



1 March 2023

Committee Chair: Councillor N Kelly

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor N Ramsay

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan,  
J McGrath and J Smyth

Councillors –J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, R Foster,  
J Gilmour, A Logue, J Montgomery and R Swann

Dear Member

**MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 6 March 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Jacqui Dixon, MBE BSc MBA

**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:**

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

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### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

### **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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- 4.2 Proposed Amendments to Environmental Fixed Penalty Notices Legislation/Additional Powers
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# REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023

## 4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

### 4.1 EH/EHS/LR/006 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES PRIVATE TENANCIES ACT (NI) 2022 - UPDATE ON POWERS FOR COUNCIL COMMENCING APRIL 2023

Members are reminded that under the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, Council has responsibility for privately rented dwellings in the Borough. Responsibilities include:

- ensuring obligations of landlords and tenants under private tenancies are fulfilled;
- issuing notices of unfitness and notices of disrepair;
- issuing certificates of fitness.

In order to make the private rented sector a safer and more protected housing option, the 2006 Order has been updated and the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent on the 27th April 2022. The new legislation will come into effect on the 1st April 2023. However, it should be noted that there are still a number of provisions which require further consultation and Members will be provided with an update on receipt of the Department for Communities (DfC) consultation papers.

The Act creates new offences for which the Council will have powers to issue fixed penalty notices. The fixed penalty payable in respect of an offence, determined by the Council, must not exceed one-fifth of the maximum fine payable on summary conviction for that offence. Currently the maximum fine payable is £2,500. The maximum level of fixed penalty fine that the Council can set for the new offences is therefore £500.

The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 will provide additional powers to Councils in relation to the regulation of the private rented sector as follows:

#### **Tenancy Information Notices**

The Tenancy Information Regulations 2022 require a landlord to give a tenant a Tenancy Information Notice containing specified information within 28 days of the commencement of a tenancy. A Tenancy Information Notice is an important legal document, which provides the landlord and tenant with information on their respective rights and responsibilities.

It can help to minimise disputes as information, such as, the rent payable, deposit details, duration of tenancy, responsibility for repairs and notice of termination are included. The Notice also provides tenants with the landlord's (and, if appropriate, agent's) contact information. If the landlord has

previously given a tenant a Notice which substantially meets the specified requirements of the new legislation this would be deemed compliant.

If the landlord commits an offence in relation to a Tenancy Information Notice, the Council will have the power to issue a fixed penalty notice, not exceeding £500. If the landlord is convicted by a court, the penalty will be a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500).

The maximum fixed penalty notice fine level that can be issued by Council is £500 and it is proposed that, in order to protect tenants, that the fixed penalty level offence is set by the Council at £500.

### **Provision of Written Receipts**

It is now a requirement for a landlord to provide a written receipt for any payment made in cash in relation to a tenancy. A receipt is a method of documenting cash payments that a tenant pays to a landlord under a tenancy. A receipt is beneficial to both tenants and landlords offering tenants documented proof of cash payments and landlords a record of cash payments. For tenants who pay their rent in cash a rent receipt may be the only written evidence they have of their payments.

If the landlord or his/her representative/agent commits an offence by failing to provide the receipt for cash payments, the Council may issue a fixed penalty notice not exceeding £500. If the landlord is convicted by a court, the penalty will be a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500).

The maximum fixed penalty notice fine level that can be issued by Council is £500 and it is proposed that the fixed penalty level offence is set by the Council at £500.

### **Increase in time limit for requirements relating to tenancy deposits**

The time limit for a tenancy deposit to be protected in an approved Tenancy Deposit Scheme has changed from 14 days to 28 days and landlords have additional time to provide the prescribed information to the tenant as this has changed from 28 days to 35 days. This information must include:

- a) details of the amount of the deposit protected in an approved scheme and the full tenancy address;
- b) the landlord or agent's name, address and contact details;
- c) the name and contact details of the scheme protecting the deposit including how the tenant can let the scheme know about a disagreement over the return of the deposit;
- d) the reasons why part of, or all of, the deposit might be withheld at the end of the tenancy; and
- e) what happens when the tenant cannot be contacted at the end of the tenancy.

## **Removal of the 6-month time barrier for prosecution of tenancy deposit offences**

The Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 makes the failure to protect a tenancy deposit a continuing offence and removes the 6-month time limit on prosecutions. This means that there will be no time barrier on prosecuting a person who fails to comply with the legal requirements.

In order to inform and remind landlords of their legal obligations, Environmental Health will seek to publicise details of the legislative provisions through normal media channels and by writing to landlords.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the new legislative powers for Council in relation to the private rented sector be noted and that approval be given for the maximum fixed penalty level of £500 for the new offences of (i) Failing to issue a Tenancy Information Notice, and (ii) Failing to provide the tenant with a rent receipt for payment in cash.**

Prepared by: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager (Environment)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

## **4.2 EH/EHS/LR/007 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL FIXED PENALTY NOTICES LEGISLATION/ADDITIONAL POWERS**

Members are reminded that the ability to set the level of Fixed Penalty Fines is set out in legislation. The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022 were made on 8 December and came into operation on 30 December 2022.

These Regulations increase the maximum penalty capable of being specified by a Council for the offence of littering and contravention of a dog control order relating to dog fouling, from £80 to £200. The level for a fixed penalty notice capable of being specified by a Council for graffiti, flyposting and audible intruder alarms remains unchanged.

In order to protect our environment and act as a deterrent to offenders, Officers recommend that the fixed penalty fine for the offence of littering as well as contravention of a dog control order relating to dog fouling be increased from £80 to £200 with a reduction to £150 (currently £60) for early payment within 14 days.

### **The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022**

In addition, Councils have been notified by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency that authority has been granted under the Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 to enforce Articles 4 and 5 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The commencement date was 2 January 2023. These additional powers allow for dual enforcement – by NIEA and Councils enhancing existing powers that Councils have under the litter order.

Article 4 offences relate to waste deposited in or on any land under the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 as amended, and are subject to a potential fixed penalty fine of not less than £100 and not more than £400.

To further protect our environment and act as a deterrent to offenders, Officers are recommending that the maximum penalty for offences under Article 4 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 is £400, with reduction to £300 for early payment within 14 days, is applied.

### **RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given:**

- i. To increase the fixed penalty fine for the offence of littering and contravention of a dog control order relating to dog fouling from £80 to £200, and,**
- ii. For a fixed penalty fine of £400 for offences under Article 4 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 as amended.**

Prepared by: Helen Harper, Deputy Head of Environmental Health  
(Environment)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental  
Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations



### 4.3 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – RANDALSTOWN ROAD, ANTRIM

A development naming application was received from Samantha Shannon on behalf of Lotus Homes (UK) Ltd. regarding the naming of a residential development off Randalstown Road, Antrim. The development consists of 74 dwellings, these being a mixture of detached and semi – detached. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Forest Green – With the new development being in close proximity of Antrim's Castle Garden Forest museum and the many forest trails in the area, we feel Forest Green would be a good representation that reflects the wider natural environment. My research shows Forest has not been used in the Borough for street naming so no other street names are the same or similar.
2. Forest Lodge – The same rationale as above applies to our second suggestion.
3. Forest Gardens – The same rationale as above applies to this suggestion.

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it is requested that officers are given delegated powers to add suffixes to the overall development name if required.

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

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

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environment Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

#### 4.4 L/GEN/001 CORRESPONDENCE - CARERS POLICY FORUM

Correspondence has been received (**enclosed**) from the Carers Policy Forum, which highlights the work conducted by the organisation and details of the support provided for unpaid carers within the Borough, and throughout Northern Ireland. In addition, the correspondence makes enquiries regarding Council policies that promote the inclusion of unpaid carers in accessing services such as Leisure Centres. Council's Leisure Service currently has no policy relating to access for carers.

Within Council's leisure pricing policy, concession discounts are available for both membership and Pay as you Go options upon receipt of suitable evidence e.g. evidence of means tested benefits. It is proposed that this pricing option be extended to individuals who can produce a Carer ID card as evidence of being a carer. Officers have been in communication with The Northern Trust who state there are approximately 1,000 Carers Cards in circulation.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the Leisure Pricing Policy be amended to include carers as an eligible criteria for a concession discount upon presentation of a valid Carer ID card.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

#### 4.5 L/LEI/CLC/002 ULSTER GAA REQUEST FOR WALL BALL FACILITIES AT CRUMLIN LEISURE CENTRE

Correspondence has been received, **enclosed**, from the Chief Executive of the Ulster Council G.A.A. requesting installation of wall ball facilities at Crumlin Leisure Centre, which would facilitate the sport of Hand Ball.

Costs have been estimated to be in the region of £9,000- £10,000 for the installation of 3 wall ball courts in the leisure centre's sports hall.

In operational terms, the sports hall currently operates at 80% capacity during peak times for activities such as indoor soccer, netball and fitness classes, therefore availability of the sports hall would be largely limited to off peak times - during the day. In addition, the construction of the wall would result in the installation protruding slightly which would present some health and safety concerns for some other users notably 5-a side soccer. Therefore, the installation of a wall ball in facility in Crumlin Leisure Centre is not feasible.

Members are reminded that a business case for the installation of an Urban Sports Wall in both Glengormley and Antrim has been completed and will form part of the Peace Plus Local Community Action Plan that is currently being developed. If approved, these walls could also be utilised for the sports of wall ball and hand ball.

**RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that Members note the report and a response is provided to Ulster Council GAA accordingly**

Prepared and Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

#### **4.6 PK/GEN/022 NOMINATIONS FOR IRELANDS BEST KEPT TOWNS AWARDS 2023**

Correspondence has been received [enclosed] from the Northern Ireland Amenity Council requesting that Council supports the nominations of Antrim and Randalstown for the Best Kept Ireland Towns Awards 2023 in the categories of "Best Kept Large Town" and "Best Kept Small Town" respectively.

Judging for the awards takes place throughout May with an awards ceremony held in Dublin being scheduled for June 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Council supports the nominations of Antrim and Randalstown for the Best Kept Ireland Towns Awards 2023.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

#### **4.7 WM/FM/003 REVIEW OF FUEL MANAGEMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE**

The Fuel Management Policy and Procedure has been reviewed and updated in accordance with Council's agreed Policy Framework and schedule. The Policy and Procedure, which covers the management of fuel purchases and usage, was last updated in December 2020.

An internal audit completed in October 2022 and while the auditor gave the Policy and Procedure a "satisfactory" rating, a number of amendments were proposed including:

Additional fuel card controls;

New fuel storage and usage methods.

The new Procedures have been trialled by the operational sections and the auditor is satisfied that the changes strengthen the safeguards on the control of fuel. The proposed Policy and Procedures (**enclosed**) have been approved by the Corporate Leadership Team.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the revised Fuel Management Policy & Procedure be approved.**

Prepared by: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

#### **4.8 L/LEI/002/VOL4 MARY PETERS TRUST – REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE 2023/24**

Correspondence has been received from the Mary Peters Trust requesting financial support for its sporting awards to local athletes (enclosed).

Members are reminded that the Trust provides encouragement and financial support to young sportspersons from across Northern Ireland. Within the Borough the range of sporting disciplines supported in 2022/23 includes: athletics, football, golf, gymnastics, netball, swimming, archery, canoeing, and para triathlon.

Council support for the last 6 financial years had been £2,000 per annum.

A list of those athletes from the Borough who have received support is set out in the letter.

**RECOMMENDATION: That a contribution of £2,000 be made to support the work of the Mary Peters Trust within the Borough for 2023/2024.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

#### 4.9 WM/WM/040 CONSULTATION ON THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department for the Economy (DfE) seeking views on the Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. The Strategy sets out a vision that by 2050, Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy where business, people and planet flourish, with responsible production and consumption at its core.

The overarching target for the Strategy is to halve Northern Ireland's annual material footprint per person, currently 16.6 tonnes, to 8 tonnes by 2050, which is the level that the United Nations (UN) recommends people need to live sustainably. The Strategy sets out how this can be achieved through measures like:

- switching to materials that can be reused;
- increasing use of fuels that can be replenished;
- designing things to be kept in use for longer and reducing waste.

The Circular Economy impacts a range of Council sections and the proposed response reflects this. The main points of the proposed Council response (**enclosed**) are as follows:

- we agree with the stated target in the Strategy to reduce individual material footprint of the Northern Ireland population to the UN recommended sustainable living target of 8 tonnes of resources per year by 2050;
- the lack of funding to deliver this Strategy will need to be addressed;
- Promote the "carrot and stick" approach in the delivery of the Strategy with the use of regulatory and financial incentives to increase affordability and availability of sustainable options;
- Promote Public Sector procurement to increase circularity of resources;
- Encourage a focus on education and skill development to increase knowledge and awareness of Circular Economy and to address skill shortages through vocational training.

Further comments from Members are welcome before the submission of the response by 20 March 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the draft response to the Consultation on the Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland is approved.**

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

## **5 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **5.1 EH/PHWB/010 NORTHERN HEALTHY LIFESTYLES PARTNERSHIP FUNDING – THE FOOD PROGRAMME**

Members are reminded that the Environmental Health and Wellbeing team is represented on the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership (NHLP) and can apply to the Partnership for funding for projects and activities that support the prevention and reduction of obesity. To qualify, the projects and activities must contain one or more of the following;

- Breastfeeding
- Food/nutrition promotion/education
- Physical activity
- Food sustainability promotion/education
- Healthy lifestyle promotion/education

The NHLP supports the outcomes of the regional obesity prevention framework "A Fitter Future for All". Two overarching objectives of this framework are:

- to increase the percentage of people eating a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet; and,
- to increase the percentage of the population meeting the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines on physical activity.

The Environmental Health and Wellbeing team submitted an application in 2022 for £6,000 funding for an initiative called 'The Food Programme'. The idea of the application was to increase adults' awareness of the importance of eating nutritious foods, highlighting the benefits of batch cooking and using slow cookers and air fryers, for example, to prepare healthier meals more easily. Budgeting and shopping for food was also included.

The application was successful and, with the assistance of the Community Planning team, community groups in each of the seven District Electoral Areas have been identified. The project is being delivered with, and has been co-designed by, each individual group so as to best meet local needs.

The sessions, which run until the end of March 2023, are weekly for 4 weeks and provide an opportunity for people to meet - helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness and build community cohesion as well as participants learning new skills. The food prepared during the practical sessions is shared with everyone attending, ensuring that everyone has a hot meal.

Promoted as part of the Warm Welcome programme and via referrals from Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey from people who have used Council's Social Supermarket programme, sessions are being attended by approximately 20-30 participants. Feedback so far has been very positive.



**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

## **5.2 PK/GEN/207 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – KING’S GARDEN, HAZELBANK**

Members are reminded that approval was granted at December 2022 Council for the appointment of Diarmuid Gavin Deisgns to design and deliver the King's Garden at Hazelbank Park, as part of the Botanical Borough concept and to provide a lasting legacy from the King's Coronation in May 2023.

Officers continually explore external funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of various Council schemes and projects, and have recently been successful in securing a total of £101,395 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a contribution to the design and delivery of the King's Garden. In restoring this green space, the funder noted the positive impact the project would have on both local residents and tourists.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

### 5.3 WM/WM/037 PILOT OF SOFT PLASTICS KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE

As Members will be aware, in April 2022 Council agreed to work with Bryson Recycling to pilot the collection soft plastics as part of their wheelie box collection service. The pilot commenced in June 2022 to a small sample of 200 houses in the Richmond and Abernethy areas of Glengormley and ran over an eight month period to incorporate the seasonal fluctuations of summer holidays and Christmas.

A full analysis of the pilot, including a customer survey with the residents has enabled conclusions to be made of preferable collection methods, establishing the type of soft plastics that can be collected, correct communication methods and possible end markets for correct processing and recycling of the material.

The overall findings show that during the course of the pilot approximately 27% of households participated in the scheme, with the majority of these households presenting good quality soft plastics with only 7% contamination, mostly in the form of incorrect materials. Whilst the sample size was very small over 750 kilos of soft plastics was diverted from landfill and when surveyed, almost 100% of households felt that adding this material to the collection service was beneficial and had a direct impact of the waste in their residual bin.

Members are reminded of the impending Extend Producer Responsibility regulations which will require the collection of soft plastics like bread, crisps and fruit bags. There are a number of other pilots due to take place in England and Wales and it is envisaged that the findings from our scheme and the others in the UK will shape future collection arrangements. Officers are seeking funding opportunities from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and Bryson Recycling to develop further soft plastic collections.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report is noted.**

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

#### 5.4 PK/BIO/012 NORTHERN IRELAND FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION – FOREST SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that Council has contributed annually to the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Programme. The Northern Ireland Forest School Association is a charity that promotes, develops and delivers sustainable environmental education programmes. The Forest Schools Programme is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning, with a philosophy to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

Members are further reminded that approval was given in January 2023 to increase Council's contribution from £5000 to £7000 to allow one school from each DEA to be selected for participation in the programme. As a result, an expression of interest was forwarded to all schools within the Borough, with the following schools selected to participate in the programme this year:

School	DEA Area
Antrim Primary School	Antrim DEA
Mallusk Primary School	Airport DEA
Groggan Primary School	Dunsilly DEA
Ballynure Primary School	Ballyclare DEA
Kings Park Primary School	Macedon DEA
St Bernard's Primary School	Glengormley DEA
Mossley Primary School	Threemilewater DEA

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

## 5.5 DIR/OPS/013 CORPORATE PLANNING WORKSHOP 2022 – UPDATE

Following circulation of the minutes of the Corporate Planning Workshops held on 4 November and 2 December 2022, it was agreed that reports would be taken to relevant Committees to approve actions.

Actions taken to date in relation to the Operations Committee are **enclosed**.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations, Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations, Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

## 5.6 L/LEI/004/VOL 2 SUMMER SCHEMES 2023

Members are reminded that Council delivers a range of Summer Schemes and Sports Camps throughout the Borough during July and August. Council's Accessibility and Inclusion Officer provides support to the Council run mainstream schemes to ensure that any individual care needs (medical or disability) are met. Details of the proposed programme of Summer Schemes for 2023 are enclosed.

Members are advised that Council also provides additional support and access for children and young people with special needs. In partnership with the Mae Murray Foundation a pilot inclusive scheme provided specialised one to one care for up to 20 children with complex disabilities and medical conditions. The schemes located at Antrim Forum and Valley Leisure Centre, featured a range of activities such as sensory play, inclusive wheelchair games, inclusive biking and arts and crafts. Feedback from the pilot scheme indicated that parents would welcome the scheme extended further. The Mae Murray Foundation has highlighted limited capacity as a challenge to this, however, Officers are currently sourcing additional providers to ensure the scheme can be extended by one day each week and a further week added.

Finally, Members are advised that Council provides further support through the provision of funding up to a maximum of £5,000 to each special needs school within the Borough that delivers a summer programme.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted**

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager  
and Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

## **5.7 L/LEI/SD/018 HEALTH INTERVENTION ACTION PLAN – UPDATE**

Members are reminded that in November 2022 Council's Health Intervention Action Plan was approved. To assist with the successful delivery of the Action Plan, two Health Intervention Officers commenced work in December 2022 and have since facilitated numerous well-being sessions and health information sessions to Council staff and various community groups.

In February 2023 and as part of the Action Plan, a new mental health programme called "More Movement for the Mind" was launched. The programme is open to individuals with mild to moderate mental health issues who would like to get more active and as a result improve their mental health. Furthermore, a referral based mental health programme for participants with more severe mental health issues is currently being delivered in partnership with the Hollywell Hospital mental health team and Woodlands Wellness Hub (based at Whiteabbey Hospital).

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted**

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Manager & Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks & Leisure Operations