



22 June 2022

To: Each Member of the Council

Dear Member

MEETING OF ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will be held on **Monday 27 June 2022 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.15 pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Bible Reading and Prayer (In accordance with Standing Orders, Members are not required to attend for this part of the meeting and, following this part of the meeting, Members outside the Chamber will be called to the meeting).
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Declarations of Interest
- 4 To take as read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council held on Monday 30 May 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 5 To take and read and confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Wednesday 1 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 6 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning Meeting of Monday 13 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 7 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Tuesday 14 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 8 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy & Governance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(a) To take as read and confirm the Part 1 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 9(b) To approve Part 2 of the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 20 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 10 To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 21 June 2022, a copy of which is **enclosed**.
- 11 ITEMS FOR DECISION
 - 11.1 Consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) under Regulation 12 of The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2017 ('EIA Regulations') – Section 54 Application Made to DFI to vary Planning Conditions attached to Planning Permission La03/2017/0310/F
 - 11.2 DEA Member Engagement Group Minutes
 - 11.3 Light Up Working Group
 - 11.4 Community Facilities – Free Use Requests

- 11.5 Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel
- 11.6 Arts and Culture Grant Aid
- 11.7 Central Carpark/Castle Mall Development Works
- 11.8 Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan (Final Draft) 2022/23
- 11.9 Community Development Grant Aid Programme 2022/2023
- 11.10 Community Planning Capital Grants
- 11.11 Duke of Edinburgh Working Group

12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 12.1 Review of the Effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Committee and Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2021/22
- 12.2 Reserved Matters Application LA03/2020/0881/RM
- 12.3 NI Rural Development Programme
- 12.4 Northern Ireland Housing Council
- 12.5 Correspondence – NI Hospice – Freedom of the Borough
- 12.6 Reserved Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland

13 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

- 13.1 Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group Minutes
- 13.2 Forest Park Enhancement – Update on Applications
- 13.3 Judicial Review Proceedings Re Kells Battery Energy Storage System
- 13.4 Residual Waste Treatment Project - arc21 In Attendance
- 13.5 Organisation Structures

11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1 P/PLAN/084 CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (DFI) UNDER REGULATION 12 OF THE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 2017 ('EIA REGULATIONS') – SECTION 54 APPLICATION MADE TO DFI TO VARY PLANNING CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION LA03/2017/0310/F

The Department for Infrastructure has issued a consultation to the Council under Regulation 12 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2017 for the following Section 54 application (**copy enclosed**).

Application Ref: LA03/2021/0940/F
Proposal: Section 54 Planning Application of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, seeking permission to develop land without compliance with planning conditions No.7 (seeking removal of daylight only operating hours restriction) and No.12 (seeking variation to barge sizes) previously attached to planning permission LA03/2017/0310/F.
Location: Lough Neagh within the Mid Ulster District Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council areas.
Applicant: Lough Neagh Sand Traders Ltd

Full details of this application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

This Section 54 application is seeking to develop land without compliance with planning conditions No.7 (seeking removal of daylight only operating hours restriction) and No.12 (seeking variation to barge sizes) previously attached to planning permission LA03/2017/0310/F.

The permissions are attached to planning permission LA03/2017/0310/F for the extraction, transportation and working of sand and gravel from Lough Neagh that was processed by the Department for Infrastructure and approved in January 2021 following consultation with the Council.

As the application is seeking to develop land without compliance / to vary planning conditions attached to a planning permission granted by the Department, the current legislative framework introduced on the transfer of the bulk of planning responsibilities to Councils in April 2015 requires that the Section 54 application be processed and determined by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi).

The application proposes (a) remove the daylight only operating hours restriction and (b) to vary the barge dimensions specified. Further detail on the applicant's rationale for these changes is provided in correspondence submitted to accompany the application, a copy of which is **enclosed** for information.

The Department has determined by this application to be an EIA Application and has therefore been accompanied by an Environmental Statement and Addendum and has sought consultation from the Council.

The Council is one of a number of bodies which has been consulted on this application by DfI. Any comments made by the Council will be considered as part of the processing of the application together with all other consultation replies and other representations received. In addition, while the Council is a statutory consultee, there is no obligation on the Council to provide a corporate view on the development.

When considering the application DfI will follow the procedure laid down in Article 21 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015. Under this legislative provision, DfI may cause a Public Local Inquiry to be held by the Planning Appeals Commission or a person appointed by the Department. Where a public inquiry is not held, Article 21 sets out that the Department must, before determining the application, serve notice in writing on the applicant and the appropriate Council indicating the decision it proposes to make on the application. Within 28 days of such notice the applicant or Council may request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission or a person appointed by the Department for that purpose. Whichever route is followed the decision of the Department on these applications shall be final.

There are a number of options available to the Council in responding to the consultation by DfI:

1. Provide a corporate view on the Environmental Statement and Addendum.
2. Provide no corporate view on the Environmental Statement and Addendum. In this case individual Members or parties may express their own views on such matters.

Council's instructions are requested

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Development and Planning

11.2 CP/CP/178 DEA MEMBER ENGAGEMENT GROUP MINUTES

Members are reminded that the DEA Member Engagement Groups are now a central part of the Community Planning engagement framework. Draft minutes for the remaining six DEA Member Engagement Groups are **enclosed** for Members' information, these will be formally adopted at the next meetings of the groups. The minutes of Ballyclare DEA Member Engagement Group have already been approved at Council meeting on 30 May 2022.

Community Planning Section – DEA Member Engagement Group Meetings		
File Ref	Date of Meeting	Name of Partnership
CP/CP/168	19 May 2022	Airport DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/169	18 May 2022	Antrim DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/171	23 May 2022	Dunsilly DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/172	10 May 2022	Glengormley DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/173	25 May 2022	Macedon DEA Member Engagement Group
CP/CP/174	25 May 2022	Threemilewater DEA Member Engagement Group

RECOMMENDATION: that the draft minutes of the DEA Member Engagement Groups be approved.

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.3 AC/GEN/018 LIGHT UP WORKING GROUP

Members were reminded that in July 2019, the Council agreed to form an all-party working group to decide a policy of lighting the main Council civic buildings. A Light Up Civic Buildings Policy developed by the Working Group was approved by the Council in October 2020. It was also agreed that a review of the Policy be brought to the June 2021 Community Planning Committee meeting. A revised Light Up Civic Buildings Policy was approved at this meeting and it was agreed to carry out a further review in June 2022.

The Working Group met on 20 June 2022 to review the current Policy and agreed that the Light Up Policy had worked well in the previous twelve months with the Council able to show support for a variety of worthwhile charities, causes and to responds to global events such as the War in Ukraine. A list of light ups delivered in 2021 and 2022 is **enclosed** for Members' information.

It is proposed to make no changes to the current Policy and review it again in June 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the outcome of the review Light Up Civic Buildings Policy be approved with a further review carried out in June 2023 the outcome of which to be reported to a future meeting.

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.4 CP/CD/345 COMMUNITY FACILITIES – FREE USE REQUESTS

Members are advised that requests have been made for the free use of Northern Ireland Centenary Community Centre Ballyduff and Rathenraw Community Centre for Summer Schemes.

The requests have been made by SPARK Newtownabbey, Ballyduff Shine Scripture Union and Rathenraw Youth Scheme as follows: -

- Rathenraw Youth Scheme: A Summer Scheme for children from 18th-29th July (Mon-Fri) 9am-4pm.
- Ballyduff Shine Scripture Union: A Summer Scheme 17th -22nd July (Mon-Fri) 1:30pm-4:30pm and 6:30pm-9pm as well as Sunday 3pm-5pm.
- SPARK Newtownabbey: A Community Outreach Week 15th-19th August (Mon-Fri) 1pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm with activities for local young people such as a kid's club, sports coaching, music, a community litter pick, car washes, gardening and a fun day.

Similar requests made by these groups have been approved in previous years. It is proposed that officers consider an appropriate policy to facilitate such requests for development as part of the ongoing Review of Community Facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: that the free use of Community Facilities as outlined for summer activities be approved, and that any subsequent requests be approved and a policy on such requests to be brought to a future meeting.

Prepared by: Paul Townsend, Community Facilities Coordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.5 AC/GEN/010 BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY PANEL

Members are reminded of the resumption of meetings of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel in 2021. The Panel meets quarterly with the minutes of the meeting of 1 March 2022 approved at the March Community Planning Committee.

The Panel met again on 7 June 2022 and the minutes of the meeting are enclosed for Members' information. At this meeting the summer programme for the Councils theatres was agreed by the Panel and a copy is enclosed for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Borough Arts and Cultural Advisory Panel of 7 June 2022, including summer programmes for the Council Theatres, be approved.

Prepared and Approved by: Ursula Fay Director of Community Planning

11.6 AC/GEN/037 ARTS AND CULTURE GRANT AID

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

To be successful applicants must score a minimum of 50% in their application and all proposed awards are subject to the receipt of all relevant supporting documentation or the offer of funding will be withdrawn.

The grants are delivered on a rolling funding programme linked to the financial year or until the funding for the year is exhausted. One application has been 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:

Group Individual	Funding Category	Funding Purpose	Score	Amount Awarded
Kings Moss Cycle Club	The production or development of a heritage product, such as publication or exhibition which must relate to local history.	For the delivery of an exhibition in June in the Flax Gallery celebrating the centenary of this Ballyclare-based cycling club.	65%	£825

RECOMMENDATION: that the Arts and Culture Grant Award be retrospectively approved.

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

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.7 PK/CP/004 CENTRAL CAR PARK/CASTLE MALL DEVELOPMENT

Members will be aware that work is currently underway in the Castle Mall centre to create the large unit required for Lynas Foods. Planning approval for these works was granted under LA03/2021/0074/F and will require new crossing points to be provided between the Castle Mall and the Central car park. To achieve this, the existing blue barrier will need to be removed and footpaths at these points lowered to provide level access to the car park for shoppers.

Lynas Foods plan to open its store in December therefore these works would need to be completed in advance of this date. Keneagles Limited, the new owner of the centre is therefore seeking Council permission to carry out this work.

Keneagles Limited has also recently secured planning permission for a new drive-thru bakery/coffee in Central car park. Condition four of the approval states 'Prior to any construction activities being undertaken, an intrusive investigation, including sampling, and monitoring, shall be undertaken at the development site'. Approval is therefore requested to carry out intrusive investigations including up to eight boreholes and a trial pit in Central car park. The works are estimated to take up to five days to complete. More accurate timescales for the works, locations and method statements will be provided prior to commencement of the works.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is granted for the works as outlined.

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

11.8 PT/CI/046 CORPORATE RECOVERY AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (FINAL DRAFT) 2022/23

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

Section 85 of the Act requires a Council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives. These objectives must be framed so that each improvement objective brings about improvement in at least one of the specified aspects of improvement as defined in Section 86:

Strategic Effectiveness; Service Quality; Service Availability; Fairness; Sustainability; Efficiency; Innovation.

The Corporate Improvement and Recovery Plan (Draft for Consultation) 2022 – 23 was brought for Members consideration in February 2022 and it was agreed to conduct a twelve-week consultation exercise to encourage feedback from our stakeholders.

On 7 March 2022 officers initiated a 12-week public consultation to derive feedback from Elected Members, Residents and Stakeholders, Local Businesses, Statutory and other community planning partners, and other bodies with which collaborative working is taking place or is being planned.

The plan was amended to update final year-end figures and to include the performance improvement statutory indicator for the Department of the Economy in relation to the Go For It programme as reported to the Policy & Governance Committee in June 2022. The Plan was presented to and reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 21 June 2022.

The Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022-23 (Final Draft) (enclosed), along with an Executive Summary highlighting the four improvement objectives are enclosed for Members' approval.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Corporate Recovery and Improvement Plan 2022/23 (Final Draft) and Executive Summary be approved.

Prepared by: Denise Lynn, PA to the Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance

Agreed by: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Performance and Governance (Interim)

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance

11.9 CP/CD/436 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AID PROGRAMME 2022/2023

Members are reminded that following a query in relation to a grant application at the Council meeting on 28 February, the minutes of the 14 February Community Planning Committee were approved and adopted with an amendment that the grant application for Monkstown Boxing Club be deferred in order to clarify the detail of the proposal.

Officers have met with the group to clarify the proposal and it is recommended that the application is approved.

RECOMMENDATION that the Technical Assistance grant application for Monkstown Boxing Club be approved.

Prepared by: Jonathan Henderson, Community Services Co-ordinator

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.10 CP/CD/429 COMMUNITY PLANNING CAPITAL GRANTS

Members are reminded that the Community Planning Capital Grant programme was approved by the Council in May.

These grants are available to local Community and Voluntary Organisations for funding for the development of new facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities that meet evidenced based need.

Updated Guidance Notes for the Community Planning Capital Grant Programme are **enclosed** for Members' information. The Guidance Notes detail the criteria for the grant programme and outline in detail the application process.

Members are advised that one application has been received and assessed by a panel of Officers, the score awarded is **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that

(a) the Community Planning Capital Grants Programme updated guidance notes be approved;

(b) the Community Planning capital grant up to a maximum of £200,000 to Impact Network NI be approved.

Prepared by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

11.11 AC/GEN/078 DUKE OF EDINBURGH WORKING GROUP

Members are reminded that it was agreed by the Council in April 2021 that a permanent memorial to Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip be placed in Antrim Castle Gardens and the creation of an annual bursary scheme, to benefit young people be explored.

A working group was established in August 2021 and minutes of its meeting on 21 June 2022 are **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION that the minutes of the Duke of Edinburgh Working Group held on Tuesday 21 June 2022 be approved.

Prepared by: Kerry Brady Community Support and Governance Officer

Agreed by: Ronan McKenna, Head of Community Planning

Approved by: Ursula Fay, Director of Community Planning

12 ITEMS FOR NOTING

12.1 FI/AUD/02 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE AND AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Members are advised that Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Audit Committee – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018, places a requirement on Audit Committees to "Report regularly on their work, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance".

On 17 February 2022, Members of the Audit and Risk Committee participated in a facilitated self-assessment review of the performance of the Committee, where they completed the 'Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Audit Committee' self-assessment checklist. The results (**enclosed**) of this review were agreed by the Audit and Risk Committee at their meeting in March 2022.

The Audit and Risk Committee has also prepared an Annual Report (**enclosed**) which was approved at their meeting on 21 June 2022. This report outlines the Audit and Risk Committee's activities during 2021/22 and how the Committee has discharged its roles and responsibilities as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Paul Caulcutt, Head of Internal Audit

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Deputy Chief Executive of Finance and Governance

12.2 P/PLAN/065 NOTIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE (DFI) OF THE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS (NI) 2017 ('EIA REGULATIONS') – APPROVAL OF RESERVED MATTERS APPLICATION LA03/2020/0881/RM

The Department for Infrastructure has issued notification of approval to the Council under Regulation 27(2)(a) of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2017 **(copy enclosed)** for the following Reserved Matters application.

Application Ref: LA03/2020/0881/RM

Proposal: Reserved matters application for major urban extension to include residential (699 no. units amounting to 8no. apartments, 92no. terrace, 440no. semi-detached and 159no. detached), northern section of Ballyclare Relief Road, public open spaces and associated development following outline permission granted under U/2009/0405/O

Location: Lands adjacent to the North-West of Ballyclare extending from Rashee Road close to its junction with Cogry Road continuing across to the North of Ross Avenue/Clare Heights and North and West of Ballyclare Rugby Club to the North of Doagh Road

Applicant: Ballyclare Developments Limited

Full details of this application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

12.3 ED/ED/005 NI RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that GROW South Antrim Limited is responsible for delivering the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP) across the Borough to include grant aid funding to support rural businesses, community organisations and village renewal projects and for working in cooperation with other Rural Development clusters across Europe. GROW South Antrim has a contract with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for £2,235,090 of programme funds. The full allocation of funding has been awarded to 76 projects, 75 of whom are complete and the final project is due to complete during June 2022. The majority of funding (£1,346,434) was awarded to 45 business projects, and monitoring undertaken to date indicates that circa 65 new full-time equivalent jobs have been created in the Borough as a result of the investment to date. An independent evaluation of the GROW South Antrim Programme (**enclosed**) concludes that GROW successfully administered funding in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough through the NIRDP 2014 – 2020 – resulting in a total investment in the area of grant funding and public and private match funding of £4,044,401.

GROW South Antrim Limited (formerly REAP South Antrim Limited) was set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 20th June 2002 to administer NIRDP funding through the LEADER methodology, as required for delivery of European funding. LEADER stands for 'Links between Actions of Rural Development' and is a bottom up methodology of administering funding through a partnership of both Councillors and social partners. GROW currently has 16 Members – 7 Councillors and 9 social partners, none of whom are remunerated for their position on the Board. The Company has administered three NIRDP programmes in Antrim and Newtownabbey: 2000 – 2006, 2007 – 2013 (both programme periods included the borough of Carrickfergus) and 2014-2020. Following Brexit, DAERA have indicated that any future programmes of support for rural areas under the new Rural Policy Framework will not be delivered using the LEADER methodology.

As GROW has reached the end of its Programme, it has indicated to DAERA its intention to dissolve the Company, when all Programme commitments have been met, including all grant aid processed and post programme evaluations completed. This is expected to be during September 2022.

In total, 52 LAG Board meetings and 37 sub group meetings were held throughout the 2014-2020 Programme, collectively resulting in 287 days of voluntary time committed to deliver the Programme. In recognition of the work undertaken by GROW, Council will host a celebration lunch for all LAG Members involved in delivery of NIRDP 2014-2020 prior to its formal closure.

RECOMMENDATION: that the evaluation of GROW South Antrim Limited and closure arrangements be noted.

Prepared by: Emma Stubbs, Business Development Manager

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

Approved by: Majella McAlister, Deputy Chief Executive of Economic Growth

12.4 CE/OA/013 NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

As agreed at the August 2019 meeting of the Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Council's June 2022 monthly bulletin is **enclosed** for Members' information. A copy of the minutes of the Housing Council meeting on 12 May 2022 is also **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

12.5 G/MSMO/107 CORRESPONDENCE – NI HOSPICE – FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Hospice to thank the Council for the award of the Freedom of the Borough.

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

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Hospice be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

12.6 G/MSMO/107 & G/MSMO/069 RESERVED FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Members will be aware that a position is nominated to the Reserved Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (RFCA Northern Ireland) as Veterans' Champion for the term of Council via d'Hondt and that position is currently held by Alderman Paul Michael.

Correspondence has been received from the RFCA Northern Ireland in relation to Veterans' Champions and advising that, in relation to the absence of resources available to Council to support this area, an application has been made to, and a letter of offer received from, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, to provide modest support to the Veterans' Champion.

A copy of the correspondence is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive