



24 November 2021

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 29 November 2021 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 25 October 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 1 November 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 2 November 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve Part 1 and Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 15 November 2021, copies of which are **enclosed**.
- 9 PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN TRUST
- 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 10.1 To Approve the Sealing of Documents
 - 10.2 Local Government Staff Commission Dissolution Update
 - 10.3 Department of Finance – Public Consultation on Marriage Law
 - 10.4 Patient and Client Council – Consultation on Draft Statement of Strategic Intent 2022 - 2025
 - 10.5 Department for Infrastructure – Consultation on the New Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland To 2030
 - 10.6 Electric Vehicle Charging Provision - On Street Residential Charging Scheme
 - 10.7 Community Development Grant Aid Programme Small Grants Funding Recommendations 2021/2022
 - 10.8 Enterprise Support Initiatives

- 10.9 Town Centre Recovery Action Plans and Revitalise Funding
- 10.10 Correspondence from The Department for Infrastructure: Consultation – Proposals for The Railways (Safety Management) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022
- 10.11 High Street Task Force - Call for Evidence
- 10.12 Community Planting Requests
- 10.13 Correspondence from DAERA regarding Planning Consultations

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 11.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 11.2 Correspondence from Department for Communities in response to Universal Credit Motion
- 11.3 Motion – Derry City and Strabane District Council – Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay
- 11.4 Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
- 11.5 Balmoral Show
- 11.6 GROW South Antrim Local Action Group Minutes
- 11.7 Publication, Living with Water in Belfast: An Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast
- 11.8 Local Government Boundaries Review

12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 12.1 Mayoral Car Replacement
- 12.2 Dual Language Street Signs
- 12.3 Disposal of land at Cashel Drive, Monkstown
- 12.4 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
- 12.5 Legal Update
- 12.6 Steeple Site, Antrim

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2021**

9. PRESENTATION BY NORTHERN TRUST

Members are advised that, as was agreed at the October Council Meeting, a presentation will be made by representatives of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust updating on the proposed new Mental Health Inpatient Facility on the Antrim area site.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

10.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Members are advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met:-

- Sale of land at 578 Doagh Road.
- Lease between Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and NWP Ltd for premises at Orchard Way, Antrim

RECOMMENDATION: that the documents be signed and sealed.

Prepared by: Paul Casey, Head of Legal Services and Borough Lawyer

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.2 HR/ER/002 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION DISSOLUTION UPDATE

Members are advised that the Mayor and Chief Executive have received correspondence from the Department of Communities requesting views as to whether there are any reasons Council would wish to reconsider the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission.

The letter (**enclosed** at Appendix 1) refers to the 2014 decision that a statutory body of this type was no longer required.

Background

The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (the Commission) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body established under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. Its powers were later extended under the Housing Orders 1976 and 1981, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1992.

The terms of reference for the Commission are to exercise 'general oversight of matters connected with the recruitment, training and terms and conditions of employment of officers of councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and of making recommendations to councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive on such matters.'

The main key performance areas and statutory functions in line with the dissolution date and the dissolution plans are as outlined in **enclosed** Appendices 2 and 3.

Dissolution

The following information is provided to outline the steps taken to date to facilitate the dissolution and its subsequent extension.

In October 2013, following consultation on the future of the Commission, the then Environment Minister announced that a statutory body of this type would no longer be required. It was subsequently agreed by the NI Executive in June 2014, that the Commission would dissolve on 31 March 2017 (two years following the reorganisation of local government in April 2015).

When the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2017, it had not been possible to have the necessary Dissolution Order in place to wind up the Commission as planned and its work therefore remains ongoing.

Following further consultation by the Commission it was confirmed in April 2017 that there remained an ongoing need for the Local Government Training Group and all Councils agreed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council would facilitate the future work of the Local Government Training Group on behalf of the Commission.

The Department for Communities reconstituted the Commission membership with effect from 1 April 2017 up to the final dissolution date in order to ensure

ongoing effectiveness, and to discharge its statutory functions. The Commission developed a Management and Dissolution Plan to enable it to continue until final dissolution. Appendix 4 (**enclosed**) outlines the apportioned arrangements for Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council. Members are advised that when operating at full capacity prior to 2015 the rate apportioned was in excess of £75000.

Members are advised that the current annual cost to the Council is £26,137.

In 2018 the Commission advised that following discussion with the Department for Communities, it was concluded that it was unlikely that the Dissolution Order to wind up the Commission would be in place in the near future.

In August 2019, Council wrote to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, to record concerns regarding the lack of advancement to progress the required legislation in order to dissolve the Local Government Staff Commission and the need for continued Council funding. In her response, the Permanent Secretary reminded the Council that the previous Executive had agreed the dissolution of the Commission and work in this regard was progressing however in the current political situation this was no longer possible.

In November 2020, correspondence received from the Chairman of the Commission indicated that the earliest date for dissolution would be 31 March 2022 and the Department for Communities had advised the Commission to plan accordingly. However, further correspondence from the Commission in February 2021 stated that the Department had no new information in relation to the Dissolution Order and as such in order to implement their statutory functions, it was necessary for the Commission to determine a financial scheme up to March 2022.

In May 2021, the Council again wrote to the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA raising concerns regarding the advancement of the required legislation in order to dissolve the Commission which as a result requires continued Council funding. The Council asked for an update and a timescale to finalise this matter. In response the Minister advised that given the passage of time that had evolved since the review in 2012, a follow-up consultation would be carried out in order to ascertain if there are any reasons that the Executive decision to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered.

Recent Communication.

In July 2021 the Council considered correspondence from the Commission relating to the establishment of a Regional Negotiating Machinery for local Councils.

Members are reminded that Council at this point acknowledging the status of JNC agreements, sought clarification on the role of this body to 'negotiate' on matters that from a governance perspective, individual Councils may not be bound. The Council asked for more time to allow it to make an informed decision on the matter.

In its response, the Commission advised that at their meeting in August they had agreed to proceed with the development of the governance arrangements around the re-establishment of a Regional Negotiating Machinery, which would be done in partnership and consultation with all the key Stakeholders.

No further clarification or communication has been received on this matter.

Additional Considerations

Council received additional correspondence from the Chief Executive of NILGA outlining the role of the Association in national negotiations and asserting that their position in regards to the dissolution of the Commission remains unchanged and highlighting the substantial costly and impactful measures already taken.

Members' are reminded that in the interim period the Commission have facilitated the Local Government Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action plan 2020 -2023. In addition the Commission are in the process of launching a Talent Management Task and Finish Working Group to consider the development of a talent management strategy for the sector which provides a robust approach to succession planning, talent acquisition, identification, and development.

Members are aware that as part of our recovery plan a robust programme of Wellbeing is in operation and the development of an employee value proposition aligned to attract prospective talent and to retain them in a competitive job market is a key element of our recovery.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Council respond to say that it does not have any reason the Executive decision in 2014 to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered.

Prepared by: Debbie Rogers, Director of Organisation Development

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.3 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MARRIAGE LAW

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Finance, Marriage Law Consultation Team advising of the launch of a public consultation on two aspects of the marriage law:

1. A proposed legislative change that would see the inclusion in our marriage law of belief marriage (marriage solemnised by a celebrant who subscribes to a non-religious philosophy such as humanism)
2. The minimum age at which people can legally marry or enter into a civil partnership, currently 16.

Full details of the consultation, including details of how to respond, are available at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>.

The consultation will be open until 18 February 2022.

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.4 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) PATIENT AND CLIENT COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT 2022-2025

Correspondence (enclosed) has been received from the Patient and Client Council advising of a review of their delivery and consultation on their new draft Statement of Strategic Intent 2022-2025 (enclosed) by completion of an online survey.

Full details of the consultation and a link to the survey are available at <https://bit.ly/3HkSIWV>. The survey will be open until 28 January 2022.

Contacts in relation to the consultation are: telephone 02895368093 - Anne-Marie Doone or email Laura.O'Neill@pcc-ni.net.

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.5 G/MSMO/008 (Vol 3) DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE – CONSULTATION ON THE NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO 2030

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Safe and Accessible Travel Division of the Department for Infrastructure advising of the launch of a consultation on the proposed content of the new Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2030.

Full details of the consultation, including details of how to respond, are available at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposed-content-new-road-safety-strategy-northern-ireland-2030>. The consultation will be open until 5 pm on 10 January 2022.

Alternatively if you wish to discuss this consultation the telephone number is 028 90540150 or email safeandaccessibletravel@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

As part of the consultation process, the Department also will be facilitating a number of stakeholder engagement sessions in December thereby providing a further opportunity to input into the Strategy.

Any Member interested in attending one of these sessions should register your interest by 30 November 2021 at RoadSafetyStrategyConsultation@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

10.6 PBS/PS/001 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROVISION - ON STREET RESIDENTIAL CHARGING SCHEME

Members are reminded that at the November meeting of the Operations Committee, it was reported that correspondence had been received from the Department for Infrastructure relating to funding opportunities available for an On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) for electric vehicle charge points.

The purpose of the scheme is to increase the availability of on-street charge points in residential streets where off-street parking is not available, thereby ensuring that on-street parking is not a barrier to realising the benefits of owning a plug-in Electric Vehicle (EV).

The scheme, coordinated through the Department of Transport in England, is open to all UK local authorities. A total of £20million is available to provide 75% funding to local authorities for the procurement and installation of on street residential charging facilities. The Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland has indicated it will provide the remaining 25% funding shortfall.

Applications to the Department of Transport must be made by March 2022, with the deadline for completion of the works set at March 2023.

In Great Britain local authorities are responsible for highways and in Northern Ireland therefore, Councils are at a disadvantage as any proposed works will need to be coordinated through the Department for Infrastructure as well as NIE Networks.

At the Operations Committee there was some discussion around the potential challenges in delivering the scheme in some areas and the possibility of locating charge points in Council facilities being a viable alternative.

All 11 councils are involved in a Northern Ireland Electric Vehicle Consortium on which the Department is also represented. This group, led by Derry and Strabane District Council, is working on a collaborative application which councils can choose to participate in. This type of approach seems to be the only feasible way forward in the context of the timeframes and challenges. Each participating Council has been asked to identify up to 15 locations within their respective areas that could be considered for the on street charging infrastructure programme. Each location will be reviewed by the Department for Infrastructure and NIE Networks for suitability and it is not possible to determine at this stage if all will be suitable but submission of a list of locations in the Borough will ensure that Council's interest in the scheme is secured. It has been confirmed that where a location is deemed as being suitable for installation of a charge point, works will be undertaken by contractors responsible to DfI and NIE Networks and that once installed, charges will be levied and the operation, including tariff setting and maintenance of the charging facilities, will be undertaken by a third party contractor for the entire network of chargers.

Officers have identified a proposed list of possible locations (2 per DEA) and these are enclosed. In drawing up the proposals account has been taken of locations which are:

- situated adjacent to housing stock that has no access to off-road charging capability,
- on main arterial roads that can accommodate dedicated charging areas and are not detrimental to traffic flow
- within housing developments that are centrally located to maximise the opportunities for use and are not detrimental to traffic flow
- situated on main arterial routes/within housing developments that are not detrimental to the enjoyment of the adjacent properties or pose a difficulty with established residents' parking.

If Members know of any potentially more suitable locations within their respective DEAs they should contact the Head of Property and Building Services by Monday 29 November 2021 at 5 pm.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given for the submission of the 14 locations listed as part of a collaborative application to the On Street Residential Charging Scheme.

Prepared by: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property and Building Services

Agreed by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

Approved by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

10.7 CP/CD/394 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2021/2022

Members are reminded of the Small Grants Programme which was agreed by the Council in October 2014 as part of the new Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

The purpose of the Small Grants programme is to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough of up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs and/or insurance or a small activity and/or insurance. Members are advised that groups who apply for a small grant are not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2021/22 financial year.

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

During the month of November two applications totalling £1,700 were received and assessed by Officers as outlined below.

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Pass/Fail	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Whiteabbey Village Business Association	Small Activity Grant Decoration of Christmas Tree and Village Switch On Event took place on Sunday 28 th November 2021 2pm -5pm – request for retrospective approval	Pass	£1,000	£1,000
Parkgate and District Community Group	Small Seeding Grant Insurance (Due to lapse 4 th Dec 2021)	Pass	£700	£700
Total			£1,700	£1,700

The total budget available for the Small Grants Programme for the 2021/22 financial year is £10,000 however this has been exhausted.

The total amount of financial assistance requested by the two applications outlined above is £1,700 and if the two applications are approved by Council

then these will be funded by cost savings identified within the Community Planning Budget.

In the event that further applications are submitted before the end of this financial year these will be brought to Committee for consideration in January 2022.

RECOMMENDATION: that the two Small Grant applications outlined above be approved at a total cost of £1,700 and be funded from cost savings identified within the Community Planning Budget.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

10.8 ED/GEN/006 ENTERPRISE SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Members are reminded that the Council has a statutory responsibility for new business start-up and entrepreneurship.

Regional Start-Up Support

The 'Go For It' programme offers regionally consistent support to entrepreneurs, helping them to develop a business plan. It has been running since October 2017 across all the Council areas and the current programme will complete on 31st March 2023. The programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Invest NI and the local Councils and is managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on behalf of all Councils. The programme is delivered by Enterprise NI through their network of Local Enterprise Agencies. The Council has an annual statutory job creation target of 80 jobs to be created as a result of participation on a Regional Start-up Initiative.

Business Start Coaching

To help entrepreneurs convert their 'Go For It' business plan into a trading business, Council has in place a Business Start Coaching Programme which offers up to 5 hours of business coaching and a bursary of up to £200 to support the set-up of businesses in the Borough. This programme is delivered through a partnership of Antrim Enterprise Agency, Mallusk Enterprise Park and LEDCOM. The original programme was extended from March 2021 in order to support participants whose start-up plans had been adversely impacted by Covid-19, with the same overall budget and targets of supporting 108 'Go For It' participants with coaching support and 108 benefitting from the bursary. A programme evaluation was completed in September 2021 and it reported that the programme exceeded its coaching participation target, with 120 entrepreneurs having benefited from 499 hours of coaching support, resulting in 81 new start businesses registering as self-employed (against a target of 76) and 52 participants benefitting from the bursary. Feedback from the programme is excellent, with 100% of surveyed participants feeling more confident in running their business as a direct result of the coaching support received.

Officers are currently considering options for a new programme of post entrepreneurship support up to at least March 2023, to fit within the programme of work in the Social Enterprise Workspace Development Fund and will provide a further report in due course. In the meantime, in order to provide continuity of support for entrepreneurs, it is proposed to extend the current post Go For It programme of coaching and bursary support up to March 2022 at a cost of £10,000 provision for which exists within the Economic Development Budget. The extension will allow another 40 participants to benefit from coaching and bursary support.

Pre-start support

Officers are currently exploring initiatives to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship, in particular to provide support at pre start-up stage. Data provided from the 'Go For It' programme over the five month period Apr-Sept

21 shows a slower rate of conversion in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough than the NI average, from both enquiry to Initial Assessment Meeting (69% against NI average of 73%) and from Initial Assessment Meeting to Business Plan completion (62% against NI average of 75%).

It is proposed to pilot an offer of up to 2 hours of mentoring support to those who are interested in starting a business, but require more support to develop their business idea prior to participation on the 'Go For It' programme. It is anticipated that this will improve the conversion rate from Initial Assessment Meeting to Business Plan, create better quality referrals onto the 'Go For It' programme and improve progression from enquiry to Initial Assessment Meeting. This in turn will help the Council to meet and exceed its statutory job creation targets. It is proposed to run the pilot from December 2021 – 31st March 2022 for up to 60 participants at a cost of £50 per hour, in line with other mentoring provision supported by Economic Development. The cost for this pre start-up support is estimated at £6,000 to cover the pilot programme period.

The Economic Recovery Subgroup which includes representation from all local Councils is currently reviewing entrepreneurship support post March 2023 once the current 'Go For It' programme ends and ERDF funding is no longer available. Stephanie Morrow has been appointed to undertake this work on behalf of the 11 Councils, and a further update report will follow.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i) the Business Start Coaching Programme is extended to 31 March 2022 at a cost of £10,000, provision for which exists in the Economic Development Budget.**
- ii) the Pre 'Go For It' Support mentoring pilot programme be approved at a total cost of £6,000 until 31 March 2022, provision for which exists in the Economic Development Budgets.**

Prepared by: Sara Thompson, Economic Development Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

10.9 AC/GEN/072 TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY ACTION PLANS AND REVITALISE FUNDING

At the September Council meeting Members agreed to provide free car-parking at Railway Street in Antrim and Ballyclare Square from 4 October through to 30 November 2021. This was subject to positive trader engagement and was intended to support the roll-out of the High Street Voucher Scheme. The High Street Voucher Scheme was subsequently extended to mid-December 2021. In light of this further engagement was undertaken with DEA Members and Traders in Ballyclare and free car-parking in the Town Square Car-park has been extended to 31 December 2021. Similar engagement is taking place in Antrim with a view to extending free car-park provision in Railway Street to the end of December also.

For customer convenience and consistency of marketing messages some promotion relating to this extended free car-parking period has already taken place.

RECOMMENDATION: that free car-parking in Antrim Railway Street and Ballyclare Town Square Car-parks to 31 December 2021 be approved.

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey Head of Economic Development

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

**10.10 P/FP/LDP/97 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE:
CONSULTATION – PROPOSALS FOR THE RAILWAYS (SAFETY MANAGEMENT)
(AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) advising on the publication of a consultation.

**PROPOSALS FOR THE RAILWAYS (SAFETY MANAGEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

The proposed regulations are being introduced to amend an earlier set of Regulations – The Railways (Safety Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. The revised 2022 Regulations will introduce the necessary changes to make provision for single safety certification here in Northern Ireland. The introduction of a single safety certificate is therefore intended to streamline the safety certification process and reduce or remove duplication. The consultation opened on 11 November 2021 and will close on 16:00 3 February 2022. The consultation documentation is available at:
<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-railways-safety-management-amendment-eu-exit-regulations-northern-ireland-2022>

Stakeholders can respond to the consultation exercise in writing, to be forwarded:

Via email to railsafety@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk, or

Via hard copy in post to:

Rail Safety Branch
Department for Infrastructure
Room 306, 3rd Floor
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GB

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual or party political basis.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning (Interim)

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

10.11 ED/REG/070 HIGH STREET TASK FORCE - CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The Executive Office has requested views on potential solutions for the issues facing local high streets. The call for evidence opened on 25th October 2021 and will close on 6 December 2021. Further information regarding the High Street Task Force can be found here: www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/call-evidence-high-street-task-force.

The call for evidence seeks views across the fourteen themes listed in the table below:

Partnerships	Capacity
Follow Best Practice	Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability
Investment	Housing and Other Infrastructure
Planning	Getting to and from the High St
Public Realm	Tourism
Fiscal – Including Rates	Digital High Streets
Rural Settlements	People, Localism and Well-being

The document reflects on the fact that our high streets are changing, and the Executive is committed to helping communities adapt. It aims to restore the vibrancy of our high streets across a number of phases over a period of years. It acknowledges that a one-size-fits-all solution does not exist and that our towns and villages need bespoke local solutions.

The call for evidence is an important opportunity for people to have their say to inform a draft report and recommendations which the Executive hopes to present for agreement in Spring 2022.

The Council's draft response is **enclosed** for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members approve the draft Corporate response enclosed to the High Street Task Force Call For Evidence for submission.

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

10.12 PK/GEN/078/VOL 3 & PK/PG/007 COMMUNITY PLANTING REQUESTS

Members are advised that two separate requests have been received from groups which have secured funding through Live Here Love Here Rural Community Pollinator Grant Scheme. Having been notified that their funding applications are successful, Crumlin Integrated Primary and Templepatrick Action Community Association have contacted Council seeking permission to use the funding for planting in Crumlin Glen and Wallace Park respectively.

This pilot scheme is wholly funded by DEARA via Live Here Love Here and provides grants to community groups and schools wishing to establish, enhance or develop a local community pollinator garden to increase the biodiversity value in the area. It is the intention of both groups to both plant and maintain the areas agreed. Both projects align with the local Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plans.

If approved, Officers will liaise with the groups to agree suitable locations, in consultation with DEA members.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be granted for Crumlin Integrated Primary School and Templepatrick Action Community Association to plant a pollinator garden in Crumlin Glen and Wallace Park respectively, exact locations to be agreed.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks & Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

10.13 P/FP/LDP/40 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DAERA REGARDING PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from DAERA Natural Environment Division setting out actions to improve planning consultation delays and temporary impact on caseload management practices.

In order to deal with the increase in planning applications in Northern Ireland and a backlog of planning responses, DAERA, a statutory consultee, is taking a number of actions to address the situation with the aim of reducing the backlog over the coming months including the redeployment of staff and recruitment of additional casual workers. In addition DAERA will no longer provide indicative response times for any consultation until further notice; will not be accommodating any prioritisation requests until further notice and has updated its webpage accordingly advising customers of this (**copy enclosed**). It is anticipated that this will allow officers to focus on processing planning consultation replies as a significant contributory factor in the escalation of backlog has been the large volume of queries from agents, planners and citizens seeking updates and prioritisations.

In addition, DAERA has also issued a further update (**enclosed**) advising that any Council who proceeds to determine a planning application without a response from DAERA (where they have been consulted), cannot assume that DAERA has no objections to the proposal or that the Department would not recommend appropriate conditions to protect the environment. DAERA states that where a Council proceeds to issue a decision in such cases, that the responsibility to ensure all impacts have been considered lies with the Council.

Officers are concerned regarding the impact of a backlog within NIEA Natural Environment Division on the timely processing of Council planning applications as well as the potential impact in the increase on planning applications in the system on other statutory planning consultees.

It is recommended the Council consider writing to the Department of Infrastructure Minister Nicola Mallon regarding this matter and highlight the need to ensure that statutory consultees are adequately resourced and that measures are put in place to ensure statutory consultee responses are issued on a timely basis.

The Council's instructions are requested

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning (Interim)

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

11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

11.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's November 2021 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting of 14 October 2021 is also **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.2 G/MSMO/014 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES IN RESPONSE TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT MOTION

Members will recall that at the Council meeting of 27 September 2021 a Motion was carried in relation to the Universal Credit uplift and requested that the Council write to the Communities Minister (**enclosed**).

A response has now been received on behalf of the Minister and a copy of the response is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.3 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE AND PAY

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding a Motion passed by that Council in relation to parental bereavement leave and pay, the Coalition for Bereaved Workers' campaign objectives in relation to this and requesting consideration of this matter.

A copy of the correspondence is enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.4 CE/OA/005/VOL2 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (NILGA)

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA, formally confirming that he will step down from the NILGA CEO role at the end of November 2021.

A copy of the correspondence is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

11.5 ED/ED 160 BALMORAL SHOW

Following the success of hosting local micro- and small businesses from the Borough at the 2019 Balmoral Show, Members will recall the decision to extend and continue with this initiative. The cost of a 6x3m stand in the Food NI Pavilion was covered by the Council, and micro- and small local businesses were invited to apply for a presence on the stand for a single day. After the postponement of the 2020 event, the organisers, the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) scheduled the 2021 iteration to take place from 22-25 September, 2021.

As part of the selection process, a competition was run in the early part of 2021 to seek applications from suitably qualified local businesses (subject to Food NI criteria) to secure a day on the Council stand to display their produce and goods, and to represent the Borough. Seven local businesses were successful and represented the Borough as follows:

- The Lock Keeper's Cottage
- Lylehill Farm
- Ten Watch Chocolates
- Mann Café
- Lough Neagh Tours
- Tasty Grub Club
- Murphy's Barkery

The Balmoral Show is one of the premier public events held in Northern Ireland, and although the ongoing pandemic meant that the estimated footfall for this year's event was approximately 75-80,000 visitors over the four days of the Show (a drop of c.30% from the 2019 levels), both the event organisers and the exhibitors were extremely pleased.

In terms of marketing and promotion, the event nonetheless provided both the Council and each of the participating local businesses with an unprecedented opportunity to raise their profile. A Council delegation including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor also visited the newly branded stand to see for themselves, the enthusiasm and effort that was put in by staff and the businesses. This has been reinforced by an informal reception hosted by the Mayor for the participant businesses, providing a further promotional opportunity and press release.

Following the event, a short evaluation survey was undertaken of the participant businesses and the overall findings have been extremely positive and all have offered to provide testimonials for future iterations. A competition for spaces on the Council stand for the Balmoral Show 2022 will be launched after Christmas, with the event returning to its traditional May slot, and Members will be updated on progress.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alastair Law, Funding and Innovation Officer

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

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

A meeting of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group was held on Friday 3 September 2021 and the minutes recorded at the meeting are enclosed. Members should note that some commercial business details have been redacted in line with operational requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the GROW South Antrim Local Action Group Meeting be noted.

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

11.7 P/FP/LDP/96 PUBLICATION, LIVING WITH WATER IN BELFAST: AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN GREATER BELFAST

Correspondence (enclosed) has been received from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) advising of the publication of Living with Water in Belfast: An Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast (LWWP) on 9 November 2021.

The Plan aims to deliver a long-term approach to drainage and wastewater that will protect the Metropolitan area of Belfast from flooding, provide a cleaner and greener environment and ensure that Belfast is open for business and investment.

Members are reminded that the Council previously responded to the public consultation of the draft Plan indicating support for the priorities identified and need for investment, specifically improvement works to the Whitehouse Park wastewater treatment works (WwTW). DfI have indicated in their response that capacity issues at Whitehouse WwTW will be explored further with the Council through the Catchment Delivery Plan process. The Plan, Consultation Report, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment can be viewed at:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/living-water-programme>

A copy of the Plan is enclosed for information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning (Interim)

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Director of Economic Development

11.8 CE/OA/035 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES REVIEW

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner updating Members on her Review of the Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland and advising of her intention to publish Revised Recommendations on 18 January 2022 for a six week period of public consultation.

Information on the review can be accessed at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/>.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive