

June 12th, 2024

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 19th June 2024 at 7:00 pm** in .

# Agenda

## Agenda

(Attached)

 *Agenda C&WC 19.06.2024.pdf*

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1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Deputation Resolute M:nds**

## Reports for Approval

4. **Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants**

(Attached)

 *4. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants.pdf*

Page 4

 *4.1 Appendix 1 - Successful Anniversary Report for Noting.pdf*

Page 7

 *4.2 Appendix 2 - Successful Coach Education Report for Approval.pdf*


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 *4.3 Appendix 3 - Successful Equipment Report for Approval.pdf*

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 *4.4 Appendix 4 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting.pdf*

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 *4.5 Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel Accommodation Report for Noting.pdf*

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 *4.6 Appendix 6 - Successful Club Travel Accommodation Report for Noting.pdf*

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 *4.7 Appendix 7 - Unsuccessful Report.pdf*

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5. **Macmillan Cancer Support Move More Co-ordinator Funding 2024-2025**

(Attached)

 *5. Macmillan Cancer Support Move More Co-ordinator Funding 2024-2025.pdf*

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## **6. Play Areas Workshop Outcome**

(Attached)

 **6. Play Areas Workshop Outcome.pdf** **Page 27**

 **6.1 Appendix Play Strategy Workshop Presentation.pdf** **Page 34**

## **7. Food Service Plan 2024-2025**

(Attached)

 **7. Food Service Plan 2024-2025.pdf** **Page 58**

 **7.1 Appendix Food Service Plan 2024-2025.pdf** **Page 59**


## **8. Beach of Dreams - Beat Carnival**

(Attached)

 **8. Beach of Dreams - Beat Carnival.pdf** **Page 82**

## **9. Ulster Scots Action Plan Response to Notice of Motion**

(Attached)

 **9. Ulster Scots Action Plan Response to NoM.pdf** **Page 86**

 **9.1 Appendix Ulster Scots Action Plan.pdf** **Page 88**

## **Reports for Noting**

## **10. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Leisure Services**

(Attached)

 **10. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Leisure Services.pdf** **Page 91**

## **11. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Parks and Cemeteries**

(Attached)

 **11. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Parks and Cemeteries.pdf** **Page 96**

## **12. Rewilding Initiative Update**

(Attached)

 *12. Re-wilding Initiative Update.pdf*

*Page 99*

### **13. Local Biodiversity Action Plan Progress**


(Attached)

 *13. Local Biodiversity Action Plan Progress.pdf*

*Page 106*

### **14. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Environmental Health Protection and Development**

(Attached)

 *14. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 2023-2024 Environmental Health Protection and Development.pdf*

*Page 116*

### **15. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Community and Culture**

(Attached)

 *15. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Community and Culture.pdf*

*Page 121*

### **16. Good Relations Annual Report**

(Attached)

 *16. Good Relations Annual Report 2023-2024.pdf*

*Page 126*

 *16.1 Appendix Good Relations Annual Report 2023-2024.pdf*

*Page 128*

### **17. Mae Murray Groomsport Beach 2024-2025**

(Attached)

 *17. Mae Murray Groomsport Beach 2024-25.pdf*

*Page 140*

### **18. Council Grants Policy Update Response to Notice of Motion Working Group**

(Attached)

 *18. Council Grants Policy Update to NoM Working Group.pdf*

*Page 142*

 *18.1 Appendix Elected Members CD Grants Working Group Minutes 16th May 2024.pdf*

*Page 143*

## 19. Arts and Heritage Panel (A&HP) Minutes

(Attached)

19. Arts & Heritage Panel (A&HP) minutes.pdf

Page 157

19.1 Appendix A&HP Minutes 15 April 2024.pdf

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## 20. Notice of Motion

### 20.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cochrane and Councillor Thompson

That this Council notes with concern the temporary closure of Groomsport Tennis Courts due to issues around the safety of the playing surface. Further to this Council tasks officers to bring back a report on Tennis Court maintenance throughout the Borough and will commit to ensuring all our Tennis Court facilities are properly maintained and are fully accessible to all. Council will also promote the use of Tennis facilities in the Borough as we approach the spring/summer season.

### 20.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Ashe and Councillor Morgan

That this Council recognises the importance of ensuring that our parks and open spaces are inclusive and accessible to those with speech, language, and communication needs and that it recognises the positive role of communication boards in achieving this. That it commits to working with relevant organisations to bring back a report regarding communication boards considering, but not limited to, the following points:

- How communication boards would integrate with the required existing signage;
- Identifying possible locations for the communication boards, such as a specific Tier of park; and
- An indicative budget.

## 21. Any Other Notified Business

**ITEMS 22-28 \*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

**Request for Approval (In Confidence)**

## 22. Aurora Pool Floors Single Tender Action

(Attached)

22. Aurora Pool Floors Single Tender Action.pdf

Not included

## 23. Home Safety Equipment Contract Extension

(Attached)

 *23. Home Safety Equipment Contract Extension.pdf*

*Not included*

## 24. Award of the Social Supermarket Service Level Agreement

(Attached)

 *24. Award of the Social Supermarket Service Level Agreement.pdf*

*Not included*

## 25. Works in Default to Residential Property

(Attached)

 *25. Works in Default to residential property.pdf*

*Not included*


## Reports for Noting (In Confidence)

### 26. Northern Community Leisure Trust Q4 2023-2024

(Attached)

 *26. Northern Community Leisure Trust Q4 2023-2024.pdf*

*Not included*

 *26.1 Appendix Q4 2023-2024 Trust Report.pdf*

*Not included*

### 27. Cemetery Maintenance Response to Notice of Motion

(Attached)

 *27. Cemetery Maintenance response to Notice of Motion.pdf*

*Not included*

### 28. Social Supermarket Pilot Review

(Attached)

 *28. Social Supermarket Pilot Review.pdf*

*Not included*

 *28.1 Appendix Pilot Review Social Supermarket 2022-2024.pdf*

*Not included*

 *28.1.1 Appendix a - Blue Zebra Initial Report 2022.pdf*

*Not included*

 *28.1.2 Appendix b - KWC 22-23 Feedback.pdf*

*Not included*

 *28.1.3. Appendix c - NDCW 22-23 Feedback.pdf*

*Not included*

 **28.1.4 Appendix d - KWC 23-24 Feedback.pdf**

***Not included***

 **28.1.5 Appendix e - NDCW 23-24 Feedback.pdf**

***Not included***

## **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

1

12 June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 19 June 2024** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

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

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Deputation Resolute M:nds

#### **Reports for Approval**

4. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (Report attached)
5. Macmillan Cancer Support Move More Co-ordinator Funding 2024-2025 (Report attached)
6. Play Areas Workshop Outcome (Report attached)
7. Food Service Plan 2024-2025 (Report attached)
8. Beach of Dreams – Beat Carnival (Report attached)
9. Ulster Scots Action Plan Response to Notice of Motion (Report attached)

#### **Reports for Noting**

10. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Leisure Services (Report attached)
11. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Parks and Cemeteries (Report attached)
12. Rewilding Initiative Update (Report attached)



13. Local Biodiversity Action Plan Progress (Report attached)
14. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Environmental Health Protection and Development (Report attached)
15. Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Community and Culture (Report attached)
16. Good Relations Annual Report (Report attached)
17. Mae Murray Groomspoint Beach 2024-2025 (Report attached)
18. Council Grants Policy Update response to NoM Working Group (Report attached)
19. Arts and Heritage Panel (A&HP) Minutes (Report attached)
20. Notice of Motion

20.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cochrane and Councillor Thompson

That this Council notes with concern the temporary closure of Groomspoint Tennis Courts due to issues around the safety of the playing surface. Further to this Council tasks officers to bring back a report on Tennis Court maintenance throughout the Borough and will commit to ensuring all our Tennis Court facilities are properly maintained and are fully accessible to all. Council will also promote the use of Tennis facilities in the Borough as we approach the spring/summer season.

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- An indicative budget.

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**ITEMS 22 to 28 \*\*\* IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

**Reports for approval (In confidence)**

22. Aurora Pool Floors Single Tender Action (Report attached)

- 23. Home Safety Equipment Contract Extension (Report attached)
- 24. Award of the Social Supermarket Service Level Agreement (Report attached)
- 25. Works in Default to Residential Property (Report attached)

**Reports for Noting (In Confidence)**

- 26. Northern Community Leisure Trust Q4 2023-2024 (Report attached)
- 27. Cemetery Maintenance Response to Notice of Motion (Report attached)
- 28. Social Supermarket Pilot Review (Report attached)

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)**

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Brooks (Chair)	Councillor Harbinson
Alderman Cummings	Councillor Holywood
Alderman McRandal	Councillor S Irvine
Councillor Ashe	Councillor W Irvine
Councillor Boyle (Vice Chair)	Councillor Kendall
Councillor Chambers	Councillor Martin
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor Moore

Unclassified

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**ITEM 4****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	09 May 2024
File Reference	SD151
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Anniversary Report for Noting Appendix 2 - Successful Coach Education Grant for Approval Appendix 3 - Successful Equipment Grant for Approval Appendix 4 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting Appendix 6 - Successful ClubTravel & Accommodation Report for Noting Appendix 7 - Unsuccessful Report

Not Applicable

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Members will be aware that on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £45,000 had been allocated within the 2023/2024 revenue budget for this purpose.

The Council further authorised the Forum under delegated powers to award grants of up to £250. Grants above £250 still require Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates are reported to members.

During April 2024, the Forum received a total of 55 applications: 1 Anniversary, 1 Coach Education, 1 Equipment, 2 Goldcard, 50 Individual Travel/Accommodation Grants. A summary of the **53** successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Anniversary, Successful Coach Education, Successful Equipment, Successful Goldcard, Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation and Successful Club Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories is as follows:

<b>2023/24 Budget £45,000</b>	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded <b>April 2024</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	<b>£250.00</b>
Coach Education	£3,000	£0	<b>£1,453.75</b>
Equipment	£14,000	£0	<b>-£4,558.76</b>
Events	£6,000	£0	<b>*-£442.53</b>
Seeding	£500	£0	<b>£55.01</b>
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	£0	<b>*-£5,282.81</b>
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	<b>£3,252.96</b>
28 Goldcards in total during 2023/24.			

\*The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **-£5,282.81** is based on a reclaimed amount of **£553.38**.

\*The proposed remaining budget for School/Sports Club Pathway of **£3,252.96** is based on a reclaimed amount of **£250.96**.

The proposed remaining budget for 2023/24 is **-£4,272.38** (109% of the 2023/24 budget spent).

Not Applicable

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<b>2024/25 Budget £45,000</b>	Annual Budget	Proposed Funding Awarded <b>April 2024</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Anniversary	£1,000	*£249.90	<b>£0.10</b>
Coach Education	£3,000	*£256.25	<b>£2,743.75</b>
Equipment	£14,000	*£1,000.00	<b>£13,000.00</b>
Events	£6,000	£0	<b>£3,319.95</b>
Seeding	£500	£0	<b>£500.00</b>
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£6,169.00	<b>£3,701.00</b>
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	<b>£1,000.00</b>
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	<b>£5,000.00</b>
<b>2 Goldcard Awarded in April (5 Goldcards in total during 2024/25)</b>			

\*The proposed remaining budget for Anniversary of **£0.10** is based on a proposed award this month of **£249.90**.

\*The proposed remaining budget for Coach Education of **£2,743.75** is based on a proposed award this month of **£256.25**.

\*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£13,000.00** is based on a proposed award this month of **£1,000.00**.

\*The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£3,701.00** is based on a proposed award this month of **£6,169.00**.

The proposed remaining budget for 2024/25 is **£29,264.80** (35% of the 2024/25 budget spent).

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached applications for financial assistance for sporting purposes valued at above £250, and that the applications approved by the Forum (valued at below £250) are noted.

## APPENDIX 1 - SUCCESSFUL ANNIVERSARY REPORT FOR NOTING

NAME	SPORT	EVENT	EVENT OUTLINE	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
North Down Softball Club	Softball	NDSC 10 year Anniversary tournament. All day tournament at Ward Park Bangor (9am-4pm), min 4 NDSC composite teams (~40 players), round robin format, plus playoffs. Batting & pitching events in aid of club designated charity (player donations to compete).	1st tournament in A&ND since 2015, marking 10 years since club formation. Raising profile of softball & awareness of NDSC, increasing club. Providing tourney format softball to players with a focus on maximising game time. All day spectators event for local residents.	14-Jul-24	£249.90	£249.90	<b>All documents provided. Recommend funding of £249.90.</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>£249.90</b>	

## APPENDIX 2 - SUCCESSFUL COACH EDUCATION REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	COURSE	BENEFITS	FACILITATOR	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Elite Taekwondo NI	Taekwondo	International Instructors Course	The International instructors course is a National governing body recognised course, that is conducted by the official ITF federation.	10-12 May 2024	£341.66 (390 euro)	£256.25	All documentation provided. Recommend funding of £256.25.
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>£256.25</b>	

APPENDIX 3 - SUCCESSFUL EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	TYPE	EQUIPMENT NEED	BENEFIT	COSTS	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Rathgael Gymnastics and Tumbling Club	Training Equipment - Commitment to Safety: Safety is our top priority at RGTC, and the acquisition of a trampoline spotting rig demonstrates our proactive approach to minimising the risk of injuries during training. We adhere to the highest standards of safety protocols and equipment maintenance to ensure the well-being of our athletes at all times.	The introduction of a trampoline spotting rig at RGTC will play a pivotal role in sustaining participation and attracting new members to our club in several significant ways: Enhanced Training Experience: With the addition of a spotting rig, our training sessions will become more engaging, dynamic, and effective. Existing members will benefit from improved skill progression and increased confidence in their abilities, leading to greater satisfaction with their training experience. This enhanced experience will encourage current members to continue	The acquisition of a trampoline spotting rig will significantly enhance our club's training environment and elevate the experience for our members in several key ways: Safety Enhancement: A trampoline spotting rig ensures a safer training environment for our athletes by providing additional support and security during high-risk manoeuvres. This means fewer injuries and greater peace of mind for both athletes and coaches, allowing us to focus more on skill development and less on injury prevention.	Trampoline spotting rig £1256.40 + Agility Belt £171.60 + Twisting belt £1115.80 =£2543.80	Trampoline spotting rig £600 + Agility Belt £50 + Twisting belt £350 =£1000	£1,000.00	<b>All documentation provided. Recommend funding of £1,000, "subject to" a more comprehensive Safeguarding Policy.</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>£1,000.00</b>	



## APPENDIX 4 - SUCCESSFUL GOLDCARD REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTING	GOLDCARD	DATES	PROPOSED	NOTES
Alexandra Rose Picton-Lynas	Volleyball	Not advised	Northern Ireland Volleyball Junior Girls Squad (U20)	CLC, ABM + AURORA - gym, health suite and pool	Not advised	Yes	<b>Alexandra is a member of the Northern Ireland Volleyball Junior Girls Squad (U20). She has a strength and conditioning programme to follow. Propose Goldcard for 6 months until 13 November 2024.</b>
Adam Duffield	Hockey	Interprovincial Series	Ulster Under 18 panel	AURORA + QUEENS	September - November 2024	Yes	<b>Adam is currently part of the Under 18 panel training towards different events including the Interprovincial Series, September - November 2024. Propose Goldcard until 30 November 2024.</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>						<b>2</b>	

## APPENDIX 5 - SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	REPRESENTING <sup>2</sup>	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Nina Laing	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11-May-24	Southampton	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Nina has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11th May at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Sophie Corbridge	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11-May-24	Southampton	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Sophie has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11th May at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Lucie Caulfield-Corr	Gymnastics	Acrobatic Inter Regional Championships NDP National Finals	25-26 May 2024	Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Lucie has been selected to represent N Ireland on 25-26 May at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-Trent. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Emma Houston	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11-12 May 2024	Southampton	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Emma has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11-12th May at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Sophia Kirk	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11-12 May 2024	Southampton	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Sophia has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11-12th May at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.</b>

Isabel Nixon	Sailing	Eric Twiname Championships	4-8 May 2024	Rutland Water Sailing Club	Northern Ireland	£132.50	£132.50	Isabel has been selected to represent N Ireland on 4-8 May 2024 at the Eric Twiname Championships, Rutland Sailing Club. Waiting on NGB letter requested on 03/04/24. Recommend funding of £132.50 subject to NGB letter. NGB letter received 02/05.
Sally Nixon	Sailing	Eric Twiname Championships	4-8 May 2024	Rutland Water Sailing Club	Northern Ireland	£132.50	£132.50	Sally has been selected to represent N Ireland on 4-8 May 2024 at the Eric Twiname Championships, Rutland Sailing Club. Waiting on NGB letter requested on 03/04/24. Recommend funding of £132.50 subject to NGB letter. NGB letter received 02/05.
Cassidy Ogle	Fencing	British Youth Championships	4-6 May 2024	EIS Sheffield	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Cassidy has been selected to represent N Ireland from 4-6 May at EIS Sheffield . Recommend funding of £150.
Robin Beattie	Lawn Bowls	Deaf Lawn Bowls Home Nations 2024 tournament	29th June 2024	Belmont Bowling Club, Belfast	Northern Ireland	£50.00	£50.00	Robin has been selected to represent N Ireland at the Deaf Lawn Bowls Home Nations in Belfast on 29th June 2024. Recommend funding of £50.
Zac Foster	Boxing	All Ireland Boxing Championships	6th April 2024	National Boxing Stadium, Dublin	Ulster	£100.00	£100.00	Zac has been selected to represent Ulster in the All Ireland Finals in Dublin on 6th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100.

Peter Ridout	Sailing	RS FEVA UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	25th May 2024	WPNSA, Weymouth, UK	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Peter has been selected to represent N Ireland in the RS FEVA UK National Championships in Weymouth, England. Recommend funding of £150.
Peter Ridout	Sailing	RS FEVA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	26th July 2024	Bruinnesse, Netherlands	N Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	Peter has been selected to represent N Ireland in the RS FEVA World Championships in Bruinnesse, Netherlands on 26th July 2024. Recommend funding of £170.
Ollie Hanna	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships	7th April 2024	Athlone, Ireland	N Ireland	£177.30	£100.00	Ollie has been selected to represent N Ireland in the All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships in Athlone on 7th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100.
Isla Henry	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships	6-7th April 2024	Athlone, Ireland	N Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	Isla has been selected to represent N Ireland in the All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championship in Athlone on 6-7th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100 subject to NGB letter.
Freya Boyce	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships	6-7th April 2024	Athlone, Ireland	N Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	Freya has been selected to represent N Ireland in the All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championship in Athlone on 6-7th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100.

Euan Monro	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships	6th April 2024	Athlone, Ireland	N Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	Euan has been selected to represent N Ireland in the All Ireland Juvenile Indoor Championships in Athlone on 6th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100.
Emily Galbraith	Gymnastics	N.D.P. national finals	25th May 2024	Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Emily has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.
Ailsa Craig	Acrobatics Gymnastics	N.D.P. national finals	25-26th May 2024	Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Ailsa has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25-26th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.
Hollie Aiken	Acrobatics Gymnastics	N.D.P. national finals	25-26th May 2024	Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Hollie has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25-26th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.
Charlie Belch	Acrobatics Gymnastics	N.D.P. national finals	25-26th May 2024	Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke-on-Trent	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Charlie has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25-26th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.
Emma Rayner	Hockey	Ulster Master Interpros	12-14 April 2024	Dublin	Ulster over 50s	£100.00	£100.00	Emma has been selected to represent Ulster over 50s in Dublin at the Ulster Masters Interpros. Recommend funding of £100.

Julie Fisher	Hockey	Ulster Master Interpros	12-14 April 2024	Three Rock Rovers, Dublin	Ulster over 50s	£100.00	£100.00	Julie has been selected to represent Ulster over 50s in Dublin at the Ulster Masters Interpros. Recommend funding of £100 subject to NGB letter (requested on 16/04). Letter received on 19/04.
Tracy O'Hara	Hockey	Ulster Master Interpros	12-14 April 2024	Three Rock Rovers, Dublin	Ulster over 50s	£100.00	£100.00	Tracy has been selected to represent Ulster over 50s in Dublin at the Ulster Masters Interpros. Recommend funding of £100.
Harvey Wooldridge	Ice Hockey	Men's Development Cup	20-28 April 2024	Bratislava, Slovakia	Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	Harvey has been selected to represent Ireland Senior Ice Hockey Team in Bratislava, Slovakia from 20-28th April 2024. Recommend funding of £170.
Valerie McKibben	Hockey	Ulster Master Interpros	12-14 April 2024	Three Rock Rovers, Dublin	Ulster over 50s	£100.00	£100.00	Valerie has been selected to represent Ulster over 50s in Dublin at the Ulster Masters Interpros. Recommend funding of £100.
Stephanie Mitchell	Hockey	Women's Masters Interpros	12-14 April 2024	Three Rock Rovers, Dublin	Ulster over 35s	£231.88	£100.00	Stephanie has been selected to represent Ulster over 35s in Dublin at the Ulster Masters Interpros from 12-14th April 2024. Recommend funding of £100 subject to NGB letter. Letter requested on 16/04/24.

Emma Zoltan	Gymnastics	NDP National Finals	25-26 May 2024	Stoke-on-Trent, England	Northern Ireland	£334.95	£150.00	<b>Emma has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25-26th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Nicole Simpson	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11-May-24	Southampton, England	Northern Ireland	£558.76	£150.00	<b>Nicole has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11th May 2024 at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Emilee Carr	Gymnastics	NDP National Finals	25-26 May 2024	Stoke-on-Trent, England	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Emilee has been selected to represent N Ireland at the NDP National Finals in Stoke-on-trent on the 25-26th May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Andrew Seay	Hockey	2024 Four Nations	10-May-24	Southgate Hockey Centre London	Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Andrew has been selected for the Hockey Ireland Masters O40's Men's squad 2023/24. Recommend funding of £150 subject to NGB letter, saying he has been selected for 2024 Four Nations in London. Updated NGB letter received 29/04.</b>
Jessica Dudley-Young	Sailing	Feva British Nationals	25-28 May 2024	Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy England	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Jessica has been selected to represent N Ireland in the FEVA British Nationals in Weymouth, England. Recommend funding of £150.</b>

David McClune	Hockey	Men's Over 40's Home Nations 2024	10-May-24	Southgate Hockey Centre, Barnet, EN4 OPS	Ireland Over 40's	£150.00	£150.00	David has been selected for the Hockey Ireland Masters O40's Men's squad 2023/24. Recommend funding of £150 subject to NGB letter, saying he has been selected for 2024 Four Nations in London. Updated NGB letter received 29/04.
Holly Blythe	Equestrian - Mounted Games	Royal Windsor Horse Show	01/05/24 - 05/05/24	London	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Holly has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at The Royal Windsor Horse Show from 1-5 May 2024. Recommend funding of £150, 'subject to' a British Equestrian Federation letter.
Isla Gawn	Gymnastics	Inter Regional Championships	11 & 12/05/2024	Southampton	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Isla has been selected to represent N Ireland on 11th May 2024 at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton. Recommend funding of £150.
Emily Macafee	Sailing	Eric Twiname Championships	3-5 May 24	Rutland Water, England	N Ireland/Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Emily has been selected to represent N Ireland on 3-5 May 2024 at the Eric Twiname Championships, Rutland Sailing Club. Recommend funding of £150.



Lucy Kingsley	Acro Gymnastics	Acrobatic NDP, Youth and IDP Finals	25-26 May 2024	Fenton Manor, Stoke on Trent	N Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Lucy has been selected to represent N Ireland at the Acrobatic NDP, youth and IDP Finals in Fenton Manor on 25-26 May 2024. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
Jared Martin	Athletics - Mountain running	European Athletics Off-Road Running Championships	31 May-2nd June 2024	Annecy, France	Ireland	100 euros = £85	£85.00	<b>Jared has been selected to represent Ireland at the European Off-Road Running Championships in Annecy, France on 31 May - 2nd June 2024. Recommend funding of £85.</b>
Leo West-Hurst	Sailing	Southern Championships	22-23rd June 2024	National Yacht Club, Dublin	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	<b>Leo has been selected to represent N.Ireland at the Southern Championships in Dublin on 22-23rd June 2024. Recommend funding of £100.</b>
Zoe West-Hurst	Sailing	Irish National Championships	28-30 June	Wexford Boat and Tennis Club	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£94.50	<b>Zoe has been selected to represent N.Ireland at the Irish National Championships in Wexford on 28-30 June 2024. Recommend funding of £94.50 (total mileage costs £189; divided by two as travelling with sibling, to same event).</b>

Leo West-Hurst	Sailing	Irish National Championships	28-30 June	Wexford Boat and Tennis Club	Northern Ireland	£94.50	£94.50	Leo has been selected to represent N.Ireland at the Irish National Championships in Wexford on 28-30 June 2024. Recommend funding of £94.50 (total mileage costs £189; divided by two as travelling with sibling, to same event).
Samuel Irwin	Tennis	Tennis Ireland National Training Camp	11-May-24	National Tennis Centre, Dublin	Ireland	£100.00	£50.00	Samuel has been invited to attend Tennis Ireland National Training Camps. Propose £50 for Training Camp.
Samuel Irwin	Tennis	Tennis Ireland National Training Camp	08-Jun-24	National Tennis Centre, Dublin	Ireland	£100.00	£50.00	Samuel has been invited to attend Tennis Ireland National Training Camps. Propose £50 for Training Camp.
Zoe West-Hurst	Sailing	ITAC World Championships	22-26th July 2024	Murcia, Spain	Northern Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	Zoe has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the ITAC World Championships in Spain from 22-26 July 2024. Recommend funding of £170.
Leo West-Hurst	Sailing	ITAC World Championships	22-26th July 2024	Murcia, Spain	Northern Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	Leo has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the ITAC World Championships in Spain from 22-26 July 2024. Recommend funding of £170.

Zoe West-Hurst	Sailing	Topper Traveller Series	12-May-24	Waterford, Ireland	Northern Ireland	£103.95	£100.00	<b>Zoe has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the Topper Traveller Series in Waterford on 12 May 2024. Recommend funding of £100.</b>
Leo West-Hurst	Sailing	Topper Traveller Series	12-May-24	Waterford, Ireland	Northern Ireland	£103.95	£100.00	<b>Leo has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the Topper Traveller Series in Waterford on 12 May 2024. Recommend funding of £100.</b>
Andrew McGimpsey	Hockey	Home Nations	10-12 May 2024	SOUTHGATE HOCKEY CLUB, LONDON	Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	<b>Andrew has been selected for the Hockey Ireland Masters O40's Men's squad 2023/24 to play in the Home Nations in London on 10-12 May. Recommend funding of £150.</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>£5,969.00</b>	

**APPENDIX 6 - SUCCESSFUL CLUB TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING 23-24**

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTATIVE	LOCATION	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Ards Ladies Hockey Club	Hockey	EY2 All Ireland Semi Final and Final	Ards 1XI have qualified for the EY2 All Ireland Semi Finals by winning their quarter final on 13/04 . Should the squad win their semi, they will be promoted to the EY1 All Ireland league, returning the club to the top league in Ireland.	Cork, Ireland	20th and 21st April 2024	Accommodation £2500	£200	<b>Club have requested £200 to help towards accommodation costs. travelling to Cork to compete in All-Ireland Semi Final and Final on 20-21st April 2024. Necessary documents provided.</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>£200</b>	

## APPENDIX 7 - UNSUCCESSFUL REPORT

APPLICANT	APPLICATION	REQUEST	EVIDENCE REQUIRED	EXPLANATION
Hollie Aiken (Gymnastics)	Individual Travel/Accommodation Grant	£150 to attend British Schools Finals	Applicant must have qualified/been selected to represent their province/country.	<b>Hollie is travelling to Stoke-on-Trent to compete in the British Schools Finals. Funding not recommended as representative level is Schools and applicant has not qualified/been selected to represent their province/country.</b>
Zoe West-Hurst (Sailing)	Individual Travel/Accommodation Grant	£100 to attend Southern Championships	Applicant must compete at the event.	<b>Applicant unable to compete due to school commitments; Sports Development advised that the applicant was withdrawing application, after the Assessment Report for the Working Group had been completed.</b>

Unclassified

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**ITEM 5****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	06 June 2024
File Reference	LEI 1
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Macmillan Cancer Support Move More Co-ordinator Funding 2024-2025
Attachments	None

**Introduction**

Members will be aware that, since November 2018 Ards and North Down Borough Council has worked with MacMillan Cancer Support and Northern Community Leisure Trust (NCLT) to support the provision of a MacMillan Move More Co-ordinator in the Borough, based on a matched funding partnership agreement (25% Council, 25% NCLT, 50% MacMillan).

This role has provided an opportunity for public services to work in partnership to make a real difference to cancer sufferers lives, strengthening engagement between health trusts and their coterminous local councils and leisure services and offering support for people living with and beyond cancer to identify the opportunities to ensure that physical activity becomes an integral part of their lifestyle.

In the period of November 2019 to March 2021 a total of 298 referrals were made by the South East Trust however it was noted that there was a significant drop in

Not Applicable

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referrals in 2021 due to the effects of Covid 19, with cancer treatments being cancelled or postponed, and a significant drop in red flag referrals from GPs and cancer screening services being stopped during the first lockdown.

In September 2021 MacMillan were awarded a grant of £926k from the Department of Health Northern Ireland's Cancer Charities Support Fund, which was utilised from January 2022 to Aug 2024 to provide 50% funding to the Council partners. This enabled further investment into the Macmillan Move More Coordinators within each of the 11 Councils throughout the period, and also to provide the necessary project management within each Trust to establish the service model and support integration which was core to the success of this work.

Following a report to Council in November 2021, ANDBC committed to provide funding contributions towards the Move More Coordinator in their budgets for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

### Ards and North Down – Update and current position

Coming out of the pandemic, with cancer services resuming and services reopening, the number of referrals has recovered somewhat, with a total of 203 referrals noted in the period of September 2022 to December 2023.

Throughout the term of the project, the Move More Co-ordinator has been employed by Northern Community Leisure Trust, with 50% of project funding met by MacMillan and 25% provided by Council. A breakdown of associated costs in the 22/23 and 23/24 financial years is set out below:

<b>Costs</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Base Salary	£27,741	£28,936
Salary on costs	£4,161.15	£8,709
Travel	£2,000	£2,000
Facility Hire	£756	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£34,658.15</b>	<b>£39,645</b>
Cancer Support funding towards salary costs only	£20,000	£20,000
Estimated cost to NCLT/Serco	£7,329.07	£9,822.50
<b>Estimated cost to Council*</b>	<b>£7,329.08</b>	<b>£9,822.50</b>

The Move More Co-ordinator has been primarily based in Bangor Aurora but has delivered classes and support to patients from across the Borough, with 98 clients from Bangor and Holywood and 105 from Ards and Comber in the last reporting period.

Participants are mostly referred by a health professional in the South Eastern Trust however, individuals can self-refer directly to the Co-ordinator as well. All referrals are contacted directly and can have one to one consultation in the leisure centre of their choice, followed by tailored programme advice for exercise. This can range

Not Applicable

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from attending specifically designed and delivered exercise classes, using home exercise booklets with future updates, or individual/ group gym- based training sessions.

The Co-ordinator has noted that the cancer specific classes run in the Borough are vital for patients who may never have been active before or patients who have lost a lot of confidence following their diagnosis. They enable people living with cancer to get active in an environment that they feel comfortable in during a time of great change and uncertainty in their lives. The programme also offers a roadmap for progression for patients who have the opportunity to discuss tailored/guided programmes with the Co-ordinator as a means of entry back into mainstream fitness classes run in our leisure centres.

### **Funding from September 2024 onwards**

At the conclusion of this current period of funding in August 2024, MacMillan have advised each of the 11 Councils across NI that due to a reduction in charitable donations, rising costs and budgetary restrictions, the funding agreement for the Move More Co-ordinator posts will conclude, and subsequently, Councils would be required to take on full 100% funding of the associated costs of the programmes or cease to deliver a programme in their area.

MacMillan have outlined the possibility of a new contract, commencing 1 September 2024 through which funding of up to £15,000 over a period of three years (i.e.£5,000 per annum) could be made available but only for training and development for the Move More Coordinator and wider delivery team.

### **The proposed way forward**

ANDBC Leisure Officers had included a sum of £10,000 in the Leisure budget for 2024/25, planning for continued provision of the Macmillan Move More Co-ordinators post in line with the previous years' funding agreement (25% match). As Macmillan have now advised that they are not now in a position to continue to fund their contribution to the post, ANDBC Leisure Officers and their operating partners in NCLT have been faced with the challenge of identifying a new operating model that enables ANDBC/NCLT to best utilise the available resources, relationships cultivated and knowledge gained to ensure that this valuable provision for people with Cancer in the borough is continued.

NCLT have confirmed their commitment to continue to offer this resource and together with Council Leisure Officers have formulated a proposal which would enable Cancer prehabilitation and rehabilitation referrals to be taken. It is proposed that NCLT will retain the member of staff currently within the Move More Co-ordinator role within the NCLT staffing structure. This member of staff will be employed in a new, wider wellbeing role, which will encompass aspects of both the PARS (PHA physical activity referral scheme) and Cancer rehabilitation. The focus of this role will be assisting in growing the ANDBC PARS programme as well as continuing to take cancer prehab/rehab referrals directly from the South Eastern Trust clinical team at leisure facilities across the entire Borough.



Not Applicable

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As the role is being retained within the NCLT staffing structure and will continue to be based primarily at Bangor Aurora Leisure Complex, it is proposed that NCLT will be responsible for 75% of the salary costs, with Council continuing to commit to the already agreed 25% funding towards this post (£10,000) in 2024/25 as per the previous agreement with MacMillan. It is proposed that in return for this commitment from Council, the post holder will work within Leisure Ards facilities at Ards Blair Mayne and Comber Leisure Centre for 8 hours of the working week, carrying out one to one consultations, direct delivery of classes for both PARS and Cancer rehab/prehab clients, as well as hosting gym floor 'drop in sessions' where clients will be able to meet the Co-ordinator at either centre for any assistance required including inductions, programme updates etc.

It is proposed that the emphasis will largely be on group training, with the Co-ordinator then referring clients on to other memberships/classes and leisure's other GP Referral qualified staff at each site where appropriate.

It is envisaged that this operating model will have several key benefits, including:

- The ability to retain the existing Co-ordinator in post, subsequently retaining the knowledge base and key relationships built with clinical staff over the course of the Macmillan Move More programme.
- Maintain provision of specialist prehabilitation and rehabilitation opportunities for members of the community across the Borough who have been diagnosed with Cancer.
- Increase the number of clients that can be referred through the PHA PARS scheme through increased delivery of specific group training sessions at Leisure sites across the borough.

It should be noted that the proposed funding to NCLT is it to secure the post and support for PARS and Cancer rehabilitation from September 2024 to August 2025. There will be a requirement to review the agreement as part of the Councils budget setting process for 2025/26 in order to determine the success of the role and/or consider any alternative operating models which may become available upon further upskilling of other Leisure staff.

In addition to the above, NCLT and Council Leisure Officers have also submitted an application to Macmillan Cancer Support in relation to the funding available post August 2024. This application is currently with Macmillan and, if successful, could lead to a grant amount of £15,000 over the next 3 years which it is understood must be utilised for upskilling of the Wellbeing Co-ordinator and other staff across all leisure sites. Leisure Officers and NCLT will continue to attend meetings of the multidisciplinary NI cancer prehab steering group in order to maintain links with the clinical professionals in the field.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the above Report and approve proceeding on the basis outlined above including the contribution of £10,000 from this year's budget towards the costs for the Co-ordinator.

Unclassified

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**ITEM 6****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	04 June 2024
File Reference	CW4
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Play Areas Workshop Outcome
Attachments	Appendix Play Strategy Workshop Presentation

**Background**

The Play Areas Refurbishments 2024-2025 report, as considered by members in April 2024, outlined the following sites for refurbishment:

- To replace the Millisle Outdoor Gym
- Refurbish New Harbour Road Play Park, Portavogie
- Shorefront and Springwell Crescent, Groomsport (requires Consultation)
- Northfield and Beechfield, Donaghadee (requires Consultation)
- Londonderry Park
- Ward Park (Ballyholme, Banks Lane and Pickie will be part of the Waterfront regeneration)

Not Applicable

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Council agreed to the following in relation to that report:

That Council proceed with upgrades at sites contained in the report that require no community consultation but pause a decision on those sites that require community consultation, with the exclusion of Ward Park. This will enable a Members workshop to take place on the future of the council play strategy.

Therefore, the following projects will be delivered in this Financial Year:

- Millisle Outdoor Gym
- New Harbour Road play park, Portavogie
- Londonderry Park
- Ward Park

It should be noted that a consultation exercise was undertaken as part of the wider Ward Park Regeneration Scheme on 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Bangor Carnegie Library and the results were that the majority were in favour of relocating the play park from its current location to that of the currently unused tennis courts.

In relation to the second part of the decision, a Members Workshop was held in the City Hall, Bangor on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May where 9 Members were in attendance along with the Director of Community and Wellbeing and 3 Officers.

The background to the Play Strategy was presented (Presentation attached in Appendix) in terms of:

- Why play is important
- Why we have a Play Strategy
- When it was commissioned, what methodology and evidence was used to formulate the approach outlined in the Strategy
- What were the main elements in the Play Strategy
- What decisions were agreed following the adoption of the Play Strategy
- What the Play Strategy has delivered

A number of questions were then posed to those in attendance to begin the discussions. These were as follows:

- Do you agree with the refurbishment plan as identified by the annual independent inspector's report?
- Do you agree with the consolidation approach (offer a smaller number of bigger and better facilities as opposed to a larger number of lower grade play parks.)
- Shall we continue with the consultation process in its current form? Most consultations have not been accepted.

The general feedback was as follows:

Not Applicable

Question	Comments	Approach
<p><b>Do you agree with the refurbishment plan as identified by the annual independent inspector's report?</b></p>	<p>Generally, Members were content that the approach to refurbishments continues to be driven by the Independent Inspectors Annual Report.</p>	<p>Officers would explore to see if this pragmatic approach can be incorporated in some way into the Independent Inspectors Report or taken account of that when outlining the yearly</p>
	<p>It was suggested that a pragmatic approach be taken, when for example, a settlement has one good play park and then a lesser one, which is scoring low, and if another settlement which only has one play park doesn't score as low as the other, it is prioritised first to give that settlement a good play park.</p>	<p>refurbishments list. It is likely to only happen on rare occasions.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Play Development Officer can help facilitate further engagement going forward and speak to local schools and community groups about their needs.</p>
	<p>It was also suggested that generally more Community Engagement is carried out (as opposed to a one-off Consultation Event) to get a feel for what the local communities want.</p>	<p>It was caveated that because of the complexities of play park design due to Health and Safety requirements etc the engagement approach would focus on themes, locations, facility type (in relation to the older children provision) certain elements within the design etc.</p>
	<p>It was suggested that we reuse removed equipment at other sites to improve the play value.</p>	<p>It was explained that equipment can no longer be reused as it is being removed because it is no longer fit for purpose, and in any case generally gets damaged further during removal which would compromise its integrity and nullify its health and safety standards and due to British, European and RoSPA requirements additional elements cannot be retrofitted.</p>
<p><b>Do you agree with the consolidation approach (offer a smaller number of</b></p>	<p>While bigger and better play parks with better play value would be the ideal, the idea of closing one and upgrading another has divided one settlement already (Kircubbin) and that is likely to occur in</p>	<p>The consensus was that we shouldn't be closing any play parks and that the consultations don't provide a fully definitive answer as not everyone engages to justify removal.</p>

Not Applicable

<p><b>bigger and better facilities as opposed to a larger number of lower grade play parks.)</b></p>	<p>other settlements where this approach is proposed.</p>	<p>Need to keep the existing ones where they are to ensure that they are locally and easily accessible on foot.</p> <p>It was highlighted that while this approach can be adopted it will have a financial implication in terms of the refurbishment and maintenance budgets (outlined below).</p> <p>External funding can be explored but cannot be relied upon to cater for the refurbishment of those now being retained, the standard refurbishments nor the Tier upgrades etc. as it is uncertain when or if external funding will become available and it is a competitive process.</p> <p>It was discussed that potentially those that were proposed for Tier upgrades could be considered, but that that would have another financial impact especially when taken into consideration that there will be no closures to offset the Tier upgrades.</p>
	<p>People were used to having the existing ones there. Need to be mindful of areas of need/deprivation. Strategy viewed by some as a play park closure strategy.</p>	
	<p>It was posed that it might be a case of people use their local play parks, albeit with a lower play value on a regular basis and then travel to the bigger and better ones once a week for example.</p>	
	<p>There was brief discussion around the proposed Tier upgrades. Given that these were dependent on a smaller one closing and it is now being proposed not to close any where does that leave the upgrade approach. Kircubbin is getting a Tier upgrade at The Green/Shore and Parsonage Road is to be retained for example.</p>	
	<p>It was suggested that the Strategy focused on Tourism too much.</p>	
<p><b>Shall we continue with the consultation process in its current form? Most consultations have not been accepted.</b></p>	<p>It was put forward that if we don't close any play parks then the consultations won't be required.</p> <p>Consultations would only be needed where there is a proposed relocation and for the older children provision, to establish what type of facility and if applicable, which location is preferred.</p>	<p>Again, more wide ranging and longer term engagement could be facilitated with local communities by the Play Development Officer to engage more people than a one off consultation provides. Engaging with schools, where applicable the Town Advisory Groups and local community groups etc. Try to do this over different times to engage more people.</p>

Not Applicable

	It was also suggested that the consultation (in Kircubbin) potentially asked too many questions or the wrong questions and that some people got confused.	Where consultations are required, they would be limited to relocations (although there are no further relocations planned unless the existing site won't accommodate a more modern play park in terms of space) and that in relation to the older children's facilities offering facility options and potentially locations.  Any online voting elements could be restricted to one vote per email/address.
	The online voting process allowed people to vote multiple times, should be a mechanism to only allow one vote per address.	

Members should be aware that prior to this issue arising in March, Officers had become cognisant that the current refurbishment budget of £500k that had been agreed as part of the adoption of the Play Strategy in 2021 (and associated Business Case) was no longer delivering the same number or standard of play parks due to the costs of inflation. The same would apply to the Maintenance Budget of £300k.

In 2022 the play park at Castle Park, Portaferry was refurbished and costed just over £170k, to deliver the same play park today would cost an additional 39%, the same is true of Aurora, Bangor which was completed at the same time.

The separate, respective contractors repriced both at today's rates and demonstrated similar inflationary costs. It was therefore envisaged that Officers would have been submitting a revised Business Case to cover the Refurbishment Budget for the next financial year in any case, to increase it to cover the costs of inflation and to ensure that the play parks we deliver are still at the previous Tier 1, 2 and 3 standards etc. The previous indicative costs as outlined in the Play Strategy for the various Tiers were as shown in Table 1 below and for the past number of years, we have been delivering play parks at the upper limit of each scale, as applicable.

Not Applicable

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Play Provision	Indicative Cost
<b>Tier 0/Flagship play area</b>	£200,000 - £250,000
<b>Tier 1/Destination play area</b>	£150,000 - £175,000
<b>Tier 2/Local Facility play area</b>	£100,000 - £120,000
<b>Tier 3/Doorstep Facility play area</b>	£50,000 - £60,000

Table 1. Indicative costs as outlined in 2021

At today's prices (40% increase) the indicative costs would need to be revised to the following:

Play Provision	Indicative Cost
<b>Tier 0/Flagship play area</b>	£300,000
<b>Tier 1/Destination play area</b>	£245,000
<b>Tier 2/Local Facility play area</b>	£168,000
<b>Tier 3/Doorstep Facility play area</b>	£84,000

Table 2. Indicative costs taking into account of inflation in 2024

To that end, just to cover the inflationary costs, the Refurbishment Budget would need increased to £700,000 per annum. Similarly, the Maintenance Budget would also need increased to £420,000.

Even by increasing the annual refurbishment budget to £700k that would only allow for example:

- 2 x Tier 1 and 1x Tier 2 to be delivered per year
- 1x Tier 1 and 2x Tier 2 and 1x Tier 3 to be delivered per year

Business cases with options will be developed as part of the future budget setting consideration for play provision. It is anticipated that significant increases will be required in the refurbishment and maintenance budgets if Council wish to continue with the implementation of the play strategy, while maintaining a policy of not removing any older facilities going forward.

Not Applicable

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Based on the agreed budget allocation the following projects can be delivered this financial year:

- Millisle Outdoor Gym. Replace in situ
- New Harbour Road play park, Portavogie. Replace in situ
- Londonderry Park. Replace in situ
- Ward Park. Relocate and replace.
- Complete upgrade and new MUGA at Kircubbin
- Tier Upgrade to the Green Kircubbin

Also given this year's budget, Council are unable to progress playpark development at Donaghadee or Groomsport as originally envisaged, nor replace the playground at Parsonage Road Kircubbin. These will be reassessed for 2025/26 as will the application of priorities and use of consultation to deliver the current play strategy, along with associated business cases going forward.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council, based on the outcome of the Workshop, agree that this financial year, within the confines of the already approved 2024/2025 budgets:

- To deliver the 6 projects as listed above,
- Not to close any play parks at this time,
- That consultations and engagement will only occur where the relocation of a facility is proposed or to establish what type (and if applicable, what location) of new, older children facility is to be delivered, and

Also, agree that beyond 2024/25, Council will review the Play Strategy and will reconsider the approach to facilitate improvements, re-evaluating the refurbishment and maintenance budgets, subject to Business Case approval and the rate setting process.



# Play Strategy Workshop

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**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May**  
**6pm to 8pm**  
**Bangor City Hall**



# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Agenda

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- \* **Introduction**
- \* **Why Play is Important**
- \* **Why We Have a Strategy**
- \* **Elements within the Strategy**
- \* **Decisions within the Strategy**
- \* **How we came to the Decision**
- \* **What the Play Strategy has Delivered**
- \* **Elected Member Feedback**
- \* **What has been agreed at the Workshop**
- \* **Next Steps**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Why we are holding the workshop?

36

Following the Decision at Council in March 2024 in relation to the report regarding Play Park Refurbishments 2024/2025, the following was agreed:

**“That Council proceed with upgrades at sites contained in the report that require no community consultation but pause a decision on those sites that require community consultation, with the exclusion of Ward Park, to enable a Members workshop on the future of the council play strategy. ”**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Timetable for delivery of Play Strategy

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- \* **Legacy Play Strategies were out of date.**
- \* **Outdoor Recreation NI (now Outscape) were commissioned to compile a Play Strategy for Ards and North Down Borough Council in 2019.**
- \* **Members & Public Consultations took place in December 2019.**
- \* **Play Strategy was finalised and taken to Council in June 2021.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Why is play important?

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- \* **Cognitive Benefits** - development of critical thinking skills, memory, understand cause and effect and exploration.
- \* **Physical Benefits** - play increases motor skills such as running and jumping.
- \* **Social Benefits** - helps children learn how to interact with others, learn about rules and compromise.
- \* **Emotional Benefits** - helps children understand and process their emotions and build confidence.

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Why we have a Strategy?

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- \* **To establish a framework to guide decision making relating to play provision within the Borough over the next 10 years.**
- \* **Development of a 5-year priority Action Plan.**
- \* **Ensure rate payers and visitors can avail of and contribute to a wide range of high quality, inclusive, play spaces.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Why we have a Strategy?

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- \* **Maximise the available resources and potential of the current play provision within the Council area.**
- \* **Maximise opportunities to deliver on wider local, regional and national strategies and implementation of the new Community Plan for the Borough; The Big Plan for Ards and North Down.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Elements within the Strategy

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- \* **Consolidation approach based on the evidence review and feedback gathered.**
- \* **People prefer bigger better equipped play parks and are willing to travel to use them.**
- \* **In some settlements it was proposed to close a smaller play park and upgrade the remaining one to a higher Tier (based on the outcome of a public consultation exercise).**



# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Elements within the Strategy

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- \* **The existing and proposed catchment areas (using the Fields in Trust Guidelines) were plotted across the settlements.**
- \* **Rural play parks would be reviewed against the rural policy in the Play Strategy at the end of their lifespan.**
- \* **More older children provision was requested.**
- \* **More inclusive play equipment was requested.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Decisions within the Strategy

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- \* **Increase the refurbishment budget from £300k to £500k annually.**
- \* **Increase the maintenance budget from £200k to £300k.**
- \* **A budget to deliver older children provision of £150k annually.**
- \* **Recruit a Play Development Officer.**
- \* **A budget to conduct a signage refresh at all play parks.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Decisions within the Strategy

44

### **Five-year Action Plan which would focus on:**

- \* **Cross Departmental Steering Group**
- \* **Deliver annual refurbishment schedule**
- \* **Provision for older children**
- \* **Design guidelines for a consistency**
- \* **Informal & Inclusive play**
- \* **Improve quality and consolidate**
- \* **Public and youth consultation,**
- \* **Play events programme,**
- \* **Play partnerships,**
- \* **Play Champion & Play Development Officer Forum.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## How we came to a Decision

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- \* **Review of the previous legacy Play Strategies and wider strategic review.**
- \* **Review of current trends in play and best practice.**
- \* **Consideration of the Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidelines.**
- \* **Population data from the 2011 census.**
- \* **Household pointer data from Land and Property Services (LPS).**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## How we came to a Decision

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- \* **Independent Annual Play Inspection reports.**
- \* **Council's Quarterly Play Park Condition Reports.**
- \* **Community consultation events and member Workshop.**
- \* **Public survey (available at events and online).**
- \* **Use of GIS to plot the catchment areas of each Tier of play park to show areas of over and under provision.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

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## What the Play Strategy has delivered

- \* **The refurbishment of 11 play parks to date.**
- \* **Work will commence over the coming months on a new Multi Use Games Area in Kircubbin.**
- \* **Overall, this represents an investment of approx. £1,800,000 since 2022.**
- \* **The recruitment of the Play Development Officer has taken place, and they will be in post in early July.**
- \* **Installation of Inclusive roundabouts at Cloughey and Anchor Park.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

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## What the Play Strategy has delivered

- \* **Signage refresh at all play parks.**
- \* **Minimum of 30% inclusive equipment in all newly refurbished play parks.**
- \* **Representation at the Play Development Officers Forum.**
- \* **Range of play park launch events and events to mark National play Day.**
- \* **Public consultation events held in Holywood, Kircubbin and Bangor, Ward Park.**

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## What the Play Strategy has delivered

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# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## What the Play Strategy has delivered

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# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## What the Play Strategy has delivered

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# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## What the Play Strategy has delivered

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## HAVE YOUR SAY

### Older Children Play Provision in Holywood

Public Engagement/Consultation drop in session

Monday 11 September 5 – 8pm  
Redburn Community Centre,  
1A Ardnagreena Gardens,  
Holywood, BT18 9PD



Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council




## HAVE YOUR SAY

### Future Play Provision in Kircubbin

Public Engagement/Consultation drop in session

Tuesday 12 September 4 – 7pm  
Kircubbin Community Centre,  
4 Church Grove, Kircubbin,  
Newtownards, BT22 2SU



Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Issues to note

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- \* We have
- \* Currently the refurbishment budget is £500k per year
- \* Tier 1 costs are approximately - £170k
- \* Tier 2 costs are approximately - £120k
- \* Tier 3 costs are approximately - £60k
- \* Example: Castle Park Portaferry cost £120k in 2022, today it would cost £167k (39% increase)
- \* Budget needs increased to reflect increased costs
- \* If the consolidation approach is not continued more budget will be required to refurbish the additional play parks.

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

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## Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy 2021 – 2032

### Elected Member Feedback

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

## Possible Questions for Break Out Groups

55

- \* Do you agree with the refurbishment plan as identified by the annual independent inspector's report?
- \* Do you agree with the consolidation approach (offer a smaller number of bigger and better facilities as opposed to a larger number of lower grade play parks.)
- \* Shall we continue with the consultation process in its current form? Most consultations have not been accepted.

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop'

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## Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy 2021 – 2032

### What has been agreed at the Workshop?

# Ards and North Down 'Play Strategy Workshop' 57

## Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy 2021 – 2032

### Next Steps?



Unclassified

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**ITEM 7****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	04 June 2024
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Food Service Plan 2024-2025
Attachments	Appendix Food Service Plan 2024-2025

The Food Service Plan has been produced as a requirement of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls. All Local Authorities are required to provide a plan of the Council's Food Control function for the Borough and review on an annual basis.

The Plan is attached for Council approval and a year-end update will be provided to the Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approve the attached Food Service Plan for 2024/2025.



## **Food Control Service Plan 2024/2025**

## Introduction

This plan sets out how the Council will deliver its 2024/25 Food Service. This Service Plan has been produced in response to the Food Standard Agency's Framework Agreement on Food Law Enforcement which sets out how the plan should be structured and what the plan should contain. The Plan explains how the service will protect and promote food safety throughout the Borough using a combination of measures which include the enforcement of food safety law, sampling, advice, education and liaising with other organisations. The mix of enforcement includes aspects that are demand driven, inspection driven, education driven, and intelligence driven. Our activities and procedures take account of the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and its supporting document the Food Law Practice Guidance (Northern Ireland).

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- 2. Background page 5
- 3. Service Delivery page 10
- 4. Resources page 16
- 5. Quality Assessment page 19
- 6. Review page 20
- 7. Appendix 1 page 22

## 1. SERVICE AIM AND OBJECTIVES

### 1.1 Aim

The aim of the food control service is to protect health by assuring the production (including composition and labelling), preparation, storage, distribution, and supply of food by businesses within Ards and North Down is safe to eat.

The service aims to provide a comprehensive food safety service to consumers and the operators of food businesses by achieving a good balance between providing advice, information, training, and appropriate enforcement.

### 1.2 The following objectives have been identified for 2024/25.

1. Proactive surveillance to obtain an accurate picture of the local business landscape and identify open, closed, recently re-opened, new businesses and changes of operation, activities, or operators.
  - Undertake appropriate interventions at establishments where there are concerns around public health because of ongoing proactive surveillance.
  - Undertake urgent reactive work including, but not limited to, following up on food incidents, investigating foodborne disease outbreaks, investigating complaints.
  - Monitor and review premises that have been subject to previous enforcement action.
  - Prioritise establishments which are overdue/due an enforcement revisit.
2. For all interventions not already captured in 1 above, a minimum of 90% food hygiene /food standards inspections/interventions will be undertaken for: -
  - All A, all B, and non-compliant C for hygiene (High risk premises) will be undertaken.
  - New businesses within 28 days of registration and where triage highlights risks around food safety.
3. To implement the FSA mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) and monitor the compliance of the display.
4. To act as “Home Authority” to manufacturers and packers of food located within the Borough, providing advice, food hygiene and food standards audit reports.
5. To actively work with our lower rated (Food Hygiene Rated 0,1,2) businesses to improve compliance including consideration of appropriate enforcement action in line with the Councils Enforcement Policy.
6. To respond to a minimum of 90% of food safety service requests within two working days.

7. To ensure all authorised officers are competent as per the requirements of the revised Competency Assessment Framework (as set down in the Food Law Code of Practice).
8. To actively promote the “Calorie wise” award.
9. To participate in national and local sampling projects as appropriate.
10. To facilitate a seminar to assist lower rated food business owners achieve compliance and improve food hygiene ratings.

### **1.3 Links to corporate objectives and plans**

**1.3.1** The Council’s objective “to make Ards and North Down the best place to live, work, visit and invest” is based on the principles of Prosperity, Environment, Opportunity, Pride, Life and Excellence. The Food Control Service plays an essential role in underpinning these strategic themes as follows:

- Improving health and wellbeing – Promotion of Caloriewise
- Promoting a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment – Implementation of Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, ensuring businesses are compliant with food safety requirements.
- Supporting business start-up, development, and growth – Providing advice and signposting to other departments and agencies.
- Enhancing the visitor experience to increase visitor spend – encouraging compliance with food safety requirements and a good food hygiene rating gives customers confidence in where they chose to eat. EHO attendance at Council run events to ensure businesses are operating safely.
- Being financially responsible – for our own budget
- Delivering high quality customer focussed services – providing both tailored and generic advice to businesses.
- Establishing and growing productive partnerships – stakeholder engagement with internal and external departments and agencies e.g. Internal - Neighbour Environment Team and external - DAERA

The service contributes to all five of The Big Plan outcomes.

**1.3.2** The Food Control Service Plan is key in protecting the community and providing a safe environment and making a significant contribution to the Communities’ economy. An effective food control team contributes to these priorities by protecting the health of its residents and visitors through the provision of safe food, the prevention and detection of food borne illness and food poisoning, and by ensuring that responsible businesses are not disadvantaged by non-compliant traders.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Profile of Ards and North Down

On 1 April 2015 the Council for Ards and North Down was established and currently serves a population of more than 159,000 over 228 square miles. (Appendix 1 Map of Borough).

Although a significant percentage of the local population is employed within the Belfast area, the Borough provides a wide range of employment opportunities in the manufacturing, commercial, hotel, catering, banking, insurance, and retail sectors. The Borough has a vibrant fishing industry which is centred in Portavogie.

The quality of housing stock within the Borough is well above average for Northern Ireland, reflecting the high standard of living. The Borough is an affluent area with a high economically active population with high disposable income.

With over 100 miles of coastline, Ards and North Down is regarded as a major tourist attraction. Among visitor attractions located within the Borough are Bangor Marina, Pickie Fun Park, Mount Stewart, Nendrum, Exploris, Castle Espie, Crawfordsburn Country Park and fourteen golf courses. There are more than 343,000 overnight visits annually, contributing £48M to the local economy. In addition to Hotels, Guest Houses and Bed and Breakfast accommodation, the bays between Cloughey and Donaghadee contain almost a third of Northern Ireland's caravan sites. The developing agri-food sector has created significant local employment and a thriving restaurant scene has resulted in the area becoming a desirable 'food-tourism' destination.

Within the Borough there are two established distilleries that are supplying their products internationally.

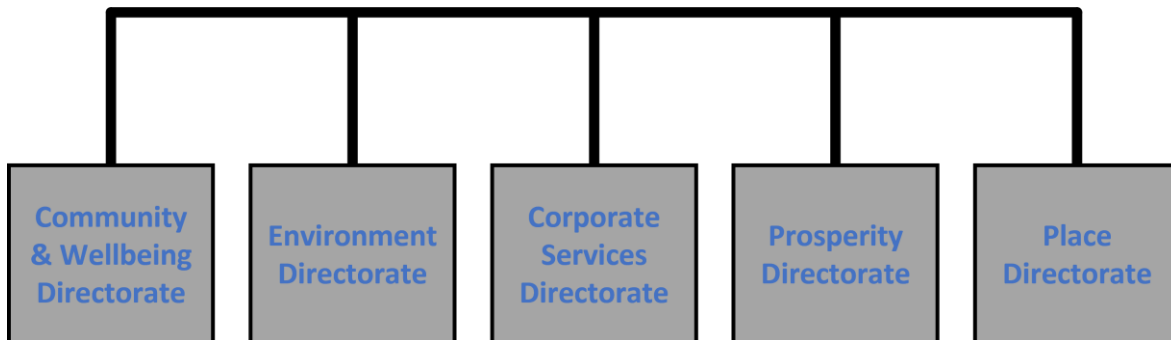
The Borough lays claim to the title of events capital of Northern Ireland and the Council's events team organise high profile events throughout the year, namely Sea Bangor, Comber Earlies Festival and Tide and Turf, which draw thousands of visitors to the area. In 2022 The Open House Festival officially opened the redeveloped and re-purposed Court House as a new concert venue. This along with the Open House Festival being based in Bangor and the summer music in the park events continues to encourage visitors to the Borough. Northern Ireland's first five-star Hotel and several top-quality conference and banqueting hotels are also located in the Borough. These attractions have ensured that the area remains one of the most popular destinations for entertainment, resulting in an expanded customer base with a catchment from County Down and the greater Belfast areas.

In May 2022 Bangor was awarded City status.

## 2.2 Organisational Structure

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

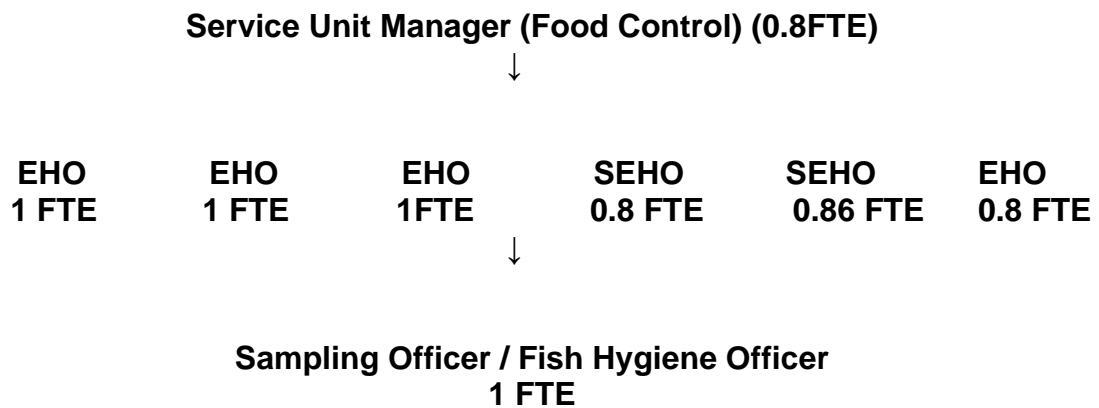
#### ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL



The food service is part of the Community & Wellbeing Directorate and reports to the Council through the Community & Wellbeing Committee.

### Food Control Structure

The food control service is managed by a Service Unit Manager who is allocated 0.8 FTE, and 5.4 Environmental Health Officers and 1.0 Sampling/Fish Hygiene Officer.





## 2.3 Scope of the Food Service

**2.3.1** The Council provides a comprehensive service to food consumers and food businesses in Ards and North Down. The following table outlines the types of activities covered by the food control service.

Inspection	<i>Planned Food Hygiene and Food Standards Inspections FHRS Rescore Inspections Re-visits Allergen assessment inspections</i>
Response Work	<i>Advice Food Complaints Telephone queries Advisory Visits Food Poisoning and Other Infectious diseases Unfit Food Food Incidents Allergen Incidents</i>
Sampling	<i>Bacteriological Chemical Pesticide residues Radiation Surveys Shellfish</i>
Service Promotion	<i>Training Research Health Education/Allergen Promotion and Education</i>
Service Management Carried out by Service Unit Manager and two Senior Environmental Health Officers.	<i>Officer monitoring &amp; supervision Co-ordination &amp; consistent approach to enforcement Maintenance of Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Forward panning Reporting to Council Document control Consultation with stakeholders</i>

## 2.4 Demands on the Food Service

In May 2024, **1602** (food premises (including childminders) are registered with the Council. The premises profile is outlined below. Please note that this is a snapshot in time that changes regularly as new businesses open and others close.

Primary Producers	86
Manufacturers & Packers	84
Restaurants/Other Caterers	1087
Retailers (include Supermarkets)	278
Importer/Exporter	8
Distributor/Transporter	24
Not yet rated/Awaiting inspection	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1602</b>
Outside the programme (markets/ church halls)	36

In addition there are:

- Markets – one in Market Square in Bangor on Wednesdays and one in Conway Square Ards on Saturdays. There is a farmer's market once a month in Comber. Monthly Market Fresh in Bangor also and Portaferry Market.
- 17 EC approved premises.
- There are several events held within the borough during the year, which require a food safety input including Sea Bangor, Portaferry Gala week, Comber Earlies, Tide and Turf, music festivals and pop-up artisan food markets such as the Continental Food Market.

The service can be accessed by the public and businesses via:

- Calling in person to the Ards and North Down Borough Council, 2 Church Street Newtownards BT23 4FP between 9am to 5pm Mondays to Thursdays and 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays. The office is closed in the evenings and at weekends.
- By telephoning officers through the council switchboard or their direct line telephone numbers.
- By emailing the Food Control Team; [foodenquires@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:foodenquires@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)
- Emailing officers directly via their individual email addresses.
- Contacting elected members
- Information and advice can be accessed via the Council's website at [www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk).

- The food hygiene ratings of eligible businesses can be found at <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/> and via a link on the council website.

## **2.5 Enforcement Policy**

The service operates within the Councils generic Regulatory Services Enforcement policy which includes an appendix providing specific information on food safety and food standards enforcement based on an EHNI approved framework. The current policy was adopted by Council in January 2015.

### 3. SERVICE DELIVERY

#### 3.1 Food Hygiene & Food Standards Interventions

Programmed food hygiene and food standards interventions are carried out in accordance with the minimum inspection frequencies defined in the Food Law Code of Practice, and priority will be given to inspections of higher risk premises and approved premises.

##### 3.1.1 Food Hygiene & Food Standards Interventions Programmed for 2024-2025

The profile of premises by risk rating is outlined in the table below. This is a snapshot of the premises as of May 2024. The profile can change because of an intervention meaning that a premises risk category and therefore inspection frequency can be moved either up or down. The number of “A” rated businesses can vary significantly during the year.

The two tables below set out the premises profile by risk category:

Premises Food Hygiene	Number of premises	Frequency of inspection
Cat A	3	6 months
Cat B	52	12 months
Cat C	242	18 months
Cat D	489	24 months
Cat E	705	36 months
Unrated, etc.	75	
Outside programme.	36	
Total	1602	

Premises Food Standards	NO. OF PREMISES	FREQUENCY OF INSPECTION
Cat A	4	12 months
Cat B	159	24 months
Cat C	1330	60 months
Unrated, etc.	75	
Outside programme	36	
Total	1604*	

- \*2 extra premises inspected for food standards which are honey producers. DAERA inspect them for hygiene.

### 3.1.3 Food Hygiene and Food Standards inspections due in 2024-25

The table below shows the details of this year’s inspection programme. The service has made significant progress with the higher risk premises.

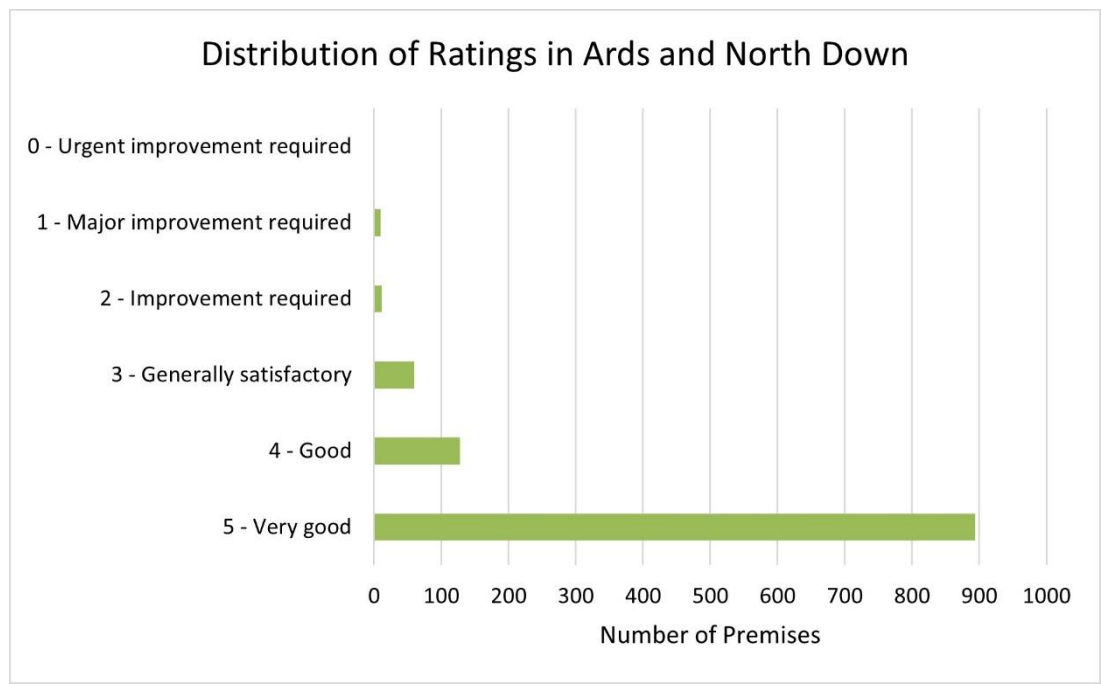
#### Inspection Programme for 24/25 incorporating overdue inspections.

Risk Category	Food Hygiene			Food Standards		
	Due	Overdue	Total	Due	Overdue	Total
A	3	0	6	4	0	4
B	52	0	52	86	31	117
C	141	3	144	266	151	417
D	170	97	267			
E	149	100	249			

In order to deliver the legislative requirements which includes addressing the backlog of food hygiene and food standards inspections permission is being sought from CLT to recruit two temporary Environmental Health Officers/technical officers.

### 3.1.4 Food Hygiene rating

The chart below shows the hygiene rating of all businesses in the area that fall into the scope of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The scheme is designed to help people choose where to eat out or shop for food by providing information about the hygiene standards in restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, hotels etc as well as supermarkets and other food shops. The Food control service works closely with those businesses who score a low rating to improve standards.



### 3.2 Food Complaints

Food complaints or complaints relating to the hygiene of food premises are investigated in accordance with the Food Complaints Procedure (Northern Ireland Food Managers 2019). The depth and scope of investigation required will depend on the nature of the complaint.

All food complaints involving an imminent risk to health will be responded to as quickly as possible and others within the two working day target. Where appropriate, complainants will be advised of the outcome.

#### 3.2.1 Potential Impacts on the Food Control Service

The following issues will make further demands on the service in 2024/25.

1. Officer time will be needed to support local manufacturers and Approved establishment in preparation for the potential implications of the Windsor Framework.
2. Increase in FHRs re-rating inspections for less than broadly compliant premises (FHR 0,1,2). There are currently **11** businesses. This has an impact in officer time and resources to re-visit these businesses to ensure compliance has been achieved. There is also the potential for enforcement action to be taken against these businesses if compliance is not achieved.
3. The FSA is currently developing a new Food Standards Delivery Model. This will change the way inspection frequency is categorised. This will require officer time for training of officers, data cleansing and a change to our MIS (Management Information System) to reflect the requirements of the new model. It is anticipated that these changes will come into effect November 2024.

### 3.3 Home Authority Principle

Both legacy Councils adopted the LACORS Home Authority Principle in 1995, although the Food Control Services practised it since its inception in the late 1980s. Most of its demand on resources is accounted for in the planned work, which has been accounted for in Section 3.1, but additional work is carried out in these premises. Ards and North Down Borough Council is presently the Home Authority for **55** premises and additional work, such as steering food hazard warnings, advising on labelling and marketing.

### **3.4 Advice to businesses**

The Food Control service aims to improve the understanding of food safety requirements by persons handling food and this can be carried out by informal education through the provision of advice and recommendations during visits to premises. The Food Control Service also provides a health education and promotion service to the public to ensure greater awareness of food safety issues in both the commercial and domestic settings.

The increased importance put on information to be provided by food business operators regarding allergens and the nutrition element of restaurant and takeaway meals will require engagement with food business operators to ensure that there are additional choices available for the consumer. The council regularly shares food safety and awareness campaigns that the FSA promote on social media platforms.

### **3.5 Food Sampling Procedures**

The Northern Ireland Food Managers Group Policy for food sampling, agreed by EHNI, has been implemented within the Council's Food Control Service.

#### **3.5.1 Food Standards**

Food standards includes sampling food articles and packaging and may then be supplemented by additional samples, such as special surveys or complaint samples, to meet the Public Analysts Service Level Agreement with the Council.

#### **3.5.2 Food Hygiene**

The target number of bacteriological food samples for routine analysis is 12 samples per week, (650 - 700 approx. per annum). Samples are processed at the Northern Ireland Public Health Laboratory in Belfast.

### **3.6 Food Safety Incidents**

Ards and North Down Borough Council will act on all food safety incidents, Food Alerts, Allergy Alerts and Product Recall Notices in accordance with Food Law Code of Practice and will deal with all notifications in accordance with the 'For Action' or 'For Information' categorisation, as allocated by the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland.

### 3.7 Liaison with other organisations

The service actively participates in liaison arrangements with several other local authorities, agencies, and professional organisations to facilitate consistent enforcement.

Currently ANDBC has representation on Northern Ireland Food Managers Group, Food imports Exports & FH Subgroup. These are subgroups which report to Environmental Health Northern Ireland. ANDBC are also represented on the Fish and Shellfish Working Group, the Approvals Forum, Periwinkle group, EHNI, and the Obesity Prevention Steering Group.

### 3.8 Food Safety and Standards Promotion

The Food Control Service aims to improve the understanding of food safety requirements by persons handling food, through informal education during visits to premises, in the provision of advice and recommendations. In addition, the need to aid those whose first language is not English has been recognised and the presentation of the Food Standards Agency's Safer Food Better Business pack using interpreters has already been undertaken with the Chinese community.

The Department also provides a health education and promotion service to the public, to ensure greater awareness of food safety issues, both in the commercial and domestic setting.

In the coming year, officers from the Food Service will be involved in:

- Facilitating food hygiene training in schools by supplying materials, advice and in some cases, lecturers as there are modules on the Environmental Health Officer role in AS level examinations.
- Providing free training for volunteer caterers in Churches and similar organisations.
- Ongoing advice and education to food premises in the Borough.
- Participating in national promotional events, such as Food Standards Agency campaigns, Calorie Wise and other Nutrition initiatives.
- Engaging with community groups to promote food safety in the home such as The Cook it Programme.
- Working collaboratively with a range of organisations to embrace the aims and objectives of the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity.
- Hosting a seminar to assist premises with a rating 0,1 & 2.



- Compliance monitoring of food hygiene rating display.

### **3.9 Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Infectious Diseases**

The Council aims to investigate individual cases and outbreaks of food borne illness, as notified by the Public Health Agency and members of the public, in accordance with the Agency's guidance on the subject.

This involves reporting to the Consultant in Gastrointestinal Illness, who is under the general control of the Public Health Agency. Normally there approx.. 82 individual cases per year, based on previous years data, although this can fluctuate.

ANDBC provides an out of hours on-call service for food poisoning and food incidents which is shared with LCCC. This means that officers can respond to urgent public health risks when they arise which includes evenings and weekends.

## 4. RESOURCES

### 4.1 Financial Allocation

The allocation of the Environmental Health Protection and Development's budget on Food Control for the year 2022/23 includes the following:

<b>Budget Allocation</b>	<b>2024/25 £</b>
Salaries	584,900
FSA Grant Money (including allocation for carrying out Shellfish Official Controls)	150,269,
Sampling	25,000
Equipment	1,200
Training	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>761,969</b>

### FSA Grant Funding

The Food Control Service provides certain services relating to HACCP and EC Directives on Shellfish and Fish Hygiene which are supported by grant money provided by the FSANI under the Food Safety (NI) Order.

### 4.2 Staffing Allocation

The staffing resources for Ards and North Down Borough Council Food Control Service for 2024/25 are as follows:

#### Resource Allocation Hours

Head of EHP&D	7% of 1,403 =	98 Hours
EH Manager (Food Control & CP)	80% of 1,403 =	1122 Hours
Senior EHO X 1	86% of 1,403 =	1206 Hours
Senior EHO X 1	80% of 1,403 =	1122 Hours
District EHOs X 3.8	100% of 1,403 =	5331 Hours
Temporary EHOs x2	100% of 1,403 =	2806 Hours
Tech. Assistant/Fish Hygiene Officer	100% of 1,403 =	<u>1403</u> Hours
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,088 Hours</b>

## Competency and Authorisation

Position	FTE	Level of Authorisation
Env Health Manager	0.8	Full
EHO	3.0	Full
EHO	2.8	Partial
<b>TOTAL FTE</b>	<b>6.6</b>	
Fish Hygiene Officer	1	Full as per duties required

Documented evidence is held demonstrating officers meet the competencies and authorisation, relevant to their role, and the activities they will undertake as detailed in the Competency Framework and Chapter 3 of the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland).

### 4.3 Staff Development Plan

**4.3.1** As part of the Council's Investment in People Initiative, an employee development scheme has been implemented. At present, staff training programmes are produced following an annual review of the training needs of each officer, as part of the internal monitoring processes operated in the Food Control Service. Training is tailored to the needs of both the department and the individual members of staff, and they are provided with opportunities as they arise. A structured training programming is provided through the NIFMG in conjunction with FSA, which Ards and North Down Borough Council fully supports. Delegates from Council's Food Control Service attend many courses organised by the Group. Staff have access to an online training platform to assist with CPD requirements and have access to Campden BRI for any specialist or technical requirements.

**4.3.2** The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement requires Local Authorities to appoint enough authorised officers to carry out food enforcement work and states that they shall have suitable qualifications, training, and experience consistent with their authorisation and duties in accordance with the relevant Food Safety Code of Practice.

**4.3.3** The Food Safety Code of Practice requires the Local Authority to ensure that every officer receives structured on-going training, which is managed, assessed, and recorded. The minimum on-going/update training for each officer should be at least 20 hours per year, of which at least 10 hours must be food based. Staff have access to an online specialised food training provider to achieve the minimum CPD hours required.

**4.3.4** Each member of staff receives one annual appraisal, mid-year review and one-to-one meetings every six to eight weeks at which time development needs are identified and a plan agreed to address these.

## 5. Quality Assessment

**5.1** For the Food Control Service, the Environmental Health Manager monitors officers paperwork and accompanies officers on monitoring visits, undertakes a one-to-one meeting with each member of the food team on a regular basis or as required and checks on all food businesses who have been rated from A or B into lower risk categories and counter signs the documentation.

Any issues are used to develop service delivery mechanisms for subsequent years and the development of a Performance Improvement Plan and identifies any training needs.

The FSANI undertakes a programme of regular audits of specific areas of the Food Service of district councils in respect of compliance with the Food Law Code of Practice and the Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities. Ards and North Down Borough Council were last audited by the Food Standards Agency in 2018. An annual return is submitted to the Food Standards Agency.

In April 2024 the FSA announced that all 11 councils in Northern Ireland will be audited on their Service Plans in either QTR 3 or 4.

## 6. REVIEW

### 6.1 Review against the service plan

The review performance against last years' service plan was presented to the Community and Wellbeing Committee in May 2024.

### 6.2 Identification of any variation from the service plan

In the year 2023/24 the Food Control Service achieved the following:

#### Food Hygiene

- Inspected all category A & B premises.
- Investigated **88** food poisoning identifications on behalf of the Public Health Agency
- Reacted to and actioned **546** complaints and service requests **342** related to premises hygiene or issues with food products.
- Collected **589** food samples for microbiological analysis.
- **131** of new businesses received an onsite inspection.
- Served 17 Hygiene Improvement Notices.
- Served 5 Remedial Action Notices.
- 3 Food businesses voluntary closed.

#### Food Standards

- 100% A rated premises inspected for food standards.
- Collected **220** food samples for chemical analysis.
- Investigated complaints regarding allergens, composition, and labelling irregularities.
- Participated in FSA UK surveys regarding the composition of traybakes, acrylamide in baked goods and mycotoxins in coffee beans.

The delivery of this plan will be reviewed quarterly and reported on to the Health and Wellbeing Committee annually.

### 6.3 Areas of Improvement

As reported in last year's Food Service Plan food businesses are still facing challenges regarding energy prices and food costs. There is a high turnover of staff within the sector which presents challenges for training and consistency.

Applications for re rating inspections have remained the same this year as last year(15).

These additional inspections and the realignment with the Food Law Code of Practice inspection frequencies will continue to exert significant pressure on the section to deliver the service. Workloads will continue to be prioritised by risk and officers will be tasked with a target figure for inspections to be achieved within a calendar month.

Retention of qualified and competent food officers within the food section has been challenging and will be prioritised for 2024/25 by offering more training initiatives and ensuring all officers gain experience in a variety of premises. The two new temporary officers will be working towards partial authorisation.

**6.4 Contingency plans**

The Councils, Business Continuity Management Plan sets out potential incidents and identifies how the service will manage risks to ensure it can continue to deliver essential services in the event of an emergency, or during a disruption of normal day-to-day activities.

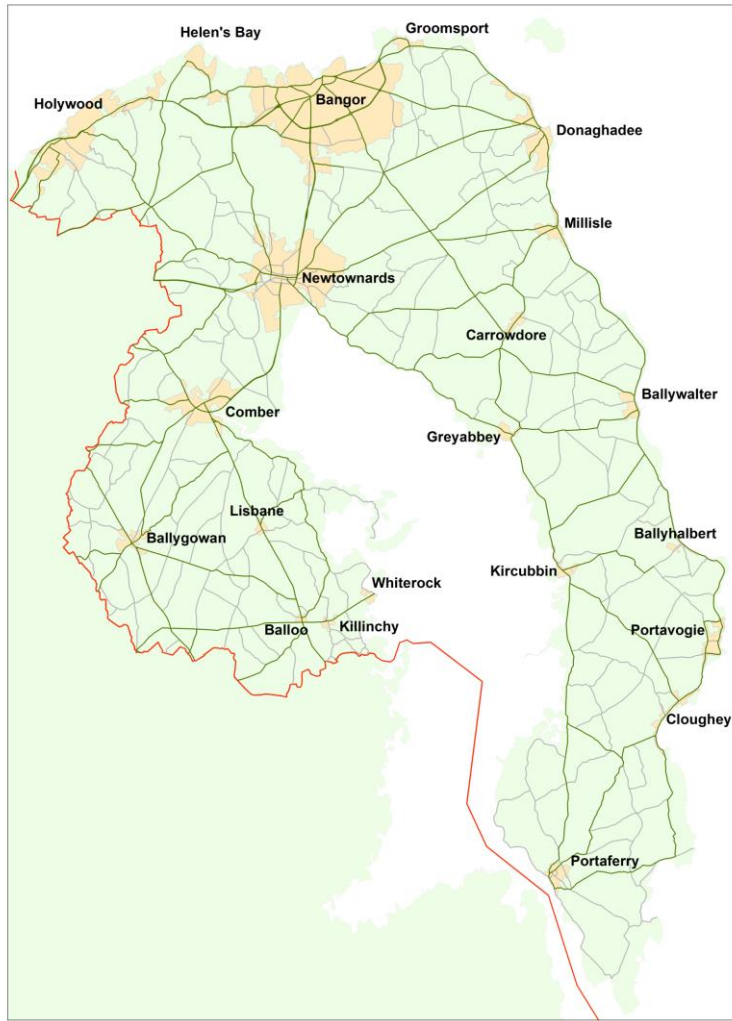
The channels and procedures for sharing information between Competent Authorities and agencies involved are set out in Memorandums of Understanding which are discussed and reviewed at Northern Ireland Food Managers. The MOU with the Public Health Agency for dealing with infectious disease notifications is currently under review.

**Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development**

May 2024  
AF/JD

Date adopted by Council: \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix 1





Unclassified

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**ITEM 8****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	21 May 2024
File Reference	ART
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Beach of Dreams - Beat Carnival
Attachments	None

Beach of Dreams is a national outdoor and digital creative programme exploring and activating the UK's coastlines, across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, beginning in June 2024 and culminating in a UK wide walking arts festival to be held from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

As part of the festival activities, people will be invited to walk together along their own lengths of the UK coastline in a collective moment of reflection and action. It is an opportunity to be a part of a spectacular international movement, that re-imagines our relationship with the coast and inspires positive climate action. Belfast-based Beat Carnival, the Northern Ireland partner in Beach of Dreams, will deliver local activity including artistic commissions with communities. The art programme will engage local people in creation of new artworks in response to the coastal environment and climate emergency. A NI coastal finale, during the UK festival, is proposed to be at Millisle Beach on 17th May 2025.

Beach of Dreams has 9 UK Regional Partners –

- Activate, Dorset

Not Applicable

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- Bay of Colwyn Town Council, Wales
- Beat Carnival, Northern Ireland, prioritising the Ards Peninsula and County Down coast
- Estuary 25, Thames Estuary
- Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Scotland
- MSL Projects, Hastings
- Out There Arts, Great Yarmouth
- Stronger Shores, South Tyneside
- T100 Festival, Thurrock

Arts Council England has granted an award to Beach of Dreams as a 'nationally significant project'. Beat Carnival is managing a local creative arts commission through this award provision providing a core to the Northern Ireland programme that will enable further funds to be raised.

### **Project Purpose**

- To explore together through combining walking, nature connection and creativity, how we can and will take care of the coastal environment, communities, and ourselves.
- To support health, wellbeing, and happiness.
- To build stronger connections between participants, communities and with nature.
- To celebrate lives along our coast: life and culture that exists because of the coast.
- To activate climate awareness for future generations through shared creativity, ideas, inspiration, pledges, and resources.

Beach of Dreams 2025 will be a partnership of arts, cultural, environmental, and community organisations across the UK and in local regions, which will bring artists together with communities to creatively understand coastal life, celebrate it and respond to challenges presented by the climate emergency. Stories and dreams will be gathered, community by community, shared on digital platforms with a global audience, showcased in artistic displays and portrayed on locally designed pennants and banners made and carried by the public to inspire and catalyse positive change.

### **Resources and Support**

Engagement of local authorities and other relevant organisations will be essential to delivering a high-quality programme. The two relevant authorities for the County Down coastline area that Beat is prioritising are Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry, Mourne & Down Council.

### **Outline of Activity**

Beat Carnival proposes experiences, collaborations and skills building with coastal communities in a programme of arts workshops; environment, climate awareness and action sessions; local story gathering with individuals and communities including communities of interest such as fishing, Ulster Scots culture, boat building, and a number of coastal artwork and performance events, culminating with a large-scale Beach of Dreams event with a public audience at Millisle in May 2025. Beat consider Millisle to have the required facilities of an attractive beach, public event

Not Applicable

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infrastructure, a community hub, visitor accessibility and is appropriately located along the peninsula coastline.

The working title for the Millisle festival event is **Siren Song**. Coastal stories will inform artistic design for the final event creation and composition of a song performed by communities. Coastal walks and the final event will have carnival procession and atmosphere, with puppet making, fabric painting and the creation of a giant structure, a carnival-float-style mermaid centrepiece for the siren song performance. Complementary figures / characters / structures will be created in / visit / tour participating communities. Some will travel by sea to the Millisle event as well as by coastal land journeys.

### **Budget and Funding**

Beat Carnival's budget target for the project, summer 2024 to summer 2025 is £100,000. £20,000 has been raised initially, which enables the project to get underway. Beat Carnival wishes to submit a project proposal to ANDBC with a request for community programme and event funding.

### **Outline of Activity**

While the Ards Peninsula is the primary area of focus for NI's Beach of Dreams, Beat Carnival is talking with other areas on NI's coast, such as the north coast (Derry Playhouse) and Newcastle, Annalong, Kilkeel in the south. Significant organisations that have expressed interest and support include the National Trust NI; Friends of the Earth NI; Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful; Queens' University of Belfast (Sustainability, Equality & Climate Action dept – active citizenship, democracy and green politics); Climate Craic Festival; and Marine Historic Environment Advisor |Marine & Fisheries | NI Gov. Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

### **Beneficiaries**

The activity will increase opportunities (in the short and long-term) for: people who don't currently get involved in creativity and culture, ie the general public, families and individuals of all ages from children to elderly, people who are only involved a little in creative and cultural activity, and people with occasional experience at local festivals and events programmes. The project will enable school groups and those involved with sports, walking, and maritime groups to access creative arts opportunities. It offers further opportunities to people who are already taking part in creative and cultural activity. Individuals and communities engaged in arts through a range of local providers, who participate with others in this new programme, will gain new skills, experience and social connections.

Creatively connecting with the coastline will enable all of us to understand it better, empowering people and their communities to take care of themselves, each other, and the local environment.

It is hoped there will be:

- 1,500 community participants
- 25 creative practitioners or artists
- 100 volunteers
- 5,000 in a live audience
- 10,000+ in an online audience.

Not Applicable

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Following the May 2025 Beach of Dreams Festival, artwork and digital documentation will tour UK venues.

**Beat Carnival** is Northern Ireland's Carnival arts company with 30 years' experience of managing this type of project with communities and artists.

Beat encourages neighbourhoods and communities to think big about celebrating their creative community life in ways that are culturally inclusive, artistically ambitious and welcoming to all.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the council support the development of the Beach of Dreams project to culminate in a large-scale finale at Millisle Beach in May 2025.

An indicative budget of up £40,000 may be requested subject to approval of the draft programme of activity that will be brought to Council in October 2024. This will be sought through the estimates for 2025/26.

Unclassified

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**ITEM 9****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	05 June 2024
File Reference	HER 13 - Ulster Scots
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ulster Scots Action Plan Response to Notice of Motion
Attachments	Appendix Ulster Scots Action Plan

The following notice of motion was agreed by Council in December 2023:

*“That this Council notes the importance of this Borough as the birthplace of the Ulster Scots community from 1606 onwards and the role of those settlers in the development of the lands known as the Hamilton-Montgomery Estates which make up the majority of this Borough;*

*Notes the rich heritage of the Borough in relation to Ulster-Scots language and literature;*

*Notes that 19,685 people in the Borough registered a level of ability in the Ulster-Scots language in the most recent census, representing 12.4% of the population;*

*Notes the significant potential of Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture as a catalyst for social and cultural development in the Borough;*

Not Applicable

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*Notes the thriving interest in the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture within the Borough;*

*Notes the Council's responsibility under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages to take resolute action to promote Ulster-Scots;*

*Notes the recent recognition of the Ulster-Scots community as a National Minority of the United Kingdom under international law;*

*Notes the weakness of this Council's engagement with Ulster-Scots Language Week this year and in previous years;*

*And tasks officers to develop a budget to ensure and encourage participation in future Ulster Scots Language Weeks; and to develop an action plan, with advice from the Ulster-Scots Agency, to develop all aspects of the Borough's rich Ulster-Scots heritage”.*

Officers from the Good Relations section and Arts and Heritage section together with officers from the Ulster Scots Agency have produced an Action plan attached for the 2024 -2025 financial year using the £10,000 budget agreed by Council.

Funding for provision in 2025-2026 will be included in the Community and Culture proposed budget as part of the rate setting process.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council agree the Action Plan for 2024-2025.

ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024 – 2025

APPENDIX

Activity	ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024- 2025	Timeline	Budget
<p><b>Launch and Typography</b></p> <p><b>Lead Officers</b> Corp Comms/Multimedia</p>	<p>A launch event/PR opportunity/photography and print</p> <p>Typography designed in-house by ANDBC</p>	<p>October</p>	<p>£500</p>
<p><b>Museum Activity</b></p>	<p>Wiggly Weans Children’s Ceildh</p>	<p>August</p>	<p>Covered by Museum</p>
<p><b>Schools Programme</b></p>	<p>Themed Ulster Scots activities for children around the Peninsula</p> <p>Location Ballyhalbert Town Hall</p> <p>4 schools to participant – e.g. Victoria PS (Ballyhalbert) Grey Abbey PS 200 participants to include transport</p>	<p>23/11/2024 11-4pm</p>	<p>£3,000</p>
<p><b>Secondary Schools</b></p>	<p>Educational talks by Ulster Scots comedian and historian Lammey Bruce. First come first served for 3 x secondary schools in the Borough and 1 public performance.</p>	<p>Leid Week</p>	<p>£1,500</p>

ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024 – 2025

APPENDIX

Activity	ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024- 2025	Timeline	Budget
<b>Historical Talk</b>	North Down Museum – Historical Talk	Autumn	£300
<b>Music Event/s</b>	Lisa Dawson Music – readings/talks/music		£1,000
<b>Literary Event/Reading</b>	<p>Anne McMaster – Ulster Scots Writing Workshop as part of Aspects Festival</p> <p>Anne McMaster film shown during Leid Week at Museum and possible event at a library with a talk</p>	<p>September</p> <p>Leid Week</p>	<p>£300</p> <p>£200</p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Cockle Row Cottages, Groomsport are open for the season letting people see what life was like for a family living in the little fisherman’s cottages. The Ulster Scots Agency works along with the Council and provides entertainment once a month, form Scottish Dancers, to pipes and drums or traditional craft – they also use the opportunity for outreach and send a member of their staff with a promotional stand. This is always very well received by visitors.</p> <p>The Cottages are also used as a base for the Discover Groomsport Walking Tour, the tour is scheduled to happen each Saturday July and August and covers some of the local links with the Ulster Scots Heritage.</p>	June-Sept	



ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024 – 2025

APPENDIX

Activity	ANDBC Ulster Scots Action Plan 2024- 2025	Timeline	Budget
<b>Ulster Scots Walking Tour</b>	Commissioning of a living history walking tour by Valhalla Street Theatre that could be rolled out annually. 2 x tours to take place during Leid Week  2 x tours throughout the year	Leid Week	£1,500  £1,500
<b>Community Development Summer schemes</b>	Series of activities for each summer scheme in partnership with Ulster Scots agency	July 2024	£200
<b>US Grants</b>	Ulster Scots grants administered by the Museum on behalf of the Ulster Scots Agency. These go to Heritage Groups/Historical Societies to organise their own talks/events	Autumn	Covered by US Agency
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

**Other Activity Taking Place in the Community – funded via Community Festivals Fund:**

Ballywalter – date tbc (Sept), to include talks and concert. **£980**

D’dee Summer Festival (dates tbc) – 3 days Ulster Scots event – to include the Ulster Fry comp. **£11,250** of which a % will cover the 3-day festival

Unclassified

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**ITEM 10****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	11 June 2024
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Leisure Services
Attachments	None

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every four years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2023)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Not Applicable

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**Reporting approach**

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Q4	October – March	June

The report for Leisure Services is attached.

**Key points to note:**

- The Leisure section returned an excellent performance against budget coming in over half a million pound below budget (£562,921 under our £1,931,000 target). A significant benefit for the ratepayer.
- Sport Capital and Forum grants continue to be well received and there is significantly more demand than available budget as the Boroughs sporting success continues.
- Swimming lessons continue to grow and develop at both Aurora and ABMWLC Centres.
- Footfall is slightly below target, Serco report that this was due to the two main pools in Bangor Aurora having reduced operating for significant periods over the last year due to floor failures.
- While there is a nil return on team briefings it should be noted that there are numerous team meetings throughout all levels of the service, leisure needs to find a way of capturing this data to report.
- Community Centres and Hall's (CCH) has seen a positive trend in usage, evidenced by significantly higher than expected total hours booked (32,242 against a target of 22,500) and footfall (144,415 against a target of 85,000), demonstrating an extremely successful first full year post Covid and the demand for these facilities across the Borough.

**Key achievements:**

- All four leisure centres have retained Quest.
- Swimming lessons continue to grow across both aqua sites, this is due to good water management by the aqua managers at both sites who have to work within limited timeframes for the lesson programmes.
- The move from a traditional Sports Directory Book to an online Directory has been justified with over 4,000 views.
- The Leisure section returned an excellent performance against budget coming in over half a million pound below budget (£562,921 under our £1,931,000 target). A significant benefit for the ratepayer.
- The CCH budget was also significantly beneficial for the ratepayer despite significant increases in staff costs due to the work done by the team on attracting additional bookings to facilities which already were being utilised and thereby reducing net cost per booking.

Not Applicable

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### Emerging issues:

- Staffing continues to be a major problem for all sites with recruitment and retention issues leading to temporary closure of some facilities and suspension of activities. The strain of this situation is also causing significant issues for the wellbeing of the remaining staff.
- Whilst we have some relatively new leisure facilities a significant element of our leisure estate is well beyond 20 years of age and significant investment in refurbishment/new facilities will be needed over the next 10 years to ensure the service continues to operate at the levels expected. This includes Comber and Holywood leisure complexes and the artificial pitches across the Borough.
- Rising costs of goods and services will continue to have a significant impact on costs of providing services over the next couple of years.
- Memberships for over 50s are very popular and a significant user group across all sites.
- Council will need to provide additional sport forum grants to continue to support the blossoming sporting success.

### Action to be taken:

- Budget was approved to commence a three phased Transformation project within the CCH section, this will seek to secure the appropriate resources, inclusive of staffing structures, consultation work, and user engagement to meet CCH's budget management and operational aspirations.
- Further modernisation projects are planned to increase the online presence of CCH that include a significantly improved webpage, opportunities to engage with customers, and potentially online bookings.
- A period of stability is required within the leisure service to facilitate the staff transformation process and the wellbeing of leisure staff being prioritised.
- The cost per visitor to the Community halls (estimated at over £8 per visit) needs to be considered when compared to the cost per visitor to the leisure centres of less than £1 per visitor.
- The development of a leisure strategy will need to be prioritised to ensure the service is delivered based on the expectations of the key stakeholders.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the report.















Not Applicable

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## Performance Report - Leisure

Generated on: 10 June 2024

Last Update H2 2023/24

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% sent to recycling rather than landfill for Community Centres	58%	55%
	% sent to recycling rather than landfill for Leisure Centres	59%	58%
	% spend against budget	78.14%	100%
	Net cost of all community centre sites to the rate payer	£3.95	£7.16
	Net cost of service per head of population across all leisure sites	£8.39	£9.03
	Net cost of service per each visit across all leisure sites	£0.90	£0.92
	Number of Community user forums set up (cumulative)	0	4
	% staff attendance	84.71%	93%
	% staff reporting regular/monthly receipt of team briefings	0%	100%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	0%	100%
	% staff reporting receipt of team briefings	0%	100%
	Maintain Quest awards for all 4 leisure sites	4	4
	% of people who complete the PAR scheme	22%	30%
	% of people who take out a membership package at the end of a referral programme	60%	60%
	Number of fitness classes per week (Leisure Ards and Serco/NLT)	250	250

Not Applicable

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Total footfall across all Leisure sites (including NLT, Serco managed sites)	1,520,000	1,560,000
	Total footfall at Community Centres (cumulative)	144,415	85,000
	Number enrolled in Learn to Swim programme (cumulative)	6,595	3,500
	Active Aging Memberships	3,014	400
	Number of clubs affiliated with the Sports Forum	99	110
	Number of Sports Forum Grants awarded (cumulative)	226	165
	Number of views of online Sports Directory (cumulative)	4,912	2,500
	Number of individuals attending Sports Education Courses (cumulative)	36	50
	Participation in Sports Development Programmes (cumulative)	689	300
	Number of Sports Capital Grants awarded to clubs (cumulative)	9	8
	Total hours booked in Community Centres (cumulative)	32,242	22,500

Unclassified

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**ITEM 11****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	31 May 2024
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Parks and Cemeteries
Attachments	None

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2023)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

## Director of Community and Wellbeing

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**Reporting approach**

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Half Yearly 1	April – September	December
Half Yearly 2	October – March	June

The report for Parks & Cemeteries is attached.

**Key achievements and points to note:**

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Agreed at Council
- Design team for the Ward Park Project
- Volunteer programme in Bangor Castle Walled Garden has attracted many members.
- Green Flag Awards retained for Castle Park, Londonderry Park, Kiltonga Nature Reserve, Linear Park and Ballymenoch Park.
- Cemetery Post Box Scheme in place at Clandeboye and Movilla cemeteries.
- Floodgates Park Business Plan progressing towards planning.
- Rewilding scheme plans for a further 120,000sqm.
- Schools Growing Club - six schools selected in Year One i.e.: Towerview Primary (Bangor), Andrews Memorial Primary, (Comber), Loughries Primary (Newtownards), Holywood Primary School, St Patricks Primary (Portaferry) & St Marys Primary (Kircubbin).
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan New Year Roadshows took place.
- 18,000 plus trees planted this winter in multiple locations including Castle Park, Skipperstone Community Centre, Ballymenoch Park, Londonderry Park, Ballycran (Kircubbin).
- Planned programme of Winter Events including Tree Week and other **STAND4TREES** activities took place.
- New Orchard at Holywood Nature Park, Kircubbin Pavilion & Laurel Bank Lane (Comber).
- Staff Business Planning Day took place (1<sup>st</sup> December) with all staff involved in working on the Service Plan for 2024.

**Action to be taken:**

- Local Biodiversity Action's being progressed for Summer Programme.
- New Parks & Cemeteries Machinery Replacement & Utilisation Strategy agreed and being implemented.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the report.

















## Director of Community and Wellbeing

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## Half yearly Performance Report - Parks and Cemeteries Generated

Last Update H2 2023/24

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Value	Performance Data Target
	Total hectares of Council maintained ground rewilded (m2)	90,000	90,000
	Managed ground with annual sowing (m2)	6,860	6,500
	Number of trees planted	18,269	15,000
	Amount of herbicide used (litres) (cumulative)	114.37	170
	% Spend Against Budget	94.66%	100%
	% staff attendance	91.43%	93%
	% staff reporting regular receipt of team briefings	100%	100%
	Organise Annual Business Planning Day	100%	0%
	Retain Green Flag Awards	5	5
	Best Kept Britain in Bloom and any other relevant award that highlights the excellence of the service offered by the Council	5	4
	% of available allotments utilised	100%	100%
	Overall funding for In Bloom projects	£18,448.24	£18,500.00
	Number of Friends Groups established	1	3
	Number of community events throughout the Borough (cumulative)	58	40
	Expand our Apprenticeship and Trainee opportunities	2	2

Unclassified

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**ITEM 12****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	31 May 2024
File Reference	PCA63
Legislation	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Re-wilding Initiative Update
Attachments	None

**Background**

Members will be aware that the Parks and Cemeteries Service commenced with a Rewilding initiative in 2018. Following the successful launch of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Parks are committed to implementing the actions stated within this plan, specifically “Creation of a council grassland management strategy.” Creation of the strategy is underway, which will guide our future work.

Rewilding requires converting frequently mown amenity grasslands to managed grassland habitats that can support a much more diverse range of floral species, pollinators and insects and thus improving Biodiversity.

At present just over 90,000m<sup>2</sup> of grassland is being managed for rewilding. In addition to Biodiversity Net Gain, our Rewilding initiative has climate change benefits such as reducing carbon emissions by using less fuel as a result of cutting less grass. It also

Not Applicable

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improves workload planning by increasing the staff's capacity to work in other areas within our parks and open spaces.

Rewilding is about the restoration of natural ecosystems to encourage an equilibrium between people and the rest of nature, where each can thrive. It is not solely focused on rural landscapes. The creation and maintenance of meadow grasslands is taking place in public open spaces across the UK and making a noticeable improvement to biodiversity.

The promotion of biodiversity is a statutory requirement under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life on earth. Moreover, it is the variety of flora and fauna and the functions that exist between them. Once such function is the interaction between the natural environment and recreational value of open spaces. As part of our statutory obligations, council were pleased to launch the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The LBAP is a partnership effort to target actions for key habitats and species in Ards and North Down.

Development of our Plan raises awareness, understanding and a joint ownership of the challenges facing our wonderful and diverse environment. Highlighted throughout the plan is the need to effectively manage our grassland to the benefit of our environment. The LBAP has been recently presented to communities across the borough through a series of Roadshows, focussed on connecting residents with the action plan and encouraging participation in associated activities.

By improving the biodiversity and creating a place for wildlife to thrive we have opened opportunities for education by creating outdoor classrooms where schools and local members of the community can discover the natural world and develop an understanding of environmental issues through first-hand experience. Educational activities continue to be carried out in our meadow grasslands including bug hunts, flower species identification, sketching flowers etc. The importance of these sites to the constituents and visitors to the area is shown though the positive feedback that is regularly received, which highlights the positive impact this scheme has made to people's lives in addition to the obvious biodiversity benefit.

### **Current Sites**

It is the intention that the current sites will continue to be subject to the alternative management techniques outlined above with a view to encouraging increased variety of species. The rewilding scheme includes areas at the following council owned sites:

- Ballystockard Open Space, Comber
- Cloughey Road, Portaferry
- Tullymalley, Portaferry
- Linear Park, Bangor
- Ballymenoch Park, Holywood
- Stricklands Glen/Connor Park, Bangor
- Seapark, Holywood
- Brompton Coastal Path, Bangor
- North Street, Greyabbey

Not Applicable

- Bowtown Road, Newtownards
- Lands Adjacent (Parsonage Road) to Kircubbin Cemetery
- Demesne View, Portaferry
- Whitespots Country Park
- Glenlyon, Holywood
- Windmill Stump, Portaferry
- Whiterock Car Park

In addition to the ongoing maintenance, the schedules will be altered to take account of infrequent event use on certain sites. It is critical that the rewilding project works in harmony with the overall use of parks and a balanced offering is available across the parks portfolio. Events and community use will be catered for in the integrated grassland management of each chosen site.

It should be noted that that these sites are in addition to areas transformed from closely mown grasslands into new tree plantations under the **STAND4TREES** initiative, which has seen in excess of 45,000 trees planted.

**Rewilding Initiative Expansion**

Parks and Cemeteries are committed to expansion of the rewilding initiative following successful implementation at the afore mentioned current sites. A further audit of grassland maintenance across the Borough is currently being undertaken by Parks and Cemeteries officers and operational teams with the view to extend our existing rewilding portfolio with a target total of 120,000m2 of grassland being managed for rewilding. Officers secured funding through Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership for a bespoke piece of mowing equipment designed to provide a cut and lift across smaller areas of land. On that basis, it is possible to roll out the initiative across a range of new sites.

**Proposed Additional Sites**

Jacks Cut, Newtownards  
5,000m2



Not Applicable

Dalton Glade, Comber  
2,000 m<sup>2</sup>



Linear Park, Bangor  
1,100m<sup>2</sup>

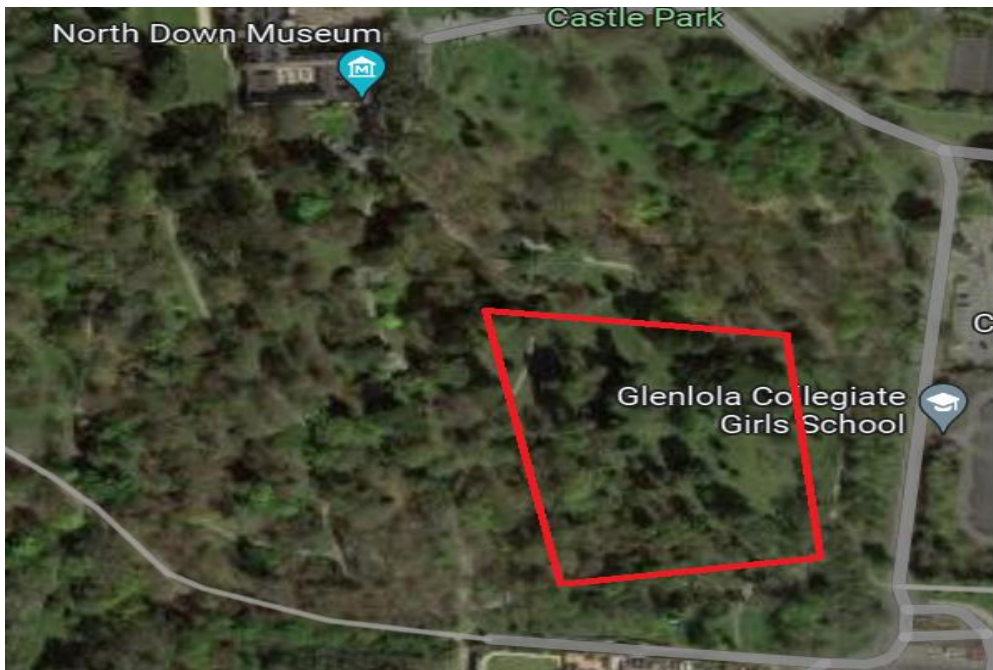


Not Applicable

Upper Crescent, Comber  
6,600m<sup>2</sup>



Castle Park, Bangor  
9,300m<sup>2</sup>



Not Applicable

The Commons, Donaghadee  
6,700m<sup>2</sup>



Dermott Gardens, Comber  
2,100m<sup>2</sup>



Not Applicable

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes and continues to support the ongoing development of the rewilding project as outlined within this report to enhance and promote biodiversity across the Borough.



Unclassified

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**ITEM 13****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	31 May 2024
File Reference	PCA1
Legislation	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Local Biodiversity Action Plan Progress
Attachments	None

**Purpose of the Report**

The following report summarises progress made against the Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan's (LBAP) that was agreed in 2023. This report also provides members with an update on the Re-wilding Initiative.

**Background**

The provision of biodiversity is a statutory requirement under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 or WANE Act. The Act requires public bodies to take reasonable steps to further the conservation of priority habitats and species or to promote such actions by others. This production and delivery of the LBAP will assist in demonstrating the Council's compliance with the statutory duty. Under the WANE Act, the Council is responsible for considering five key aspects of biodiversity. These are:

Not Applicable

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- Protection of Biodiversity
- Maintenance of Biodiversity
- Enhancing Biodiversity
- Restoring Biodiversity
- Promoting Biodiversity

The Borough's second Biodiversity Action Plan was approved and adopted in April 2023 and has helped to coordinate efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity across the Borough. The development of the plan is an important step in recognising the importance of our local biodiversity. It aims to ensure that international, national, regional and local biodiversity objectives are achieved through a range of partnerships.

A total of 84 actions were proposed across four themes in the LBAP, the actions listed are to help protect, conserve, and enhance those priority habitats and species within the Borough identified through the audit. LBAP actions were listed under one of the following 4 themes:

Theme 1: Education and Awareness – 28 actions in total

Theme 2: Research and Monitoring – 7 actions in total

Theme 3: Land Management – 33 actions in total

Theme 4: Building Partnerships – 16 actions in total

### **Progress during 2023**

#### **Theme 1. Education and Awareness**

During 2023 a total of 4 actions were addressed under this theme, including:

**Action:** Support participation in national and international biodiversity awareness campaigns

**Action:** Encourage participation in citizen science wildlife projects and engage the public in biodiversity recording and awareness

**Update:** In summary, encouraging participation in citizen science wildlife projects and engaging the public in biodiversity recording and awareness can greatly enhance data collection, public education, community involvement, scientific research, and policy-making, all of which are crucial for effective biodiversity conservation.

#### International Dawn Chorus

##### Dawn Chorus Event at Cairn Wood

7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Taking place on the first Sunday of May, International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's greatest festival of birdsong at dawn. One of the key reasons for the popularity of International Dawn Chorus Day is the opportunity it provides for citizen science.

This event was led by expert guide David Thompson and was a wonderful success. Participants were taken on a slow hike through Cairn Wood stopping occasionally to

Not Applicable

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listen and identify the birds of the woodland. A total of 16 species were identified on the morning of the event. These recordings were passed onto the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR), which helps to gather and record information about local wildlife and habitats in Northern Ireland.

This event was a wonderful opportunity for participants to experience the serene and inspiring sounds of nature, helping to foster a deeper connection and appreciation of our environment as well as highlighting the need to protect bird habitats and biodiversity.

#### National Insect Week

##### Moth Identification Event Ballyphilip Playing Fields, Cloughey Road, Portaferry

17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Insect Week (19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June) is organised every two years by the *Royal Entomological Society* and is supported by several partner organisations across the UK and Europe. It encourages people of all ages to learn more about insects and raises awareness of their essential role as pollinators. aiming to raise awareness about their importance in the ecosystem and to encourage interest in entomology.

This event was led by expert guide Ross McIlwrath and was a wonderful success. Ross was able to provide our participants with some interesting background ecology of moths and their habitats. A total of 42 species were caught and identified at this rewilding site. The large number of moths trapped is a positive indication of the grassland management changes made by Parks under the rewilding initiative. Moth recordings were passed onto CEDaR, the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording.

##### Mini-Beast Hunt, Castle Park, Bangor

24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

This was a wonderful family friendly event with over 40 children attending on the day. Participants were taken on a trail of diverse habitats around Castle Park where they searched for and were able to observe small invertebrates in their natural habitats. The event gave families the opportunity to get up close to nature and hands on with wildlife. Using equipment and resources provided, children were able to use their observation skills to identify and record all the minibeasts they found during event.

Minibeast hunts are not only fun but also foster a deeper appreciation for nature and its tiny inhabitants. These events also provide educational and engaging ways to learn about ecology, biology, and the diversity of life.

##### Wildflower Identification Event, Greyabbey Rewilding Open Space

1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

This event took place at Greyabbey rewilding site which has been managed under the council's rewilding initiative since 2021. The event focused on the rationale behind rewilding, identifying and learning about local wildflowers and the essential role they play in the survival of our pollinators. Participants also had the opportunity to try some

Not Applicable

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cyanotype photography and botanical drawing which all helped to develop their wildflower identification skills.

Rewilding amenity sites can create vibrant, biodiverse environments that benefit both people and nature. By shifting the focus from traditional landscaping to ecosystem restoration, we can foster healthier, more resilient communities.

### Wild Days Out

#### Castle Park

31<sup>st</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023

To promote local biodiversity in our area, Council held Biodiversity public engagement events over five days at Castle Park in Bangor. The events were designed to coincide with Love Parks Week. All five daily events were aimed at families with children under 14. The events were fun and entertaining with five different biodiversity themes including bug hunts, wildlife survival skills, bird care and identification and a celebration of the parks wonderful trees.

### International Bat Night

#### Bat Walk & Talk Event, Castle Park, Bangor

25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

International Bat Night is observed on the last full weekend of August every year. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about bats and their ecological significance in relation to pollination and pest control. This event was led by conservationist Caroline Finlay from Conservation Detection Dogs NI (CDDNI) who was joined by Rufus, a springer spaniel employee. Participants had the opportunity to learn about CDDNI's important conservation work, the threats bats face, as well as having the opportunity to use bat detectors to identify local bat species within Castle Park. There was huge interest in this event which very quickly reached full capacity.

International Bat Night offers a unique opportunity for communities to come together to celebrate and protect bats, contributing to the overall effort to preserve biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

**Action:** Promote 'Gardening for Wildlife' and support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

**Update:** Promoting and supporting Gardening for Wildlife and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan have been met through variety of Park initiatives and projects including the rewilding initiative, **STAND4TREES** initiative, sustainable planting, 'in bloom' community competitions and Pesticide and the Pesticide and Herbicide Reduction Policy.

**Action:** Publicize the BAP within the council and beyond through existing information centres and museums (e.g. Bangor Library)

**Update:** The LBAP Roadshow consisted of 7 events, the initial launch event and a further 6 presentation evenings across the borough shown below.

Not Applicable

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LOCATION	DATE	TIME	TOWN/VILLAGES
Signal Business Centre	29/11/2023	13:00	Elected members, Local NGOS, Staff, Towerview PS
Donaghadee Community Centre	11/01/2024	7PM-8PM	Groomsport/Six road ends/Millisle
West Winds Community Centre	17/01/2024	7PM-8PM	Newtownards/Conlig
Marquis Hall, Bangor	25/01/2024	7PM-8PM	Helens Bay/Crawfordsburn/Hollywood
Carrowdore Community	31/01/2023	7PM-8PM	Ballywalter/Greyabbey/Kircubbin
Comber Leisure Centre	07/02/2024	7PM-8PM	Ballygowan/Lisbane/Killinchy
Portaferry Community Centre	14/02/2024	7-8PM	Ballyhalbert/Portavogie/Cloughey

The launch event was well attended with over 30 present including elected members, representatives from NGOS, local conservation groups and staff. A presentation was delivered on the LBAP outlining the benefits and importance of the document to council and residents. The following events shown above across the borough were open to all to attend and advertised on Facebook, via direct invitation to community groups in parks and through Community Development.

The roadshows had an average of 14 people attend, mostly residents representing local community groups. The roadshows were aimed at these groups, and the presentation delivered in a way that showcased the usability of the document as a tool for groups to get ideas for events and contributions that they can make.

Since the delivery of the roadshow, local community groups such as Helens Bay and Crawfordsburn residents' association have delivered their own session on local biodiversity.

### Theme 3. Land Management

During 2023 a total of 10 actions were addressed under this theme, including:

**Action:** Secure funding to commission a feasibility study to explore the options for habitat restoration and management at Laurel Bank and Crawfordsburn Glen.

**Update:** Parks and Cemeteries Service commissioned feasibility studies as described above. Council are now in receipt of report demonstrating options for habitat restoration and management at Laurel Bank and Crawfordsburn Glen. These reports will guide further actions on both sites.

Not Applicable

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**Action:** Restore or plant new native species-rich hedgerows for biodiversity with emphasis on connecting woodlands and other habitats. These hedgerows should act as demonstration sites for good practice hedgerow management.

**Update:** The Council has an annual tree/hedgerow-planting programme which sees many trees of both native and interesting varieties planted over each Autumn/Winter season. For example, our **STAND4TREES** initiative aims to plant a tree for every person in the Borough, that is approximately 160,000 trees. Through planting season 2023-2024 in excess of 15,000 new trees were planted in the borough. To date, council has planted over 45,000 new trees which have seen the creation of new woodland, orchards and hedgerows, the yearly breakdown is:

- 2021/22 – 12,435
- 2022/23 – 15,223
- 2023/24 – 18,269

**Action:** Continue to manage and monitor lowland meadows under the council rewilding initiative and increase the extent of species-rich wildflower meadow habitat by creating new meadows and expanding the area of existing meadows, in both urban and rural locations. Opportunities to connect to other habitats should be identified and prioritised.

**Update:** Our rewilding portfolio has increased to a total 90,000m<sup>2</sup>. New areas added include former Conacre sites at Kircubbin and Bowtown Road. In addition the creation of new wildflower meadows took place at two locations along the coastal path in 2023. The seed was harvested from Crawfordsburn Country Park less than 2km from the new sites. Both wildflower meadows are situated along one of Buglife's B-lines. By creating a wildflower meadow at these sites, the Council is helping to meet the vision of this project. B-Lines are an innovative solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators.

**Action:** Actively pursue the use of local provenance seed (tree and wildflower) and hold workshops on seed harvesting, collection, storage and growing. Including the establishment of local / community tree nurseries.

**Update:** Engaging local people can take many forms with events and local community planting schemes being an essential mechanism to ensure wide community buy-in for the Councils Tree and Woodland Strategy which includes the **STAND4TREES** initiative. One other aspect of community engagement council officers have been developing is a network of Community Tree Nurseries and Community Seed Gathering Projects. The new initiative is called Seed2Leaf. Community tree nurseries allow the local community to come together and gather local tree seeds, plant them and care for them to become young trees. We know that trees are important and the act of growing a tree can help create a link to nature for many people. It is also something that anyone, anywhere can get involved in. Each year council officers develop an application pack which is circulated to local community. Groups are encouraged to apply for funding to help develop their new community tree nursery. For the 23/24 season, two community groups will have council support for developing their own Community Tree Nursery.

Not Applicable

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**Action:** Ensure all built structures and mature trees on council owned sites are adequately scoped for the presence of bats prior to any works (even minor works such as limb / ivy removal) occur.

**Update:** It is the responsibility of council approved tree surgeons to scope for bats before any work is carried out on trees. Council may only actively remove ivy from trees to further a tree survey. Heavy forming ivy can at times hinder a tree survey by covering potentially damaging fungi which could weaken the structure of the tree.

**Action:** Creation of a council grassland management strategy.

**Update:** A draft version of a new grassland management strategy has been developed by Officers in conjunction with staff through a dedicated Task and Finish Group. This strategy aims to deliver a sustainable grassland management policy, empowering Council to increase local biodiversity through the recovery of natural habitats, whilst reducing the impact on resources.

The strategy aims to:

- improve Biodiversity across the Borough in line with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- contribute to Councils Net Zero targets on carbon emissions by reducing the amount of fuel we use and provide grasslands that are sequestering and storing more carbon.
- increase efficiency throughout Parks and Cemeteries Service Operations.
- increase community participation and engagement with the local environment.

A full version of the grassland management strategy will be reported to members when complete.

**Action:** Investigate with our partners the feasibility of providing wild bird cover for farmland birds

**Update:** A habitat management plan was produced for Bowtown Road rewilding site. Council officers are investigating the suitability of the site for providing wild bird cover for our priority farmland bird species.

**Action:** Reduce, replace and where possible eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers on council land

**Update:** Following agreement on a Herbicide Reduction Policy, a Task and Finish Group has been established among staff to focus on the creation of herbicide free sites, evaluating them in terms of control success and also public perception. Each site had differing levels of success. Kiltonga experienced no negative impact and indeed benefited greatly from this approach. In the case of Hunts Park, the ageing infrastructure reduced the effectiveness of the alternative methods. This is being reviewed and a project for path refurbishment and repurposing will be implemented through this financial year. This will enable a more sustainable herbicide free approach to the site.

## Not Applicable

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The Task and Finish Group identified a number of key areas for the further reduction in the use of herbicide. These included:

- The cessation of treating kerb lines and mature tree bases as appropriate.
- Allowing boundary edges to naturalise.
- Increased used of weed suppressant mulching
- Localised herbicide free zones within selected areas.

Overall the above measures have led to a 30% reduction in chemical weed control since 2021.

Going forward and to reduce the use of herbicide further, the following techniques are being explored and trialled:

- Additional mechanical sweeping equipment deployed across the teams.
- Non-Herbicide based products trialled for use on hard surfaces.
- Exploration of Electrical Weed Control – eWeeding

It is important to note that this Policy Statement will not apply to the management of Invasive Species, sports pitches, fine turf areas such as bowling greens, where chemical control is the most appropriate control option currently available. Invasive species weed control is being carried out by In house teams.

**Action:** Ensure a collection of diverse tree colonies through the planting of native trees across the Borough with the creation of an equitable canopy map.

**Update:** In general, trees planted will be native species such as oak, elder, hazel, hawthorn and birch, in line with Councils Local Biodiversity Action Plan, unless there is a specific ornamental scheme which requires cultivated species. An example of this is Castle Park (Bangor) and Ballymenoch Park (Holywood) which are regarded as historic tree arboretums and would require rare and unusual trees as replacements. This is intended to ensure that there is a diverse collection of tree colonies across the Borough.

Over the past year, council officers have been developing a new interactive tree map which is available for public view via the council website. The Ards and North Down Borough Council's new tree map reflects a progressive commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement. This initiative aims to catalogue and display the diverse array of trees within Ards and North Downs Borough Woodlands, Parks, and Urban areas, promoting awareness of the region's rich biodiversity. The tree map serves as an interactive tool, allowing residents to explore and learn about individual tree species. The map contributes to a sense of community involvement, as residents can actively participate by reporting tree-related issues or suggesting potential locations for new tree plantings. The technology helps create a user-friendly and accessible tree map and demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to environmental conservation and community engagement, fostering a sense of pride and responsibility among residents for their local green spaces. This map will also allow residents to view upcoming scheduled tree works.

**Action:** Develop an ambitious planting plan starting with the planting of 160,000 native trees across the Borough with further increased planting to contribute to regional and national targets



Not Applicable

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**Update:** **STAND4TREES** initiative aims to plant a tree for every person in the Borough, that is approximately 160,000 trees. Through planting season 2023-2024 in excess of 15,000 new trees were planted in the borough. To date, council has planted over 45,000 new trees.

#### **Theme 4. Building Partnerships**

During 2023 a total of 3 actions were addressed under this theme, including:

**Action:** Promote biodiversity objectives in the management of golf courses and encourage all golf courses in the Borough to secure the GEO certified label.

**Update:** A presentation was delivered to Helens Bay and Crawfordsburn Residents Association in 2024. Taking place at Helens Bay Golf Club the presentation promoted ANDBC'S LBAP with particular focus on the opportunity Golf Clubs have in playing a role in nature conservation, how they can maximise biodiversity on their courses and the benefits that biodiversity can have on the clubs and their members. Case studies of Golf Courses recognised for their positive changes for biodiversity in NI was also discussed.

**Action:** Work in partnership with bodies, NGO's and local groups to support the conservation of the red squirrel and pine marten and identify road mortality black spots where warning signs can be erected.

**Update:** Council officers engage closely with the North Down Red Squirrel and Pine Marten Group (NDRSPMG) which receive ongoing support from ANDBC in relation to the control of grey squirrels on council owned land.

**Action:** Improve the value of urban green spaces for biodiversity by setting up 'Friends of' Groups at selected sites

**Update:** As we continue to work towards promoting biodiversity in our local parks, engagement efforts are yielding some positive results. Our LBAP roadshow has been a success, traveling to various locations and providing residents with information on how they can make a positive impact on the environment. Which led to groups such as Helens Bay and Crawfordsburn, who have hosted their own biodiversity meeting to discuss how they can contribute to conservation efforts on a local level using other groups from Donaghadee to input along with Parks staff. These meetings have not only provided valuable insights but also fostered a sense of community and ownership among residents.

We're also excited to announce that our partnership with local In Bloom groups is promoting more sustainable practices and promoting better biodiversity, such as the adoption of perennial planting schemes, which will provide a vital source of food and shelter for local wildlife rather than traditional bedding schemes. Additionally, a new "Friends of Hunts Park" group which is operating under Donaghadee Community Development Association, which will focus on protecting and enhancing the park's natural habitats. The group have already carried out planting of 400 native trees and the establishment of a new community orchard in the area, which will not only enhance biodiversity but also provide a beautiful green space for residents to enjoy.

Not Applicable

115

Other efforts to introduce new friends of group in Linear Park are underway, with regular events and engagement with residents to bring them along the journey of making positive changes within Linear Park to better help them and biodiversity within the park such as the possible introduction of a Community Orchard in 2025 and new rewilding sites. The group have already taken part in clearing self-seeded phormiums within native tree clumps in the park.

As we come into the summer season, we will see a full schedule of events for residents to get involved in and sign up to help volunteer across our parks leading to the creation of more Friends of Groups across the borough.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the progress of the Local Biodiversity Action plan and continues to support future projects and initiatives.

Unclassified

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**ITEM 14****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development
Date of Report	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other x If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Performance Report Q3 and Q4 2023-2024 Environmental Health Protection and Development
Attachments	None

**Context**

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2023)

Not Applicable

117

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

### Reporting approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1&2	April – September	December
Quarter 3&4	October – March	June

The report for Quarter 3 and 4 is attached.

### Key points to note:

- Staff absence rates have been challenging with a number of staff on long term sick and maternity leave. We have been unable to fill some of these temporary vacancies and this has led to targets missed in health and safety inspections and licensing.
- The underspend position for year end is again due to vacant posts and the withdrawal of affordable warmth mid year.
- The tascomi business case appears on the dashboard as not progressed however this is not a true reflection of the status. The leadership of the project has been taken over by IT on a collaborative basis for a Council upgrade including other regulatory services.
- The Q4 target for PTO inspections was not met as during this period officers worked to complete property inspections that were delayed as a result of Covid lockdowns. This backlog has now been cleared and should not impact future achievement of targets. We are confident that the property inspection service has now recovered to pre-Covid levels of performance and this will be indicated positively on future reports.

### Key achievements:

- The Service has generally performed well against the KPI's for Q4
- The target for PTO inspections was not met in the previous year and this backlog has now been cleared.
- Similarly significant progress has been made on clearing the backlog of food inspection and this should be completely cleared in this financial year.
- Development of a four year Age Friendly Strategy

### Emerging issues:

- The businesses plan for 2024/25 lists a number of emerging areas presenting challenges for the service including the Windsor framework, a new food delivery model, transfer of landlord registration to local government, new legislation, blue green algae and increasing use of vapes.

Not Applicable

118

**Action to be taken:**

- Continue to progress with recruitment of EHO's and technical staff.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the report.
















Not Applicable

119

## Half yearly Performance Report - Environmental Health, Protection and Development

Generated on: 04 June 2024

Last Update H2 2023/24

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% spend against budget	83.85%	100%
	Host an allergen awareness seminar for all catering businesses in the borough	2	0
	To work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and Borough	Yes	Yes
	To become the first council in NI to adopt a Whole Systems Approach to Obesity	Yes	No
	% service requests responded to within 2 working days	95.7%	94%
	% of Planning comments made within 15 working days	92%	90%
	% of quantitative quarterly targets achieved as determined by Service Level Agreements	99%	97%
	% of customers satisfied with service upon completion of service request	98.1%	90%
	% staff attendance	93.02%	93%
	% employees in whom time invested in team briefings	100%	100%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	100%	100%
	Develop business case to upgrade Tascomi database	No	Yes
	Market surveillance programme for construction projects	Yes	Yes
	Complete three CP Market Surveillance exercises (cumulative)	3	3
	Complete three H&S targeted inspection initiatives (cumulative)	4	3

Not Applicable

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% of PTO applications completed within 180 days	91.3%	90%
	% of high risk (H&S) premises inspected	71%	95%
	% of caravan and petroleum sites inspected annually and licenses issued where appropriate	98%	100%
	% of premises permitted under the Pollution Prevention and Control legislation inspected	100%	90%
	% of high-risk food premises inspected	100%	95%

Unclassified

121

**ITEM 15****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other x If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Performance Report Q3 and Q4 Community and Culture
Attachments	None

**Context**

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2023)



Not Applicable

122

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

### Reporting approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 2 (Q2)	April – September	December
Q4	October – March	June

The report for October 2023 – March 2024 is attached.

### Key points to note:

- Significant budget reduction (47%) in the Letter of Offer from The Executive Office to provide for delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan.
- PEACEPLUS Plan – significant additional work required in relation to theme 1 -capital projects.
- Four key positions in the department vacant due to delay in recruitment, retirement and long-term sick leave.
- The Community Development team and the Externally Funded programmes team were relocated from South Street offices to smaller premises in the Signal Centre, Bangor.

### Key achievements:

- PCSP Action Plan 2023 – 2024 delivered.
- Good Relations – Cultural Expressions programme and Shared Voices programme delivered.
- Asylum seekers and refugees programme delivered in Partnership with North Down YMCA.
- PEACEPLUS Plan nearing completion.
- Community Safety Officers increased working in partnership with PSNI Neighbourhood Officers to tackle community safety issues around the Borough.
- Provision of Summer schemes and Council clubs despite staffing issues.

### Emerging issues:

- Cultural Expressions agreement is outdated and will require updating in the near future.
- Multiply Officer post to be implemented in the near future as funding has been granted until March 2025.

## RECOMMENDATION

Not Applicable

123

It is recommended that Council note the report.
















Not Applicable

124

## Half yearly Performance Report - Community and Culture








Generated on: 06 June 2024

Last Update H2 2023/24

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Support 2 Social Supermarkets within the Borough	2	2
	% spend against budget	84.47%	100%
	Carry out a review of the Council's Summer Schemes Programme	100%	100%
	ANDBC will become a Council of Sanctuary	50%	100%
	Establish and develop the new AND Arts Networks	Yes	Yes
	Develop a co-designed PEACE PLUS Plan for the Borough by October 2024	100%	100%
	Number of people consulted in the co0design of the AND PEACE PLUS Plan	828	900
	% staff attendance	91.33%	93%
	% staff receiving team briefings	100%	100%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period September 2023 to March 2025	100%	100%
	Create a cost of living scheme for the most vulnerable within our Borough	100%	100%
	No of people volunteering within the service	11	10
	Create a one stop shop for Community Volunteers	80%	100%
	No of Creative Class sessions delivered (cumulative)	75	70
	Number of community based Arts programmes delivered	3	2

Not Applicable

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Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Number of grant programmes delivered	6	7
	No of Council community-based summer schemes delivered	5	0
	Public art mapped across the borough	80%	100%
	Increase numbers engaging with Museum/Heritage Education Services	Yes	Yes
	Number of Community Safety Education programmes delivered to Schools/Community Groups	65	10
	Number of Community Safety multi-agency meetings attended (cumulative)	35	20
	No of young people recruited into the Ards and North Down Youth Voice	24	20

Unclassified

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**ITEM 16****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	15 May 2024
File Reference	GREL 424
Legislation	The Northern Ireland Act 1998
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Good Relations Annual Report 2023-2024
Attachments	Appendix Good Relations Annual Report 2023-2024

Attached is the Good Relations Annual Report for 2023-2024 outlining the work of the section in delivering the Good Relations Action Plan for 2023-2024.

The Good Relations Strategy (2022-2025) informs an annual action plan, which is submitted to The Executive Office for assessment. The Action Plan is based on the four key themes of the Executives Strategy Together Building United Communities:

- Children and Young People
- Shared community
- Safe Community
- Cultural Expression

The Good Relations section is normally externally funded 75% from the Executive Office and 25% by Council. In 2023-2024 the budget allocated from The Executive Office was reduced to 53% to £90,128.36 making the total Good Relations budget

Not Applicable

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available for 2023-2024 to £120,171.15. The significant reduction in funding had a detrimental effect on the delivery of all programmes in the Action Plan.

The Good Relations sections works closely with PCSP, PEACE and Community Development sections to avoid duplication and ensure a cohesive delivery of programmes to the community.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council note the Good Relations Annual Report for 2023-2024.



# Ards and North Down Borough Council Good Relations

## Annual Report

2023 – 2024

## Contents

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## Foreword

Ards and North Down Borough Council's Good Relations (GR) section sits within the Councils Community and Wellbeing Directorate. The District Councils GR Programme is delivered by the GR team in accordance with an annual Action Plan, which is approved by the Council and The Executive Office. Normally the section receives financial assistance of 75% of the total cost of the GR Programme from The Executive Office and Council contributes 25% of the total cost however financial assistance from The Executive Office for 2023-2024 was reduced to 53% due to budget cuts (£120,171.15). This effected the overall delivery of the full GR Action Plan. The report on the Action Plan details a programme of activities to promote and deliver improved GR in the Council area in accordance with the aims and objectives outlined in the Together: Building a United Community Strategy (T:buc) and prioritised needs and issues identified in the 2022-2025 GR Audit.

Ards and North Down Borough Council are committed to building on previous GR work across the Borough by delivering a comprehensive programme of events, training and initiatives that work proactively to deliver a shared and better future for all. The section works closely with the community to bring this vision forward and continues to support local groups to build on their good practice, so that a variety of exciting and innovative projects can take place locally.

Through commitment to GR and community development work, groups and individuals from different political, racial, and religious traditions have been enabled to engage with one another in ways which develop understanding, trust, equality and fairness; build confidence and inclusion and encourage meaningful dialogue and sustainable relationships based on the principles of equity, respect for diversity and Interdependence.

ANDBC's GR Action Plan for 2023 – 2024 was delivered to meet the aims and strategic outcomes of the four key themes of:

- Children and Young People.
- Safe Community.
- Shared Community.
- Cultural Expression.

The action plan activities and outcomes are included under these four key themes within the following report.

All programmes continued to be delivered using an outcome-based approach (OBA). An outcome-based approach is a standardised requirement of The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of all GR programmes to enable ease and consistency for reporting. Questions are predetermined and issued to GR by TEO under the 4 themes. The online information from pre and post evaluations is collated by TEO and percentage results calculated. Unfortunately, not all pre and post evaluations are returned and can adjust the percentages significantly.

In addition to the following programmes the GR team:

- Offers support to local groups through regular Interagency meetings.
- Supports the Intercultural Forum, refugees and asylum seekers and other statutory agencies.

- Manages the budget for dispersal funding specifically aimed at those seeking asylum locally.

## Children and Young People

### Aim

To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and build a community where they can play a full and active role in building GR.

### Strategic Outcomes

- 1.1 Improving attitudes of children from different backgrounds.
- 1.2 Young people engaging in bringing the community together.

### AND01 Shared Education

Unable to deliver due to budget cuts.

### AND02 Shared Voices

A programme co-designed with GR staff and volunteers from different ethnic backgrounds to address racism awareness in pre & post primary schools and local community groups. It introduces children and young people to diversity and similarities between cultures within ANDBC.



Despite a significantly reduced GR budget, the programme was delivered to approximately **700 participants** (Under 13s – 492 participants & Over 13s – 213 participants.).

**11 primary/post primary schools** participated in the Shared Voices programme in 2023/2024. Schools involved included:

1. Model Primary
2. Greyabbey Primary
3. St Finians Primary
4. St Malachys Primary
5. Kircubbin Integrated Primary
6. Holywood Primary
7. Clandeboye Primary
8. Castle Gardens Primary
9. Bangor Grammar
10. Priory College
11. St Columbus College.

Cross Council departmental working with Community Development and the Shared Voices programme was delivered to **125 children** in the Council's summer schemes across Portavogie, West Winds, Ballygowan, Donaghadee and Bangor.

Evaluations show a positive increase in young people who know and understand about different religions, cultures, and backgrounds have more respect and understanding of people from different cultures, religions, and races.

**Comments include:**

- *"It was nice talking to different people with different stories."*
- *"The programme was good. Very interesting about Columbia and their culture."*
- *"I thought the programme made me more confident about other people from different backgrounds. It was really fun."*
- *"The programme was very good, and it was very interesting. I liked meeting new people and new people, and it was very fun."*

**AND03 Community Cup**

The Community cup was delivered at Londonderry Park in Newtownards. The event was the culmination of a 6 week programme in partnership with ANDBC football development officers.

The project involved 16 sports clubs from across the borough and beyond including Comber, Ards, Millisle, Bangor, Ballywalter, Portavogie, Portaferry and Belfast.

In total over 200 children and young people were involved and included representation of different genders and backgrounds. The programme encourages young people and coaches to play and compete with a respectful attitude. A handout was available for all parents and supporters, to encourage them to support the young people regardless of the team or perceived background.

Ards and North Down Borough Council recognise the outstanding behaviour in grassroots football across Northern Ireland by young players under 18, the coaches, teams, parents, and referees who help make grassroots football more respectful, inclusive and a positive impact on our children's lives.

**AND04 Building Young Peoples Resilience**

Unable to deliver due to budget cuts.

**AND05 Community Relations Through Sport**

Unable to deliver due to budget cuts.

## Our Shared Community

### Aim

To create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

### Strategic Outcomes

2.1 Increased use of shared space and services

2.2 Shared space accessible to all

### AND06 Allsorts

**71 participants** attended “Allsorts”. The “Allsorts” programme is an in-house awareness raising programme, which provides training for Council staff on how GR and equality issues can impact their role within the Council. Three events were planned, and speakers included:

1. Cost of Living Crisis Speaker.
2. Disability Speaker sharing their story of living with a disability and ways the Council can be more accessible.
3. Suicide Awareness.

Low evaluation returns (25) but what was returned showed 100% would recommend the event to family and friends.

### Comments include:

- *“Extremely worthwhile to host seminars that are applicable to so many people.”*
- *“Very clear and informed information. Easy to understand.”*

### AND07 Living History

Unable to deliver due to budget cuts.

## Our Safe Community

### Aim

To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

### Strategic Outcomes

3.1 Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation.

3.2 A community where places and spaces are safe for all.

### AND08 Holocaust Events

#### AND08HC - Memorial Event

Over **90 people** registered to attend an event in Bangor City Hall to commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 on Monday 22 January. We were privileged to have a Holocaust survivor speak at the event and share his powerful story, Dr Alfred Garwood.

Students from Millisle Primary School shared with attendees the connection between Millisle and the Holocaust, these students recited several poignant poems during the event. The event closed with a performance from singer, Andrew McBride.

Dr Garwood met with the Mayor Councillor Jennifer Gilmour; Chief Executive Stephen Reid and Head of Community and Culture Nikki Dorrian in the Mayor's Parlour for light refreshments before the event began, image below.



### AND08LB – Library Exhibition

Over **250 visitors** attended this 2-week exhibition, displaying artwork from local schools and community groups was set up in Bangor Carnegie Library.

The annual exhibition provides visitors to the library an insight into the Holocaust and other genocides.

Evaluations showed attendees had a positive increase in their knowledge of cultural traditions and backgrounds, felt the event played a role in bringing people together from different backgrounds and would recommend the event to family and friends.

#### Comments include:

- *“Excellent exhibition. Well, done to all involved.”*
- *“Very Happy they are doing this, and I am here.”*
- *“It was very informative and great to see the participants enthusiastic to share what they had learned as part of the process of creating their pace.”*

### AND09 Getting to know your Councillors.

A programme designed to introduce young people and groups to their local councillors to raise issues that are important to them and their community.

**32 participants** engaged with local councillors on issues they felt were important to young people in the Borough.

#### Comments include:

- *“Excellent event. The fact that community background wasn’t mentioned was positive – people spoke to one another without considering this – that is the point!”*
- *“Thoroughly excellent event. Great engagement from young people with elected representatives!”*

### AND10 No Hate Here

**AND10UK - Mount Stewart Visit 35 participants** (Ukrainian Refugees) attended a walking tour of Mount Stewart. Image below.



### AND10SW– Small World (Youth)

**50 participants** had the chance to meet up with Asylum seekers to hear about their culture. Workshop held at Londonderry Park.

#### Comments include:

- *“It made me more open minded.”*
- *“I enjoyed the event and would go again.”*
- *“I found the programme full of information that will help me have good talks with new people in the future.”*

### AND10 – Diwali

A full day’s cross community programme with **100 young people**. These young people had the opportunity to hear music and see dance from India, learning about this special Indian holiday.

Evaluation QR codes used – zero returned.

#### Comments include:

- *“Great event, thanks you for inviting us.”*
- *“Really enjoyed ourselves, great for the family.”*

### AND10AE – ArtsEkta Indian Culture Workshop

**167 participants** (Children) attended this shared cross-community workshop to learn the culture of India through dancing and interactive storytelling.

Schools attended included:

- St Malachys.
- Clandeboye Primary schools.

#### Leader’s Comments Include:

- *“We had a fabulous morning. Both artists engaged the children’s attention very well and they all loved learning the dance and being interactive with storytelling. Thank you all for a lovely morning. Hopefully we will see you again next year.”*

### AND11 Intergenerational Programmes

#### AND11RB – Rabbie Burns (Ulster Scots)

Greyabbey Primary school attended this intergenerational programme along with Ballywalter Seniors group.

A production of Rabbie Burns was delivered to **60 Participants**.

The Ulster Scots drama tells the story and life of the famous baird Rabbie Burns.

#### Comments Include:

- *“Children thoroughly enjoyed the performance.”*
- *“Older persons group enjoyed engaging with the school and young people.”*



## Our Cultural Expression

### Aim

To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

### Strategic Outcomes

4.1 Increased sense of community belonging.

4.2 Cultural diversity is celebrated.

### AND12 Small Grants

Low Uptake – Removed to enable increase in salaries

### AND13 – Cultural Expression

The Council's Cultural Expression (CE) programme supports inclusive local events and festivals that enable communities and groups to celebrate their culture and identity through grant aid.

75% of this financial support is provided through the Executive Office and 25% is provided by Council. When bonfires are associated with these local events and festivals, Council support is available where communities agree to core conditions which aim to lessen the negative social and environmental impact of community bonfires.

**49 sites** managed across ANDBC during April – July 2023.

A partnership approach continues with statutory agencies including NIFRS, PSNI, NIHE, EA, meeting regularly to discuss the sites.

Complaints on bonfires, flags, graffiti, and other contentious issues were managed during this period.

Monitoring of the sites showed a positive working relationship with local bonfire builders with only a small number of sites giving cause for concern around safety and size.

Observation of the festivals showed a positive expression of culture and an inclusiveness at many of the festivals.

Evaluations of the local festivals showed a positive increase in the knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of those asked and many felt it played a role in bringing people from different backgrounds together.

### AND14 - History Talks

#### AND14SM – Siege of Derry and Free Derry Museum visits

**150 participants** from local community groups and individuals from the community.

4 trips in total. 2 online cross community seminars.

Evaluations showed a positive change and over 79% stated they felt the programme had increased their skill set.

### **AND14RS – The Rising and Somme**

Remembering different histories, such as The Somme & The Rising this event had **34 attendees**. See image below from the day.

Evaluations showed nearly 38% never having attended a GR event before.



### **AND14STOW – Theatre of Witness**

A performance performed by people sharing their personal and collective stories of suffering, transformation, and peace. This was an interactive performance with **10 participants** showcasing at Ard's Art Centre.

Evaluations showed a positive increase in knowledge, attitude, and behaviour of those attending with 100% who felt the event played a positive role in bringing people together from different backgrounds.

#### **Comments Include:**

- *“Excellent event, the content of the presentation and the generosity of the speakers was outstanding and to be applauded. Good balance between presentation and questions/answers. Time allowance, very thought provoking will take me time to assimilate all I have heard this eve. Well organised, appreciated refreshments. Thank you”.*
- *“Great Presentation.”*
- *“Enlightening programme.”*

### **Conclusion**

The GR team will continue its work in 2024/ 2025, subject to funding. GR will continue to monitor programmes and evaluate all programmes.

Unclassified

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**ITEM 17****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	15 May 2024
File Reference	CDV55
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Mae Murray, Groomsport Beach 2024-2025
Attachments	None

Ards and North Down Borough Council continue to work in partnership with The Mae Murray Foundation and the Inclusive Beach initiative based at Groomsport. This is the third year operating during the summer to provide a specialised equipment hire scheme.

The initiative was created to bring a change so that people of restricted mobility are no longer excluded from using the beach. Groomsport beach is the first inclusive beach in the Ards and North Down area.

The season will begin Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June and run to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 inclusive, operating from 10.00 – 16.00 every Saturday and Sunday (subject to staff availability).

Advertisement of the Groomsport Inclusive Beach will be released via ANDBC website, social media platforms including Facebook, with Community Development

Not Applicable

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run additional needs club (The Hub) and shared via the Community Development Database. Further posts will be shared throughout the season to raise awareness.

Groomsport Inclusive beach operates via an online booking system but also welcomes “drop ins”. The mobility equipment such as beach chairs and walking aids assist participation on sand and sea, whilst hoist, shower, seating and changing bench options facilitate a wide range of personal care needs provided within a “changing places” area funded by Sports NI.

In addition to offering beach equipment for individual loan, Groomsport Inclusive Beach will be hosting 5 family fun day events and activities this year, delivered by Mae Murray Foundation team and Ards and North Down Borough Council. This will include a range of experiences and activities for one and all to enjoy such as visit from Lamas and puppet show. Further details of all events will be available on the Council website.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the above.

Unclassified

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**ITEM 18****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	04 June 2024
File Reference	CW169
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (NI) 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Council Grants Policy Update to NoM Working Group
Attachments	Appendix 1 Minutes of meeting of CD elected member grants working group Appendix 2 Presentation

A meeting of the elected member community development grants working group was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the minutes of the meeting are attached for information (Appendix 1) together with copy of presentation given at the meeting (Appendix 2).

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the minutes.

**ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
ELECTED MEMBERS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS WORKING GROUP**

**Thursday 16 May 2024**

A meeting of the Ards and North Down Elected Members Community Development Grants Working Group was held in Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre, Newtownards on the above date at 6.00pm.

Present:

Councillors                      Cllr Libby Douglas  
   Cllr Gillian McCollum  
   Cllr Barry McKee

Officers in attendance        Ms N Dorrian (Head of Community and Culture)  
   Ms Beverley Skillen (Community Development Manager)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Alderman Trevor Cummings.

**2. Appointment of a Chair**

Those present declined to appoint a chair and have an informal meeting.

**3. Update on community development grants (Appendix 1)**

The Head of Community and Culture gave a presentation covering the background of the group and an update on the review of the grants policy which was currently being undertaken.

Cllr Gillian McCollum requested a copy of the presentation be circulated to all those present.

There was a discussion around the digitisation of the grants system and when this was likely to take place. The Head of Community and Culture expressed that the working group had completed a benchmarking exercise with other and had been advised to get processes in order prior to the grants being launched online. It was hoped that the updated grants policy would be tabled at Corporate Committee in September. Testing of the updated community development grants application documentation would be tested at the same time with a few community groups to get feedback, prior to moving to an online system.

Elected representatives suggested that they could nominate groups from their areas to take part in the testing.

Councillor McCollum stated she would liaise with Councillor McAlpine in relation to a group representing the Peninsula.

Councillor McKee suggested that the Networks would also be useful to consult with.

The Community Development Manager updated those present on the weekly emails issued from the CD team to a community development database in relation to 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding available via the Grantfinder system. It was agreed that a registration form would be sent to all those present to enable them to sign up to the database.

The Head of Service drew members attention to the Terms of Reference for the Group and stated she would review them prior to the next meeting as it had been some time since the last review.

**Agreed**

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The date of the next meeting would be held in September 2024 with a date and time to be agreed and forwarded to members.

#### **9. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 6.50pm.

# Elected Member Grants Working Group

Established 26 September 2018

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# Background

- The Elected Member Grants Working Group was established following an amendment to the Community Development Grants Assessment Report, at Council in 30 May 2018. As a result of a reduction in funding from the Department of Communities (DfC) and the grants programme is continually oversubscribed
  - Council agreed the establishment of the above Working Group to reform services (the Councils Community Development Grants scheme) and to assist community groups to avail of external funding or collective procurement.
  - Furthermore, it was agreed by the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 20 June 2018 the purpose of the Community Development Grants Working Group was to review the current application process in line with the Councils Grants Policy and DfC terms and conditions, who part fund the grants scheme.
-

# Objectives of Group

- Consider options for improvements to the Community Development Grants scheme which would enable additional support for running costs and explore options for additional support for running costs for Community Halls/Houses, including:
    - Explore alternative or external sources of funding
    - Support for groups to avail of external sources of funding
    - Advise groups/Networks on collective procurement to drive down costs
    - Lobby against Water charges for community facilities
    - Advise on fund raising
-

# Scope of group

The group will be responsible for:

- The development of improvements to the Community Development Grants scheme to include additional support for running costs or range of options and supporting implementation of same
  - Engaging with relevant staff and stakeholders
  - Reporting on progress
-

# Scope

The group will be responsible for:

- The development of improvements to the Community Development Grants scheme to include additional support for running costs or range of options and supporting implementation of same
  - Engaging with relevant staff and stakeholders
  - Reporting on progress
-

# Scope Exclusions

The group will not be responsible for:

- Reviewing the Councils Grants Policy and Procedures
  - Reviewing other Council grants schemes
-

# Constraints

- Recommendations must comply with Council Policy
  - Recommendations must comply with Audit requirements
  - Recommendation must comply with DfC funding requirements
-

# Update on Grants Policy Review

In February 2024, a Grants Management Working Group was established to support a detailed internal review of grants that are offered and administered across Council. The group is Chaired by the Head of Community & Culture, supported by the Transformation Team and representatives from all departments across Council who administer a grants process. The group is considering the notice of motion which includes Equity, Efficiency, accessibility and digitisation, together with outstanding audit recommendations, including updating the current Grants Policy. Updates are tabled at the Community & Wellbeing Committee

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# Grant review will include:

- Review will also include:
    - Identify services that currently administer grants,
    - Re-establish ANDBC Grants Working Group,
    - Set up Grants Management SharePoint site,
    - Gather all documentation relating to Council grants,
    - Carry out desk top analysis of the current process for grants administration across Council,
    - Review and update ANDBC Grants Policy,
    - Working Group to agree standardised approach to grant process and documentation including Application, Letter of Offer, Grant Claim Form, Evaluation etc (where appropriate),
-



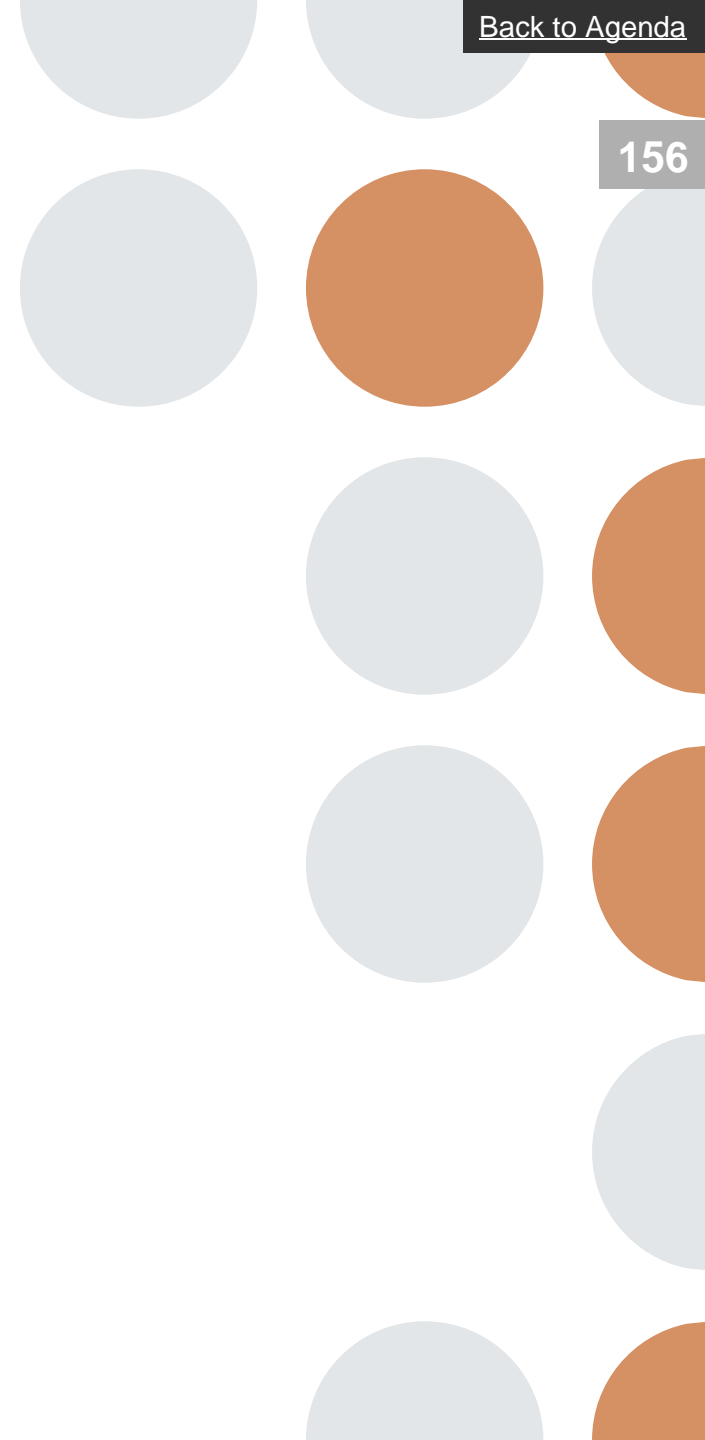
- Financial Assistance Policy to be drafted
  - Review Audit recommendations,
  - Notice of Motion considerations,
  - Updated Policy to be presented to Policy Screening Working Group,
  - Report to relevant Council Committee(s),
  - Updated Policy to be agreed by Council,
  - Updated Policy to be published on website,
  - Move onto Phase 2 of the project – Electronic Grants Management Project.
-

# Next Steps

- Community Development Staff will review existing guidance and criteria and application forms
  - New forms will be tested with a small number of community groups test group of communities and feedback taken on board
  - This will be undertaken in preparation for digitalisation of the grants system
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**Any questions?**

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Unclassified

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**ITEM 19****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	19 June 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community & Culture
Date of Report	20 May 2024
File Reference	CW171
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Arts & Heritage Panel (A&HP) minutes
Attachments	Appendix A&HP minutes 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

A meeting of the Arts and Heritage Panel was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Signal Centre, Bangor. The minutes are attached at appendix.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the minutes.



## Meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council Arts and Heritage Advisory Panel

Monday 15 April 2024 at 5.30pm

Via Microsoft Teams and in person at Signal Centre, Bangor

**Minutes** of the Meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council Arts and Heritage Advisory Panel held online via Microsoft Teams and in person at the Signal Centre, Bangor on Monday 15 April 2024 at 5.30pm.

**Minutes Secretary:** Ms Emily Crawford (Arts and Heritage Manager - AHM)

**Chairperson:** Cllr Pete Wray

**Present:**  
Cllr Richard Smart  
Cllr Janice McArthur  
Ms Jane McCann  
Ms Catherine Charley  
Mr Marcus Hunter  
Dr Verity Peet  
Mr Billy Carlile  
Ms Linda Wilson  
Mrs Anna Smyth

**In attendance:**  
Ms Nicola Dorrian (Head of Community and Culture – HCC)  
Ms Emily Crawford (Arts and Heritage Manager – AHM)  
Ms Arlene Matthews (Museum Manager – MM)

**1. Apologies:**  
Cllr Alex Harbinson  
Cllr Janice MacArthur  
Greg Fox  
Stuart Alexander

## 2. Minutes of Meeting on 5 February 2024

AHM asked if those who were in attendance at the meeting could propose and second the minutes.

Ms Catherine Charley proposed that the Minutes be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Mr Billy Carlilse and agreed unanimously.

## 3. Update on Estimates 24/25 rates setting process

AHM informed the panel that Ms Nicola Dorrian had submitted a presentation before the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services and that thankfully the process had been a positive one. A couple of extra requests have also been granted – Ruth Verner, the Education Officer in the Museum is now full time which will enable more outreach to schools and Stacy Eakin who works in Comms has also been made full time.

The budgets for all four festivals namely Guitar Festival, Creative Peninsula, Aspects and the Puppet Festival have been retained along with the budget for the Project, Individual, Youth and Heritage Grants.

Ms Catherine Charley asked if budget uncertainty would be the situation every year. AHM stated that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the cost of living crisis that it would be for the foreseeable future. A discussion ensued regarding budgets and funding. AHM stated the whole Council Grants system is currently under review.

## 4. Update on activity at North Down Musuem/ Heritage Development – tabled

MM highlighted the following points from the tabled report:

- The heritage talks have been successful. The Princess Victoria and Archaeology talks sold out.
- More community heritage talks will be programmed.
- The Heritage Grants have been awarded to 10 successful applicants.
- Exhibitions have launched – Round Our Way, Bangor Shop Fronts and a Transport Exhibition.
- The Easter Egg hunt was very sucessful with around 400 people passing through the doors. Feedback from this was good.
- The Touring Exhibitions have now launched with the Percy French exhibition opening in Armagh. A talk is planned for them.
- The Sir Samuel Kelly boat has been 3D scanned thanks to the Ulster Museum.
- The Little Historians Workshops have launched and there has been positive feedback from parents.
- There are various events planned for children over the summer and the summer schemes will return.
- The Musuem is 40 years old and work has started on planning activities for the month of October.
- Evaluations have been completed on the collections and a security and conservation audit is now being carried out.

Mr Billy Carlile asked if the Maritime Conference or something similar would be held again this year. MM stated that she has raised this with Ms Moira O'Rourke.

Mr Billy Carlisle also again raised the subject of a Heritage Working Group. The AHM and MM explained that it would require a tangible output or project to warrant establishing a group as there already existed a Heritage Cluster.

## **5. Report on Arts Activity/Community Arts Development – tabled**

AHM highlighted the following points from the tabled report:

- The normal programme of exhibitions, music and classes have been running and proved popular.
- A Young Aspects weekend took place for the first time in March and was well attended. This was to separate out the children's events from the main Aspects Festival in September. It is planned to run the Festival Club every few months to keep engagement with the audience throughout the year.
- The Arts Night at the Museum was well attended with around 450. The AND Arts Network social took place after this and was also well attended.
- Social Media stats have been good with great coverage for the Guitar Festival.
- The Arts Project Grants and Bursaries have been approved through Council. The Youth Arts Training and Individual Artist Grants results are tabled. A second round has opened for the Individual Artist and Arts Project Grants due to an underspend.
- The new Arts & Heritage Guide will be launched on 25 April.
- A programme of Ulster Scots events is currently being worked on for the autumn.

Mr Marcus Hunter made the suggestion of showcasing some of the work from Grant Recipients at a ticketed Gala type event with the aim of raising an additional pot of money outside of the grant funding to provide for the groups. Mr Hunter had suggested if a venue and sound equipment etc could be gifted and if business sponsorship could be obtained. AHM stated that the Grant Celebration is something that was done pre-covid in the Queens Hall but that the tech equipment is the biggest expense. AHM stated that it was always a lovely event and would be keen to do it again.

Ms Catherine Charley asked how the Arts Network worked with regards to applying and deadlines etc. AHM stated that there is now a dedicated section on the website to apply. It had originally been launched in waves to ease administration and will now be on a rolling process.

## **6. Thrive – Impact Survey – tabled**

AHM stated that this was just for information purposes. Thrive were previously known as Audiences NI. They have done some research into audience behaviour since the pandemic in terms of engagement in arts activities, going to the theatre etc. Dr Verity Peet stated that the Impact Survey has just started a new round which would be more up-to-date than Thrive and provided some new and interesting data which can be useful for programming events.

## **7. Priorities 2024 and Working Group verbal updates:**

AHM informed the panel that after various discussions, it was decided to go ahead and start work on the new strategy. AHM stated that the current Chief Executive, Stephen Reid is retiring at the end of April therefore Council will be undergoing changes. As there is a new Council Strategy and Arts Council Strategy, the existing strategy will continue as is and a start will be made on a new Strategy, ready to launch in 2025.

## 8. Return to in-person meetings

AHM stated that she had misinterpreted the message which came through regarding covid legislation which stated that online or hybrid meetings were permitted. This has now expired and all meetings were to return to in-person but this only applies to Council Meetings. The Arts & Heritage Meetings can continue to meet as chosen. It is planned to have June's meeting in-person as one of the familiarisation visits, possibly Bangor Drama Club or the Museum.

The Chair invited the panel to give their thoughts on a return to in-person meetings. Ms Catherine Charley stated that she prefers the in-person meetings and felt that they are more constructive. Cllr Wray felt that today's hybrid meeting worked well. AHM stated that she was conscious of some people not living locally who would have further to travel to meetings. AHM also stated that hybrid meetings couldn't be facilitated in the Arts Centre and would need to take place in the Signal Centre. It was agreed that meetings would be in hybrid format going forward.

## 9. Any Other Business

Ms Linda Wilson wanted to mention the sculpture which is to be installed at the Queens Parade in Bangor. Ms Wilson felt that as this was done behind closed doors, that Council had missed an opportunity to engage and get people excited. Both AHM and HCC stated that they knew nothing about this until it was launched in the press. Cllr Wray stated that there was a presentation made at the Council meeting. The majority of the money to fund the sculpture is coming from the Department for Communities. Cllr Wray explained that there is a short window of opportunity to accept the money once offered, hence why there was no consultation period. It is important to note that this is not coming out of rate payers money.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Date and venue for the next meeting:

- Monday 3 June 2024 at 5.30pm venue TBC

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7pm