ITEMS FOR NOTING

10.1 CP/CC/004 USE OF CCTV ON COUNCIL SITES TO DETER HIGH LEVELS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VANDALISM AND MITIGATE ASSOCIATED REPAIR COSTS.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise members of Estate Services' proposed approach to monitoring the effectiveness of the recently installed CCTV system at Neillsbrook in deterring anti-social behaviour, vandalism and Council's associated repair costs. The pilot project and associated analysis will help to inform future decision-making regarding the installation of additional CCTV infrastructure across the Council Estate.

2. Introduction / Background

The Council manages and maintains CCTV cameras across its own estate to ensure that staff, contractors and site users and the physical assets are managed and maintained in a safe and secure manner. As such this report only relates to proposed CCTV systems on Council property.

The Council has no statutory responsibility to install and maintain public facing CCTV systems; 11 no. public facing cameras within the Glengormley area were jointly funded with the PSNI in 2008 and the Council has continued to bear the cost of maintaining those systems since that time.

The Council continuously endeavours to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) on its estate and deploys a suite of interventions which include Park Wardens, security patrols, PSNI patrols, user engagement, partnerships with schools, community groups and the prompt removal of graffiti; in some scenarios, the use of CCTV may compliment these measures.

The term 'ASB' emerged in the 1990's to describe a wide range of nuisance, disorder and crime that affects people's daily lives. ASB is generally considered under three distinct themes - personal, nuisance and environmental. It is also generally accepted that no single intervention will successfully deter ASB, and rather the application of multiple measures may reduce the frequency, volume and impact of such incidents.

3. Previous Decision of the Council

Members are reminded that in April 2026 Council approved the installation of a stand-alone CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre due to high levels of vandalism and associated repair costs.

Following this installation, in response to Members requests, Estate Services presented a further report to the June Operations Committee regarding future additional provision of stand-alone CCTV systems at other locations across the Council estate. Members asked that officers collate additional data and information (including PSNI official statistics) to inform a further report to full Council on the matter.

4. PSNI and Council site specific CCTV and repair cost data

There are 14no. policing districts across Northern Ireland – aligned to each of the 11 district council boundaries (with Belfast split into four). The following data has been sourced from PSNI published statistics for the 14 districts in Northern Ireland.

PSNI data indicates that Province wide ASB (44,076 reported incidents in 2025-26) has reduced by 0.4%, compared to the previous year (2024-25). Anti-social behaviour within the Antrim and Newtownabbey policing district increased by 11.9% over that same period. Despite that anomalous increase, Antrim and Newtownabbey continues to have one of the lowest rates of ASB within Northern Ireland - 8th out of the 11 district council area. The figures below relate to total ASB across the policing district/Borough rather than the Council estate specifically. However the cost to repair damage arising from vandalism/ASB on the Council has continued to increase annually over the last three years – reflecting increased costs of parts and labour. In 2023-24, ASB on the Council estate cost approx. £8,801 with that figure rising to almost £32,000 in 2025-26. Costs are also impacted by the nature of the vandalism/ASB.

ASB incidents	Highest	Antrim & Newtownabbey
2024-25	Belfast South (4,642)	2,691
2025-26	Belfast South (4,604)	3,012

At the June 2026 Operations Committee meeting, it was noted that a number of Council sites had experienced increased ASB-related repair costs. The table below matches PSNI ASB data and Council data over a three-year period. While the data focuses on number of incidents and associated costs, it is also acknowledged that ASB vandalism also may also result in periods of service disruption (on health and safety grounds) while Council affects repairs. Published research suggests that CCTV may result in ~20% reduction in anti-social behaviour

Location	PSNI Reported Incidents			ANBC repair costs			Indicative CCTV installation
	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	
Ballyclare Public Toilets	3	3	4	£820	£1,375	£3,920	£7K, 2 cameras
Hazelbank Public Toilets	4	3	5	£1,550	£1,325	£2,190	£7K, 2 cameras
Lilian Bland Public Toilets	8	2	3	£1,825	£2,105	£2,825	£7K, 2 cameras
John Street Play Park	3	5	4	£1,955	£1,820	£4,705	£7K, 2 cameras
River Walk Randalstown	7	11	12	£1,450	£1,750	£1,850	No electrical supply
V36 (Toilets)	4	3	3	£1,950	£2,125	£1,540	£7K, 2 cameras
TOTAL	29	27	31	£9,550	£10,500	£17,030	

The above indicative costs exclude additional routine management and maintenance costs:

- Footage downloads (per 4hr period) £120
- Annual 'Cloud' licencing per camera £110

Following this further review of data related to ASB/vandalism across the Council estate and investigated the effectiveness of CCTV systems more generally, officers will evaluate the effectiveness of the new Neilsbrook CCTV installation over the first 12 months of operation (from June 2026) to identify evidence of intended outcomes including reduced incidence of ASB, reduced repair/replacement costs and reduced facility/asset closures.

5. Finance

The recent Neilsbrook CCTV installation provides an opportunity for Council to deliver a pilot study to evaluate the impact the new system on reduced ASB and associated service disruption and costs. Such a study will help to identify pay-back period (return on investment) associated with CCTV installation costs and support evidence-based, value for money, decision-making. In 2025-26, Council spent £1,894 repairing damage arising from vandalism and ASB within Neilsbrook.

6. Governance

The Estate Services team manage the maintenance and development of Council CCTV infrastructure across the Borough on an annual basis in line with the Council's annual approved budgets.

7. Summary

Estate Services recommend that the recent stand-alone CCTV installation at Neilsbrook is used as a pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of CCTV installations at a Council site.

The data prior to the CCTV installation at Neilsbrook and post installation (quarterly for 12 months) will identify how effective such installations are in combating ASB, reducing related repair costs and closures. This additional scrutiny and data source will subsequently inform decision-making regarding Council's CCTV infrastructure across its estate.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

Prepared by: David Blair, Head of Estate Services

Agreed and Approved by: John News Director of Estates and Recreation