



9 April 2025

Committee Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Members: Aldermen – L Boyle and S Ross

Councillors – M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, R Lynch,  
T McGrann, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone,  
L Smyth, S Ward and S Wilson

Dear Member

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 14 April 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker, GM MSc  
**Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council**

**PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.20**

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

Tel: 028 9448 1301

[memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

## **A G E N D A**

### **1 APOLOGIES**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- 3.1 Business Plans 2025/2026
- 3.2 Anti-Poverty Steering Group
- 3.3 Community Planning Partnership
- 3.4 IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025
- 3.5 PEACEPLUS Partnership Minutes
- 3.6 Ballyclare May Fair
- 3.7 Ballyclare Town Hall
- 3.8 Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries Programme
- 3.9 DEA Member Engagement Group Minutes
- 3.10 Belfast Photo Festival
- 3.11 Multi Agency Support Hub
- 3.12 The Gateway Catering Lease
- 3.13 Borough Street Art Project

### **4 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

- 4.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 4.2 Department for Communities Universal Credit Overpayments Update
- 4.3 Update on the Raise Programme
- 4.4 Be Safe, Be Well Community Events
- 4.5 Department for Communities Interim Funding Position 2025-2026

### **5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

### **6 ITEM IN CONFIDENCE**

- 6.1 Provision of a PCSP Community Safety Warden Scheme

# **REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025**

## **3 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **3.1 PT/CI/068 BUSINESS PLANS 2025/2026**

#### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Community Development Directorate Business Plan for 2025/2026.**

#### **2. Background**

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

Specifically, the duties in the Act relate to Section 84(1), 85(2) and 85(9) whereby Council has a statutory duty to make arrangements to:

- Secure continuous improvement.
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards are met.

#### **3. Previous Decision of Council**

In January 2025 Council approved a strategic performance framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2025/26 (draft for consultation).

#### **4. Business Planning**

Business planning plays a vital role in the Council's performance management and delivery processes. It offers a more efficient and cohesive approach to monitoring and evaluating performance while improving overall visibility.

The purpose of the Directorate Business Plans are to:

- Demonstrate how each of the Directorates are supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faces.
- Illustrate how it is aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold ourselves to account to ensure we deliver for Council and its residents.

The Business Plan for the Community Development Directorate is **enclosed** for

Members' approval.

5. Financial Position/Implications

The budgets for delivery of the 2025/2026 Business Plan have been agreed as part of the Council's rate setting process.

6. Governance

Progress reports on the Council's Directorate Business Plans 2025/26 will be reported quarterly to the relevant Committee.

7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Community Development Directorate Business Plan 2025/2026 be approved.**

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development and Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.2 CP/CP/240 ANTI-POVERTY STEERING GROUP

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 25 February 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The issue of poverty and its impact on the life choices of citizens has always been of concern to Council, however the cost-of-living crisis which followed the COVID 19 pandemic sharply increased focus on the issue of poverty and how to provide practical support to address this challenge.

#### 3. Previous Council decision

Members are reminded that it was approved at the Council Meeting in January 2024 that a cross-party steering group be established to develop a coordinated, comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough.

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

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

The Anti-Poverty Strategy 2024-30 was approved at the November 2024 Community Development Committee.

#### 4. Governance

The Steering Group of Elected Members and Officers have been meeting since the Group was established and have focused their work on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the period 2024 to 2030 to support Council's Corporate Strategy and Community Plan.

The Group met on 25 February at Fareshare NI, which involved a presentation of Fareshare's work and tour of their premises. A copy of the minutes are **enclosed** for Members' information.

The Group will continue to meet quarterly with Officers to report progress of the Strategy at the quarterly meetings.

#### 5. Summary

Following a Motion to Council in January 2024 an Anti-Poverty Steering Group was established. The Group has agreed an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the Borough for 2024-2030, which will ensure a collective focus on this priority issue and support delivery of the Corporate and Community Plans.

The minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 25 February are provided for Members' approval.

#### **6. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group meeting held on 25 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Service Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community Development

### 3.3 CP/GEN/005/VOL3 COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval that the minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 2 April 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The Community Planning Partnership is responsible for leading the Community Planning process in the Borough. The Community Planning Partnership was established in 2015 and is made up of Elected Members and representatives of each of the Community Planning statutory partners. The Community Planning Partnership meets twice annually.

Members are reminded that Council's Community Plan 'Love Living Here' for the Borough sets out a shared vision and agreed outcomes for the area up to 2030. This is achieved by working collectively with other partners involved, through a Community Planning Partnership. The plan was first approved in 2017.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the updated draft of Council's Community Plan 'Love Living Here' was approved at the March 2024 Community Planning Committee.

Members are also reminded that the 'Love Living Here' Delivery Plan to 2030 and minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting of 23 October 2024 were approved at the November Community Development Committee Meeting.

#### 4. Partnership Minutes

The fourth Community Planning Partnership meeting of the Council term was held in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill on Wednesday 2 April 2025. At the meeting, the minutes of the Partnership meeting of 23 October 2024 were approved and are **enclosed** for Members' information. The draft minutes of the 2 April 2025 meeting are also **enclosed** for Members' approval.

#### 5. Governance

At Council's Annual Meeting in May 2023, it was agreed that Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of Council to be allocated using d'Hondt and the Chair of the Community Planning Committee also be the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership.

Officers will report the performance against the updated Delivery Plan bi-annually at the Community Planning Partnership and a Statement of Progress

will be completed every 2 years and reported to the Department for Communities.

6. Summary

The draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 02 April are enclosed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 2 April 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community Development



### 3.4 CP/CD/483 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS 2025

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval in relation to the nomination of two community/voluntary groups to the IPB Pride of Place Awards in 2025.**

#### 2. Background

Members are reminded of The Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards in association with Co-operation Ireland the aim of which is to recognise the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to make their place the best place in which to live.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that in April 2024, Council nominated two groups to take part in the Annual IPB Pride of Place Awards competition namely:

- Listening Ear (Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates)
- Sensory Kids (Community Youth Initiative)

Judging of the two entries took place in August 2024 and the awards ceremony was hosted on Saturday 2 November 2024 at the Hillgrove Hotel and Spa, Monaghan.

It was agreed at the September Community Planning Committee Meeting that Members and Officers attend the Awards Ceremony along with representatives of the nominated groups.

At the Awards Ceremony Sensory Kids were announced as winners of the Community Youth Initiative Category and Listening Ear received a Certificate of Recognition for their nomination.

#### 4. Proposal

Nominations are now open for the 2025 competition and this year there are 13 categories in total: 5 Population categories, 7 Single Issue categories with designated themes, and 1 Non-Population category. Council can nominate groups in up to a maximum of five categories in all and one entry only in any individual category. The categories are listed below for Members' consideration:

##### **Population**

1. 0 - 300
2. 300 - 1,000
3. 1,000 - 2,000
4. 2,000 - 5,000
5. Over 5,000

## **Theme**

6. Creative Communities
7. Climate Action and Biodiversity
8. Community Youth Initiative
9. Inclusive Communities
10. Community Wellbeing Initiative
11. Community Tourism Initiative
12. Age Friendly Communities

## **Non-Population**

13. Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates

Entry to the competition is by way of Council nomination. To nominate a group, a short application form must be completed by Council and submitted along with a short resume of the groups work and how it meets the entry criteria. The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 2025 competition is Friday 9 May 2025.

Following submission an assessment visit will take place during the months of August/September 2025 where nominees will demonstrate pride in their place by oral presentation, exhibition of community activities and culture as well as a tour of the area highlighting the aspects of which they are particularly proud. During this visit it is also important that the community demonstrates real partnership with their local Council and shows that all sectors of the community are included.

Successful nominees will be announced at a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday 7 November 2025 in the Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick. At this event Category Winners will receive a trophy and a cash prize of €1,000 or sterling equivalent. Runners-up will also receive a trophy and a cash prize of €500 or sterling equivalent.

Officers would propose that the following two groups be nominated for the 2025 competition:

- Dalaradia Cultural and Historical Society (Community Tourism Initiative)
- Rathenraw Youth Scheme (Community Youth Initiative)

A short summary of the work of each of the two groups is included below for Members' information.

### **Dalaradia Cultural and Historical Society**

Established in 2010 Dalaradia Cultural and Historical Society have a strong ethos of researching and promoting education, history and tourism within the ancient kingdom of Dalaradia which now encompasses most of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area. The group currently manage the Whitehouse Museum a 450-year-old Plantation Bawn/Fortified House nestled along the Northern Shore of Belfast Lough.

The group ensures that the building is open on a weekly basis and its volunteers provide guided tours to locals and visitors from across the world which currently total approximately 2000 per year.

In December 2023 the Group were delighted that the Whitehouse was included in the prestige tourism publication "100 Secret Places to Visit in Ireland" and this enabled the Group to build further partnerships with a wide range of historical organisations across the entire Island of Ireland.

The Whitehouse also provides a safe and neutral space for the promotion of Heritage on a cross community and cross border basis complemented by an annual programme of seasonal social events. In addition, the conference facilities within the building are used by local community/voluntary groups on a regular basis to host meetings, training courses, exhibitions etc.

### **Rathenraw Youth Scheme**

Rathenraw Youth Scheme was established in 1999 and aims to provide a safe place for young people to learn and have fun. On a weekly basis the group provide a wide and innovative range of activities and educational workshops/accreditation for all age groups and abilities.

Learning opportunities provided are based on assessment of need and include drugs/alcohol awareness, healthy choices, intergenerational work and working within the community.

The group also have access to a Health and Wellbeing Coach when needed by the young people, staff and parents.

The group currently has 163 members of secondary school age and 237 members of primary school age.

Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups. It is proposed Members should inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 25 April 2025.

### **5. Financial Implication**

The entry fee for the 2025 Awards is £500 per group, provision for which has been made within the 2025/26 Community Development budget.

### **6. Summary**

Members are advised that Officers have reviewed the eligibility and exclusion criteria and identified the two groups proposed for nomination as those which best meet the aims and objectives of the 2025 Awards criteria, however Members may wish to nominate alternative and/or additional groups and they are requested to advise Officers of any request for such nominations by Friday 25 April 2025.

## **7. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the two groups proposed for nomination to the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards be approved, and that Members inform Officers of any additional requests for nominations no later than Friday 25 April 2025.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.5 CP/PP/006 PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP MINUTES

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the minutes from the PEACEPLUS Full Partnership Meeting held on 1 April 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that the PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council.

As such, the minutes of the following PEACEPLUS Partnership meeting,

- Full Partnership meeting minutes 1 April 2025

are **enclosed** for consideration.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Full Partnership Meeting on 28 January 2025 were approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting at the February 2025 Community Development Committee.

Members are reminded that the draft PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community Action Plan, and the outcome of the Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Proofing carried out for the Plan were approved at the March 2024 Community Development Committee.

#### 4. Governance

The PEACEPLUS Partnership oversaw the design and implementation of a co-designed process used to inform the development of an over-arching PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the February 2022 Community Planning Committee that the Membership of the PEACEPLUS Partnership was as follows:

- 12 Elected Members nominated by D'Hondt and representative of each DEA;
- 4 Statutory Partners from Education Authority, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Health and Social Care Trust to be nominated by the Statutory Partners.
- 7 Social Partners with one from each DEA appointed by public advertisement and selection process.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership, is governed by a constitution and a Partnership Agreement.

## 5. Summary

The PEACEPLUS Partnership operates as a Working Group of Council. The draft minutes from the Full Partnership meeting on 01 April 2025 are provided for Members' approval.

## 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Full Partnership Meeting held on 1 April, be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

Prepared by: Julia Clarke, Peace Programme Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.6 AC/EV/025 BALLYCLARE MAY FAIR

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 19 March 2025 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

#### 2. Background

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

- To advise 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 Development 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. Previous Decision of Council

The revised Working Group Terms of Reference were approved at the December 2023 Community Planning Committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved at the March 2025 Community Development Committee meeting.

#### 4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 19 March 2025 in Ballyclare Town Hall. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed**.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the minutes of the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group meeting of 19 March 2025 be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.**

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development



### **3.7 AC/THB/008 BALLYCLARE TOWN HALL**

#### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to allow alcohol to be served at a wedding reception to be held in Ballyclare Town Hall on Thursday 26 June 2025.**

#### **2. Introduction/Background**

Ballyclare Town Hall has been booked to host a wedding reception on Thursday 26 June 2025, and the customer has requested permission to serve alcohol at the event.

#### **3. Previous Decision of Council**

Members are advised that a number of previous requests to Council seeking permission to serve and sell alcohol at functions in Ballyclare Town Hall have been approved.

#### **4. Key Issues**

The terms and conditions of hire for Ballyclare Town Hall state that "Alcohol is not permitted on the premises without prior consent from Council".

As the applicant is not selling alcohol on the premises, an alcohol licence is not required.

#### **5. Financial Position/Implication**

There are no financial implications to either accepting or rejecting this request.

#### **6. Summary**

Ballyclare Town Hall has been booked to host a wedding reception on Thursday 26 June 2025, and the customer has requested permission to serve alcohol at the event. The terms and conditions of hire for this venue state that prior permission from Council is required for alcohol to be served.

#### **7. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that permission to serve alcohol at a wedding reception in Ballyclare Town Hall on Thursday 26 June 2025 be approved.**

Prepared by: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.8 AC/GEN/03 CULTURAL GRANT AID AND BURSARIES PROGRAMME

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for two Cultural Bursary awards.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme is to provide support to constituted groups and individuals based in the Borough to participate in, develop and promote Cultural activities and projects.

Funding is available for projects that develop artistic talent and knowledge, showcase the arts and promote participation and inclusion, celebrate shared heritage, and contribute to the understanding of minority languages and cultural diversity.

Cultural groups may apply for grants for:

- Eligible costs involved in running a cultural event (with a maximum award of £1,000)
- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Course fees for group members to attend an event or course or undertake training (with a maximum award of £500)

Individuals may apply for bursaries for:

- Costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication or an exhibition (with a maximum award of £500)
- Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage (with a maximum award of £500)

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries Programme was approved by the Community Development Committee in February 2025.

#### 4. Applications for 2025/2026 Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries Programme

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

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

<b>Group / Individual Name</b>	<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Funding Purpose</b>	<b>Proposed Amount Awarded</b>
Name withheld as applicant is under 18 years of age	Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage	<p>The applicant is an extremely talented 15-year-old girl who lives in Carnmoney and who has qualified to represent Team NI as part of Team UK at the prestigious Dance World Cup 2025 which will be held in Burgos, Spain, on 3 July 2025.</p> <p>The funding would help with travel/ accommodation costs, entrance fees and uniform.</p> <p>The applicant started her performing career in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Homespun programme aged 8, and she took part in several youth performances at the Theatre at the Mill as well as at the Grand Opera House. The applicant subsequently joined Northern Ireland School of Music and Theatre, and she has continued to build her skills as a performer.</p> <p>The applicant is a dedicated performer who attends classes in dance, singing and acting 5 days a week on top of her school commitments. To be part of Team UK among representatives from 62 countries would be an inspirational experience at this pivotal time in her life.</p> <p>The applicant would be happy to perform at upcoming events or to volunteer to run workshops to help introduce performing arts to others in the community.</p>	<b>£500</b>
Name withheld as applicant is under 18 years of age	Contribution to costs associated with the attendance at cultural events, specialist training courses or study programmes relating to Arts or Heritage	<p>The applicant is an extremely talented 14-year-old girl who lives in Carnmoney and who has qualified to represent Team NI as part of Team UK at the prestigious Dance World Cup 2025 which will be held in Burgos, Spain, on 3 July 2025.</p> <p>The funding would help with travel/ accommodation costs, entrance fees and uniform.</p>	<b>£500</b>

	<p>The applicant was part of the cast of the recent Disney Plus show Say Nothing. The applicant's love of performance was sparked when aged just seven she took part in her first stage show Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Theatre at the Mill through the Homespun Programme.</p> <p>For the next few years, the applicant was actively engaged in the arts through Council programmes and took part in several youth performances at the Theatre at the Mill and the Grand Opera House. The applicant joined Northern Ireland School of Music and Theatre to continue to pursue her love for performing, and has continued to develop her skills, acquiring an agent and landing roles in two acclaimed TV dramas (The Deceived and Say Nothing).</p> <p>The applicant would be happy to perform at upcoming events or to volunteer to run workshops to help introduce performing arts to others in the community.</p>	
--	---	--

## 5. Financial Position

The budget available for the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme in 2025/2026 is £22,000, and no grants have yet been approved.

## 6. Summary

Two Cultural Bursary applications have been received totalling £1,000 from applicants who have been invited to represent Team UK at the Dance World Cup 2025 in Burgos, Spain, in July 2025.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the two Cultural Bursary applications totalling £1,000 be approved.**

Prepared by: Leeann Murray, Arts Development Officer

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.9 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval on the draft minutes of the DEA Member Engagement Group meetings as a true and accurate reflection of the meetings.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The DEA Member Engagement Groups are an established part of the Community Planning engagement framework with meetings held three times per annum.

#### 3. Previous Council Decision

The updated Terms of Reference for the DEA Engagement Meetings were approved at the March 2023 Community Planning Committee and provide the framework for the meetings.

#### 4. Key Update

DEA Member Engagement Group meetings have recently taken place and draft minutes of the meetings are **enclosed** for Members' information; these will be formally adopted at the next meetings of the DEA groups.

The meeting schedule is set out below:

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>DEA</b>
24 March 2025	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
13 March 2025	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
27 March 2025	Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group *
20 March 2025	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
20 March 2025	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
24 March 2025	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
12 March 2025	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

\* This meeting had to be postponed as only two Members were in attendance and will be re-arranged in the coming weeks.

#### 5. Governance

The next round of DEA Member Engagement Meetings is scheduled to take place in June 2025.

#### 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the draft minutes of the DEA Member Engagement Group meetings be approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meetings.**

Prepared by: Conor Cunning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Development



### 3.10 AC/GEN/113 BELFAST PHOTO FESTIVAL

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the installation of a temporary outdoor photography exhibition at Antrim Loughshore Park / Gateway Centre between May and July 2025 featuring professional photographs focusing on Lough Neagh.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Officers have been approached by the Belfast Photo Festival who would like to mount a temporary outdoor exhibition of photographs by professional photographer Joe Lavery at Antrim Loughshore Park / Gateway Centre between May and July 2025.

Belfast Photo Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that presents one of the leading international festivals of photography. Launched in 2011, this annual photographic event has been described as one of the "best photography festivals in the world" (Capture Magazine) and attracts in excess of 100,000 visitors each year, celebrating the finest national and international contemporary photography across 30 museums, galleries and public spaces in Belfast.

For the 2025 festival, the charity has received National Lottery funding to commission a natural heritage photography project focused on four distinct features of Northern Ireland: Lough Neagh, Coastal Communities, Bogs and Peatlands, and the Black Hills. As part of this project, the festival will exhibit in locations outside Belfast for the first time.

#### 3. Key Issues

The Belfast Photo Festival would like to exhibit its Lough Neagh exhibition either at the water's edge outside the Gateway Centre, or in Antrim Loughshore Park. The exhibition would consist of five large-scale triangular structures measuring 210cm x 225cm, containing 13-14 images plus explanation panels. The structures are weatherproof, resistant to vandalism and secure.

The photographer, Joe Lavery, is a professional photographer whose work has been published in The Guardian, The Irish Times, The Architects' Journal, Wallpaper and Cara magazine among others. He has previously exhibited in Dublin, London and Belfast.

Lavery's proposed exhibition of Lough Neagh photography, entitled Shallow Waters, aims to investigate the way myth and tradition sit alongside industry and the working life of the lough. Through a photographic investigation of the landscape, its people and traditions, and the environmental threats facing the lough, Lavery's photographs chart a connection between these different aspects of Lough Neagh.

Further details of the proposal are **enclosed**.

If approved, it is hoped that this exhibition will lead to a wider collaboration between Council and Belfast Photo Festival in the next few years, with the aim of increasing tourism to the Borough, enhancing Council's reputation, and encouraging the appreciation of the natural and heritage landscape throughout the Borough. Any proposal for further collaboration would be brought to a future Committee meeting.

#### 4. Financial Position/Implication

All costs associated with this temporary exhibition will be covered by the Belfast Photo Festival and the National Lottery, and there will be no budgetary implications for Council.

#### 5. Summary

The Belfast Photo Festival have received funding from the National Lottery to hold a temporary outdoor exhibition of photographs by Joe Lavery of Lough Neagh between May and July 2025, and they have requested permission to mount this exhibition at Antrim Loughshore Park / the Gateway Centre.

#### 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the proposal to allow the Belfast Photo Festival to hold a temporary exhibition of photographs of Lough Neagh at Antrim Loughshore Park/the Gateway Centre between May and July 2025 be approved.**

Prepared and agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula fay, Director of Community Planning

### 3.11 CP/CP/074 MULTI AGENCY SUPPORT HUB

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval to accept £3,600 of funding support from the Department of Justice towards administration of the Multi Agency Support Hub.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded of the ongoing work of the Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) that was established within the Borough in July 2017. The Hub is a multi- agency partnership of statutory agencies all working together and sharing information and resources in order to improve the lives of the most vulnerable individuals within our Borough.

The Antrim and Newtownabbey MASH, is led by Council and includes representation from a range of key statutory organisations including;

- Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Youth Justice Agency
- Northern Health & Social Care Trust
- Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
- Northern Ireland Probation Board

Since its inception the MASH has received 203 referrals. The MASH currently has 12 live cases, where service users are receiving continual support and 2 review cases (service users who have already benefitted but are monitored for a period of time).

The Department of Justice has provided an annual financial contribution towards administration costs associated with the Multi Agency Support Hub, since 2017, which Council has accepted.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the provision of funding from the Department of Justice of up to £3,600 for the 2024-2025 financial year was approved at the June 2024 Community Development Committee meeting.

#### 4. Financial implication

Following the launch of the Support Hub, the Department for Justice provided an annual financial contribution of up to a maximum of £3,600 per annum, towards administration costs of the Hub this was initially for 3 years until 2021, which has been extended at the same funding rate in the ensuing periods.

Members are advised correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the Department of Justice to confirm funding of up to £3,600 is being provided for the 2025-26 financial year.

#### 5. Governance

The Multi-Agency Support Hub is administered and managed by Council Officers with representation from a range of key statutory organisations and oversight from a Regional Steering Group. The Director of Community Development sits on this Steering Group on behalf of SOLACE.

#### 6. Summary

Established in 2017, The Multi-Agency Support Hub (MASH) is a partnership of statutory agencies which aims to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals in the Borough. An offer of financial assistance of up to £3,600 from the Department of Justice has been received for the administration of the MASH. The funding will support the Hub's ongoing administration.

#### 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the financial assistance up to £3,600 from the Department of Justice towards administration of the Multi Agency Support Hub, be accepted.**

Prepared by: Amy Lynch, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

### 3.12 ED/ED/107 THE GATEWAY CATERING LEASE

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a seasonal food service unit operated by Vision & Kernal outside the Gateway Visitor Centre at Antrim Lough Shore Park.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

The two permanent catering units at the Gateway Centre – the Boathouse Restaurant and the Boathouse Café – are operated year-round by Vision & Kernal Catering Ltd.

Vision & Kernal have now requested permission to install a temporary outdoor catering unit on the purpose-built plinth adjacent to the Gateway Centre, to offer food-to-go to visitors from late spring until early autumn each year.

The plinth was previously used by the former restaurant leaseholder, Loughshore Restaurant Ltd, to operate a mobile unit selling ice cream, sweets and snacks. Loughshore Restaurants paid a monthly fee to Council for this, calculated on the same cost-per-meter formula as the main restaurant and café.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Approval was given at the April 2021 Council meeting for Loughshore Restaurant Ltd to develop outdoor catering units in Antrim Loughshore Park.

Approval was given at the September 2023 Community Planning Committee meeting for the lease of the Gateway restaurant to be awarded to Vision & Kernal for a five-year term.

Approval was given at the October 2024 Community Development Committee meeting for the lease of the Gateway coffee shop to be awarded to Vision & Kernal for an initial three-year term.

#### 4. Key Issues

Vision & Kernal's proposal is for a 6-meter trailer to be brought to the vacant plinth at the beginning of each season and removed and stored offsite at the end of the season. The presentation and branding of the unit would be in keeping with that of the Boathouse Restaurant and the Boathouse Café.

The unit would offer a wider range of hot food-to-go items than the Boathouse Café can accommodate, including fish & chips, tacos, chicken dishes, burgers, cold drinks and smaller takeaway items. The price point would be lower than that of the Boathouse Café.

If Vision & Kernal wish to keep the mobile unit in situ for longer than 28 days, planning permission would be required. The plinth, including power supply,

was provided by Council as part of the construction of the Gateway Visitor Centre for this purpose.

#### 5. Financial Position/Implication

It is proposed that Vision & Kernal would pay Council a monthly fee when the unit is in place, calculated on the same cost-per-meter formula as the main restaurant and café. It is expected that this would amount to approximately £120 per month.

#### 6. Governance

Council's current contract with Vision & Kernal to operate the restaurant at The Gateway extends to the outside area including the proposed location of a seasonal mobile catering unit.

#### 7. Summary

Vision & Kernal, who currently operate both the Boathouse Restaurant and the Boathouse Café at the Gateway Centre, have requested permission to open a seasonal mobile catering unit on the vacant plinth alongside the Gateway Centre. If approved, the income from this would be approximately £120 per month, and the operation of the unit would also be subject to planning approval. This plinth was previously used by a former catering contractor to deliver a similar service. The plinth, including power supply, was provided by Council as part of the construction of the Gateway Visitor Centre for this purpose.

#### 8. Recommendation

**It is recommended that, subject to planning approval, the proposal to allow Vision & Kernal to operate a seasonal mobile catering unit adjacent to the Gateway Visitor Centre be approved.**

Prepared by: Jenna Collier, Theatre Bookings, Conference and Events Manager

Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism & Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

### 3.13 CP/CP/217 BOROUGH STREET ART PROJECT

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to update Members about the Borough Street Art project, and to seek Members' approval to pause the project with a revised proposal to create additional public art developed as part of the Peace Plus Our Historic Borough project.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Street art is widely used to bring colour, vitality and animation to public spaces. Designs often reflect the history or natural resources of a particular area, and paintings can inform, inspire or simply bring an otherwise unappealing wall to life. Professional artists specialising in street art can create paintings on walls of any size, with the cost of each piece determined by factors including the scale and complexity of the painting, the condition of the wall and its accessibility.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a proposal to deliver street art across the seven DEAs as part of the 'Award Winning Botanical Borough' concept, at an approximate cost of £150,000, was approved at the August 2023 Council Meeting.

At this meeting, Members were advised that Council was in the process of developing its co-designed Local Area Action Plan for Peace Plus which would be submitted to SEUPB in December 2023. Re-imaging as well as history and heritage of local areas were coming through from the various consultation exercises as strong themes so there was an opportunity to deliver further public art as part of Council's Peace Plus Action Plan.

An update report on the initial 14 pieces of completed street art, and plans for further consultation with Elected Members and the public, was noted at the November 2023 Community Planning Committee meeting.

#### 4. Key Issues

21 pieces of street art have now been completed, with at least one large-scale painting in each DEA. Photographs of these paintings are **enclosed**.

The pace of delivery of this programme has slowed markedly in 2024, due to the increasing difficulty of identifying suitable walls to paint, securing the agreement of wall owners, and achieving agreement on proposed locations and designs.

To date, £130,772 of the £150,000 budget has been spent, and this includes fees of £9,224 paid in recent months to artists for designs that did not achieve approval, or which required significant amendments in order to proceed.

The project has been paused over the winter months when outdoor painting is not possible, and, given the diminishing returns of the programme and the increasing difficulty of finding and gaining approval for suitable walls and designs, officers are seeking Members' approval to pause delivery of the Street Art Project and consider in the future a revised proposal as part of the Peace Plus Our Historic Borough project.

#### 5. Financial Position/Implication

To date, £130,772 of the approved £150,000 budget has been spent on the delivery of 21 pieces of street art.

#### 6. Governance

The unanimous approval of DEA Members, as well as the approval of the wall owner, has been required to proceed with a proposed street art design and location. Updates on delivery of the project have been brought regularly to the DEA Engagement Meetings.

#### 7. Summary

The street art programme has delivered 21 paintings to date, including at least one large-scale piece in each DEA. The pace of delivery of this programme has slowed markedly in 2024, due to the increasing difficulty of identifying suitable walls to paint, securing the agreement of wall owners, and achieving agreement on proposed locations and designs. As a result, £9,224 has been paid to artists in recent months for designs that were subsequently rejected, and in the interests of ensuring that the project delivers good value for money overall, officers are now seeking Members' approval to pause delivery of the Street Art Project and consider in the future a revised proposal as part of the Peace Plus Our Historic Borough project.

#### 8. Recommendation

**It is recommended that delivery of the Street Art Project be paused with a revised proposal to create additional public art developed as part of the Peace Plus Our Historic Borough project and reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.**

Prepared and Agreed by: Simon Goldrick, Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development



#### **4. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

##### **4.1 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL**

###### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report is to provide Members with copies of minutes from the Northern Ireland Housing Council for 13 February 2025.**

###### **2. Introduction/Background**

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Council providing a copy of the minutes of their meeting of 13 February 2025, which is **enclosed** for Member's information.

###### **3. Previous Decision of Council**

Members are reminded that at the Community Development Committee in March 2025 the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council meetings held on 12 December 2024 and 9 January 2025 were noted.

###### **4. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the minutes of the Northern Ireland Housing Council of 13 February 2025 be noted.**

Prepared by: Joanne Hamilton-Whyte, PA to Director of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

## 4.2 CP/CP/224 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES UNIVERSAL CREDIT OVERPAYMENTS UPDATE.

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members about an overpayment issue concerning Universal Credit housing costs.**

### 2. Introduction/Background

Universal Credit is a financial support system provided to eligible claimants to help cover their living costs, including housing. As part of the system, claimants who rent privately are entitled to a housing payment to assist with their rent. This payment is determined based on either the actual rent costs or the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate, whichever is lower.

### 3. Key Issues

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from The Department for Communities (DfC) (**enclosed**) regarding overpayments of Universal Credits. The following key issues have been identified regarding the overpayment of Universal Credit housing costs for claimants in privately rented accommodation:

- a) **Overpayment of Housing Costs:** Due to a processing error, some Universal Credit claimants and private landlords received more in housing payments than they were entitled to for the first week of April 2024. This resulted in unintentional overpayments of Universal Credit housing support.
- b) **Incorrect Application of the LHA Rate:** The overpayment occurred due to a failure to apply the updated Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate correctly. As a result, affected claimants received housing costs higher than their entitlement under the revised LHA rates for that period.
- c) **Recovery of Overpayments:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be undertaking a recovery process for these overpayments. Claimants who received incorrect payments will be notified and informed about how the recovery process will work.
- d) **Impact on Small Overpayments:** Overpayments less than £65 will be written off, in line with the DWP's existing guidance. While this helps to mitigate the impact on some claimants, the process still requires action to address the remaining overpayments.
- e) **Communication with Affected Claimants:** Affected claimants will be contacted and informed of the error, with clear instructions on how to manage the overpayment. This includes options for repayment and further assistance.
- f) **Exclusion of Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Social Sector Tenancies:** This issue does not affect Universal Credit claimants who live in Northern Ireland Housing Executive or Social Sector tenancies, limiting the scope of the recovery efforts.

#### 4. Summary

In March 2025, it was revealed that some Universal Credit claimants in private rentals were overpaid for housing costs in April 2024 due to incorrect calculations. Overpayments averaged £100, with amounts under £65 written off. A debt management team will manage recovery efforts, and affected claimants will be notified.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Universal Credit overpayments update provided by the Department for Communities be noted.**

Prepared by: Conor Cuning DEA Engagement Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna Head of Service Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay Director Community of Development

## 4.3 CP/CP/241 UPDATE ON THE RAISE PROGRAMME

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to update Members on correspondence received in relation to delivery of the RAISE Programme.**

### 2. Background / Introduction

The Department of Education first wrote to Council in June 2024 about a major new initiative to be delivered in specific localities across Northern Ireland to raise achievement and reduce educational disadvantage.

The RAISE Programme is rolling out in 15 localities across Northern Ireland to support the Department of Education's vision that *"every child and young person is happy, learning and succeeding"*. The RAISE Programme provides an important opportunity to look afresh at the educational issues caused by deprivation and the barriers to learning and educational achievement that some children and young people are facing.

The Programme will deliver a range of education support measures to help address educational underachievement and tackle educational disadvantage through a whole community and place-based approach.

### 3. Previous Decisions of Council

Details of the RAISE programme including correspondence from the Department of Education were reported to the Community Development Committee in June 2024 when the report was noted.

Further correspondence was reported to the September 2024 Committee advising that all relevant stakeholders, including Council, in the Newtownabbey locality will be invited to a meeting in the autumn.

### 4. Correspondence re- RAISE programme

Members are advised that correspondence has been received in relation to the programme and next steps a copy of which is **enclosed** for Members' information.

The document outlines the process for the development of a Strategic Area Plan for each locality and identifies the maximum budget allocations over two years.

Locality Co-ordinators will continue working within RAISE localities to establish Locality Reference Groups to support the development of Strategic Area Plans. A further series of engagement events will also take place.

## 5. Financial implication

Each RAISE locality will receive a base funding of £100,000, with additional amounts based on pupil numbers living within the identified RAISE Super Output Areas (SOAs).

The maximum allocation over two years for identified localities within the Borough is set out in the table below.

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Base Amount</b>	<b>Pupil Top Up</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>
Antrim	£100,000	£321,450	<b>£421,450</b>
Newtownabbey	£100,000	£430,133	<b>£530,133</b>

## 6. Summary

Correspondence has been received from the Department of Education advising of the process for the development of a Strategic Area Plan for each of the 15 RAISE localities identified.

Maximum funding allocations for the delivery of Strategic Area Plans over two years have also been published.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

#### 4.4 CP/CP/074 BE SAFE, BE WELL COMMUNITY EVENTS

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to update Members on the delivery of two Be Safe, Be Well Community Events.**

##### 2. Background

Together the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Age Friendly Antrim and Newtownabbey are committed to making the Borough one where older residents are supported to age well, enjoy good life and feel safe to participate fully in their community.

A key role of PCSP is to regularly consult and engage with residents and the local community on issues regarding policing and community safety.

##### 3. Programme Delivery

Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP in collaboration with Age Friendly Antrim and Newtownabbey, hosted two successful 'Be Safe, Be Well' events in March 2025.

These events hosted by BBC Weather Presenter Barra Best, brought together 370 senior residents from across the Borough at The Dunadry Hotel and Mossley Mill.

The events aimed to foster a safer, healthier, and more resilient community by offering residents the opportunity to learn, share, and connect. Presentations included:

- Trading Standards: Addressing the rise of sophisticated scams and promoting vigilance.
- 'Take 5': Encouraging residents to practice five simple steps for maintaining mental well-being.
- ONUS: Discussing the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, emphasising community involvement in creating a safer society.

Attendees also engaged with various service providers, including Volunteer NOW, Consumer Council, Loneliness Network, RNIB, Libraries NI, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Women's Aid, and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Leisure Team offering health checks.

Feedback was positive, with 97% of attendees finding the events useful, describing them as 'beneficial', 'informative', and helping them feel 'safer and more protected.'

##### 4. Financial Position

The Be Safe, Be Well Events were delivered and funded through Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP 2024-2025 Action Plan.

## 5. Summary

Antrim and Newtownabbey Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), in partnership with Age Friendly Antrim and Newtownabbey, hosted two successful 'Be Safe, Be Well' events in March 2025.

The events were hosted by BBC Weather Presenter Barra Best and welcomed 370 senior residents from across the Borough at The Dunadry Hotel and Mossley Mill.

The event was an opportunity to bring residents together to learn, share, and support one another in fostering a safer, healthier, and more resilient community.

## 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Amy Lynch, Tackling Deprivation Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

#### **4.5 CP/CD/484 AND CP/CD/485 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES INTERIM FUNDING POSITION 2025-2026**

##### **1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the Department for Communities (DfC) 2025/26 interim funding position and to seek approval for an update on the current budget position to be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2025/26.**

##### **2. Background**

DfC recognises the important role that the voluntary and community Sector has in delivering support and services to people and local communities. Members are reminded that Council manages a range of DfC funded contracts that financially support a number of voluntary and community sector organisations. These include the;

- Areas at Risk Programme
- Community Support Programme
- Neighbourhood Renewal Programme
- Social Supermarket

##### **3. Previous Decision of Council**

Members are reminded it was agreed at the April 2024 Community Development Committee that in the absence of the 2024-25 budget settlement the DfC Minister had indicated that temporary 3-month funding support would be put in place up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 based on 2023/2024 funding levels.

Members are further reminded it was agreed that an update on the DfC current budget position be communicated to those groups and organisations anticipating funding from the Department in 2024/25.

##### **4. Key Issues**

Members are advised that the DfC has issued correspondence (enclosed) outlining that the overall 2025/26 budget position for the Department remains unclear.

The Minister for the DfC has indicated that temporary 3-month funding support will be put in place up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 based on 2024/25 funding levels, inclusive of the 5% uplift awarded in 2024/25.

The Department hope to be in a position to confirm the annual funding budget for 2025/2026 in the coming weeks.



Members are advised this funding covers all DfC programmes operating in the Borough such as Areas at Risk, the Community Support Programme and Neighbourhood Renewal.

It is proposed to make those who are anticipating funding aware of this communication from the Department.

#### 5. Financial implications

Members are advised that the DfC have issued temporary 3-month funding support to be put in place up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 based on 2024/25 funding levels.

#### 6. Summary

Interim funding awards for DfC programmes to end June 2025 will be retained at 2024/25 levels, inclusive of the 5% uplift awarded in 2024/25. Funding will be issued for the first quarter of 2025/26 up to the end of June with confirmation of the 2025/26 budget position anticipated in the near future.

Officers will make all those groups and organisations impacted aware of the communication from the DfC.

#### 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

## **5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

Any Other Relevant Business (AORB) may be taken at this point.