



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2024 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor R Lynch
- Committee Members** : Aldermen - L Boyle and S Ross
Councillors – M Brady, P Dunlop, N Kelly,
V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, S Ward
and S Wilson
- Non Committee Members** : Councillors - J Burbank, M Goodman and B Webb
- In Attendance In Person** : Lorraine Adamson, Area Manager - Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey (formerly Citizens Advice)
- Officers Present** : Director of Community Planning – U Fay
Head of Community Planning – R McKenna
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events – S Goldrick
IT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer – C McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1. APOLOGIES

Aldermen J McGrath and P Michael
Councillors B Mallon and T McGrann

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.7 – Councillor M Brady
Item 4.8 – Alderman L Boyle
Item 4.10 – Councillor P Dunlop
Item 4.14 – Councillor M Ní Chonghaile

Alderman Boyle left the Chamber during Item 3.1.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 CP/GEN/045 COMMUNITY ADVICE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members of the attendance at Committee of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey (CAAN).

2. Introduction/Background

A presentation from Lorraine Adamson on behalf of (CAAN) was provided to the Committee, a copy of which was circulated for Members' information.

Members' questions were addressed by Ms Adamson and she was commended on the work carried out by her and her team.

Following a request from a Member to share any statistics currently being collated by CAAN with the Council's Anti-poverty Steering Group, Ms Adamson agreed to provide any relevant demographic information to Council.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Adamson for her presentation and she left the Chamber.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the presentation be noted and all information provided by CAAN passed on to the Anti-poverty Steering Group.

*Alderman Boyle returned to the Chamber during Item 4.1.
Councillor O'Lone left the Chamber and returned during Item 4.1.*

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 CP/TD/050 SCHOOL UNIFORM RE-USE SCHEME 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the operation of the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme in 2024, including financial assistance of £200 to each participating group.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme was launched in 2020. The Scheme had a two-fold purpose, to relieve financial pressures on local families and to actively contribute to the reduction of items going to landfill, negating the detrimental impact on the environment.

The 2023 Scheme involved 10 community-based organisations delivering schemes in all 7 District Electoral Area's run by volunteers. Collectively over 7,500 good quality pre-loved school uniforms were received helping over 1,000 families.

In addition to community organisations, 13 schools registered their School Uniform Re-Use Scheme with the Council as part of the collective School Uniform Re-Use Scheme for 2023.

The Mayor hosted a Celebration and Networking Event at Mossley Mill on Monday 5 February 2024 to recognise the success of the community organisations which had participated in the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2023.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that an update on the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2023, including proposals for the 2024 Re-Use Scheme was approved at the October 2023 Community Planning Committee.

Areas to be developed for 2024 included:

- Further promotion of school uniform schemes as well as recording and collection of data in relation to performance of the schemes
- Closer work with schools to develop recording of key data including items donated and families supported
- Exploration of funding opportunities to provide additional support to schemes
- Establishment of a School Uniform Providers Network to share best practise and meet biannually

- Development of a 'Back to School' event in August 2024, involving community providers, schools and Community Planning partners to promote the service

4. Key Issues

It was proposed that the 2024 School Uniform Re-Use Scheme would be launched on the week commencing 3 June 2024 and would be actively promoted across various channels including Borough Life, Social Media and through correspondence to community organisations and schools.

The Scheme would be open for donations from 10 June to 28 June 2024 and then close to allow organisations time to sort and prepare donations. The Scheme would re-open for uniform collections from 22 July to 2 September 2024.

A total of 9 community-based organisations representative of each DEA have committed to participating in this year's scheme. A list of the community-based organisations was provided for Members' information:

DEA	School Uniform Scheme Provider
AIRPORT	A Safe Space to be Me: Crumlin Hub
ANTRIM	1 st Antrim Presbyterian
BALLYCLARE	The United Parish -St John's Ballyclare & Christchurch
DUNSILLY	TIDAL – Toome House
GLENGORMLEY URBAN	Carnmoney Presbyterian Church Community Relations Forum Fit Moms & Kids
MACEDON	Listening Ear – Dunanney Centre
THREEMILEWATER	Monkstown Village Centre

Members were advised that Officers had established a School Uniform Providers Network. The first meeting of the network took place on Wednesday 20 March, actions from which included:

- The development of a School Uniform Scheme Brand
- A targeted communication approach specifically streamlining information relating directly to each scheme

- Exploration of linkages with other statutory bodies. Libraries NI had agreed to take part in a 'pilot' within three Libraries (Antrim, Glengormley and Ballyclare) to act as a donation point for school uniforms.

Officers had developed a Find a School Uniform webpage located on the Councils website that provides a school uniform database, which would assist residents identifying uniforms that correspond to each school within the Borough.

5. Financial Position/Implication

It was proposed that the Council contributed up to a maximum of £200 per scheme, similar to last year to support groups with administration, promotion and storage. Officers had identified provision for 9 groups at a total cost of £1,800 within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the School Uniform Re-Use Scheme 2024, including financial assistance of £200 to each participating group, be approved.

ACTION BY: Claire McAuley, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

4.2 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 15 April 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Anti-Poverty Steering Group sought to bring together a group of Elected Members and Officers to create a more cohesive and coordinated response to tackling poverty within the Borough.

The establishment of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group aimed to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy creating a single guiding strategic framework that provided, but not limited to;

- Agency for residents
- Fostering of economic empowerment
- Maximising stakeholder partnership opportunities
- Enhancing social inclusion
- Improved access to essential services for residents

3. Previous Council decision

Members were reminded that Community Planning Committee approved the Terms of Reference for the Anti-Poverty Steering Group on 11 March 2024.

4. Governance

Members were advised that the Steering Group elected a Chair and a Vice Chair from within the Elected Members at the first meeting held 15 April.

Officers would provide all secretarial and administrative services. The appropriate Officers from the relevant sections would attend meetings and present reports to the Steering Group.

Minutes of meetings would be reported at the earliest opportunity to the next available Community Development Committee.

5. Partnership Minutes

Members were advised that the first meeting of the Steering Group was held in Mossley Mill on Monday 15 April. The draft minutes of the meeting were circulated for Members' approval.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Ní Chonghaile and agreed that

the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 15 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

4.3 **AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 17 April 2024.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the role of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group was to promote, develop and organise the annual Ballyclare May Fair. The specific role of the May Fair Working Group was set out as follows:

- To advise the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare Community and wider Borough Community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair

- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community Planning Committee. Membership consists of all Ballyclare DEA Elected Members, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and up to five non-elected voluntary members who are actively involved in the local community.

3. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 17 April 2024 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 17 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

4.4 **AC/EV/015 MRS JOAN CHRISTIE CVO, OBE LEGACY BURSARY SCHEME 2024 (GRANT FUNDING)**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for an amendment to the terms of reference of the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme by widening the eligibility criteria in relation to the horticulture awards so that they are open to all schools in the Borough.

2. Introduction/Background

The Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme was established in 2019 on the occasion of Mrs Christie's retirement from her role as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant. The annual scheme provided eight awards of £1,000 each, with two awards given to talented young musicians from the Borough, two awards given to young volunteers from the Borough and their group or organisation that they volunteer with, and two awards given to special schools in the Borough for use in horticultural projects.

To apply for a bursary, applicants must complete a short form. A shortlisting exercise would be carried out by officers, and interviews with shortlisted candidates would then carried out by a panel made up of one Elected Member from each political party and chaired by Mrs Christie's daughter, Harriett Roberts.

Applications would be open in early June 2024 and closed in late August 2024. Interviews would take place in September 2024 with the awards being presented at a celebratory lunch at the Theatre at the Mill in October.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was agreed at the August 2018 Council meeting to establish the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme to be delivered on an annual basis from 2019. The 2023 scheme was approved at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee, and the terms of reference of the scheme were last amended and approved at the June 2023 Council meeting.

4. Proposed amendments to the 2024 scheme

Although previous awards had been popular and successful, the third award category – the Special Schools Bursary for Horticultural Projects – had limited appeal due to the small number of schools who were eligible to apply. To address this while retaining a meaningful connection to horticulture for young people with special needs, it was proposed to broaden the eligibility criteria to include all primary and post-primary schools wanting to undertake a horticulture project focusing specifically on the needs of pupils with special needs. This proposal was supported by Mrs Christie's daughter, Harriett Roberts.

A second change to this year's scheme was the introduction of a mentoring programme for young musicians who were shortlisted for a bursary. Any young musician reaching the interview stage would be eligible to join this programme and receive free support, advice, and potentially performance opportunities through pairing up with professional musicians and promoters and previous bursary award winners around the Borough. The mentoring scheme would be managed by Arts and Culture officers using professional musicians who regularly perform at Council events, and mentors would participate in the scheme on a voluntary basis.

The proposed revised terms and conditions for the scheme were circulated for Members' information.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Funding for the eight bursaries awarded through the scheme were included in the 2024/25 budget estimates.

The Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events addressed Members' questions around the proposed mentoring scheme and assured Members that, should further funding be required, a report would be brought back to Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

(a) the revised terms of reference for the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme be approved;

(b) the proposed mentoring scheme for talented young musicians shortlisted for the Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme be approved.

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

4.5 CP/CP/214 ARMED FORCES DAY 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 24 April 2024.

2. Background

Armed Forces Day 2024 would take place at Jordanstown Loughshore Park on Saturday 22 June. This would be the first time that the event had been held in the Borough since 2016, when it took place in Antrim Castle Gardens.

The theme of Armed Forces Day would be Veterans and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and the event would be filled with entertainment, military displays, stalls, live demonstrations and family fun.

A Military Working Group meets monthly to co-ordinate the specific military aspects of the event, and a Council Working Group also meets monthly to oversee the delivery of Armed Forces Day in its entirety.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The delivery of Armed Forces Day 2024 on Saturday 22 June was approved at the June 2023 Council meeting when it was agreed to establish a Working Group.

4. Working Group Meeting

Members were advised that the Armed Forces Day 2024 Working Group met on 24 April 2024 in Mossley Mill. The minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Following a question from a Member the Director of Community Planning gave assurances to Members that a comprehensive integrated marketing plan and public relations plan had been developed for the event and that the frequency of Council's social media activity would increase as the event date approaches.

Members sought clarification regarding the reference in the Armed Forces Day Working Group minutes to the proposal that delegated authority be given to Officers to increase the budget as necessary.

The Director of Community Planning clarified that the Working Group minutes in respect of this were not a correct interpretation of what was discussed at the Working Group and that the correct intention was to provide Officers with the flexibility regarding spend within the approved budget. The Director confirmed that there is no increase in the budget delegated to Officers and further confirmed that should there be a requirement to increase the budget Elected Member approval would be sought through Committee.

Councillor Ní Chonghaile requested that it be noted in the minutes that the Working Group minutes are not accurate regarding the delegated authority to Officers. The Chair said that Councillor Ní Chonghaile's comments would be noted.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed that

the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Working Group meeting of 24 April 2024 be approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

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

4.6 CP/CD/444 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY SENIORS' FORUM

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report.

2. Introduction/Background

Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum aims to relieve poverty, advance education and promote the preservation and protection of health among seniors (50+) in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and its environs.

They provide facilities and programmes in the interests of social welfare for the education, recreation and leisure time for senior citizens. Officers had continued to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners (NIHE, PHA, and NHSCT) to manage the service level agreement.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that, at the April 2023 Committee Meeting, it was agreed to provide funding of £15,000 for the 2023/24 financial year to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum. As part of the corresponding Service Level Agreement, the Forum were tasked with providing quarterly performance reports.

The 2023/24 Quarter 3 Performance Report was approved at the February Community Planning Committee and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were advised provision of £15,000 financial support for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum was provided for in the 2023/24 Community Planning budget. Other Community Planning partners also provided a financial commitment to support this group as outlined below;

Community Planning Partner	Financial contribution to Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum 2023/24
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	£15,000
Public Health Agency	£15,000
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	£15,000

5. Governance

Officers would continue to work with the Forum and Community Planning partners to manage the Service Level Agreement and performance of this Group. A quarterly performance report was provided to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Quarter 4 Report was circulated for Members' information and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

Following a request by a Member regarding the number of people currently engaging with the project, the Director agreed to provide this at the next Quarterly Report.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors' Forum Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report be approved and statistics provided as requested.

ACTION BY: Conor Cunning, DEA Engagement Manager

4.7 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRIVE PROJECT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report.

2. Introduction

The THRiVE Project was a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help

children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was previously agreed at the July 2022 Council Meeting that a quarterly performance report on The THRiVE Project be provided to the Community Planning Committee from September 2022.

4. Financial Position/Implication

Members were reminded that, it had been agreed at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee, to provide £25,000 in financial assistance to THRiVE for 2023/24 subject to a quarterly performance report being provided.

5. Governance

Elected Members from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA were nominated to serve on the THRiVE Board at the Annual Council Meeting on 30 May 2023 with Cllr Brady and Cllr Gilmour nominated for their respective DEA's to serve on the Board for 2023/24.

Officers would continue to work with the THRiVE Project and Community Planning partners to manage the performance of the Project. Quarterly performance reports would continue to be reported to the Community Development Committee.

6. Summary

The Thrive Live issue had been circulated. The Quarter 4 Report was circulated for Members' information and was based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement.

A Member's request that clarification was sought from Barnardo's that they would not be removing funding for the THRiVE Project in the next financial year was noted.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Alderman Ross and agreed that

the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2023-24 performance report be approved and clarification sought from Barnardo's that funding would remain for the THRiVE Project over the next financial year.

ACTION BY: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Arts and Heritage Grant Aid Programme was to provide support to individuals and constituted groups based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote a range of art forms and heritage projects.

Arts grants were available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production of art work
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of an event or festival, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public
- The attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification

Heritage grants were available for projects under the following categories:

- New group seeding
- The production or development of a heritage product, such as publication or exhibition which must relate to local history
- Participation in specialist training or study
- The delivery of a heritage event, which must be held in the Borough and open to the public

To be successful, applicants must score a minimum of 50% in their application and all proposed awards were subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation. The programme would operate on a rolling basis linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year was exhausted.

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

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

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

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

Group / Individual Name	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Proposed Amount Awarded
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Mia White	Arts Support for individuals - the attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	<p>The applicant was a young violinist who had been accepted through audition to attend a one-week residential course in Greenmount College Antrim with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, finishing with two performances in the Derry-Londonderry Guildhall on Friday 16 August and the Ulster Hall Belfast on Saturday 17 August. Funding would assist in part payment towards the residential course. In return, the applicant had offered to play the violin at an event of the Council's choosing.</p> <p>NB – this applicant and the applicant below are sisters who hope to attend the residential course together.</p>	85%	£408.75
Young person under the age of 18 living in the Borough	Arts Support for individuals - the attendance or participation in an arts event either by invitation or qualification.	<p>The applicant was a young cellist who had been accepted through audition to attend a one-week residential course in Greenmount College Antrim with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, finishing with two performances in the Derry-Londonderry Guildhall on Friday 16 August and the Ulster Hall Belfast on Saturday 17 August. Funding would assist in part payment towards the residential course. In return, the applicant had offered to play the cello at an event of the Council's choosing.</p> <p>NB – this applicant and the applicant above are sisters who hope to attend the residential course together.</p>	85%	£408.75

5. Financial Position

The budget available for Arts and Heritage Grants in 2024/2025 was £14,000. The total amount proposed for the above awards was £817.50, leaving a balance of £13,182.50 to fund any future applications in the current financial year.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the two Arts and Heritage Grant applications totalling £817.50 be approved.

ACTION BY: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

4.9 **AC/ACG/012 USE OF EVENT GAZEBOS BY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for a new procedure to allow community, voluntary and charitable groups to continue to use the Council's event gazebos.

2. Introduction/Background

In 2019, the Council's Rural Development Team (Grow South Antrim) availed of external funding to invest in portable gazebos for use in relation to the delivery of a wide range of Council events. There are currently 25 such gazebos, 3m by 3m in size, held by the Council's events team and used as required for Council events.

Requests to borrow the gazebos by various external organisations who were delivering activities and events across the Borough have been increasing in recent years.

To date, officers in the Council's Parks and Property Services teams had been able to manage the delivery and collection of these gazebos. This however was no longer possible given the volume of requests and impact upon the duties of these teams. In order to continue this practice, external contractors would be required to transport the gazebos for the groups at a cost of approximately £300 on each occasion.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that a report was brought to the April 2024 Committee and it was agreed the item would be deferred and a report with options be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

4. Way Forward

Officers, having considered options, were proposing to implement a hire procedure, which would enable groups to continue to use the gazebos for

free provided they could make their own arrangements for collecting and returning them.

It was proposed that the procedure operates as follows:

- Groups complete an online application for loan of the gazebos (circulated for Members' information);
- Groups make their own arrangements for the collection, erection and return of the gazebos which were stored at the Environmental Services Depot in Antrim;
- Groups must pay a deposit of £50 per gazebo which would be fully refundable providing gazebos are returned in the same condition as when loaned; (Members were asked to note that a replacement gazebo costs approximately £500);
- Groups must have their own insurance and sign a liability disclaimer form (see circulated form);
- Groups would be provided with full instructions in relation to the safe transport, erection and dismantling of the gazebos. If required groups could be provided with a practical demonstration;
- Gazebos when collapsed can be transported in an estate car

It was proposed that only community, voluntary or charitable groups based in the Borough could avail of this service and gazebos would not be available for use by private bodies or business organisations.

A Member thanked Officers for the revised proposal.

In response to a Member's query regarding the deposit system, the Director of Community Planning explained that upon return of the gazebos, there would be a visual inspection and examination of the gazebos' condition carried out, with the deposit returned if all was in order.

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

the procedure outlined above to allow community, voluntary or charitable groups to continue to loan gazebos from the Council be approved.

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

4.10 AC/GEN/008 FREE USE OF OLD COURTHOUSE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that the Bridge Association in Antrim was given permission to use the Old Courthouse free of charge for two days of rehearsal before a fundraising performance on 5 July 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

The Bridge Association is an Antrim-based not-for-profit organisation providing vocational training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ years.

The Bridge Vocational Training Unit had been operational in Antrim town since 1988 and moved into new, purpose built premises in 2004. The Unit was committed to providing high quality vocational training opportunities to adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ years and currently offered accredited courses which are tailored to suit the ability and needs of each individual trainee in 3 key areas encompassing catering, retail and horticulture/propagation. Trainees could also avail of courses in personal development, information technology and numeracy/literacy to encourage them to recognise their full potential in all aspects of their daily living.

The Bridge Association had booked the Old Courthouse for a fundraising night on 5 July, and officers had agreed a 75% hire discount in accordance with the Council's Policy. In order to allow their members time to get used to the theatre surroundings and to give them sufficient time to prepare for their performance, the Association had asked for the opportunity to rehearse in the theatre for two days on 3 and 4 June.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The Bridge Association had not previously asked to use Council venues for free, but permission had previously been granted by the Committee for the free use of venues by other organisations. The last such approval was given at the February 2024 Committee for the free use of the Courtyard Theatre by the Education Authority.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The waiver of community hire charges for the two rehearsal days represented potential lost income of £600. No additional staffing costs are anticipated for these days.

The usual community rate for hire of the Old Courthouse is £300 and the group had been offered a 75% discount of this, which was £225. Staff costs of £215 would be incurred to deliver this event against an income of £75.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the Bridge Association in Antrim be given permission to use the Old Courthouse free of charge for two days of rehearsal before a fundraising performance on 5 July 2024.

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

4.11 CP/CD/476 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME SMALL GRANTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS 2024/25

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

The Small Grants Programme provides financial assistance to groups with the Borough towards seeding costs, public and employer's liability insurance, small items of equipment or an activity.

3. Previous Decision of Council

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

Members were advised that groups who apply 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 2024/25 financial year.

In December 2019, Members agreed that from 1 April 2020 all Small Grant requests of £500 (now £1,000 approved by Council in October 2021) 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.

4. Financial Implication

Members were advised that a provision of £15,000 financial support for the Small Grants Programme had been provided for in the 2024/25 Community Planning budget. During the month of April 5 applications totalling £4,818.55 were received and assessed by Officers with details circulated for Members' information.

A Member commended the work of the Groups and noted how beneficial the small grant of £1,000 would be.

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed that

the 5 Small Grant applications requesting a total of £4,818.55 be approved.

ACTION BY: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

4.12 CP/CD/442 VOLUNTEERS WEEK 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to support Volunteers Week 2024.

2. Introduction

Volunteers' Week is an annual event, which sees charities, voluntary groups, social organisations, and volunteers themselves come together to recognise the incredible impact that volunteering had in communities around the UK.

Volunteers' Week would run from the 3-9 June and would be brought to a close by the Big Help Out (7-9 June) giving organisations the opportunity to not only show their appreciation but also encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. This year would mark the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week.

3. Key issues

Members were advised that Volunteer Now would provide resources through its website to support organisations to recognise and thank their volunteers. Case studies and stories from both organisations and volunteers would be shared online during the course of the week.

Volunteer Now had requested that the Council join with them in promoting one or all of the following initiatives within the Borough:

- Promotion of Volunteer Week events on the Council website and social media platforms.
- A light up of civic buildings purple on Monday 3rd June 2024 to celebrate the start of Volunteer Week.
- Promote organisations on the Council website and social media platforms who had existing volunteering opportunities.
- Use of the Council website and social media platforms to publicise 'volunteering good news stories' from across the Borough leading up to and following Volunteer Week.
- Creation of awareness and promotion of The Big Lunch facilitated by the Eden Project. The Eden Project were able to offer food vouchers to support events, particularly aimed at those who might not otherwise have the resources to host an event.

Council Officers had taken into consideration all of the above initiatives and would propose that participation in all of them be approved.

In addition, it was proposed that Council supports the promotion of two volunteer led events in the Borough:

- Hazelbank Park – A community clean up supported by Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum, on Tuesday 4 June

- Antrim Castle Garden – A community clean up supported by the Friends of Antrim Castle Gardens on Friday 7 June

4. Financial Position/Implication

The total approximate cost for hospitality to support the two events listed was £300. Officers had identified provision for the cost within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget.

5. Summary

Volunteers' Week would run from the 3-9 June giving organisations the opportunity to not only show their appreciation but also encourage more people to get involved in volunteering. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week. It was proposed that the Council shows its support for Volunteers Week and Volunteers by delivering a range of initiatives and community events as outlined.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

Council supports Volunteers Week 2024 and that the Civic Buildings be lit up in purple on Monday evening 3 June 2024 to celebrate the start of Volunteers Week.

ACTION BY: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

4.13 **CP/PCSP/087 PCSP SUMMER/SCHOOL HOLIDAY INTERVENTION 2024**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the free use of Council facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that the Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) delivers a youth intervention programme annually during July and August.

BEAT ('Be Educated, Be Active, Be Together') was designed to be more than a conventional summer scheme by engaging with detached young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and providing a mix of positive physical, developmental and educational activities.

Young people would be encouraged to participate in activities that include drugs/alcohol awareness, fire safety, team building, mental health awareness, developing healthy inter-personal relationships, arts and music, good relations, and sports.

The programme would operate in a number of areas across the Borough, delivering diversionary activities to young people 2-3 nights per week in the evening across 6-8 weeks of the summer period.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that free use of Council facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August 2023 was approved at the April 2023 Community Planning Committee. The Council had historically supported the annual BEAT programme through the free use of facilities for the delivery the programme.

4. Key Issues

The BEAT programme would be targeted in areas within the Borough that are highlighted and agreed through a multi-agency forum (PCSP Children and Young Person's Steering Group), as they are experiencing increased levels of anti-social behaviour.

Members were advised that Officers had engaged with the Education Authority Youth Service to work collaboratively to deliver the BEAT Programme, utilising EA buildings and staff with the PCSP programming and funding the activities.

Local community groups would be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process to ensure local ownership and support for the programme.

Delivery agents would be tasked with engaging local youth providers and community groups to secure their involvement and provide greater long-term engagement and relationship building opportunities for the young people within their own communities.

Historically, the Council had supported the annual BEAT programme through the free use of facilities including Community, Leisure and Parks in areas that BEAT would be operating. Free use of facilities would be subject to availability with no regular activities or bookings displaced.

5. Financial Position/Implication

Provision of £20,000 had been made within the 2024/25 Community Planning budget for the delivery of the Summer BEAT Programme. An application to the NIHE Community Safety Fund for £12,000 had been submitted and the outcome would be reported to a future Committee.

If PCSP were required to pay for the Council facilities, the scope of the programme would have to reduce accordingly.

6. Governance

The BEAT programme would be managed by the PCSP, involving collaboration with Community Planning partners including Education Authority and the PSNI.

7. Summary

The BEAT Programme was designed to provide diversionary and educational activities to children aged 11+, at a time when other school, uniformed and sporting activities reduced or stopped, thereby addressing and reducing anti-social behaviour across the summer months.

To support the delivery of this summer's BEAT programme it was proposed to permit free use of Council facilities including Community, Leisure and Parks in areas that BEAT would be operating.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the free use of facilities, subject to availability, for the Summer BEAT programme during July and August 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager

4.14 CP/PP/016 PEACEPLUS FORAS NA GAELIGE/ULSTER UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP REQUEST IRISH AND ULSTER SCOTS LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the Council to indicate in principle support for participation in a proposed PEACEPLUS Project being led by Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University, with an application for funding to PEACEPLUS 1.3 Building Positive Relations being submitted to SEUPB by 13 June 2024.

2. Introduction/Background

Correspondence had been received from Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster University, who were leading a project consortium to develop a funding application to the PEACEPLUS Theme 1.3 Building Positive Relations programme, copy of which was circulated for Members' information. They had requested that the Council indicated in principle if it would like to participate in the proposed project.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were reminded that it was agreed in principle at the Council meeting in August 2023 to partner 4C UR Future in relation to their Employability Skills Awareness and Development Programme funding application to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 3.1. It was also agreed

that any partnership agreement be brought back to a future meeting of the Community Planning Committee for approval.

Members were also reminded that it was reported to the Community Planning Committee in October 2023 that Monkstown Boxing Club had submitted an application for The Box project to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 1.4. It was agreed that a letter of support for the project from the Council be approved retrospectively.

4. Key Issues

This project consortium includes:

- Ulster University
- Foras na Gaeilge
- The Ulster Scots Agency
- East Belfast Mission
- Comhaltas Ulaadh
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- Galway University

The project aims to improve community relations in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland by promoting mutual respect for Irish and Ulster Scots language and heritage. The proposed project would run for four years from January 2025 - December 2028.

The project would focus on three main activities for building positive relations:

- (1) Organising community level discussion workshops with participants from all sections of society.
- (2) Improving the capacity of local authorities to deal sensitively with language and culture issues.
- (3) Actively engaging young people in discussing the shared, indigenous heritage of Northern Ireland and the border region.

It was proposed that a bespoke Continuous Professional Development course would be developed for Council employees. This CPD course would focus on raising awareness of basic facts relating to Irish and Ulster Scots and on providing Council staff with the know-how to deal sensitively with language and culture issues.

In conjunction with the CPD course, the project proposed to work with Council's Good Relations officers to develop protocols for supporting citizens who wished to communicate with council staff through the medium of Irish or Ulster Scots.

The Council had been invited to join the project as an Associate Partner and to work with the consortium on activity 2.

5. Financial Position

There was no request for any financial contribution from the Council for this project.

5. Governance

Should the project be successful in its funding application to SEUPB for PEACEPLUS funding then a partnership agreement outlining the role of the Council as an Associate Partner would be drawn up and brought to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee for approval.

6. Summary

Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University, who were leading a project consortium on a funding application to SEUPB PEACEPLUS Investment area 1.3 Building Positive Relations, had requested that the Council indicate in principle if it would agree to being an Associate Partner of the project. The project aimed to improve community relations in Northern Ireland and the border Counties of Ireland by promoting mutual respect for Irish and Ulster Scots language and heritage over a four year term running from January 2025 to December 2028. There was no request for any financial contribution from the Council. If the project was successful in its funding application then a partnership agreement between the Council and the project consortium would be drawn up and brought to a future meeting for approval.

The Director of Community Planning clarified that this report sought agreement from Members that the Council become an Associate Partner with Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University and that should their PEACEPLUS application be successful, a partnership agreement would then be drawn up and brought back to Committee for Members' approval.

A Member's comment regarding Council's support of all Groups applying for PEACEPLUS funding and identifying other eligible groups, due to the potential substantial benefits to the Borough, were noted.

Proposed by Councillor O'Lone

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

an agreement in principle to be an Associate Partner with Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster University in relation to their PEACEPLUS application to SEUPB Investment Area 1.3 Building Positive Relations, be approved, with any partnership agreement to be brought back to a future meeting of the Community Development Committee for approval.

ACTION BY: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

5. ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 CP/GEN/051 CHIEF OFFICERS 3RD SECTOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Chief Officers 3rd Sector Leadership Awards.

2. Background

The Chief Officers 3rd Sector (CO3) Leadership Awards shine a spotlight on the exceptional leaders and initiatives that make a significant impact on the community.

The Chief Officers 3rd Sector (CO3) Awards bring people together to witness each other's achievements and gain recognition for the hard work that had made a difference in the communities they serve.

Earlier this year, Lynda Kennedy, Community Programmes Manager, was nominated in the 'Leading Cross Sectoral Initiatives' category.

Lynda, was nominated in recognition to her commitment to ensuring the successful delivery of the Peace IV Building Positive Relations Cultural Expressions Programme that comprised of;

- The Key Institutions Programme
- The Key Institutions Cross Border Programme
- The Williamite programme

Over 170 participants completed the programme receiving accredited and non-accredited training, fostering a network of collaboration on common issues whilst developing new relationships.

3. Chief Officers 3rd Sector Awards Ceremony

Members were advised that winners were officially announced on 14 March, at an Awards ceremony at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

Lynda was highly commended in the 'Leading Cross Sectoral Initiatives' category.

The Chairperson and Members congratulated Lynda Kennedy on receiving this award and thanked her for her continued efforts.

Proposed by Councillor Dunlop

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and agreed that

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

6. ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE CP/CF/008 BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT GROUP – QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an update on the quarterly performance of Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group for the Service Management of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that there are 9 Community Facilities, including Mossley and Lillian Bland Pavilions managed by the Community Planning Section as follows;

- Greystone Community Centre
- Muckamore Community Centre
- Parkhall Community Centre
- Rathenraw Community Centre
- Stiles Community Centre
- Neillsbrook Community Centre
- Dunanney Centre
- Mossley Pavilion
- Lillian Bland Pavilion

Three Community Facilities were currently managed under Service Management Agreements with community organisations operating the facilities in partnership with the Council. Details of the Service Management Agreements were listed for Members information.

Facility	Operator	SMA Period
Monkstown Jubilee Centre	Monkstown Community Association	1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025
The Sovereign Complex	Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Ltd	1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025
Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff	Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group	1 Jan 2024 to 31 st Dec 2024

3. Previous Decision of Council

Members were also reminded that on completion of the Community Centres Capacity Building Programme it was approved at the September 2023 Committee that the Council enters into a Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month trial period, including an annual grant of £15,000.

Members were reminded that the Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate The Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff commencing on 1 January 2024, was approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The Service Management Agreement with Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group to operate the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff for an initial 12-month trial period, included an annual grant of £15,000 from the Council with the Group retaining all income generated. The Council was responsible for the maintenance and servicing of the building, waste collection, grass cutting of the outside area and insurance for the building and the Group was responsible for electric, gas, water and all insurances (contents, public liability and employer's liability).

5. Governance

Officers would continue to work with the Group to manage the Service Management Agreement including performance of the Group and had conducted monthly centre visits during the period as part of this and a quarterly performance report was circulated for Members' information.

6. Summary

The Quarterly Performance Report showed that the number of block bookings per week had increased over the period from 6.25 to 12.25. In addition, the number of attendances on a weekly basis had increased from 115 to 263 with 3 additional volunteers now involved in the operation of the facility. The Group had advised that they generated £3,120 income from bookings during this period.

Proposed by Councillor Brady

Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

the quarterly performance report for Ballyduff Community Redevelopment Group for the Service Management of the Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff be approved.

NO ACTION

6.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** CP/CD/435 SOCIAL SUPERMARKET AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2024-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to continue to deliver a Social Supermarket in the Borough in partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey and a Family Support Programme in partnership with Save the Children.

2. Introduction/Background

Social Supermarkets are community driven shops which support those living in food poverty. They supply low cost food sourced from the charity FareShare and donations from local businesses. The aim of a Social Supermarket model was to offer a longer term and sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to address the root causes of poverty rather than simply providing food.

The initial process to develop a Social Supermarket for the Borough commenced in June 2022 with a Consultant carrying out a feasibility study which included stakeholder engagement, focus groups, meetings with Elected Members and best practise visits with a view to designing a viable Social Supermarket model for the Borough.

3. Previous Decision of Council

It was agreed at the Community Planning Committee in October 2022 that Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey (CAAN) be engaged through a service level agreement to deliver an interim Social Supermarket for the Borough at a cost of £[REDACTED]. It was also agreed to provide £[REDACTED] to Save the Children for delivery of wrap-around family support programme to eligible families with match funding of £[REDACTED] each being provided by Save the Children and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

The interim Social Supermarket model opened in November 2022 and an update report was noted at the January 2023 Community Planning Committee.

At the Community Planning Committee in April 2023 an update on the Social Supermarket pilot was noted and the continuation of both programmes in partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey and Save the Children, at the same level, was approved subject to the provision of funding support from the Department for Communities.

4. Performance Review 2023/2024

The following statistics had been provided by CAAN and Save the Children in relation to the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme in 2023/2024:

Social Supermarket (April 2023 to March 2024)

- 2029 people (1154 adults and 885 children) supported through the Social Supermarket
- 931 households had accessed the Social Supermarket from all DEA's
- 623 households had benefitted from support with gas and electric
- 69 households had engaged in budgeting and specialist debt advice
- 161 households had been referred/signposted to other support services
- £105,000 + food vouchers had been issued
- 102 Households financially better off from benefit checks
- £384,000 + income generated for Social Supermarket clients
- 83% of people accessing service felt they were better off in the longer term for the help they received

Family Support Programme (April 2023 to March 2024)

- 89 families supported
- 178 children supported
- Over 700 new Christmas toys provided
- Over 200 reading books provided
- Over 120 schoolbags and stationery provided
- £36,470 of vouchers and early learning support packs provided

5. Financial Position/Implication

To date funding for the Social Supermarket had been provided by the Department for Communities through its specific Social Supermarket funding stream and general community support funding.

Members were reminded that it was reported to the April 2024 Community Planning Committee that the Department for Communities had written to the Council advising that in the absence of a budget settlement temporary three month funding support would be in place to 30 June 2024 based upon 2023/2024 funding levels. This funding support would cover the ongoing delivery of the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme.

In 2023/2024, £ [REDACTED] was allocated to CAAN for delivery of the Social Supermarket and £ [REDACTED] to Save the Children for delivery of the Family Support Programme. Save the Children and the Northern Health and Social care Trust continued to provide match funding of £ [REDACTED] each giving a total fund of £ [REDACTED] for this programme.

6. Governance

Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey had been engaged through a Service Level Agreement, which includes within provision for CAAN to refer families to the Family Support Programme being delivered by Save the Children. Save the Children had been engaged through a Letter of Offer, which included funding conditions.

A draft Service Level Agreement for delivery of a Social Supermarket by CAAN in 2024/2025 was circulated for Members' information.

7. Summary

Both the Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme had been very successful and provided significant support to families and individuals across the Borough during a time of need. With a budget now agreed by the Executive confirmation from the Department in relation to whole year funding was anticipated in the near future.

Given the performance review outcomes, it was proposed to continue both programmes in their current form as follows:

- Funding of £[REDACTED] to be allocated to CAAN to deliver the Social Supermarket for the Borough in 2024/25 as set out in the Service Level Agreement
- Funding of £[REDACTED] to be allocated to Save the Children to continue to deliver the Family Support Programme in the Borough, with match funding of £[REDACTED] from both Save the Children and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust anticipated as in the previous year.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile

Seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed that

- (a) the ongoing engagement of Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey through Service Level Agreement to deliver a Social Supermarket in 2024/2025 including funding of £[REDACTED] be approved;**
- (b) the ongoing engagement of Save the Children to deliver the complementary Family Support Programme in 2024/2025, including funding of £[REDACTED], be approved;**
- (c) a further report on rest of year funding offer from the Department for Communities be brought to a future meeting.**

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Dunlop 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 at this meeting and for their support and attendance during the term and the meeting concluded at 7.27 pm.

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.