



22 July 2020

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held in the Theatre at the Mill on **Monday 27 July 2020**. The meeting will take place directly after the Annual Meeting which will commence at 6.30 pm.

Any Members unable to be present in the Theatre are asked to join the meeting via "Zoom".

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 29 June 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Thursday, 9 July 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(a) To approve Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5(b) To take as read and confirm the Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2020, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 6.1 Items for Signing and Sealing
 - 6.2 Women's Aid Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey
 - 6.3 Department of Justice Consultation – Biometric Provisions
 - 6.4 Recovery - Facilities at Bowling Greens and Update on Caravan Park
 - 6.5 Corporate Improvement Plan 2019-2020 Q4 Progress Report
 - 6.6 Street Naming – Ballyalton Park
 - 6.7 Street Naming – Ballycorr Road
 - 6.8 Street Naming – Ballymena Road
 - 6.9 Street Naming – Cranfield Road
 - 6.10 Collaborate Agreement for NI Business Start Up Programme
 - 6.11 Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Team and COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Team Action Plans
 - 6.12 Community Development (Summer Scheme) Grant Aid Recommendations 2020/21 Second Call

- 6.13 Re-opening of Community Centres
- 6.14 Recovery of Visitor Service at Antrim Castle Gardens
- 6.15 VJ Day 75

7 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Community Planning Update
- 7.2 Correspondence from the Moderator of the General Assembly
- 7.3 Correspondence from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service – NIAS Strategy to transform 2020-2026
- 7.4 DfI Roads Proposed No Waiting - Neillsbrook Road, Randalstown and Mill Road, Crumlin
- 7.5 DfI Roads Speed Limit Restriction – Belfast Road, Antrim, Moneynick Road Toomebridge and Birchhill Road, Antrim
- 7.6 DfI – The Private Streets (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 - Creeve Court, Randalstown and Ferrard Meadow, Antrim
- 7.7 Budget Report
- 7.8 Motions - Derry City and Strabane District Council
- 7.9 Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme Delivery

8 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 8.1 Every Body Active Programme 2020 – Programmes Update
- 8.2 Residual Waste Treatment Contract Procurement
- 8.3 Rental of 6B Orchard Way
- 8.4 Playground Improved Access and Inclusive Play Works
- 8.5 Big Occasions Catering Contract
- 8.6 Franchises at Valley Leisure Centre and Antrim Forum
- 8.7 Residential Waste Treatment Project – Correspondence

**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2020**

6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.1 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

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

- Lease with Northern Health and Social Services Trust (CAMHS) for the lease of an office at the Dunanney Centre
- Lease with Newtownabbey Capacity Building Consortium for the lease of an office at Ballyduff Community Centre
- Sale of Land at 589 Doagh Road, Newtownabbey

RECOMMENDATION: that the documents be signed and sealed.

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

6.2 HR/GEN/033 WOMEN'S AID ABCLN (ANTRIM, BALLYMENA, CARRICKFERGUS, LARNE & NEWTOWNABBEY)

Members are reminded that Women's Aid provides confidential support, information and accommodation for women and children who are affected by domestic abuse in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey.

A range of support is available through Women's Aid including proactive programmes designed to provide education and information to schools, businesses, churches and many local community groups.

In February, the Council supported a funding request of £20K for ONUS (a social enterprise established by Women's Aid which provides specialist training and consultancy on domestic violence and abuse) to enable the delivery of its bespoke accreditation scheme known as Pathways for Participation. The funding supports bespoke accreditation programmes designed to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence or abuse, with key stakeholders through the active engagement of community groups.

With the support of ONUS, the Council has also achieved Platinum Charter Status and Safe Borough Charter Status, which supports its overarching vision to build a resilient and socially responsible community as reflected in our Community Plan.

Recently, correspondence was received from Women's Aid outlining a current funding gap which directly affects its ability to sustain the current support delivered through its community based children's worker team.

The team was established to provide help on a one to one basis, in a safe and supported environment, for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The work undertaken by the team is designed to directly meet the needs of children and young people so as to support, inform and empower them to make healthy choices in their lives and relationships.

Women's Aid has so far secured funding from Mid and East Antrim and Larne Football Club (each providing support of £6K and £5K respectively), and a request has been received from Women's Aid, seeking the Council to match fund Mid and East Antrim's contribution of £6K. If approved, this will sustain the required resources within the community based children's' worker team.

The Council's instructions are requested.

Prepared and Approved by: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development

6.3 CE/GEN/004 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONSULTATION – BIOMETRIC PROVISIONS

Members are advised that correspondence has been received (enclosed) from the Department of Justice regarding 'A consultation on proposals to amend the legislation governing the retention of DNA and fingerprints in Northern Ireland'. This document along with additional screening documents can be found on the Department of Justice website - <https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

The targeted consultation will be open for an eight week period, with submissions due before midnight on 28 August 2020. The response form can be accessed via the following CitizenSpace link <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj-policing-community-safety-partnerships/retention-of-dna-and-fingerprints-ni>

The Department of Justice welcomes your views and feedback therefore if you have any queries or questions please send them to pphr.consultations@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members respond on an individual or party political basis.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

6.4 PK/GEN/170, L/LEI/075 RECOVERY - FACILITIES AT BOWLING GREENS AND UPDATE ON CARAVAN PARK CHARGES

Bowling Greens

A request has been received from Antrim Lawn Bowling Club for the toilets at the club house to reopen. This clubhouse is located adjacent to Allen Park main building. As a result of this request, officers have reviewed arrangements at the 3 bowling greens as set out below.

Allen Park

Following the Special Meeting of Council in July, it was agreed that as further announcements were expected regarding sports halls and swimming pools to re-open, the Schierbeek Pavilion at Allen Park is scheduled to be operational on 7 August. Staff from Allen Park are responsible for cleaning and therefore the toilets at the bowling club- house can re-open from that date with no additional costs incurred.

Mossley Pavilion

Mossley Pavilion cannot yet re-open, however to facilitate bowlers, there is potential to open a unisex toilet which is accessible from the outside. Access would be via a code for a key safe which is already in place and which bowlers can be given access to. To clean this facility would cost an estimated £1,300 between 1 August and the end of the season in October.

Lilian Bland Pavilion

Lilian Bland Pavilion remains closed, however the public toilets at Lilian are open and can be used by bowlers.

Caravan Park Pricing

Members will note that an announcement was made regarding a temporary reduction in the rate of VAT for the hospitality and tourism sector from 15 July. Prices for Council's two caravan parks have been adjusted accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given for the re-opening of toilets at the Clubhouse at Allen Park Bowling Green on 7 August at no extra cost and, at Mossley Pavilion for use by bowlers, from 1 August to the end of October 2020 at an estimated cost of £1,300.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

6.5 PT/CI/024 CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-2020 QUARTER 4 PROGRESS REPORT

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

A fourth quarter progress report is **enclosed** for Members' attention.

The report provides an overview on how we performed against:

- Our eight corporate improvement objectives, as set out in the 2019-20 Corporate Improvement Plan, which was approved by Council in June 2019;
- The seven statutory indicators and standards that were set by Central Government Departments for Planning Services, Economic Development and Waste Management – as defined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and;
- A range of self-imposed imposed improvement objectives across all service areas

The Quarter 4 progress report was presented to and reviewed by the Audit Committee on 23 June 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Corporate Improvement Plan 2019-20 Quarter 4 progress report be approved.

Prepared by: James Porter, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Helen Hall, Head of Performance and Transformation

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

6.6 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYALTON PARK, NEWTOWNABBEY

A development naming application from Hall Black Douglas, Architects, on behalf of Radius Housing, regarding the naming of a residential development at Ballyalton Park, Newtownabbey was received on 25 June 2020. The development consists of 20 units a mix of semi-detached dwellings and apartments.

The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's location map and site plan **enclosed**.

1 – Moylinney Court – Favourite option from a survey with the local community to identify a name for the Moylinney scheme. Reuse of existing name of the old care home, the community are very keen to retain this name as many had relatives live in the facility or they have worked there

2 – Moylinney Gardens – One option from a survey with the local community to identify a name for the Moylinney scheme. Reuse of existing name of the old care home, the community are very keen to retain this name as many had relatives live in the facility or they have worked there

3 – Crossabbey Common – One option from a survey with the local community to identify a name for the Moylinney scheme. Crossabbey comes from the tradition in the area to name the streets after historic monastic sites

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Bronagh Doonan, Head of Building and Property Services

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.7 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYCORR ROAD, BALLYCLARE

A development naming application was received from Michael Hopper regarding the naming of a residential development at Ballycorr Road, Ballyclare. The development consists of 3 detached dwellings. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Castle Glen – A former house on the site was known as 'the castle'. Site is surrounded by trees and bordered by a stream

2. Castle Meadow – A former house on the site was known as 'the castle'.

3. Castle Grove – A former house on the site was known as 'the castle'.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Bronagh Doonan, Head of Building and Property Services

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.8 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BALLYMENA ROAD, ANTRIM

A development naming application was received from Samantha Shannon on behalf of Lotus Homes regarding the naming of a residential development at Ballymena Road. The development consists of 90 dwellings these being a mix of detached, semi – detached dwellings and townhouses. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1 – Ferrard Grange – The development is adjacent to Ferrard Green and opposite Ferrard Meadow

2 – Ferrard Grove – The development is adjacent to Ferrard Green and opposite Ferrard Meadow

3 – Ferrard Mews – The development is adjacent to Ferrard Green and opposite Ferrard Meadow

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Bronagh Doonan, Head of Building and Property Services

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.9 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – CRANFIELD ROAD, RANDALSTOWN

A development naming application was received from Michael Small on behalf of Creeve Construction regarding the naming of a residential development at Cranfield Road, Randalstown. The development consists of 15 dwellings these being a mix of detached and semi-detached dwellings. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

- 1 – Cranfield Avenue – Located next to Cranfield Road
- 2 – Cranfield Lane – Located next to Cranfield Road
- 3 – Cranfield Manor – Located next to Cranfield Road

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Bronagh Doonan, Head of Building and Property Services

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.10 ED/ED/115 COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND BUSINESS START UP PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that the Council has a statutory target for business start-up in the Borough. Our statutory target is 80 jobs per annum. A regional 'Go for It' programme which offers support for entrepreneurs to develop a business plan has been running since September 2017 across all Council areas, and the current programme is due to end March 2021. The Programme is managed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on behalf of all Councils, and is delivered by Enterprise NI through their network of Local Enterprise Agencies.

As agreed by the Council in August 2019, an application on behalf of all Councils was submitted to Invest NI for funding to deliver a follow on regional 'Go for It' Programme to ensure service continuity from April 2021 – March 2023. The funding application is for European Regional Development Funds and Invest NI Funding at a combined rate of 80% funding for eligible Programme Costs. Match funding at a rate of 20% of eligible Programme costs and 100% of ineligible Programme costs is to be met proportionate to targets and outcomes by all participating Councils. 4.78% of business plans to be completed under the new programme relate to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough giving an approximate match-funding calculation of £69,686 across the Programme duration.

The NIBSUP is currently the only Programme that contributes to the Council's statutory job creation target. The new Programme is due to support 145 entrepreneurs each year to develop a Business Plan, resulting in 87 jobs created, exceeding Council's statutory target. Officers have engaged with the Department for Economy regarding the need for a future long-term review of the statutory target to ensure it better reflects job and business creation across Council's collective support efforts.

The Council is currently part of a Collaboration Agreement with all other Councils for the existing Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme, and will need to enter into another Collaboration Agreement for the new Programme, with a 2-year delivery duration, prior to a Letter of Offer being issued by Invest NI. There are minimal changes to the new Collaboration Agreement, although the relevant targets and costings have been updated to reflect the new application for funding.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. the Council enters into a new Collaboration Agreement for a Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme to run from April 2021 – March 2023 with all other Councils; and**
- ii. the Council agrees to match-fund the Programme estimated at £34,667 in 2021-22 and £34,881 in 2022-23.**

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Economic & Rural Development Manager

Agreed by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.11 ED/ED/015 & ED/ED/016 RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRE RE-OPENING MOBILISATION TEAM AND COVID-19 TOURISM RECOVERY TEAM ACTION PLANS

At the Special Council Meeting on 11 June 2020, Members agreed Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team and a Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Team. This was in recognition that Retail and Tourism are two of the most negatively impacted sectors as a result of the pandemic and that they require a focussed response to aid their recovery. The second meeting of each forum was held week commencing 6 July. At these meetings the forum considered a draft action plan to inform recovery.

Members are reminded that each forum is advisory and the minutes and recommended actions from each are to be presented to the Council for consideration. The minutes from the Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team held on 8 July 2020 and the Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Team held on 9 July 2020 are **enclosed** at Appendix 1.

The Council is working flexibly to meet the changing needs of businesses as they arise. As such, it is intended that the draft action plans will be living documents with regular updates and variations presented to the Council for consideration.

1 Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team Action Plan:

Council Officers have been working with the Department for Communities (DfC) to secure grant funding to assist with retail and town centre recovery. An allocation of £430,000 for the current financial year is intended to be made available by the Department. The funding is being planned in two 50% tranches. The first £215,000 will be payable to the Council at the end of July to cover activities during the period to mid/end September and the second £215,000 payment will be payable at the end of September to cover the period to the end of March 2021. DfC required a management forum such as the Re-opening Mobilisation Team to be set-up for the efficient over-sight and co-ordination of activity.

DfC has recently advised that a further grant payment of £80,000 will be payable to the Council. This is being supported by The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and is intended to enable Council to extend the type of town centre support being funded by DfC into more rural villages. Confirmation of this fund and the associated criteria is awaited but it is anticipated that the DAERA funds will be payable in two 50% tranches as per the DfC funds.

The current Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team Action Plan to the end of September 2020 is **enclosed** as Appendix 2. The immediate priorities summarised within this plan and the associated budgets are:

- 1.1 Communications: The forum is recommending a 'Back in Business' campaign to positively profile local retailers, their businesses and their promotions. The founding principle of the campaign will be the

economic and social benefits of 'buying local'. The campaign will be rolled out digitally and via traditional print. The total indicative spend for the campaign to the end of September is £35,000 (£25,000 DfC and £10,000 from the Council). The type of branding that will be applied during the campaign is **enclosed** as Appendix 3.

1.2 Minor Capital Works: Primarily targeting independent town centre retailers the minor capital works grant assistance will provide up to £1,000 grant support to retailers for eligible expenditure across the following themes:

- Minor capital works (e.g. internal partitions, awnings etc.)
- Equipment or other assets (e.g. outdoor furniture, heaters, gazebos, temporary barriers etc.)
- Technology or other innovative solutions (e.g. access control infrastructure, self service facilities or contactless payments etc.)
- Communications (e.g. signage, digital screens etc.)

The total indicative spend for the minor capital works fund is £100,000 to be met by DfC. An Expression of Interest and Guidance Document has been prepared for the fund with the view to Council launching the scheme as soon as possible. Copies of the documents are **enclosed** in Appendix 4 for Members Review. The Stage 1 Expression of Interest process will further refine the parameters of the fund.

1.3 Officers are engaging with businesses regarding Pavement Café legislation with a view to facilitating the needs of retailers, cafes and bars. To date there has been limited demand but in readiness for autumn a budget of £80,875 has been set aside for infrastructure (£75,875 DfC and £5,000 the Council). Items of infrastructure will be pooled for use by retail stakeholders and will include but not be limited to hand sanitisation, barriers, heaters, staging, street furniture and collection lockers. This expenditure will be needs led and purchased items will be available to animate spaces up to and over the Christmas period.

1.4 A range of animation activity aimed at normalising retail spaces and promoting them as safe social settings is planned under the 'Back in Business' communications campaign. The activity will be located Borough-wide at an estimated cost of £40,000 (£20,000 DfC and £20,000 the Council). The types of activity it will include are music, street theatre, comedy, treasure hunts and radio road shows. The campaign is expected to run from mid-August to the end of the first week in September 2020.

1.5 The additional £80,000 fund from DAERA referred to earlier in this report will be used to extend activities to Rural Areas and/or to provide grant assistance to groups aimed at animating or regenerating spaces to improve civic pride.

2 COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Team Action Plan:

Unlike the Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team there is no equivalent Central Government financial support to Councils to underpin a tourism recovery action plan. The COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Team is therefore more concentrated on collaborative activity with private sector buying into campaigns over the longer-term and progressing practical action through the Council's budget for Tourism activity.

The current COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Team Action Plan for implementation to the end of March 21 is enclosed as Appendix 5. The immediate priorities summarised within this plan and the associated budgets are:

- 2.1 Marketing and Communications: Working in partnership with Tourism NI's 'small step to a Giant Adventure Campaign' this will maximise coverage of our local tourism providers. The overall local campaign will add credibility and engage domestic tourists by filming local celebrities endorsing local attractions and tourism providers. It will also link with the retail 'Back in Business' campaign and maximise search engine optimisation for the Council's dedicated tourism website and our key tourism providers. The total budget for this programme of activity is £85,000 with a projected income of £23,000 leaving a net cost to Council of £62,000.
- 2.2 Attraction and Product Development: Council Officers will work with private partners to encourage the expansion of existing tours by linking itineraries and taster sessions. This will primarily be aimed at overnight visitors. Taster sessions will concentrate on the Council's local assets by initially focusing on golf, fishing and sailing. COVID-19 has inadvertently created opportunity for new outdoor experiences and activities. Such activities may be a temporary or permanent feature. Officers are aware of two new businesses trying to establish and in need of seed support to avail of the opportunity presented by COVID-19. Officers will develop a grants programme to specifically address current industry deficiencies and act as a catalyst for further tourism product development or development of small scale tourism enterprises in the Borough. The indicative cost of this activity to the Council is £20,000.

Members will recall that work was undertaken by Tim Husbands to inform the Council's future approach to Tourism. Mr Husbands presented to The Strategic Economic Development Working Group in February 2020 and outlined a number of initiatives and priorities that will be re-visited at the optimum time post-recovery. A copy of this presentation is enclosed in Appendix 6 for Members' Information.

The activities outlined above are recommended by the COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Forum as immediate priorities and they are reflective of Mr Husband's recommendations concerning collaboration, product development, clustering and marketing. Further consideration is being given to delivery of Council events and funding for third-party events and a

separate paper will be brought back to the Council for consideration in due course.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (i) the Minutes of the Retail and Town Centre Re-Opening Mobilisation Group dated 8 July 2020 be approved;**
- (ii) the Minutes of the Tourism COVID-19 Recovery Team dated 9 July 2020 be approved;**
- (iii) the funding offered by DfC and DAERA at an indicative joint value of £510,000 for delivery of the Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team Action Plan be accepted;**
- (iv) Activities (1.1 to 1.5) as outlined and contained within the draft Retail and Town Centre Re-opening Mobilisation Team Action Plan be approved for delivery with a net Council contribution of £35,000;**
- (v) Activities (2.1 and 2.2) as outlined and contained within the draft COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Action Plan be approved for delivery with a net Council contribution of £82,000.**

Prepared by: Colin McCabrey, Head of Economic Development

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

6.12 CP/GEN/036 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SUMMER SCHEME) GRANT AID RECOMMENDATIONS 2020/21 SECOND CALL

Members are reminded of the decision taken in February 2020 to reopen the Community Development Grant Aid Programme for a Second Call. This Call for applications opened on Monday 2 March 2020 with a closing date of Friday 27 March 2020 at 4pm.

To support groups prior to the submission deadline Officers delivered grant information seminars in Antrim Civic Centre on Wednesday 11 March 2020 and Mossley Mill on Thursday 12 March 2020.

Following the submission deadline the assessment of applications under this call was suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of recent Government guidance and the Council decision to progress with the funding of Summer Scheme Programmes planned for August 2020, letters of offer are being progressed for the first group of successful applicants who wish to proceed with a summer scheme. In addition, the second batch of 6 applications has been assessed by Officers, a summary of which is detailed below for Members' consideration.

Group Name/Project Promoter	Project Description/Title	Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
All About Us – ASD Teens	To run a 5 day summer scheme for children and young people with autism and their families in Antrim	72%	£1460	£1460
Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary	To run an Animals Helping People summer scheme for 9 – 21 year olds in Antrim	84%	£947.10	£947.10
Fitmoms & Kids	To run a summer scheme for children with autism and their mothers in Glengormley	68%	£1500	£1500
Monkstown Boxing Club	To run The Box Summer Scheme for up to 150 8 – 16 year olds in Monkstown	72%	£1500	£1500
Neillsbrook Community Development Group	To run a summer scheme for up to 50 8 – 14 year olds in Neillsbrook Community Centre, Randalstown	68%	£1500 + £500 for Insurance	£2000

The Bridge Association	To run a summer scheme in Antrim for 20 people over the age of 18 years with a learning disability	52%	£1500	£1500
TOTAL			£8,907.10	£8,907.10

Following assessment all 6 applications requesting a total of £8,907.10 have successfully achieved the required minimum 50% scoring threshold and are eligible to be funded.

Impact on Community Centres

A number of Council funded groups delivering Summer Schemes have requested the use of Council Community Centres as follows:

- Abbey All Sorts (Dunanney Centre)
- Neillsbrook Community Development Group (Neillsbrook Community Centre)
- Rathfern Community Regeneration Group (Rathfern Social Activity Centre)

Groups who have expressed an interest in using a Council Community Centre are currently considering possible dates, times and capacities for their Summer Schemes not all specific details are available at this time. Any groups wishing to run a Summer Scheme will need to comply with emerging NI Executive Guidance. Current guidance sets a maximum capacity of groups of 30 people outdoors and 6 people indoors. It should be noted that both Dunanney Centre and Neillsbrook Community Centre have multiple outdoor spaces. There are early indications that the regulations could be relaxed from 29 July but this is not yet confirmed.

With Community Centre staff currently furloughed, officers are exploring options to expand the keyholding option for groups wishing to deliver Summer Schemes at Dunanney Centre and Neillsbrook Community Centre, as previously approved by Council for childcare providers.

Dunanney Centre currently has a cleaner working daily Mon-Fri. These hours could be increased to service the needs of the Summer Scheme at a cost of £87.20/wk and would be offset by an income of around £334.00/wk.

The staff member at Neillsbrook Community Centre would need to return from furlough (part-time) to facilitate cleaning each day. This would incur a one off cost of £47.75 and a weekly cost of £95.50 which would be offset by an income of £484.00/wk.

Rathfern Community Regeneration Group operate Rathfern Social Activity Centre under a Service Management Agreement. As such, the group will be responsible for ensuring current guidance from NI Executive and Risk Assessments are in place for their Summer Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- i. the 6 applications totalling £8,907.10 outlined above be approved;**
- ii. Members approve the re-opening of Neillsbrook Community Centre for Neillsbrook Community Development Group's Summer Scheme and Dunanney Centre for Abbey All Sorts' Summer Scheme;**
- iii. the previously approved temporary key holding arrangement is approved for the Summer Schemes;**
- iv. the Community Centre staff member return from furlough to facilitate the operation of a Summer Scheme at Neillsbrook Community Centre.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Coordinator & Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.13 CP/CC/011 REOPENING OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

Following the recent announcements by the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to further easing of lockdown measures, a plan has been developed for the initial opening of Community Centres.

Ballyduff, Dunanney & Greystone Community Centres have been used during the pandemic to facilitate emergency response and respective tenant operations. In line with the NI Executive's recovery plan, Members approved Stiles Community Centre to reopen from 1 July 2020 for childcare provision.

Members are reminded that prior to the Coronavirus outbreak, there was over 320 hrs of weekly bookings across our Council managed Community Centres during term time. Many of the Community Centres facilitate essential community services such as playschools, counselling services, advice services and recreational activities.

As part of the emergency financial planning process, officers had undertaken the **enclosed** financial analysis of the Council's stock of Community Centres.

Under the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the NI Executive, Community Centres must remain closed for 'normal activities' but may currently open on a limited basis for childcare and essential community services. An announcement is expected on 23 July that would allow more general activities to begin from 29 July whilst observing social distancing. The proposals set out below are conditional on this relaxation.

Community Centres

It is proposed that the Council run Community Centre re-open from Monday 3 August, subject to demand levels.

Rathfern Social Activity Centre and Monkstown Jubilee Centre operate under a Service Management Agreement. Council Officers will offer advice and work with both centres to help them comply with the emerging guidance.

Outdoor Facilities

Outdoor space restrictions have eased and it is possible for grass and 3G pitches to reopen within current social distancing guidance. These facilities exist at Neillsbrook Community Centre and Muckamore Community Centre. It is proposed to open these facilities in line with Community Centre re-opening to maximise efficiency of the facility and associated staffing costs.

Bookings

Block & casual bookings will be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with emerging guidance and social distancing advice from NI Executive. Community Planning Officers will work with Leisure to ensure a consistent approach to relaunching birthday parties and gymnastics classes, however these, along with youth clubs will remain closed at this stage and will be kept under review. Bookings will be staggered to allow for additional cleaning.

Playschools

Playschools and nursery groups are currently working with statutory authorities to determine their reopening compliance requirements. Playschools have enquired about using a main hall should their existing smaller space with the Community Centre be insufficient to accommodate their planned intake in September (primarily at Muckamore and Neillsbrook Community Centres). This would have a knock-on implication for other bookings in the venue.

Members may wish to consider permitting (review in December 2020), if required by the emerging guidance. All returning Playschools will be required to liaise with Environmental Health to ensure compliance before returning.

Staffing

Reopening the Community Centres as outlined above will require an additional 5 FTE staff from furlough to enable the identified Centres to reopen. Staffing will be brought back from furlough as bookings require. All staff will be required to attend for a half-day training before reopening.

The cost of returning 5 FTE from staff from furlough would be around £1,750 per week. It is anticipated reopening would generate income in the region of £2,100 per week. If booking levels and changing guidance require additional staff to come off furlough, further permission will be sought.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- **Council-run community centres and associated outdoor spaces/pitches are reopened in line with current NI Executive guidance and subject to demand;**
- **up to 5 FTE staff return from furlough to accommodate bookings on a needs basis from Monday 3 August 2020;**
- **playschools are permitted to use the main halls at no additional cost on a short-term basis, for review in December 2020;**
- **birthday party & gymnastics bookings as well as youth clubs are deferred until further notice.**

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.14 AC/ACG/12 RECOVERY OF VISITOR SERVICE AT ANTRIM CASTLE GARDENS

Members are aware that on Tuesday 12 May 2020 the Northern Ireland Executive published its Approach to Decision Making, which is a staged approach to relaxing current Covid19 restrictions. Since this time there has been a gradual relaxation of restrictions around a variety of issues and corresponding recovery of non-essential services.

The majority of Antrim Castle Gardens outdoor spaces remained open for permitted daily exercise throughout lockdown albeit the car park was closed but has had a number of restrictions lifted gradually in recent months since relaxations commenced including:

- Opening of the main Car Park but not the overflow parking area
- Resumption of outdoor weddings for groups of 10, more recently increased to 30
- Opening of Clotworthy Courtyard Toilets
- Opening of Garden Coffee Shop
- Opening of Conservatory Gallery
- Opening of Clotworthy Courtyard exterior area

In relation to reopening of toilets, coffee shop and courtyard, a one-way system was put in place to ensure social distancing and support visitor confidence.

A staff presence on site has been maintained in the form of the 5 FTE Gardening Team however this team has also been providing ongoing support to the Parks Service delivering of a grounds maintenance service in the Antrim area.

Members are reminded that Antrim Castle Gardens had an annual footfall of 220,000 visitors when the Council formed in 2015 and this has grown annually to 450,000 in 2019. In 2019 the Gardens won the prestigious Tourism Northern Ireland Best Authentic Site Experience and in 2019 and 2020 achieved a four-star quality grading or excellent status in Tourism NI's Quality Visitor Grading scheme. As restrictions have been relaxed visitor numbers have grown significantly in particular during better weather. The site benefits from ample high quality open space which permits outdoor physical activity whilst maintaining social distancing. The natural and built heritage and interpretation of this throughout the Gardens provides a visitor experience unlike other Borough Parks.

Currently the Oriel Gallery, Garden Heritage Interpretation Space, Parterre Formal Gardens and overflow car park remain closed as does Clotworthy Gift Shop and Clotworthy Meeting Rooms. The majority of the staff team are on furlough with the exception of the gardeners and 2-part time receptionists (1 FTE) who couldn't be furloughed and who provide 10am to 2pm cover over 5 days per week. Opening up, lock up and cleaning of the toilets is being outsourced to contractors at a cost of around £230 per week.

Executive guidance permits reopening of non-essential shops from 12 June, museums and galleries from 3 July and weddings from 10 July. The limits on numbers in indoor spaces such as meeting rooms remain low currently at no more than 6 people.

As visitor numbers have grown and the promotion of holidays at home encourages visitors to think about staying local, Antrim Castle Gardens is likely to be a very popular destination for the months ahead both with residents and visitors to the Borough who in turn will support local economic activity. The high levels of footfall bring with them visitor management issues from litter, dog fouling, toilet maintenance, visitor enquiries, car park management, communications, site animation and general visitor information and support services.

It is proposed to gradually reopen the Oriel Gallery, Garden Heritage Interpretation Space, Clotworthy Shop, Parterre Gardens and overflow car park from Saturday 1 August where available staff resources allow. Since restrictions began to relax and the car park opened increased use of the Gardens has led to significant car park management issues. Reopening of the overflow car park will alleviate this to a certain extent but does require an onsite duty staff presence to manage. Safety signs installed along the driveway have been effective at addressing some parking problems on site by preventing double car parking along the driveway but have also led to some irresponsible parking in residential areas. A managed overflow car park creates an additional 50 spaces and enables staff to redirect visitors to the town centre.

It is also proposed to accept bookings of Clotworthy Meeting Rooms for activities involving no more than 6 people, with appropriate social distancing, which are within current guidelines and have no additional resource implications. This will generate income while incurring no costs.

Delivery of all of the above and management of ever increasing visitor numbers and needs requires additional staff support and it is proposed to achieve this in the main with redeployment from the Community Planning Team. However, the current available receptionists not on furlough due to their commencement with the Council late March have not received any training in operating systems. This is because of the late start date and the furlough of other staff which limits the range of duties they can perform. It is proposed to bring the Head Receptionist, their line manager, back from furlough for two weeks to train both staff in all systems as well as operation of the shop. This will cost £1,269.90 which includes 34% employer's costs. Having the training of these staff completed will enable them to generate income as follows:

- Opening of the Clotworthy Shop which generates an average of £3,750 (net of VAT) per month
- Promotion and booking of weddings generating £500 per month
- Booking rooms for small meetings which generates an average of £1,000 per month.
- Commission from the sale of art work on exhibit

Recovery of visitor services as proposed will require seven-day week staff cover on the site to manage operations to the standard required to support large number of visitors including reopening of the overflow car park which will in turn alleviate some of the car parking issues experienced by residents in the last few months. The reopening of the shop will generate additional income without incurring any expenditure on stock as there is a full inventory available for months ahead.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (a) the proposed general recovery of additional visitor services at Antrim Castle Gardens from 1 August 2020, using redeployed community planning staff, be approved;**
- (b) the return from furlough of the Head Receptionist at a cost of £1,269.90 for two weeks be approved.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

6.15 AC/EV/13 VJ DAY 75

Members are reminded that the Council had approved a VE Day 75 programme at the Community Planning Committee in September 2019. This programme had an approved budget of £50,000 and included a variety of arts and cultural activities, street party events and an exhibition. The programme was cancelled in its entirety as part of the COVID-19 suspension of non-essential services. A virtual VE Day 75 programme was delivered online on Friday 8 May with both the Mayor and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County of Antrim making video messages for the Council's social media platforms as part of this day long digital programme.

Members are advised that Saturday 15 August 2020 marks VJ Day 75. Whilst VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in bitter fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War. In the coming weeks the UK Government will announce plans to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day with veterans of the Far East campaign at the heart of the commemorations.

Given the Council's ongoing suspension of some non-essential services, restrictions of numbers allowed to gather both indoors and outdoors and the emergency financial plan it is proposed to mark VJ Day 75 similarly to VE Day 75 with both the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant once again leading tributes in the Borough with recorded messages which can be made jointly on this occasion given current levels of relaxations. Further online activity will also be developed similar to VE Day 75. In addition, a World War II exhibition had been provisionally booked for VE Day 75 and is still available and relevant with a hire cost of £1,250 plus transport costs to and from Scotland of approximately £1,500. Work is ongoing with the tourism team to explore whether or not this exhibition can be funded as part of the DfC town centre animation programme and delivered throughout August in The Old Courthouse and Ballyclare Town Hall.

In addition, Members may wish to consider two wreath laying events at a War Memorial in each side of the Borough on the afternoon of Saturday 15 August, potentially Lilian Bland Community Park and Antrim Town, which would ensure numbers remain less than 30 socially distanced to mark the occasion. Previous similar anniversaries have also been marked by Beacon lighting and Members might also wish to consider the lighting of beacons at dusk on Friday 14 August 2020 at both the Motte Antrim Castle Gardens and Macedon Point Hazelbank Park Newtownabbey.

RECOMMENDATION: that the following proposals to mark VJ Day 75 during August 2020 be approved

- **recording and broadcast of a joint video message by the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim;**
- **delivery of a Virtual VJ Day 75 online programme throughout Saturday 15 August;**

- **laying of wreaths on the afternoon of Saturday 15 August at Antrim Town War Memorial and Lilian Bland Community Park by the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant accompanied by elected Members;**
- **ceremonial lighting of beacons at the Motte Antrim Castle Gardens and Macedon Point Hazelbank Park at dusk on Friday 14 August by the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant accompanied by elected Members;**
- **delivery of a World War II exhibition 'For Our Freedom and Yours' from 1 August to 20 September at a cost of £1250 plus approximately £1500 in transport at a suitable venue in the Borough.**

Prepared by: Ursula Fay, Head of Arts and Culture

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 CP/CP/007 COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

Community Planning was introduced in Northern Ireland in April 2015, when local Councils were tasked with leading the development of Community Plans for their area. This was done by the formation of Community Planning Partnerships.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Planning Partnership consists of 16 Statutory and Support Partners working together to deliver the “Love Living Here” Community Plan.

In 2019 the Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Planning Partnership Structure underwent a review and the resulting structure was approved by the Partnership on 10 December 2019.

Members are reminded that the Community Planning Committee approved the structure on 11 November 2019 and since then the structure was further developed at a Community Planning Partner workshop in March 2020 where the new structure was discussed in detail. Further details are **enclosed** for Members' information.

As with all non-essential services, COVID-19 impacted on Community Planning. One to one partner meetings were planned for April and May with the purpose of discussing individual partner input to the Community Plan and the new structure. These meetings were deferred and will resume in August 2020. The scheduled Partnership meeting on 17 June 2020 was postponed and the date of 15 September 2020, previously reserved in partner's diaries for a workshop, will be used for this meeting.

All Community Plans were due for a review within four years of their publication date with the review of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Plan due in June 2021. In addition, the second Statement of Progress for each Community Plan was due in November 2021. Once again the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on these plans. The Department for Communities is currently reconsidering these requirements and Members will be advised of any emerging information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the update on the Community Planning Partnership be noted.

Prepared by: Laura Campbell, Community Planning Assistant

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Community Planning Manager

Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning

7.2 CE/GEN/001 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from The Moderator of the General Assembly, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to thank Members and Officers for the efforts taken to respond to the challenges presented by the global pandemic (copy **enclosed**).

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.3 CE/GEN/038 CORRESPONDENCE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE - NIAS STRATEGY TO TRANSFORM 2020-2026

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (**enclosed**) relating to the publication of the NIAS Strategy to Transform 2020 – 2026 – 'Caring today, Planning for Tomorrow'.

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

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.4 G-LEG-321-3 NEILLSBROOK ROAD, RANDALSTOWN, G-LEG-321-4 MILL ROAD, CRUMLIN – DFI ROADS – PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME (LOADING AND UNLOADING PERMITTED)

Correspondence has been received from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to the implementation of a No Waiting at Any Time (Loading and Unloading Permitted) restriction at Neillsbrook Road, Randalstown and at Mill Road, Crumlin. (Copies of the correspondence and maps are **enclosed**).

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Elaine Keenan, Legal Services Officer (Solicitor)

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

**7.5 G-LEG-321-5 BELFAST ROAD, ANTRIM & MONEYNICK ROAD, TOOMEBRIDGE
G-LEG-321-6 BIRCHHILL ROAD, ANTRIM - DFI ROADS - SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION**

Correspondence has been received from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to the implementation of speed limit reductions at Belfast Road, Antrim and Moneynick Road, Toomebridge and at Birchhill Road, Antrim. (Copies of the correspondence and maps are **enclosed**).

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Elaine Keenan, Legal Services Officer (Solicitor)

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

7.6 CE/OA/1 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE – THE PRIVATE STREETS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1980

Correspondence has been received and is **enclosed** from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) advising that the streets at the developments listed below have now been adopted.

- Creeve Court, Randalstown
- Ferrard Meadow, Antrim

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.7 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT AND FUNDING UPDATE – JUNE 2020 (Period 3)

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current financial position. It is presented in two sections:

- Budget Report for Period 3 (June 2020)
- COVID-19 Funding Support

Budget Report for Period 3 (June 2020)

A budget report for June 2020 – Period 3 is enclosed for Members' information.

The Council's net cost of services at the end of June 2020 shows an adverse variance of £607k before exceptional costs.

Including the exceptional costs related to Covid-19 of £579k, government Covid support grant income of £1.74m and the pro-rated credit balance application for the period of £175k, the Council's position is £1.01m adverse.

Variances within the report include:

- **Chief Executives Dept** - reduced rental income
- **Community Planning** - Underspends in staff costs and income reduced due to closure of community centres.
- **Capital Development** - Underspend in project consultancy due to reduced number of projects going forward.
- **Property and Building Services** - Reduction in Building Control income of £121k for the period; underspends in staff costs and supplies and services.
- **Arts and Culture** - Reduction in income of £271k, employee costs of £79k, supplies and services £163k due to facility closures, underspends to date on premises costs.
- **Finance and Governance** - Underspends in staff costs and meetings hospitality.
- **Human Resources** – Underspend re. vacant posts and training.
- **Leisure** - Loss of income to date of £1.26m, underspends in staff and premises costs due to facility closure.
- **Waste Management** - Tonnages for the period are approx. £100k ahead of budget. Projected loss of Trade Waste income of £190k.
- **Environmental Health** – underspend re. staff vacancies
- **Parks** - Loss of caravan parks and car parks income of £102k; underspends on seasonal staff costs.
- **Planning** - Income from Applications fees is £116k compared to budget of £231k.
- **Economic Development** - Underspends to date on programme costs.

A provision for the non-collection of District Rates and De-rating Grant income has been included of £1.39m. The final outworking of this will not be known until November 2021 when Council receive the APP from LPS, but it is prudent to include a provision for this in the absence of further intervention from government. This equates to £5.55m for the financial year.

Taking this provision into account, the overall position of the Council is a General Fund decrease of £1.01m.

COVID-19 Funding Support

The government Covid support grant income of £1.74m included within the Budget Report comprises £874k from Department for Communities (DfC) for income losses for the April to June period, £20k from DfC in relation to Community Support and £848k from HMRC under the Staff Retention (Furlough) Scheme.

In order to obtain the funding of £1.95m (£874k Apr – June, £1,075k July – Sept) from DfC, Council officers worked with the Department, SOLACE NI and ALGFO to identify expected income losses, direct costs and operational savings during the period March 2020 to June 2020 arising as a consequence of COVID-19.

The main assumptions contained within this model were:

- service expenditure would continue as normal albeit deferred to later in the financial year;
- service income significantly reduced especially in Leisure and Arts and Culture
- Council would incur additional expenditure in supporting the community;
- no sources of government funding would be available.

This situation has developed over time as more information and funding became available. Modelling for Quarter 2 has been updated to reflect the current situation e.g. reopened facilities and income levels currently experienced.

Updated assumptions include for example:

- Savings materialised from buildings being closed e.g. the swimming pools were drained leading to lower energy costs £150K (March–June)
- Staffing - agency/temporary posts not filled – acting-up arrangements were stopped £470K (March–June)
- The Council was able to avail of the HMRC Staff Retention Scheme £845K (March–June)
- Building Control and Planning income of £227k exceeded expectation.
- Golf reopening - income of £91k was received for the Q1 rather than the assumption of zero.
- Further facility reopening projections e.g. caravan parks and fitness suites.

Following the review of quarter 1 and using the assumptions for quarter 2, the amount paid by the Department of £1.95m will cover the Council's lost income, net of expenditure savings and other sources of government income, for the period to the end of September.

HMRC Furlough claims will continue for July to October and will reflect both the reduced funding as a result of scheme changes and the lower number of officers being claimed for as staff requirements for reopened facilities increase.

Other less significant claims are also being prepared for additional waste management costs to The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and to the Department for Communities for expenditures relating to invoking Councils emergency response (SEFA). Intervention funding with respect to the non-collection of District Rates and De-rating Grant income continues to be explored. Whilst the current financial position has stabilised with the funding received to date, the future position remains highly uncertain both for the remainder of this financial year and especially as Council start to plan for the 2021/22 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Management Accountant

Agreed by: John Balmer, Head of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

7.8 G/MSMO/14 MOTION – DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding two Motions adopted by that Council and requesting Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's consideration of these Motions.

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

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

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

7.9 CP/GEN/038 MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Due to the impact of COVID-19 there is increasing concern mental health and wellbeing in our local communities. As a measure to address this and support individuals across the Borough, Officers have been working with a number of Community Planning partners to identify support programmes and opportunities for community and voluntary leaders to upskill in mental health & wellbeing.

The online wellbeing hub www.mindingyourhead.info draws together information, self-help guides and ways to find support on a range of mental health and wellbeing issues.

The Public Health Agency have also recently launched a new investment programme providing support to communities responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with awards up to £5,000 available. The closing date for applications for these grants is Thursday 6 August 2020 at 12 noon.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/pha-announces-covid-19-community-funding>

Officers have also secured an offer from NHSCT to run a Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme including dedicated Council courses in Safe Talk & Mental Health First Aid for community and voluntary groups across the Borough. All initial courses would have room for around 40 participants and would be delivered during the Autumn at no cost to the Council.

These courses will help participants to recognise the symptoms of some of the main mental health problems, how to provide initial help to someone with a developing mental health problem or in a mental health crisis, and how to guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

Recruitment would be focused across the Borough and coordinated through the Community Planning Team. Community & Voluntary Groups including community groups, sports clubs, churches and special interest groups will be invited to apply for places based on course maximums. Courses will be actively promoted via Council promotional and social media platforms.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna Community Planning Manager

Agreed & Approved by: Nick Harkness, Director of Community Planning