



22 February 2023

**To: Each Member of the Council**

Dear Member

**MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBIEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 27 February 2023** at **6.30 pm**.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

**For any queries please contact Member Services:**

028 9448 1301 [memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto: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 30 January 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 6 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee of Tuesday 7 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 13 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 13 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 February 2023, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION
  - 10.1 Consultation on Design Considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland
  - 10.2 Consultation: Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy
  - 10.3 Application for Grant of an Entertainments Licence (Annual Licence) Antrim Royal British Legion, 2 Lough Road, Antrim
  - 10.4 Application for Grant of an Entertainments Licence (Annual Licence) The Railway Bar, 401-403 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey
  - 10.5 Public Consultation on the Principles for Vocational Qualifications in Northern Ireland

- 10.6 Consultation on Level 4 and 5 Provision and Higher Education in further Education
- 10.7 Corporate Affairs Audit Report Summary
- 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING
  - 11.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE
  - 12.1 Steeple Complex Update Report
  - 12.2 Minutes of the Governance Meeting of the Levelling Up Fund Project Board Held on 19 and 25 January 2023.
  - 12.3 Residual Waste Treatment Project (Arc21)

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Bradley  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth

“As we approach International Women’s Day 2023 this Council commits to being a prime organisation for women to be part of and represent. Furthermore, we will work to maintain a deep and continuous focus on equity, diversity and inclusion of women all year round. International Women’s Day provides a key moment to celebrate the achievements of women and highlight the disparity that still exists. We commit to delivery of an annual event to mark International Women’s Day from 2023 onwards”.

## 10 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 10.1 G/MSMO/008 VOL 3 CONSULTATION ON DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR A RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department for the Economy renewable electricity team advising that a consultation has been launched on the design considerations for the development of a renewable electricity support scheme for Northern Ireland.

This consultation is the first step towards the implementation of a support scheme that can ensure electricity generation from a diverse range of renewables in Northern Ireland to deliver on the Northern Ireland Executive's Energy Strategy targets as well as ensure Northern Ireland can effectively attract investors to benefit from green growth opportunities while also protecting consumers from global price shocks.

Full details can be found by clicking on the following link [Design considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#). The consultation closes on 27 April 2023.

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

## 10.2 G/MSMO/008 VOL 3 CONSULTATION: DRAFT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE STRATEGY

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from the Department of Health advising that a consultation has been launched on a draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategy developed jointly by the Department of Health and the Department of Justice.

This consultation seeks views on the content of the proposed strategy which is available on the following link  
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy/> along with a consultation document and response form.

It will be supported by a number of online public engagement events during March. To book for an information event and for further information, please click on [DoH Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#) or [DoJ Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy consultation](#). The consultation responses must be submitted no later than Tuesday 2 May 2023.

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

**10.3 EL/012 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE (ANNUAL LICENCE) ANTRIM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, 2 LOUGH ROAD, ANTRIM**

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence (annual licence) for the following premises:

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Location of Premises</b>	<b>Type(s) and hours of entertainment</b>	<b>File Number</b>	<b>New Application or Renewal</b>
Paul Michael	2 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DG	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind  Monday to Saturday – 11:30am to 11:30pm  Sunday – 12:30pm to 10:30pm  Number of persons No greater than 110	EL012	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- iii. Refuse the licence
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances, a recorded vote will be taken.

**RECOMMENDATION: that an Entertainments Licence (Annual licence) be granted to the applicant, Paul Michael, Antrim Royal British Legion, 2 Lough Road, Antrim, BT41 4DG, with the following conditions;**

- That all relevant licensing requirements are met
- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval

**OPERATING HOURS**

**Monday to Saturday – 11:30am to 11:30pm**

**Sunday – 12:30pm to 10:30pm**

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

Agreed and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

**10.4 EL/206 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE (ANNUAL LICENCE) THE RAILWAY BAR, 401-403 BALLYCLARE ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY**

A new application has been received for the grant of an Entertainments Licence (annual licence) for the following premises:

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Debbie Hill	401-403 Ballyclare Road Newtownabbey BT36 4TH	Singing, Music, dancing or entertainment of a like kind  Monday to Thursday - 11:30am to 11:30pm  Friday to Saturday - 11:30am to 01:00am  Sunday - 11:30am to 12:00am  Number of persons No greater than 100	EL206	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainments Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at a full meeting of the Council.

The Council can decide the following:

- v. Grant the licence
- vi. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions
- vii. Refuse the licence
- viii. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Council makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances, a recorded vote will be taken.

**RECOMMENDATION: that an Entertainments Licence (Annual licence) be granted to the applicant, Debbie Hill, The Railway Bar, 401-403 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, with the following conditions;**

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met**



- That statutory consultees have no objections to approval
- That a satisfactory electrical report is submitted

#### **OPERATING HOURS**

**Monday to Thursday - 11:30am to 11:30pm**

**Friday to Saturday - 11:30am to 01:00am**

**Sunday - 11:30am to 12:00am**

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

Agreed and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

## 10.5 G/MSMO/008/VOL3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Members are reminded that the public consultation on the principles for vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland was published in December 2022 by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The consultation take direction from the determination to work towards the vision for a 10X economy, and aims to define the best approach to take in providing a highly skilled workforce to meet the needs of our small, advanced economy, to improve productivity and to support our role as a global leader in defined sectors. The Council's response to the questions outlined in the paper is to **follow** for Members information.

Vocational qualifications currently underpin a wide range of departmental programmes such as apprenticeships and traineeships and are delivered in a range of educational settings including our network of further education colleges, training organisations, businesses and schools. The purpose of the consultation is to present a set of underpinning principles required to ensure that vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland:

- Continue to support employer-led and high quality programmes and initiatives, including apprenticeships
- Support delivery of DfE's Skills Strategy and support the Department's vision for economic growth
- Provide appropriate learner pathways at all stages that are valued by all key stakeholders including employers, parents, learners, educators and policy makers both in Northern Ireland and elsewhere; and
- Can adapt to market changes brought about by policy decisions in England, and unexpected events such as COVID-19 pandemic

The proposed principles for vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland are the result of extensive research and internal and external stakeholder engagement. CCEA Regulation was commissioned by the Department to undertake a series of research projects including case studies on best practice in vocational education systems and approaches to vocational reform and design principles.

The Department also worked with Edge Foundation to host a series of online workshops where nearly 100 stakeholders representing groups across the sector participated in interactive surveys and plenary discussions on the future of vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. The proposed principles were also subject to review by the Vocational Qualifications Reform Project Board and Skills Council.

The consultation is running simultaneously with the consultation on Level 4 and 5 provision and Higher Education in Further Education. Some of the key principles identified in this consultation may be relevant to the options and recommendations for level 4 and 5 provision and higher education in further education (HE in FE), given much of HE in FE provision is vocationally focussed. The Council is asked to consider reviewing both consultations as they run parallel with future planning education provision.

Members will be aware that the Council's Labour Market Partnership (LMP) is working to improve accessibility of employers to those in the Labour Market locally and to develop the skills base within the Borough. Accordingly apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and traineeships will form a key part of our 23/24 Action Plan. Work is continuing on how the Council can support the long term success of apprenticeships to support the continuing growth of businesses in the Borough, including working with our HE and FE providers and network of training providers.

A copy of the full consultation can be found using the link below;

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/Principles-Vocational-Qualifications-Northern-Ireland-Consultation.pdf>

**RECOMMENDATION: that the enclosed response be approved for submission to the Department.**

Prepared by: Chris Doyle, Investment Officer

Agreed by: Michael McKenna, Head of Investment and Business Development

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

## 10.6 G/MSMO/008/VOL 3 CONSULTATION ON LEVEL 4 AND 5 PROVISION AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN FURTHER EDUCATION

Members are reminded that the consultation on Level 4 and 5 Provision and Higher Education in Further Education was published in November 2022 by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The consultation is seeking views on level 4 and 5 provision and higher education in further education (HE in FE) – these are higher education courses and qualifications, such as foundation degrees, HNDs and HNCs undertaken by learners aged 18 and over.

The provision is primarily vocational in nature, is offered in a range of subject areas and is delivered mostly by further education colleges in partnership with universities and awarding bodies. Qualifications at this level can lead directly into employment or on to further study, including undergraduate degrees. Level 4 and 5 provision and HE in FE is therefore critical in helping to ensure the widest possible range of people can access higher education and it also provides a vital pipeline for our economy to help businesses grow and adapt.

The consultation outlines a range of considerations and proposals including:

- **Purpose and principles-** DfE want to establish a framework to guide future policy and delivery of level 4 and 5 provision and establish a clearly defined role for FE and the HE landscape.
- **Which qualifications to deliver-** Currently the Foundation Degree (a level 5 qualification) is the preferred qualification for delivery in this space. DfE wish to decide whether this should continue to be the case and have proposed two possible ways forward.
- **Who should deliver the HE qualifications-** questions whether the further education colleges should deliver undergraduate degrees (level 6 qualifications) currently this is permitted in exceptional circumstances. With the proposal to retain this position but to set some clear criteria to better help everyone understand when level 6 degrees can be delivered by a FE college.
- **Foundation Degree policy-** two key policy areas are under consideration, a foundation degree must have at least one undergraduate (level 6) on which students can undertake. Should a learner who has successfully completed a Foundation Degree be exempt from the first two years of an undergraduate degree, as this is a degree in its own merit. The Foundation Degree is the Department's preferred higher education qualification at level 4 and 5. With the proposal on alternative options to traditional undergraduate degree pathways, with a focus on technical and professional needs. The other policy area DfE have considered is whether to keep the current policy that FE colleges must partner with a local university in the delivery of Foundation Degrees unless they are unable or unwilling. The proposed option is to set some criteria for when further education colleges can seek a partnership with a university outside of Northern Ireland.
- **Funding for students undertaking level 4 and 5 qualifications-** HE student support funding for level 4 and 5 students is currently restricted to specific qualifications, primarily Foundation Degrees, Higher National Certificates and Diplomas and Certificates and Diplomas of Higher Education. Subject

to a full assessment of cost a proposal for financial support should be available to all qualifications on the Regulated Qualifications Framework which have been subjected to i.e. separate quality assurance process.

If DfE is to deliver the decade of innovation and growth envisaged in 10X and address the skills imbalances highlighted in their Skills Strategy, then the challenges outlined must be addressed and increased including the number of people successfully undertaking learning at Level 4 and 5 through higher education. The consultation paper aims for an education and skills appraisal in Higher Education that delivers widely recognised and valued qualifications, a system that can be agile and responsive to changing economic needs and one that leads to qualified individuals with skills to support our economy and boost its global competitiveness. The Council's response to the questions outlined in the paper is to follow for Members information.

The consultation is running simultaneously with the public consultation on the principles for vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Some of the key principles identified in this consultation may be relevant to the options and recommendations for vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. The Council is asked to consider reviewing both consultations as they run in parallel with the future planning of education provision.

Members will be aware that the Council's Labour Market Partnership (LMP) is working to improve access of employers to those in the labour market locally. Access to a range of training and an academy approach will form a key part of 2023/2024 Action Plan. The Council continues to work closely with education providers to ensure a comprehensive level of provision for level 4 and 5. The Council will be keen that the proposed changes offer the best options to both students and employers, enabling the Borough to attract, train and retain the best employees.

A copy of the full consultation can be found using the link below;

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/Consultation-Level-4-5-Provision-HE-in-FE.pdf>

**RECOMMENDATION: that the enclosed response be approved for submission to the Department for the Economy.**

Prepared by: Chris Doyle, Investment Officer

Agreed by: Michael McKenna, Head of Investment and Business Development

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

## 10.7 CE/CA/001 CORPORATE AFFAIRS AUDIT REPORT SUMMARY

Members are reminded of the new Corporate Affairs Service which was established in April 2022 to increase the profile of the Council.

Members will recall the presentation regarding the progress that has been made to date by this new service which was shared at the Corporate Workshop in November 2022 - <https://vimeo.com/user120103851/profile>

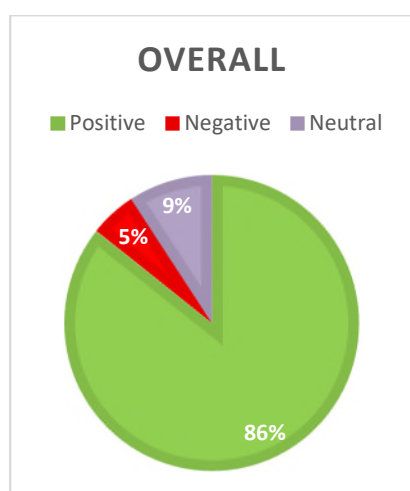
In order to assess the effectiveness of the new service, MCE was appointed to conduct an audit and make recommendations regarding further improvements.

The audit also provided feedback on the Council's website and marketing social media which has already been reported to the Policy and Governance Committee.

In relation to Corporate Affairs, the feedback and proposed priority actions are presented under the following headings;

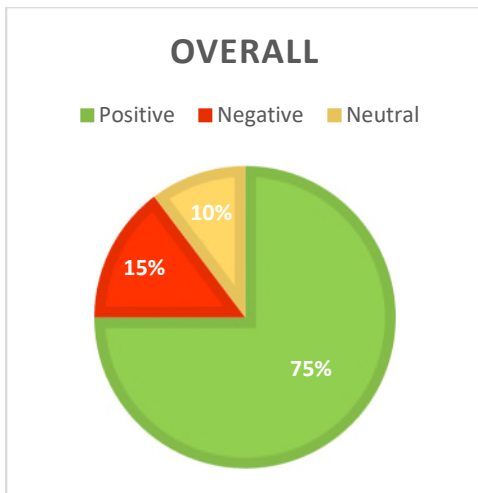
### 1. **COVERAGE ANALYSIS - LOCAL WEEKLY PRESS** - Four news outlets, Newtownabbey Times, Antrim Guardian, North Belfast News and Antrim & Ballymena Times

- ANBC coverage in the local press is overwhelmingly positive – 86% positive



### 2. **COVERAGE ANALYSIS – REGIONAL DAILY PRESS** - Four news outlets, Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Newsletter and Belfast Live.

- The majority of coverage was positive – Overall, 75% of coverage was positive and 15% was negative.

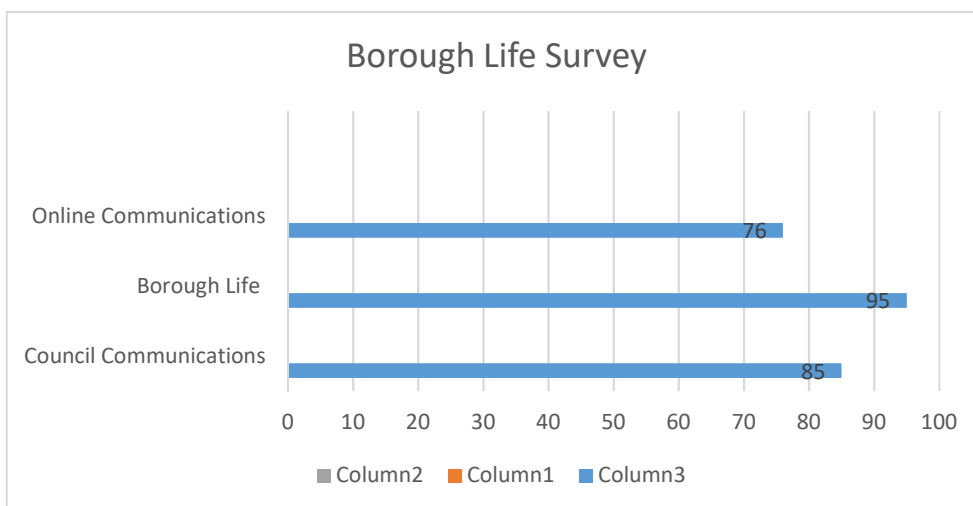


Stories focused on the Economy, Community and Environment featured most often.

**Action: Weekly/Daily Press Coverage** - Continue to maintain and build on the positive news stories and building relationships with press outlets.

### 3 GENERAL PUBLIC – BOROUGH LIFE SURVEY

- c.85% of respondents were extremely, very or just satisfied with how the Council communicates with residents.
- Online is the most popular way to find out about Council services. Social Media was the most popular (76%)
- c.95% were extremely / very or just satisfied with Borough Life although there were some comments about the necessity of printing it.



**Action:** Very positive feedback –continue to review this with further surveys and monitor any recommendations.

#### **4 COMMUNICATION SERVICE USERS (COUNCILLORS & OFFICERS) & SERVICE PROVIDERS**

- Overall the feedback was satisfactory but there were opportunities for improvement which the new Corporate Affairs Service is making good progress. As one Member put it, the service was *“On a journey going in the right direction”*.

#### **5 INTERNAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS**

- The creation of a new Corporate Affairs unit was welcomed and credited with an improvement in activity for major Council initiatives.

**Action:** The Corporate Affairs unit should continue to develop and raise awareness of high level Council initiatives and events.

#### **6 COUNCIL IMAGE**

**Action:** To help address impressions that the Council's image is too 'corporate' there may be scope to promote more positive / human interest stories focused on Council employees and the local community – these can be directed at both press and the Council's own platforms.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The new Corporate Affairs service is performing well and delivering its key objectives which are to promote high profile events, economic development, investment and the high performance of the Council's planning function.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted and the actions approved.**

Prepared by: Jeanette McIntyre, Head of Corporate Affairs

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive



## 11 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 11.1 CE/OA/013 – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Northern Ireland Housing Council for Members' information. A copy of the Northern Ireland Housing Council's February Bulletin and Minutes from their January Meeting are (**enclosed**).

**RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence be noted.**

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive