



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor T McGrann
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen - J McGrath, P Michael and S Ross
Councillors – M Brady, P Dunlop, N Kelly, R Lynch, B Mallon, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, and S Ward
- Non Committee Members (In person)** : The Mayor, Councillor M Cooper
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillor S Wilson
- Non Committee Members (Remote)** : Councillors J Gilmour and B Webb
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker
Director of Community Planning – U Fay
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
Head of Finance – R Murray
IT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer – E Skillen
Member Services Officer – S Boyd

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman Boyle
Councillor O'Lone

The Chairperson congratulated Councillor O'Lone on her recent engagement.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.1 Councillors Dunlop, Lynch and Wilson
Item 4.5 Councillor Ní Chonghaile

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 G/MSMO/142 DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

Members were advised that a request from the Department of Health Integrated Care System to make a presentation (circulated) on the new Integrated Care System for Northern Ireland had been approved by the Chief Executive, Mr Richard Baker GM MSc.

A copy of the presentation was circulated for Members' information and the presentation was provided via Zoom by Mr Alan Marsden, Senior Planning Manager, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) Department of Health.

Following questions from Members regarding potential risk of duplication of the Community Planning role, the Director clarified that Officers would consider this further in the context of the Community Plan and if necessary a report would be brought back to the Committee or the Community Planning Partnership.

Mr Marsden agreed to provide Council with the framework document along with a link to ICS frequently asked questions for circulation to Members.

The Chairman thanked Mr Marsden for his presentation and he left the meeting.

Proposed by Alderman Ross
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

Alderman McGrath left the Chamber during Item 3.2.

3.2 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATE UPDATE 2024/25

An update on the 2024/25 Rate Estimates for the Community Planning Department was provided by the Head of Finance at the meeting.

Following questions from Members regarding funding for PCSP from the Department of Justice, the Head of Finance clarified the figures, and the Head of Community Planning provided further detail on the breakdown of funding.

The Director of Community Planning further advised Members that an update report on the Tourism Action Plan for the Borough would be brought back to Members on plans for the incoming year.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Alderman Michael and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning and R Murray, Head of Finance

Alderman McGrath returned to the Chamber during Item 4.1.

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 AC/TOU/009 LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the continuation of a Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership at an increased annual contribution of £24,200. The report also was to seek approval for match funding of £6,666 toward a specific project for which the Partnership had secured £224,395 in funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Lough Neagh Partnership was a stakeholder organisation that was established in 2003 to help manage and protect Lough Neagh. The board of the partnership was made up of elected representatives, landowners, fishermen, farmers and local communities.

The Partnership was the primary organisation responsible for the sustainable development of Lough Neagh. Over the past twenty years, it had been instrumental in enhancing, preserving, and promoting the distinctive attributes of the Lough Neagh area. The Council worked closely with the Partnership through a Service Level Agreement on a range of issues in particular marketing and promotion of the Lough as a tourism asset.

Members were reminded that the Partnership gave a presentation on their work to the Committee in December 2022.

At the December 2020 Council meeting it was agreed that a Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership, including annual funding of £22,000, be approved for three years commencing 1 April 2021. The agreement was subject to satisfactory performance and budget availability.

As the existing arrangement ends in March 2024, Officers met with the Partnership to discuss future arrangements in the context of recent developments in relation to the future management of the Lough which the Council along with other key stakeholders would be involved.

The Partnership had requested that the Council agree to a further one-year Service Level Agreement from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 with funding of £24,200, an increased amount to take account of inflationary pressures. The request for just a one-year agreement recognised the current circumstances and potential for the Partnership to face a changed role in the future and a different relationship with the Council. Provision of this funding had been made in the 2024/25 tourism estimates.

In addition, the Partnership advised Officers that they had been successful in acquiring project development funding of £224,395 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the employment of a co-ordinator, the development of a new heritage landscape plan and the examination of options and business plan for the possible purchase of the bed and soil of Lough Neagh from The Shaftesbury Estate.

They advised that it was their intention to carry out a due diligence, risk and legal analysis of the Shaftesbury Business proposal in 2024/25 and were asking the Council as well as Mid Ulster District Council and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for £6,666 each to make up the required £20,000 in match funding needed in order for this project to progress. Provision of this funding could be made available from the 2024/25 tourism estimates. The Partnership believed that delivery of this project with the help of this significant investment from the National Lottery Heritage Fund met some of the current requirements of not just the Councils but all interested parties who had already commenced a process of addressing the longer term future of the Lough and integration of its management.

In response to a Members question the Director of Community Planning confirmed that she would invite Lough Neagh Partnership to make a presentation at a future meeting of the Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

provision of £24,200 to Lough Neagh Partnership for a Service Level Agreement with the Council from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 be approved subject to satisfactory performance

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

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

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

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

The purpose of the Small Grants programme was to provide financial assistance to groups within the Borough up to a maximum of £1,000 (revised and approved by Council in October 2021) towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity. Members were advised that groups who applied for a small grant were not permitted to apply for any other funding available under the wider Community Development Grant Aid Programme during the course of the 2023/24 financial year.

In December 2019 Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000) or less be assessed on the basis of Pass/Fail against eligibility criteria and not subjected to a scored assessment process. All proposed awards 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. During the month of December one application totalling £960 was received and assessed by Officers with details circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the one Small Grant application at a total cost of £960 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.3 CP/GEN/048 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/2027

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to proposed financial awards under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme.

A call for applications under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for the 3-year period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2027 opened on Monday 23rd October 2023 and closed on Monday 4th December 2023. To support applications to this programme, Officers delivered two grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to all groups upon request.

Members were reminded that it was approved at the Community Planning Committee in September 2022 that the new Community Development Grant

Aid awards would be made for up to three years. A pass threshold of 50% applied to applications to the Programme and groups were not required to demonstrate match funding. Members should also note that proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation, or the offer of funding would be withdrawn.

The total estimated budget for the 2024/25 Community Development Grant Aid Programme was £643,448 as provided for in the 2024/2025 estimates, of which £50,428 (similar to the amount awarded in 2023/24) was anticipated from the Department for Communities (DFC) under its Community Support Programme for 2024/25 and the remaining £593,020 from the Council.

In total 8 applications were received and assessed by a panel of Officers with 6 applications achieving the required 50% pass threshold. A total of £35,200 of funding to the 6 successful applicants was proposed for award in 2024/25. Details were circulated for Members' information. In addition, financial assistance totalling £498,448 committed in 2023/24 for year 2 grants brings the overall total amount requested from the Community Development Grant Aid programme in 2024/25 to £533,648 leaving an estimated balance of £109,800 for a second call and to fund Technical Assistance (£50,000) and Small Grants (£15,000) submitted during the course of the 2024/25 financial year.

Members were reminded that Year 2 and Year 3 funding was subject to satisfactory monitoring and evaluation. All successful applications under this call were being awarded financial assistance for a 3-year period.

A summary of the successful applications for 2024/27 funding programme is shown below:

Summary of Community Development Grant Aid Requests 2024/27					
Grant Stream		Successful Applications (Scored 50% and above in 2024/25)	Total Requested Year 1 2024/25	Total Requested Year 2 2025/26	Total Requested Year 3 2026/27
Community Facilities and Programmes		4	£25,200	£25,200	£25,200
Community Programmes and Activities		2	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Total		6	£35,200	£35,200	£35,200
Financial Assistance Committed in 2023/24 for Year 2 Grants			£498,448		
Overall Total			£533,648		

Officers would arrange to meet with any unsuccessful groups to provide feedback on their applications and to signpost to other relevant funders.

A second call for applications to the Community Development Grant Aid Programme would open on Monday 1st April 2024 and close on Friday 3rd May 2024 at 4pm, subject to availability of funding.

Technical Assistance and Small Grants would open in March 2024 on a rolling programme with applications being reported to the Community Planning Committee on a monthly basis until the allocated budget was maximised.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the 6 successful applications for funding under the Community Development Grant Aid Programme totalling £35,200 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.4 CP/CD/470 NEWTOWNABBEY MENOPAUSE CAFÉ

The purpose of the report was to obtain approval in relation to a request from the Newtownabbey Menopause Café for free use of a Community Facility, once a month throughout 2024 for two hours on a Friday evening.

Members were advised that the Newtownabbey Menopause Café was established as a safe space to provide discussion, guidance and support for women experiencing their own menopause journey. Meetings were previously held on the last Friday of every month in a local hospitality venue that was no longer available in the evenings due to increased running costs.

It was proposed that the Council provide free use of the Lillian Bland Pavilion once a month on Friday evenings, 6pm to 8pm, throughout 2024, for the Newtownabbey Menopause Café to continue meeting. The usual hire fee would be £21 per hour. Additional resource would be required to facilitate this request at a cost of approximately £40 each month.

In addition, Officers would work with the Café to build capacity and develop their governance arrangements, with the aim of enabling the Café to secure funding to sustain the group in the future.

A Member requested that more detailed information be provided to Members on the Menopause Café.

Proposed by Alderman Ross
Seconded by Councillor Mallon and agreed that

the request for free use of the Lillian Bland Pavilion by the Newtownabbey Menopause Café once a month throughout 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

4.5 CP/CP/188 GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN 2024-25

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the submission of the Good Relations Action Plan 2024/25.

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 2024/25.

An annual submission was made by the Council to (TEO) requesting financial assistance for the delivery of a District Council Good Relations Programme Action Plan, a copy of which was also 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 2024/25 Action Plan reflected the priorities identified through the Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2020-25.

The Executive Office 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 2024/25 was £193,161.66.

An amount of £144,871.25, equating to 75% of the Good Relations Action Plan budget had been requested from The Executive Office. Provision of the remaining 25% had been included in the 2024/25 Council estimates towards the delivery of the plan.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Mallon and agreed that

the Good Relations Action Plan 2024-25 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jen Cole Good Relations Co-ordinator

4.6 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF MOSSLEY MILL MEETING ROOMS

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' approval in relation to a request received for the free use of the Spinning Room and Linen Suite at Mossley Mill for a Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) screening event for the general public on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2024.

The waiver of community hire charges for this booking represents lost income of £830 for use of both rooms over the two days. In addition, staffing costs of £141 would be incurred to support the event.

Over the duration of the weekend CRY would screen approximately 200 young adults aged between the age of 14-35 for undiagnosed heart conditions. All registrants would receive an ECG and then if required, an echocardiogram. A doctor would be in attendance to discuss results. Medical personnel and equipment for this event were funded by the National Lottery, but no funding was available for room hire.

In response to a Members question the Director of Community Planning confirmed that the event was targeted at the Greater North Belfast and the Newtownabbey part of the Borough and advised Officers would be engaging with organisers to promote this opportunity to residents.

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

the request for the free use of the Spinning Room and Linen Room at Mossley Mill for a Cardiac Risk in the Young screening event on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning and Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/CD/465 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY PROGRAMME 2023 - REVIEW

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the "Give Our Borough A Gift This Christmas" Switch On Programme which was delivered live in each DEA and streamed online from Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th November 2023.

Following a review of the 2022 programme the following changes for 2023 were approved at the September Community Planning Committee:

- One event per DEA to be delivered each evening from Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th November (excluding Sunday 19th November).
- All events, except those on Saturday 18th and Saturday 25th November were to be delivered from 6-7.30pm. The Saturday events to be delivered from 4.30 – 6pm.
- The switching on of the Christmas Lights to take place during the first half of the 90 minute programme as opposed to the end in order to facilitate those attending with very young children.
- More children activities at each site to include fun fair rides and arts and crafts.
- Reintroduction of a Santa's Grotto/Santa Express Bus.
- Market Stalls to be replaced by food traders and confectionery suppliers of a festive nature.

- A hybrid approach in delivery to continue in order to accommodate the number of online viewers. Live streams to be broadcast from three Switch On Events; Glengormley, Antrim Town, and Ballyclare.

The programme attracted in excess of 15,000 attendees and 103,632 online views as detailed below:

Total Facebook Views: (3 Switch On Events) 46,300

Total YouTube Views: (3 Switch On Events) 2,132

Total Facebook Views: (Promotional Videos) 55,200

Total Views: 103,632

Each event was hosted by a Cool FM presenter and included: school choirs, traditional music groups, bands and other local artists.

In addition, there was a range of family entertainment on offer to include Children's Fun Rides, The Santa Express, Street Entertainment, Festive Food Stalls and Eco Arts and Crafts. There was a short programme of Christmas readings, carols and music following which the Mayor was joined on stage by the school's competition winner and Santa to assist the Mayor light the Christmas tree.

Following the delivery of all 7 events an online evaluation opened on Friday 17th November and closed on Thursday 30th November 2023, providing valuable feedback for future event planning and areas for review in 2024. The survey found that 89% were satisfied with the Switch On Events.

Spirit of Christmas Awards 2023

Members were also reminded of the 'Spirit of Christmas Awards' which were approved by the Committee in September 2023 and launched in November 2023.

In total 65 nominations were received and assessed by officers with the following groups being presented with an award at a celebration event held in Antrim Castle Gardens on Tuesday 19th December 2023:

Light Up Award – TIDAL, Toome

Rockin Around the Christmas Tree Award – Newtownabbey Women's Group

The Reason for the Season Award – The Bridge Association, Antrim

The Making an Entrance Award – Pots of Pleasure, Ballyclare

Traditional Christmas Award – Muckamore Parish Development Association

Eco Angels Award – Creavery Primary School

Mayors Award – Mr David McCrea

A report outlining proposals for Christmas 2024 would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 CP/CD/433 CENSUS 2021 RESULTS

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Census 2021 results.

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.

The following additional updates were now available on the NISRA website:

- Census 2021 main statistics tables for towns and villages (settlements) and Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland
- Census 2021 main statistics tables that include approximated social grade for people living in households in Northern Ireland

In addition to this, the Census 2021 Grid Square product for Northern Ireland was released on 14th December 2023. This product provided census statistics on a range of topics for populated 1 kilometre and 100 metre grid squares in Northern Ireland.

The new Grid Square product was available on the [NISRA website](#) in a range of formats.

The results and further information on Census 2021 were available on the NISRA website; www.nisra.gov.uk/Census2021

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 CP/CP/231 SPORT NI FUNDING TO COUNCILS

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), one of the Council's statutory Community Planning partners, funding to Councils.

Members were reminded that it had been reported at the July Council

meeting that 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 including:

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

An Expression of Interest was completed and submitted in July 2023. The proposed project aimed to strengthen 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.

Members were advised that correspondence circulated had been received from SNI, advising that due to budget limitations the proposed project would not receive funding at this time.

The project met the programme objectives, and if additional funding became available in this financial year, SNI would contact the Council. SNI would keep the project on file until such times as further funding became available.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 CP/CP/18 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2024

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update on Holocaust Memorial Day. Holocaust Memorial Day was remembered annually on 27th January globally and the theme for 2024 is 'Fragility of Freedom'.

The theme highlights what freedom means to different people, how genocide starts with the restriction or removal of freedom and highlights the ten stages of genocide, as identified by Professor Gregory Stanton which demonstrated that genocide never just happens. There was always a set of circumstances which occur, or which were created, to build the climate in which genocide could take place.

Members were reminded that as part of Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 a permanent memorial was created for the Borough, and placed within the Northern Ireland Centenary Garden at Monkstown Jubilee Centre.

It was proposed that the Holocaust Memorial Programme for 2024 would include a remembrance service at Monkstown Jubilee Centre on Sunday 21st January 2024, 2pm - 5pm, and would include a screening of Belfast to Dachau, the Teddy Dixon Story. The event would conclude with a civic ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial followed by a light supper.

Provision for the Holocaust Memorial Day service had been made within the Good Relations Action Plan and budget 2023/24.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the 2024 Holocaust Memorial Day Event be noted.

NO ACTION

The supplementary report was taken at this point of the meeting.

7 CE/CA/002 – BOROUGH LIFE MAGAZINE

The purpose of this report was to seek Members approval to reduce the number of editions of the residents' magazine Borough Life from three to two annually.

The Council's resident magazine Borough Life was currently produced three times per year in January, May and November. An allocation of £150,000 was held in the Chief Executive's budget and this covered the cost of printing 72,000 copies of each edition and all distribution costs including the direct mail of Borough Life to each household in the Borough.

It was proposed to reduce to number of editions of Borough Life from three to two as per the following schedule:

May	To feature Spring into Summer content up to and including Halloween
November	To feature Christmas and Spring content up to and including Easter

This would achieve a cost saving of £50,000 per annum.

In response to Members' questions the Director of Community Planning advised that 72,000 booklets were printed (1 per household) and that a commitment had been made to send by direct mail to all households.

Proposed by Alderman Ross
Seconded by Alderman Michael and agreed

that the proposed reduction in the production of the Borough Life resident's magazine from three editions to two editions be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members expressed their condolences on the passing of Valarie McAdams who had always been heavily engaged in the Peace Projects, PCSP, the Loneliness Network and community life in the Borough.

NO ACTION

Councillor Cooper left the Chamber at this point of the meeting.

In response to a Members question the Director of Community Planning undertook to contact the Lord Lieutenant regarding the place naming's suggested through the Queens Platinum Jubilee and revert back to the Member.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Mallon
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed

that the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.

Councillor Cooper returned to the Chamber at this point of the meeting.

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE AC/EV/003 FOOD NI PROPOSAL FOR GARDEN SHOW IRELAND 2024

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for Food NI to deliver the food element of Garden Show Ireland 2024.

Garden Show Ireland was one of the Council's two flagship large scale events alongside Enchanted Winter Garden and aimed to drive visitors to the Borough with its festival offer of flowers, food and fun.

Members were reminded that Food NI were appointed by the Council to deliver the food element of the event in 2022 and 2023 in return for a payment to the Council.

Food NI had submitted a proposal to deliver the food element of Garden Show Ireland 2024, copy circulated for Member's information, for a fee of £[REDACTED].

In response to a Members question the Director of Community Planning advised that Food NI would be asked to engage local traders for the Garden Show, and agreed to look into catering charges being applied by traders.

Proposed by Alderman Ross

Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

that the appointment of Food NI to deliver the food element of Garden Show Ireland 2024, including payment of £[REDACTED] to the Council, be approved.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning and Samuel Hyndman, Culture and Events Manager

Alderman McGrath left the meeting during the following Item.

6.2 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CD/201 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – PRICING SCHEDULE 2024-2025

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval in relation to the Community Facilities Schedule of Charges proposed for 2024 – 2025.

Members were reminded that a review of Community Planning charges are carried out annually. The current charges were approved by the Committee in February 2023 when it was also approved that officers would review historical pricing anomalies for specific bookings with the aim of phasing these out. Members were advised that the charges applied include both a standard rate and community rate, with the community rate being lower.

Officers had undertaken both a review of current bookings as well as the schedule of charges to allow for a consistent, fair and streamlined approach to Community Facility charges. The proposed pricing schedule for 2024/2025 was circulated for Members' information. The community rate would be available only for voluntary, community and charitable organisations operating within the Council area and groups would be required to evidence their eligible status as part of the booking process.

Free use requests for one off bookings would continue to be accommodated under the relevant policy with any requests which were outside of the Policy brought to the Community Planning Committee for approval.

Members were advised of the following historical pricing anomalies:

- Block booking discount of 25% per hour, for community centre bookings of 10 consecutive weeks or more which does not apply to Pavilion bookings
- Free use applied to Senior Citizen Groups for Pavilion bookings only
- A 75% discount applied to Childcare Group for Pavilion bookings only
- A 50% discount applied to Charities for Pavilion bookings only

It was proposed that all bookings from 1st April 2024 were charged at either the Standard or Community rate, with all other historic pricing arrangements for specific bookings/groups to cease. This would achieve the following:

- Ensure that equitable booking charges were applied at all Community Facilities;
- Improve customer service by simplifying booking options and the booking confirmation process;
- Maximise digital online booking potential, enabling the customer to control their bookings
- Increase revenue by ensuring payments were made online at the point of sale;
- Reduce booking administration time for customers and staff.

In response to Members questions the Head of Community Planning agreed to look into off-peak rates for 3G Pitches and would revert back to Members.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Ward and agreed that

the 2024/2025 Community Facilities Schedule of Charges, including their application to all community facility bookings, be approved.

ACTION BY: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning and Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

6.3 IN CONFIDENCE AC/GEN/001 ARTS AND CULTURE SCHEDULE OF CHARGES 2024/25

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' approval for the updated schedule of charges for the hire of Arts and Culture facilities.

Members were advised that a review of Arts and Culture venue hire charges was carried out annually, with the current Arts and Culture Schedule of Charges agreed at the Community Planning Committee meeting in January 2023. The proposed schedule of charges for 2024/25 was circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Alderman Michael
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the proposed 2024/25 Arts and Culture Schedule of Charges be approved.

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

6.4 IN CONFIDENCE CP/F/CD/1227 OASIS CARING IN ACTION, ANTRIM

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the operation of Oasis Caring in Action Ltd (OCIA Ltd) in Antrim.

The Board of OCIA Ltd had confirmed that they had closed a number of programmes that ran in Antrim over the last two years as a result of a loss of core funding at the end of September 2023. The Board had continued running the programmes for three months beyond this point while they attempted to secure alternative funding. However, on 15 December 2023 the final potential funder advised that they could not provide the required funding. As a result, the majority of the OCIA Ltd programmes in Antrim ceased and their four core staff, who had been on three months' notice, were released from employment.

The Antrim Foodbank run by Oasis would be continuing and was unaffected at this time. Food would continue to be distributed in partnership with Advice NI and a number of local churches, from Main Street in Antrim and satellite locations at Christian Fellowship Church, Antrim, Ballycraigy and Greystone. The Board of OCIA Ltd had advised that they would continue to work throughout January to identify other potential partners who may be able to assist them to recover some of the programmes.

The specific programmes which OCIA Ltd had been running and which had now closed were:

- Syrian Women's Activity Programme
- Mental Health Programmes
- Women's Group
- Be-Friending Scheme

Members were advised that OCIA Ltd had been receiving community grant aid from the Council as follows:

Grants – Community Facilities and Programmes – 3 years Grant Award 2023/26 - £10,000 per year.

Officers had asked the Board of OCIA Ltd to clarify what their intentions were in relation to this funding and if possible any underspend could be used to recover some of the impacted programmes, subject to Members' approval.

Officers were engaging with OCIA Ltd on an ongoing basis in relation to their efforts to identify alternative funding and/or potential partners.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Dunlop and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.5 IN CONFIDENCE AC/GEN/008 and CP/CP/236 FREE USE OF MEETING ROOMS IN ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE AND MOSSLEY MILL

The purpose of this report was to obtain Members' approval for the weekly free use of small meeting rooms in Antrim Civic Centre and Mossley Mill.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Proposed by Alderman Michael
Seconded by Alderman Ross that

[REDACTED]

An amendment was then put forward as follows:

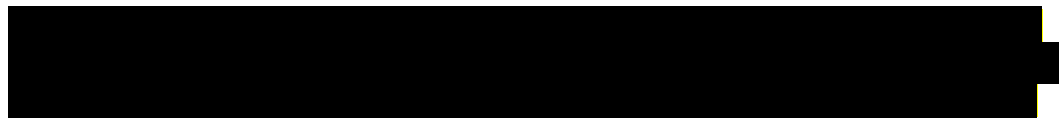
AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor McGrann that the proposal includes "free room booking use be given to any group or organisation focusing on Mental Health Services within Council facilities, subject to availability".

Following further discussion with Members on the free use of meeting rooms policy being reviewed to see how Council could further support mental health groups across the Borough Councillor Ní Chonghaile withdrew the amendment.

On the amendment being withdrawn the substantive proposal was put to the meeting.

Proposed by Alderman Michael
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that



with a review on any future arrangements to be carried out in December 2024 and a report to be brought back to a future meeting.

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

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Alderman Michael and agreed

that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.