



6 May 2026

Committee Chair: Councillor S Wilson

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor M Brady

Committee Members: Aldermen - J McGrath and S Ross

Councillors – J Burbank, S Cosgrove, P Dunlop, J Gilmour,  
R Lynch, H Magill, T McGrann, V McWilliam,  
M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, M Stewart

Dear Member

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Community Development Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill** on **Monday 11 May 2026** at **6.30pm**.

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 and 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

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

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- 6.1 Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff

# REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2026

## 3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 3.1 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 22 April 2026 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 the Council on the programme for the May Fair
- To organise delivery of the May Fair
- To promote participation in the May Fair by the Ballyclare community and wider Borough community
- To explore opportunities for sponsorship and additional funding for the May Fair
- To provide advocacy for the May Fair and achieve collaboration of a range of stakeholders into the design and delivery of the May Fair
- To contribute expertise, skills and knowledge from a range of sectors to the benefit and continuous improvement of this annual event so that Ballyclare DEA achieves maximum benefit from its delivery.

The Working Group meets monthly from September to June each year and reports to the Community 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 the 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 April 2026 Community Development Committee meeting.

#### 4. Working Group Meeting

Members are advised that the Ballyclare May Fair Working Group met on 22 April 2026 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 22 April 2026 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 and Culture

## 3.2 AC/GEN/037 CULTURAL GRANT AID AND BURSARY PROGRAMME

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a Cultural Grant award.**

### 2. Introduction/Background

The aim of the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary 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 which 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)

The Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme budget also contains provision for up to 30 Irish Language / Gaeltacht Summer Course and Ulster-Scots Cultural Bursaries, and for the annual Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme awards.

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

The current Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme was approved by the Community Development Committee in November 2025.

### 4. Application for 2026-2027 Cultural Grant Aid and Bursary Programme

One application has been received and assessed by officers under the appropriate funding category and maximum award available.

A summary of the application 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>
Ballynure and District Friendship Club	Cultural Group - costs relating to the production of a cultural product e.g. a publication	<p>The production of a trifold heritage walking leaflet for Ballynure Village. The walking leaflet will illustrate a heritage trail showcasing the history of the area dating back to the 13th Century.</p> <p>The funding will be used to cover costs towards printing, advertising and publicity and display boards. This will be a short print run to cover the summer months, after which it is anticipated that the project will form part of the Council's wider PEACEPLUS heritage trails initiative.</p>	<b>£300</b>

#### 5. Financial Position

The budget available for the Cultural Grant Aid and Bursaries programme in 2026-2027 is £33,000. £7,000 has already been committed for applications within the 2026-2027 financial year, and if the above application is approved a balance of £25,700 would be left for the remainder of the year.

#### 6. Summary

A Cultural Grant application has been received for £300 to support Ballynure and District Friendship Club with the production of a heritage walking leaflet for Ballynure village.

#### 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the grant award for £300 be approved.**

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Funding Unit Manager

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

Approved by: John Balmer, Director of Finance and Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

### 3.3 AC/EV/001 USE OF FIREWORKS AT COUNCIL EVENTS, COUNCIL-FUNDED EVENTS, AND EVENTS AT COUNCIL FACILITIES

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for a new fireworks protocol covering Council events, Council-funded events and third-party events held at Council facilities.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Fireworks are used as part of the Council's annual Spooked Out event in V36, and they have also been used for one-off special events such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. At present, there is nothing to prevent third parties who are in receipt of Council funding or who have hired Council facilities to use fireworks at their events.

In recent years concerns have been raised about the negative impact that the noise generated by traditional fireworks can have on children, pets, livestock, and others within the community. As a result of these concerns, the Council's events team has now switched to low-noise fireworks which are designed to deliver vibrant visual displays without the sharp, explosive bangs of traditional fireworks. While no firework is completely silent, these options typically register between 70 and 90 decibels (roughly the volume of a lawnmower), compared to the 120 decibels (as loud as a rock concert) of standard consumer fireworks. Low-noise fireworks meet the standards demanded by organisations such as the Association for Firework Legislation Reform, who are campaigning to reduce the maximum noise level of fireworks from 120 decibels to 90 decibels.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

The following motion was passed at the January 2026 Council meeting:

This council notes the negative impact that the noise of fireworks can have on children, pets and livestock alongside the impact of unregulated sale and usage more generally.

This council further notes ongoing campaigns seeking a review of current firework regulations by the NSPCA, HelpAnimalsUK, The Firework Campaign and others. This Council will consequently consider the use of silent fireworks for all future Council-led and Council funded events and Council hired facilities where fireworks are to be used.

Officers are to report back to the relevant Committee with recommended changes to Council-led and Council funded events and Council hired facilities, which include firework displays, and provide proposals for a public statement and promotional campaign to raise awareness of the impact of fireworks on children, pets, and livestock, in advance of autumn 2026.

#### 4. Key Issues

Truly silent fireworks do not exist, as the physical launch (lifting charge) creates sound, but low-noise fireworks are available as a viable alternative. These prioritise visual effects—sparkles, colours, and fountains—over loud bangs.

Although Council events are now only using low-noise fireworks, there is nothing to prevent third parties who receive funding from the Council or who hire Council facilities from using traditional fireworks. It is proposed therefore that the conditions of all grant funding offers and the terms and conditions of all Council hire agreements are amended to exclude the use of all but low-noise fireworks. This would apply to all hire agreements in the Arts and Culture, Community Development and Leisure Sections as well as the following grant funding programmes:

- Community Festival Fund
- Tourism Event Grant
- Cultural Grant Aid Programme
- Christmas Celebration Event Grant
- Sports Event Grants
- Bonfire Management Programme

In addition, it is proposed to run the **enclosed** communications campaign throughout October 2026 to raise awareness of the issues involving traditional fireworks and advocating the responsible use of low-noise fireworks by all. A proposed public statement, also **enclosed**, will be issued at the commencement of the campaign.

#### 5. Financial Implication

There are no financial implications to this proposal.

#### 6. Summary

A Council motion brought in January 2026 has highlighted the issues associated with the use of traditional fireworks, and in response to this motion, Council events will now use only low-noise fireworks. It is further recommended that the terms and conditions of all relevant grant aid programmes and Council facility hire agreements are amended to preclude the use of all except low-noise fireworks.

#### 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the new fireworks protocol covering Council events, Council-funded events and third-party events held at Council facilities be approved.**

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

### 3.4 CP/CP/113 BARNARDO'S - THE THRiVE PROJECT

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the THRiVE 2025/2026 Q4 Performance Report and advise that performance targets for the period have been met.**

#### 2. Introduction

The THRiVE Project is a collaboration of local parents, schools, community and voluntary organisations and statutory agencies working together to help children and young people in Macedon and Threemilewater DEA's to achieve their full potential and have the best start in life.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the March 2025 Community Development Committee, to provide £25,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRiVE Project with a quarterly performance report brought to future meetings of the Committee.

Members are also reminded that the provision of an additional £3,000 financial assistance for the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Education Authority on behalf of the THRiVE Project and the 2025/26 Quarter 1 Performance Report, based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement, were approved at the September 2025 Community Development Committee.

#### 4. Financial Position

A budget of £28,000 is included in the 2025/26 Community Development budgets.

#### 5. Governance

It was approved at the June 2025 Community Development Committee that the Head of Community Development replace the Elected Members nominated to serve on the THRiVE Project Board from both the Macedon DEA and the Threemilewater DEA with immediate effect.

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

## 6. Summary

The Quarter 4 Report is enclosed for Members' information and is based upon performance measures in the Service Level Agreement. Officers have been advised that Quarter 4 targets have been met.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the THRiVE Project Quarter 4 2025-26 performance report be approved.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

### 3.5 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 22 April 2026 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 the Councils 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 the Councils 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 22 October 2025 were approved at the November 2025 Community Development Committee Meeting.

#### 4. Partnership Minutes

The sixth Community Planning Partnership meeting of the Council term was held in the Yarn Suite, Mossley Mill on Wednesday 22 April. At the meeting, the minutes of the Partnership meeting of 22 October 2025 were approved and are **enclosed** for Members information. The draft minutes of the 22 April 2026 meeting are also **enclosed** for Members approval.

#### 5. Governance

At the Council's Annual Meeting in May 2023, it was agreed that Members be appointed to the Community Planning Partnership for the term of the 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. A copy of the latest draft Statement of Progress for the period January 2024 - March 2026 is **enclosed** for Members information.

6. Summary

The draft minutes of the Community Planning Partnership meeting held on 22 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 22 April 2026 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 and Culture

### 3.6 CP/CD/390 VOLUNTEER WEEK AND THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2026

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the 2026 Volunteer's Week and the seek approval for the membership of the assessment panel for the Spirit of Volunteering Awards.**

#### 2. Background

Volunteers' Week is an annual event, which sees charities, voluntary groups, social organisations, and volunteers themselves come together to recognise the incredible impact that volunteering has in communities around the UK. Volunteers' Week 2026 will run from the 1-7 June, and the theme designated by the United Nations is Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

The Spirit of Volunteering Awards take place once in each Council term and highlight and recognise the valuable commitment of those who volunteer their time within the Borough.

#### 3. Previous Decisions of the Council

Members are advised that it was agreed at the May 2021 Community Planning Committee Meeting that the Spirit of Volunteering Awards be delivered once in each Council Term.

#### 4. Key Issues

##### Volunteer Week

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from Community Planning partner, Volunteer Now, inviting the Council to use the opportunity of Volunteer Week to thank volunteers and recognise the value volunteering has in reducing loneliness and improving health outcomes.

Officers have engaged with Volunteer Now and the Mayor's Office and have developed the following programme of activities to celebrate Volunteers Week:

- **Volunteers Celebration Afternoon Tea:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June hosted by Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Denise Heyward Volunteer Now, CEO Keynote speaker.
- **Spotlight on volunteers:** Volunteer Week will feature social media clips highlighting the value and importance of volunteers from the Borough.
- **Volunteering opportunities:** Organisations within the Borough will be invited to promote their current and upcoming volunteering opportunities.

##### Spirit of Volunteering Awards

During the last Council term the last Spirit of Volunteering Awards were held on 13 October 2022. Members are advised that nominations for 2026 Awards will launch on Tuesday 5 May and close on Monday 8 June 2026 with active

promotion taking place during Volunteer Week. The 2026 Spirit of Volunteering Awards will take place in the Theatre at the Mill, on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

#### 5. Financial Implication

It is estimated that the total cost of the 2026 Volunteer Week and the Spirit of Volunteering Awards Celebration Event will be approximately £20,000, provision of which has been made in the 2026/27 Community Development budget.

#### 6. Governance

In the past an Assessment Panel has been established to work with Officers in the planning of the Spirit of Volunteering Celebration Event and assessment of nominations. It is proposed that the membership of the Assessment Panel for 2026 should include:

- The 2026/27 Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- The 2026/27 Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Development Committee
- His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, Mr David McCorkell
- The Chief Executive of Volunteer Now, Denise Hayword
- Relevant Council Officers

#### 7. Summary

Volunteer Week 2026 will take place from 1-7 June. This year has been designated by the United Nations as the year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Officers have engaged with Volunteer Now to develop a programme to celebrate volunteers within the Borough during the week. The 2026 Spirit of Volunteering Awards nominations will launch on 5 May and close on 8 June 2026. An Assessment Panel will be established to assess nominations with the Awards taking place in the Theatre at the Mill on 30 September 2026.

#### 8. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the 2026 Volunteer Week update be noted and that the proposed membership of the Assessment Panel for the 2026 Spirit of Volunteering Awards be approved.**

Prepared by: Stef Buchanan, Community Development Manager,

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

### 3.7 CP/GEN/052 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS 2026/2027 AND 2026/2028 – CALL 2

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval in relation to proposed financial awards under the Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Aid Programme for 2026/2027 and 2026/2028 Call 2.**

#### 2. Background

The Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Aid Programme provides financial assistance to groups within the Borough towards the costs of running their Community Facilities and delivering their Programmes and Activities over a maximum 2-year period.

Programmes funded must have Community Development as a primary objective and must develop a strong, healthy and vibrant community, encourage maximum participation and improve the lives of people living within the Borough.

To support applications to this programme, Officers delivered two grant workshops and offered one-to-one support to all interested groups upon request.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that a presentation on the Community Development Grant Aid Programme was given to the Community Development Committee in February 2025, where the proposed changes to the programme were approved.

A key change to the Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Aid Programme was that groups can now seek funding for either one year or two years, with 80% of the annual budget profiled for two-year applications. Calls are made annually for single year applications, while multi-year applications open at the end of every two-year cycle.

Financial awards under Call 1 of the Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Aid Programme for 2026/2027 and 2026/2028 totalling £938,528.66 were approved at the February 2026 Community Development Committee.

#### 4. Call 2 for Applications 2026/2027 and 2026/2028

A second call for Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities grant applications for 2026/2027 and 2026/2028 opened on Monday 2 March and closed on Friday 10 April 2026.

A total of 9 two-year funding applications were received for 2026/2028 and 2 one-year applications received for 2026/2027, with 7 applications totalling

£28,995 for year one and 6 applications totalling £25,095 for year two achieving the required pass threshold.

In total 11 applications were received for both multi-year and single year funding, with seven applications totalling £54,090 achieving the required pass threshold. Details of which are **enclosed** for Members' information.

## 5. Financial Implication

A budget of £628,000 is included in the 2026/2027 Community Development budget for Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities funding. A contribution totalling £50,428, has been received from the Department for Communities (DfC) under its Community Support Programme for 2026/2027.

Following Call 1 applications, the total amount of financial assistance committed to date for 2026/2027 is £534,752.66 and for 2027/2028 is £451,696, including previous funding commitments.

The total amount of financial assistance requested for Call 2 in 2026/2027 by the 7 applicants that met the required pass threshold is £28,995 and for 2027/2028 is £25,095.

Should the 7 applications be approved for funding, the combined total for 2026/2027 would be £563,747.66 and for 2027/2028 £476,791. With a remaining budget of £64,252.34 for 2026/27 and £151,209 for 2027/2028.

Members are reminded that funding is subject to satisfactory annual monitoring and evaluation. As in previous years, Officers will arrange to meet with any unsuccessful groups to provide feedback on their applications and to signpost to other relevant funders.

## 6. Summary

A total of 11 applications for the Call 2 Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grant Aid programme were received and assessed by a panel of Officers with 7 applications totalling £54,090 achieving the required pass threshold for funding in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028.

In the 2026/2027 budget there is an allocation of £628,000 for Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities Grants designated under this grant call. It is proposed that all successful applications be approved for funding in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 where applicable.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that**

**(a) the 7 successful Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities applications requesting financial assistance totalling £28,995 for 2026/2027 be approved;**

**(b) the 6 successful Community Facilities, Programmes and Activities applications requesting financial assistance totalling £25,095 for 2027/2028 be approved;**

Prepared by: Kerry Brady, Grants & Funding Officer

Agreed by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance and Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: John Balmer, Director of Finance and Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

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

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the minutes from the Full Partnership Meeting held on 28 April 2026 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 meetings,  
- Full Partnership Meeting minutes 28 April 2026

are **enclosed** for Members' information.

#### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Full Partnership Meeting on 20 January 2026 were approved as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting at the February 2026 Council meeting.

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 held on 28 April 2026 are provided for Members approval.

## 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Full Partnership Meeting held on 28 April 2026, as detailed, be approved as true and accurate reflections of the meetings.**

Prepared by: June Foster, Executive Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

## 4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 4.1 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – PERIOD 12 APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the financial performance of the Community and Culture Directorate to Members for Period 12 April 2025 to March 2026.**

#### 2. Introduction/Background

As agreed, quarterly budget reports are presented to the relevant Committee with all financial reports available to all Members.

The budget report for Period 12 does not include adjustments required to arrive at the final financial position of the Council for the 2025/26 financial year. These adjustments include final accruals of expenditure incurred and grants and debts invoiced after 31 March 2026, contributions to or from reserves, and prepayments of expenditure and income.

The final financial position for the year shall be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in June 2026.

#### 3. Summary

A report on the financial performance, employee costs, highest areas of expenditure and income, and the financial performance by Head of Service of the Community and Culture Directorate is **enclosed** for Members' information.

As at period 12:

The Community and Culture Directorate has a favourable variance of £84k, or 1.1%, against the budgeted financial performance for the period.

The overall financial position of the Council will be presented to the Policy & Governance Committee.

#### 4. Recommendation

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

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

## 4.2 CP/CP/224 CONSULTATION ON THE SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND DEBT SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to update Members about the Department for Communities Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services published consultation outcome.**

### 2. Introduction

The Department for Communities (DfC) has developed draft proposals for a Support Framework for independent Advice and Debt providers to ensure that people can access consistent quality advice regardless of where they live in Northern Ireland, with a focus on ensuring that the Department's investment:

- supports independent Advice and Debt service-providers to meet needs on the ground;
- strikes the right balance between supporting frontline community delivery and regional services; and
- supports collaboration and joining up of services to minimise duplication, maximise resources and improve outcomes for clients.

The proposals are underpinned by 'Guiding Principles' that are a reference framework for how services should be delivered.

A consultation sought to gather views from key stakeholders, including local authorities, advice providers, and community and voluntary organisations, on how advice services should be funded, structured, and delivered in the future.

The proposed framework is intended to ensure the sustainability, consistency, and accessibility of independent advice and debt services, particularly for individuals and households experiencing financial hardship.

### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was agreed at the September 2025 Community Development Committee that Members respond on a party political or individual basis.

### 4. Key Issues

A consultation to gather views on these draft proposals was launched on 11 August 2025 and published on the Department's consultations webpage. To support the consultation, two online engagement events were hosted by the Department for Communities on 9 and 14 October 2025.

An overview of the consultation responses is **enclosed** for Members information. The report has identified common themes and issues raised in response to each question.

The results of the consultation have been analysed and collated in this document and will inform the development of a final Northern Ireland Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services, subject to Ministerial agreement. It is anticipated this work will be completed during 2026/27 and will include a implementation plan which will be taken forward on a phased basis.

## 5. Summary

The Department for Communities (DfC) has published the outcome of the consultation on the Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services.

The publication sets out a summary of responses received, key themes identified and will inform the development of a final regional Support Framework.

## 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Department for Communities Support Framework for Independent Advice and Debt Services published consultation outcome be noted.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

## 4.3 CP/CC/004 BALLYCLARE CCTV PROVISION

### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to update Members on CCTV provision at the Centenary Way toilets in Ballyclare following such a request to the April 2026 Committee.**

### 2. Introduction / Background

It was reported to the April Committee that a CCTV camera was to be installed on the exterior of Neillsbrook Community Centre Randalstown as a potential deterrent to long running incidents of ASB in the vicinity of the Centre.

### 3. Previous Decision of the Council

Members are reminded that it was agreed at the April 2026 meeting of the Committee that the installation of CCTV at Neillsbrook Community Centre be progressed as a six month pilot following which officers would report back to Committee with robust PSNI data and evidence and it was further agreed that officers would bring back a report and business case to the next Committee meeting in relation to the installation of CCTV at the Centenary Way toilet area in Ballyclare.

### 4. CCTV Provision at Centenary Way Ballyclare

Neillsbrook Community Centre is one of the Council's Community Centres operated and managed by the Community Development Section of the Community and Culture Directorate.

Members were advised at the Committee in April that as a potential deterrent to ongoing ASB, and resulting repair costs, it was agreed to install CCTV on the exterior of the community centre at a cost of £7,000 provision for which had been identified in the 2026/27 annual budgets.

Officers in the Estate Services Section of the Estates and Recreation Directorate were contacted following Committee in relation to the request to consider installation of CCTV at the Centenary Way toilets in Ballyclare. They are responsible for the management and maintenance of such facilities across the Borough and therefore for progressing such a report.

Members are advised that Estate Services plan to bring a report in relation to Borough wide CCTV provision to the Operations Committee in June 2026.

### 5. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 6. Governance

The Community Development Section of the Community and Culture Directorate have operational responsibility for Council's Community Centres and therefore the Community Development Committee is the appropriate Committee to consider relevant operational matters relating to such facilities including Neillsbrook.

The Estate Services Section of the Estates and Recreation Directorate have operational responsibility for public toilets across the Borough and are bringing a report to the Operations Committee in June in relation to Borough wide CCTV provision.

## 7. Summary

A CCTV camera is being installed at Neillsbrook Community Centre as a potential measure to reduce ongoing ASB in the vicinity of the Centre. A request to consider installation of CCTV in the vicinity of the Centenary Way toilets Ballyclare will be progressed by the Estate Services Section of the Estates and Recreation Directorate given their operational responsibility. They will be bringing a report on Borough wide CCTV provision to the June 2026 Operations Committee.

## 8. Recommendation

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

Agreed and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

#### 4.4 COMD/CD/012 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2026-2027

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the offer of financial assistance received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for the Community Support Programme 2026/27.**

##### 2. Background

The Community Support Programme was established in 1975 and is a joint programme involving the Department for Communities (DfC) and local Councils. The programme supports the provision of community centres, local advice services, social supermarkets, resource centres, grants to community groups and the employment of community support staff in Councils.

##### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded it was reported at the October 2025 Community Development Committee an allocation of £578,211 was awarded towards the delivery of the programme in 2025/26.

##### 4. Community Support Programme 2026/27

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from the DfC confirming financial assistance totalling £547,702.32. for the delivery of the Councils Community Support Programme in 2026/27.

The total amount awarded includes £148,279.64 for Community Support in General, such as Staff Salaries, the Community Development Grant Aid Programme and Community Capacity Building Initiatives, £227,557.79 for Advice Services and £171,864.89 for a Social Supermarket.

The 2026/27 funding offer is a decrease of £30,519.57 (5.3%) on the 2025/26 allocation attributed to the £29,383.22 additional Integrated Advice Partnership Fund that was allocated as a variance to the 2025/26 award. Officers are content that that allocated budget provision will retain service delivery at existing levels.

Members are advised that this offer of funding has been accepted by the Departments deadline of Friday 8 May 2026.

##### 5. Summary

The Council has received a revised offer for funding of £547,702.32. from the DfC for the costs associated with the Councils Community Support Programme for 2026/27.

The funding includes contributions towards staff salaries, the Community Development Grant Aid Programme, Community Capacity Building Initiatives, Advice Services and the Social Supermarket project.

The offer of funding has been accepted by the Departments deadline of 8 May 2026.

**6. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the offer of Community Support Programme funding from the Department of Communities of £547,702.32 be noted.**

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community and Culture

#### 4.5 COMD/TD/007 AND COMD/TD/008 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES FUNDING – NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL 2026-2027

COMD/TD/007 GRANGE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL  
COMD/TD/008 RATHCOOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the offer of financial assistance received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme 2026/27.**

##### 2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded in June 2003 the Neighbourhood Renewal – People and Place Programme was launched. Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Following extensive consultation, this resulted in a total of 36 areas, and a population of approximately 280,000 (one person in 6 in Northern Ireland), being targeted for intervention.

Neighbourhood Partnerships have been established in each Neighbourhood Renewal Area as a vehicle for local planning and implementation. Each Neighbourhood Partnership may include representatives of key political, statutory, voluntary, community and private sector stakeholders. Together, they have developed long term visions and action plans designed to improve the quality of life for those living in the area.

There are currently two Neighbourhood Partnerships in the Borough namely Grange and Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnerships.

##### 3. Previous Decision of Council

Members are reminded that it was reported to the April 2026 Community Development Committee that in the absence of the 2026-27 budget settlement interim funding awards for the DfC programmes to the end June 2025 were retained at 2025/26 levels.

##### 4. Letter of Offer

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from DfC confirming financial assistance totalling £117,335.64 for the delivery of the Grange and Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes for 2026/27.

The funding awarded includes £27,858.56 for the Grange Neighbourhood Partnership and £89,477.08 for the Rathcoole Neighbourhood Partnership. This offer of funding has been accepted by the Departments deadline of 22 April 2026.

The 2026/27 funding offer is the same as the 2025/26 allocation. Officers are content that that allocated budget provision will retain service delivery at existing levels.

## 5. Governance

The Grange Neighbourhood Renewal partnership was formally established in April 2006 under funding from the Department for Communities as an inter-sectoral partnership, tasked with driving the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy in Grange, Ballyclare.

Rathcoole Neighbourhood Renewal was formally established in April 2006 under funding from the Department for Communities as an inter-sectoral partnership, tasked with driving the delivery of the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy in Rathcoole, Macedon.

The Council will continue to contract manage Neighbourhood Renewal programmes including the reporting and the monitoring of the programme to the Department for Communities, as per conditions set out in the Letter of Offer.

## 6. Summary

The Council has received offers of funding from DfC for the costs associated with the Grange £27,858.56 and Rathcoole £89,477.08 Neighbourhood Renewal Programmes, for the period of 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the update on the offer of Neighbourhood Renewal Programme funding 2026-2027 from the Department for Communities be noted.**

Prepared by: Stacey Myles, Neighbourhood Renewal Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Development

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Development

#### 4.6 CP/TD/107 NEWTOWNABBEY AREAS AT RISK FUNDING 2026/27

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the offer of financial assistance received from the Department for Communities (DfC) for the Areas at Risk Programme 2026/27.**

##### 2. Introduction/Background

The Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund is available to financially support areas identified as the most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA's) of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM), excluding Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in the Borough.

The programme is partially funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) as part of existing Areas at Risk (AAR) arrangements for Carnmoney, Mossley and Monkstown areas, whilst the Antrim programme is fully funded by the Council.

##### 3. Previous Council Decision

Members are reminded that it was reported to the April 2026 Community Development Committee that in the absence of the 2026-27 budget settlement interim funding awards for the DfC programmes to the end June 2025 were retained at 2025/26 levels.

It was approved at the September 2025 Community Development Committee that the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund be launched as a competitive open grant call for multiyear funding for 2026-28 for organisations working within identified areas of deprivation, excluding Neighbourhood Renewal areas which are already in receipt of monies through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

The Grant guidance notes were approved at the November 2025 Committee.

A total of 11 successful Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund applications, totalling £186,994.50 for 2026-27 and £190,442.13 for 2027-28 were approved at the March 2026 Community Development Committee and it was also agreed that a second call for applications be opened on 3 April 2026 and closed on 15 May 2026.

##### 4. Financial Position

Members are advised that correspondence **enclosed** has been received from DfC confirming financial assistance totalling £76,395.38 for the delivery of the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Programme for the 2026/27 period.

This offer of funding has been accepted by the Departments deadline of 22 April 2026.

The 2026/27 funding offer represents no change from the 2025/26 allocation, providing stability for programme delivery.

## 5. Governance

The Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund grant programme will be managed through the Council's Grant Funding Unit and will align with the Council's Funding Policy and Financial Regulations.

DfC funding will be ring-fenced to grant applications within the current agreed areas only and reported on in line with current processes and procedures.

## 6. Summary

The Department for Communities (DfC) has confirmed funding of £76,395.38 for the Newtownabbey Areas at Risk Programme for the 2026/27 financial year.

This allocation is consistent with the previous year's funding and enables the continued delivery of support within the established Areas at Risk locations of Carnmoney, Monkstown and Mossley.

The programme will be delivered in line with the Elevate Community Renewal and Resilience Fund.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the update on the offer of Areas at Risk funding 2026-2027 totalling £76,395.38 from the Department for Communities be noted.**

Prepared by: Will McDowell, DEA Engagement Coordinator

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.