

# **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

19 July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid Meeting (in person and via Zoom) of Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held at the City Hall, The Castle, Bangor on **Wednesday, 26 July 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

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

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Mayor's Business
5. Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the month of July (Copy attached)
6. Minutes of Council meeting dated 5 July 2023 (Copy attached)
7. Requests for Deputation
  - 7.1 Request from Keep Recycling Local – Recycling and the Circular Economy (Report attached)
  - 7.2 Marie Curie – How Councils can help with Terminal Illness (Report attached)
8. Resolutions
  - 8.1 Electronic Copies of Valid Insurance Certificates for the Purposes of Car Taxation Throughout Northern Ireland Post Offices (Correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council attached)

9. Place 10X – sub regional approach call for evidence – ANDBC Response (Report attached)
  10. P24 Site Clearance/Infrastructure (Report attached)
  11. Request for letter of Support from Kings Church (Report attached)
  12. Letter from NILGA Chief Executive (Report attached)
  13. In Confidence Classification of Council reports (Report attached)
  14. Letter of Support for the Regeneration of former Danske Bank Funding Application (Report attached)
  15. Levelling Up Funding towards Business Case for Whitespots Gateway Project (Report attached)
  16. Grant of Pavement Café Licences (Report attached)
  17. Grant of Entertainment Licences (Report attached)
  18. Proposed Street Naming - Ballymenoch Demense, Holywood (Report attached)
  19. Proposed Street Naming - Oak Meadow Development Newtownards (Report attached)
  20. Sealing Documents
  21. Transfer of Rights of Burial
  22. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)
  23. Notices of Motion
  - 23.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor McKee and Councillor Woods
- That this Council notes the importance of an accessible network of defibrillators in aiding the preservation of life in an emergency. It therefore tasks officers to bring back a report that explores the potential increase in provision of defibrillators on Council land and at Council facilities across our Borough, working with organisations, businesses and landowners via the community planning network. This would include provision in areas that are not located close to defibrillators already in the wider network, but where residents undertake outdoor leisure activities.
24. South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust - Consultation on the Future Provision of Urgent and Emergency Care Services – Ards and North Down area (Copy correspondence attached)

## 25. Consultation Documents

- 25.1 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework & Action Plan. Closing date for response 3 October 2023. Document available at [Consultation on a Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and Foundational Action Plan. | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#) (Copy correspondence attached)
- 25.2 Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24. Closing date for response 2 October 2023. Document available at [Consultation on the Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24 | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#) (Copy correspondence attached)

### \*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\*

26. Request from Marketplace International Ltd to hold a market at Conway Square, 5 – 7 September 2023 (Report attached)
27. Minutes of the Strategic Policy and Finance Group meeting dated 6 July 2023 (Copy attached)

## MEMBERSHIP OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman Adair	Councillor Hollywood
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor S Irvine
Alderman Brooks	Councillor W Irvine
Alderman Cummings	Councillor Irwin (Deputy Mayor)
Alderman Douglas	Councillor Kennedy
Alderman Graham	Councillor Kerr
Alderman McAlpine	Councillor MacArthur
Alderman McDowell	Councillor Martin
Alderman McIlveen	Councillor McCollum
Alderman Smith	Councillor McCracken
Councillor Ashe	Councillor McKee
Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Boyle	Councillor McLaren
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor McRandal
Councillor Chambers	Councillor Moore
Councillor Creighton	Councillor Morgan
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor Rossiter
Councillor Douglas	Councillor Smart
Councillor Edmund	Councillor Woods
Councillor Gilmour (Mayor)	Councillor Wray

**LIST OF MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**  
**FOR JULY 2023**

**Monday 3rd July 2023**

15:00 High Street Heroes Photo Op, Hollywood Town Centre

**Tuesday 4th July 2023**

18:30 Scout BBQ Pre-Jamboree 9 Balloo Avenue, Bangor

**Wednesday 5th July 2023**

14:00 PCSP Tea Dance & Revealing of New Chair, The Hub, Hamilton Rd, Bangor

**Thursday 6th July 2023**

10:30 Comber Farmer's Market 9th Anniversary, St Mary's Parish, Comber

11:00 Interview with 50:50 NI, Mayor's Parlour, The Castle

15:30 Launch of Annual Borough Cup Photo Op, Londonderry Park, Newtownards

19:00 Next Generation School Exhibition, Ards Arts Centre, Newtownards

20:00 40th Anniversary of the Dee Dance - Sequence Dance, Donaghadee Community Centre

**Friday 7th July 2023**

10:00 Visit to Ards North Wastewater Treatment Plant, Treatment Works, 10 Ganaway Rd, Ballywalter

11:00 Sir Samuel Kelly Project Update, Sir Samuel Kelly Boat

12:45 Opening of the 77th Bangor Open Tournament, Ward Park Pavillion

**Saturday 8th July 2023**

15:00 Cockle Island Boat Club Regatta & Commodore's Reception, The Boathouse, Groomsport

### **Thursday 13th July 2023**

11:30 125 Years of Royal Black Preceptory, Flagpole outside Bangor Castle

### **Saturday 15th July 2023**

18:00 RIR Beating the Retreat plus other bands, 2nd Comber Presbyterian Church, 5 Killinchy St, Comber

### **Monday 17th July 2023**

14:00 YMCA After-school club visit, Bangor Castle

### **Tuesday 18th July 2023**

12:30 MRANI Meeting, Mayor's Parlour, Bangor Castle

### **Wednesday 19th July 2023**

11:30 Sean McCourt-Kelly visit, Mayor's Parlour, Bangor Castle

### **Thursday 20th July 2023**

12:00 Visit to Ulster Flying Club – Microlight, Ards Airfield

19:00 Civic Event - 50th Anniversary of UDR CGC Greenfinches, Bangor Castle

### **Friday 21st July 2023**

15:00 Portaferry Gala-Fest 56th Year, The Market House, The Square, Portaferry

### **Saturday 22nd July 2023**

13:00 Pipe Band Championship, Ards Airfield

15:30 Commodore's Reception, Ballyholme Yacht Club

### **Monday 24th July 2023**

10:45 Green Flag Awards, Killeavy Castle, Newry

### **Tuesday 25th July 2023**

14:00 Appointment of Contractor for public realm scheme, Outside Market House, The Square, Portaferry

16:00 Ards Kite Festival Promo Photo, The Lime Kilns, Ballywalter

**Wednesday 26th July 2023**

19:15 Donaghadee 5k, The Harbour, Donaghadee

**Thursday 27th July 2023**

18:00 Opening of Creative Peninsula Exhibition, Ards Arts Centre, Newtownards

**Friday 28th July 2023**

10:00 Photo Opportunity with Colostomy UK, Bangor Castle

17:15 Classic Cars Meet, The Harbour, Donaghadee

19:00 Bangor LoL No.18 Reception, Bangor Castle

**Sunday 30th July 2023**

14:45 Emerald Isle Highland Dance Festival Prize Giving, Nendrum College

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

12:00 Civic Event for NHS Recognition of Honour of Conferment of St George Cross, Bangor Castle

20:15 Annual Borough Cup Finals Night, Drome Park Ards Rangers Grounds

## ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A hybrid meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held at the City Hall, The Castle, Bangor and via Zoom, on Wednesday 5 July 2023 commencing at 7.00pm.

**In the Chair:** Councillor Gilmour

**Aldermen:**

Armstrong-Cotter	Graham
Adair	McAlpine (Zoom)
Brooks	McDowell
Cummings	McIlveen
Douglas	Smith

**Councillors:**

Ashe (Zoom)	Kennedy
Blaney	Kerr
Boyle (Zoom)	MacArthur
Cathcart	McCracken
Chambers	McKee (Zoom)
Creighton	McLaren
Cochrane	McRandal
Douglas	Moore
Edmund	Morgan
Hollywood	Rossiter
S Irvine	Smart
W Irvine	Wray
Irwin	

**Officers:** Chief Executive (S Reid), Director of Corporate Services (M Steele), Director of Place (S McCullough), Director of Environment (D Lindsay via Zoom), Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Head of Finance (S Grieve), Democratic Services Manager (J Wilson) and Democratic Services Officer (R King)

### **1. PRAYER**

The Chief Executive opened the meeting with the Council prayer.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Woods, Councillor McKimm, Councillor McCollum and Councillor Martin.

**NOTED.**

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked for any Declarations of Interest and the following were made:

Councillor Boyle – Item 17 – National Association of Councillors – Draft Constitution, response to ANDBC feedback

Councillor Blaney – Item 26 - Faster Project Collaboration Agreement

**NOTED.**

#### **4. MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

The Mayor was delighted to be Chairing her first full Council meeting following her nomination to the position of Mayor on 7 June. She thanked Alderman Douglas who had chaired the last Council meeting in her absence and in the absence of the Deputy Mayor from the Chamber. She also thanked Alderman Brooks who had assisted in the Chair during that meeting.

The Mayor wished to extend the Council's congratulations to those in the Borough who were honoured in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours List on 16 June. She congratulated the following recipients:

- Mike Edgar OBE
- Tommy Jeffers MBE
- Ruth Fee MBE
- Peter Corry MBE
- Heather Miller MBE
- Deborah Girvan BEM (former Alderman)
- Jean McGrogan BEM
- Kate Cleland BEM
- Edwin Gray BEM
- Linda Gillies BEM

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Kennedy on the birth of his son and wished his family well.

The Mayor stated that last week, Councillor Creighton and the Chief Executive had accompanied her on a pilgrimage to France for the Battle of the Somme Services of Remembrance. It had been an honour and a privilege to represent the Borough at this important event where they had laid wreaths for the fallen and the missing, in particular, from the 36th Ulster Division and the 16th Irish Division at Thiepval, the Ulster Memorial Tower and Guillemont. In addition, they had also laid a wreath in honour of Edmund de Wind from Comber who was awarded the Victoria Cross for valour.

In closing, the Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Irwin, who had attended the Royal British Legion Somme Parade in Bangor on 1 July in her absence and laid a wreath on behalf of the Borough.

**NOTED.**



**5. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023**

(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the month of June 2023.

The Mayor commented that she had enjoyed a busy start to her term having already managed to visit every DEA in the Borough and had been delighted to be welcomed to Portaferry by dolphins which she had spotted in Strangford Lough.

One of the initial highlights in her term was the opportunity to visit Ravara Training and Resource Centre in Kilcooley to view the work of local and national artists who had collaborated with the staff to create artwork including murals over a single weekend to help brighten up the centre. There had been a strong sense of community with input also coming from the local school. The Mayor had been delighted to hear that the project had had a strong positive impact on the service users when they had attended on the Monday morning.

**NOTED.**

The Mayor advised that there was a matter arising with regards to an invitation that had just been brought to her attention and the Chief Executive explained that this had been received from the Association of Friends of St Columbanus on behalf of the European Partnership Group. This was for a representative from the Council to attend events in St Gallen, Switzerland for the official signing of the Columban Charter of Partnership and the celebration of Columbanus Day. The visit would be for three nights from Friday 7 July 2023, flying from Dublin to Zurich. The Mayor indicated that she would not be able to travel on these dates if the Council approved the visit.

(Alderman Douglas, Councillor McRandal and Councillor Morgan declared an interest in the discussion and left the meeting – 7.09pm)

Members were asked to consider the invitation which had been delayed in coming to Council due to the recent election.

Councillor Moore proposed, seconded by Councillor Creighton that the Council send a representative and wished to nominate Councillor Irwin, the Deputy Mayor, to attend.

Both proposer and seconder spoke of the importance of having Council representation given the strong historical association that the Borough had with Saint Columbanus and the work that the Council had undertaken to strengthen those links.

Councillor Rossiter queried how Council would meet the costs of sending a Member and the Chief Executive confirmed the expenditure would be met through a general travel and subsistence budget, which at this early stage of the financial year contained an adequate sum.

**AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Creighton, that Council sends the Deputy Mayor to the official signing of the Columban Charter of Partnership and the celebration of Columbanus Day in St Gallen, Switzerland from 7th – 10th July 2023.**

(Alderman Douglas, Councillor Morgan and Councillor McRandal returned to the meeting – 7.15pm)

## **6. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR CERTIFICATES**

The Mayor presented certificates to some of the Borough's previous Mayor and Deputy Mayors who were in attendance. This was to recognise their outstanding service during their terms in office which dated back to the 2019/20 term.

The following members were presented with certificates:

- Alderman Douglas (Deputy Mayor 2019-20 & Mayor 2022-23)
- Alderman Cummings (Mayor 2020-21)
- Councillor Edmund (Deputy Mayor 2020-21)
- Alderman Brooks (Mayor – 2021-22)
- Alderman Adair (Deputy Mayor – 2021-22)

## **7. MINUTES OF COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

Alderman McDowell proposed, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the minutes be agreed.

### **Item 9 - Appointments To Sub-Committees, Working Groups And Outside Bodies (Body: Mental Health Champions)**

Alderman McIlveen wished to highlight as matter of accuracy, that the two members agreed to be appointed for year's one and two were Councillors Kennedy and McLaren and that Councillors McKimm and Creighton should be listed in the table for year's three and four.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the minutes be agreed.**

## **8. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Alderman Adair, that the minutes be agreed.**

## **9. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

### **9.1. Minutes of Environment Committee dated 14 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Councillor Morgan proposed, seconded by Alderman Cummings, that the minutes be adopted.

#### **Item 3 - Deputation - Interim Presentation by WRAP on Waste Collections Review**

Councillor Cathcart wanted to record that his request for a potential kerbside sort, box-style system was agreed to be included in the WRAP review but this had not been reflected in the agreed recommendation in the minutes. He had considered proposing an amendment but was content after the Director of Environment clarified that the request had been noted at Committee and would be included in the review.

Noting the timescale for completion of the WRAP review, Alderman McIlveen had concerns that that the Council was being asked to commit to a preferred option before the publication of the overarching DAERA strategy. He felt it would therefore be sensible to await publication of that before any commitment in relation to the WRAP review.

The Director advised that WRAP was already aligned to the key elements of the forthcoming DAERA strategy, and its proposals would be focused on it. He provided examples which included a desire to ensure the mix of kerbside recycling opportunities was as wide as possible along with the amount of capacity that should be provided for household residual waste. He emphasised the importance of the Council future proofing and aligning itself to the DAERA strategy and the external funding implications of not doing so.

#### **Item 5 – HRC Access Booking System**

Accepting that he had agreed to the above Item when the rate was set, Alderman Brooks felt it was fair to say that not every Member always agreed to everything within that process. He asked how the identified savings of £300,000 from the new booking system would be achieved and the Director of Environment advised that that savings were target driven. The amount of waste received and the amount of waste recycled would need to be brought in line with the Northern Ireland local authority average. There was possibility of further savings if the Council could exceed that level.

Alderman Brooks asked if by just having an access management system and applying it consistently would negate the need for an online booking process. He referred to recent experience assisting his parents at a HRC in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area where a proof of residency and barrier system was in place.

The Director understood that Lisburn and Castlereagh had only three HRCs compared to the nine in Ards and North Down and access control into nine centres was significantly more complex. The online booking system was therefore necessary and he pointed to a large number of Councils in Great Britain which had been operating it successfully.

He explained the challenges for staff at the HRC sites in trying to undertake ID checks and how that was extremely difficult to manage at peak times. The online booking system would manage the flow of traffic and enable staff to carry out the necessary checks.

It would also prevent people from outside of the Borough using the facilities and also curb abuse from trade and commercial waste users as the booking system would show unusual patterns of continued use that could be investigated.

Suspecting that the new system would limit access for people outside of traditional working hours, Alderman Brooks asked about the possibility of extended or alternative opening hours.

The Director advised that could be explored but it would be a complex arrangement due to staff contractual matters and terms and conditions around working hours with potential additional costs.

He added that HRC sites were open on Saturdays and Balloo HRC was open on Sundays too. There was no significant evidence to show that the existing opening hours were not suitable for most of the population.

Having considered the 16 reasons for advocating the new system, Alderman Brooks felt that all were benefits to the Council and none that benefited the end user who he believed would feel controlled in how they used the sites. He asked to be recorded as against the recommendation of the Committee and looked forward to September when a further consideration would occur regarding the operation of the online booking system.

Councillor Chambers also looked forward to the review as he was not convinced that the new system was the right idea, believing that access control was a better solution.

He had some concerns around non ANDBC residents falsely providing local addresses when booking and the Director advised that the system would only accept residents within the Borough and all users were required to bring proof of residency and this would be made clear in a confirmation email. Officers on site would receive live updates of bookings and booking information and proof of residency was required to match up. This process was non-discretionary. An intensive staff training programme was also due to commence around the changes.

Unable to support the recommendation in the minutes, Councillor W Irvine noted considerable community concern and people saw this as a step too far. There was no doubt recycling rates needed to be improved but he feared there could be increased cases of fly tipping as a result of this. He asked if there would be a restriction on the number of bays in use and the Director advised that a key aim was

to reorganise the way containers were arranged on site – at Balloo HRC for example, the landfill skip was always last as landfill should always be the last resort. He spoke about rationalising the number of landfill skips given that 80% of waste deposited was deemed recyclable. On making bookings, the key categories of waste were highlighted and there was a key message that users should sort their waste before arriving on site.

In relation to telephone bookings, Councillor McRandal asked if that service would be available outside of normal working hours and it was confirmed capacity for this was not in place but it could be costed and options could be provided to Members if they wished to consider it. It was evidenced though that the overwhelming majority of people would be online users and if someone was unable to use the online system, the overwhelming majority had someone who could make the booking for them online. It was felt therefore that there was no need at this stage to extend the operating hours of the telephone booking system.

Following complaints from two elderly residents, Alderman Adair had carried out a test of the Council's telephone system and reported waiting over 30 minutes on two occasions. He called for improvements in that.

Alderman Graham asked if the proportion of landfill skips meant that staff were having difficulty separating waste into the correct streams or if it was a misuse of those landfill skips and the Director advised it was a mixture. There were too many people carrying waste that had not been separated and no thought for the valuable waste that could be recycled. Users were being asked to use sorting tables in those instances but abuse of the sites in relation to commercial and trade waste was a significant problem. Landfilling was 50 to 60% per head more than the same figure for other Councils.

Councillor Kennedy felt that failures in communication had been fundamental to the dissatisfaction and anger of many constituents. Failure to communicate the need for improvement and revision was central to the problem.

When mandating residents in this way there should be an obligation for Council to justify its decisions and bring the public along with it. He took the point that Councillors should be armed with information but he felt that the Council should not have to be informed and forearmed if the people were brought along. It needed to be passed on to the general public that this was not a cost cutting or service reduction exercise but the Council meeting the requirements of legislation that was passed down.

Councillor Rossiter noted that the conversation was taking place in Plastic Free July and was delighted to have visited a refill shop in Holywood earlier where he was served rice in a non-plastic bag. He had been participating in a campaign to raise awareness of a lack of waste treatment facilities in the developing world – this affected two billion people on the planet and these were important facts and figures the Council needed to pay attention to. People in this Borough did recognise the need for recycling and it was important that the Council played its part in tackling climate change.

Alderman McDowell was aware that on the night of the Committee meeting Item 5 was agreed to be brought out of confidence and therefore the press had been able to report the item before the Council had been able to get the facts across. After the news had broken, he received a phone call from an irate resident but after he explained the reasoning behind the decision, the resident not only understood but appreciated the benefits this would bring. There would always be people afraid of change, but it was important for members to be untied rather than populist and create problems that did not exist.

In response to the comments from Alderman McDowell, Councillor Cathcart said that the Council had issued a press release following that decision taken by the Committee and he made no apologies for proposing for something to be taken out of committee and put into the public domain when there was no reason for it be in confidence. He believed the communications element should have been in place and ready to go.

#### Item 6 - Northern Ireland Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, October to December 2022

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter proposed an amendment, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that Council agrees to adopt the recommendation and that the report takes into consideration operating extended or alternative opening hours in the HRCs to allow those who are working full time to access evening time slots to ensure that we retain accessibility for residents and encourage appropriate easy access to recycling in the Borough.

Proposing Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, felt there was a level of uncertainty and the implementation of the new booking system was not making life any easier for residents who were already being asked to go out of their way to recycle. The Council was not taking this decision lightly however and she referred to the financial and environmental pressures that it was facing.

This amendment would send a message that the Council took the concerns around accessing the sites at suitable times seriously. While there were already weekend opening hours, there were perhaps people who did not want to use the HRC on a Sunday which would restrict them to Saturdays when there would likely be limited slots available. Other services in Council, she noted, had changed their operating times and she felt it was possible here despite the contractual issues that the Director had referred to. This amendment was about sending a message to show that the Council could deliver services in an accessible way and making the booking system work.

The seconder, Alderman McIlveen had noted the Director's earlier response to queries from Alderman Brooks and felt there would be a knock-on effect of preventing people from accessing the HRC at a time that suited them and he felt it was sensible to have this review running alongside the wider review of waste services.

The booking system was not a decision taken lightly and it was felt absolutely necessary given the cost pressures and poor recycling rates where Ards and North

Down were lagging behind. It was also about ensuring staff were checking proof of residency as he was aware of constant reports that this was not happening and rules not being enforced. He recalled the initial stages of those checks had made a positive difference in Comber, and he wanted to see that approach applied consistently across the Borough.

Councillor Smart added his support for the amendment and felt it vital that the service was shaped going forward. There was a problem to be resolved in terms of recycling – the cost of sending waste to landfill was costing ratepayers in the region of half a million pounds every year and that did not take in to account the long-term recycling targets of 70% which were increasing from 50%. He agreed it was important to make it as easy as possible for rate payers to access the Council's HRCs. He appreciated the Council had so many sites, but he welcomed an analysis and looked forward to its findings in due course.

Councillor McKee was aware of anxiety and anger towards the changes and felt it important for Council to look at what it could do to help improve access and make life easier for the public.

Councillor W Irvine recalled that in the past the HRC opened to 9pm on weekdays during the summer, and he felt that would be helpful. Councillor Wray felt that the narrative needed to be controlled and while he had found the FAQs that had been provided by the Director very useful in responding to queries and concerns that he had received, he felt they needed to have been provided in advance or at least pre-empted in order to control misinformation in the public domain.

The Mayor recalled the summer opening hours of HRCs had been reduced during Covid which had been regrettable during the time but felt that going forwards the operating hours of each site should be reviewed individually as each site had different requirements.

Summing up, Councillor Morgan appreciated the online system was a big change for residents to adapt to and welcomed the potential for later or alternative opening hours.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that Council agrees to adopt the recommendation and that the report takes into consideration operating extended or alternative opening hours in the HRCs to allow those who are working full time to access evening time slots to ensure that we retain accessibility for residents and encourage appropriate easy access to recycling in the Borough.**

#### Item 7 – Notice Of Motion Regarding Unclaimed Bins On Public Footpaths

In terms of enforcement and the questions that had been directed to PSNI in relation to the number of fines issued, Alderman McDowell sought some clarity around liability and who was responsible if a bin which had been put out on the kerb by the resident was then left in the road after being emptied. He provided examples of this occurring regularly, alleging that on one occasion, a van had collided with a bin that had been left in the road.

The Director of Environment confirmed that it was Council policy to replace the bin where it had been left – assuming that was in a safe and appropriate place. It was important for Members to keep in mind however that this was in the context of 70,000 households in the Borough, each with three different bins and a glass box.

Councillor Cathcart wanted to clarify the implementation of the Notice of Motion brought to target those offenders who left their bins out persistently for long periods or on a permanent basis, obstructing prams, and wheelchair users for example. It was not the intention to target those who brought their bins in after being at work all day.

He highlighted a particular case in Bangor where all the bins from a neighbouring street were regularly left in front of a lady's house – up to 30 bins on days when recyclables were collected – and many of those bins still remained for days after collection.

He strongly suspected that the number of fines issued to date were zero, but of course that had been the point in bringing the question and taking this forward. In the meantime though it was important that people considered their neighbours and other people using the pavements.

In an unrelated query, Alderman Brooks asked if there were any plans to allow the disposal of glass in blue bins and the Director of Environment advised that this was not possible due to contamination and therefore compromising the quality of other recyclable materials, namely card and paper which resulted in a lower price per tonne received by the Council. This guidance was expected to be confirmed in the upcoming NI Waste Management Strategy.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Morgan, seconded by Alderman Cummings, that the minutes be adopted.**

## **9.2. Minutes of Place and Prosperity Committee dated 15 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Councillor Blaney proposed, seconded by Alderman Adair, that the minutes be adopted.

### **Item 28.2 - Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Thompson and Councillor Adair**

Councillor Kerr commented on the poor condition of Kircubbin Harbour. It had a strong maritime history in the village and had been a centre piece in village life having been used in the past for exporting goods to Glasgow and Liverpool. It was once a beautiful site that had been visited by the Royal Family but was now in private ownership and sat in a state of disrepair, was overgrown and dissipated. In recent times it had been affected by fly tipping. He urged Council to do its bit to improve the area and restore it to what it once was for future generations to enjoy.



Alderman McAlpine explained that Kellie Armstrong MLA had advised that the Department for Communities had very little power in that it could encourage the owner to maintain the site but it could not enforce this and if DfC did undertake the work on the harbour it would not be entitled to recoup the money. The Member also recalled a site meeting with the Roads Service District Section Engineer, the Kircubbin community and Councillor Boyle over concerns around the level of erosion on the harbour wall which was just three metres from the road. Any damage to the road would cause major disruption.

Councillor Boyle was fully supportive of the proposal and the comments, adding that there were some access issues for Roads Service if they were to carry out any work which would require permission from the private owner. He was aware though of some of the community receiving a response from the Departments that they were effectively helpless in enforcing or carrying out any maintenance of the site and that left the Council between a rock and a hard place on the matter. He suspected any response to the motion would only reconfirm that.

In response to the previous two comments, Alderman Adair wanted to clarify that Kircubbin Action Group had not received a response from either of the relevant government Departments at this stage and that was why the NoM had been brought forward. Government departments failing to respond to the community was unacceptable.

#### Item 22 - Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Project Progress Update

Councillor Wray referred to the Greyabbey Community Park and Viewing Point, where he noted it was claimed there were no objections to the project with 70 responses, all of which were claimed to be positive. He raised concerns that having spoken to some consultees, their feedback was not positive and he referred to correspondence he had seen between residents of Greyabbey and Council officers that again had not been positive. He shared the worries of some residents and he urged officers to revisit this with the Community Association and individual residents. He was also aware of further concerns around some of processes around village plans and their review and the consistency of contact from the Council. He asked this to be noted and would be following up with officers directly.

Alderman Adair had attended the consultation along with Councillors Edmund and Kerr and the overwhelming views, he recalled, were positive. He understood there was some confusion initially with people believing it related to a different private sector led scheme but once it was clarified, people in attendance were very happy with the plan. While some people did want other aspects, he recalled the officer had explained that time was short and funding was at risk. It was a disused Council facility not used for a number of years and this would bring life and investment in to Greyabbey. Alderman Adair looked forward to moving forward with the project and spoke of the benefits it would bring to people including growing number of young families in Greyabbey.

Item 28.3 – Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor McKimm and Councillor McCollum

Alderman Smith proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Smart, that Council doesn't bring back a report on additional council run events.

Alderman Smith was aware of the Council's Events Strategy agreed recently by Members following the procurement of an external consultant to undertake that piece of work. He felt that this strategy was working well to date, pointing to the recent Comber Earlies Festival and the new location being a tremendous success. He understood that Members wanted to run events in their own DEAs and reintroduce previous events. There were ways of doing that through funding which was made available to community groups through an application process. Officers would work with those groups and assist them in developing and delivering events. Asking officers to go back and revisit the strategy and come back with a report was a duplication of effort and it was important to work with community groups and give them the support to run events and the opportunity to earn income if the event was successful. He urged members to support the amendment.

(The meeting went into recess at 9pm and resumed at 9.19pm)

The seconder Councillor Smart added his support for the proposed amendment and he spoke of the importance of the 'strategic' and 'substantial' Events Strategy and the importance of the new provision in supporting the community in delivering its own events. He felt it was important to keep to that decision and review it in due course.

Councillor Cathcart could not support the amendment and felt there was no harm in the original proposal as it was not committing the Council to delivering events that he appreciated had not been successful. He pointed to the Easter Parade in Bangor, that in later years hadn't been what it once was, but his engagement with businesses and the community had identified a need for some other type of Easter event. He understood those groups were willing to work with the Council and look at potential funding. Improving footfall was key and if Council could back those groups then that would be beneficial.

Referring to a 'brutal situation for events', Councillor McCracken was aware of £7million of cuts from the Northern Ireland Events budget including severe cuts locally. While events were important, he felt now was not the time to take forward a report that could possibly extend events provision. He felt it was right to defend what the Council already had and secure funding for those existing events. While he could not rule out a change in that approach in the future in a better economic climate, he and his Alliance Party colleagues felt the amendment was appropriate at this time.

Unsupportive, Councillor W Irvine felt that in the past there had been a good spread of community involvement in previous events across the Borough and felt it was right to look at external funding opportunities. He did not feel that the direction of the Events Strategy which transferred the budget to other groups, the Chambers of Commerce for example, was necessarily the right solution given that members of that organisation were busy running their own businesses and did not necessarily have experience of running events.

Alderman Brooks had been unsupportive of the Events Strategy due to the removal of the Donaghadee Lights up event which he felt was one of the Council's most successful events. Transferring the budget to the Chamber of Commerce and Donaghadee Community Association, with the aim of increasing footfall, had been successful though and he had now changed his view on the strategy. He did feel however that previously successful festivals such as the Dee Lights Up festival should be revisited in the future but he was content with the amendment.

Councillor Boyle recognised value in bringing back further reports with information that could enlighten members. There was no commitment in doing this but it enabled informed decision making and therefore he welcomed the original recommendation agreed by the Committee.

Alderman McIlveen said as a group the DUP had opposed the Events Strategy, but he recalled an attempted amendment by Councillor Tom Smith which was to try and resurrect a number of events within a specific DEA. The proposal in the minutes therefore had the potential to open the floodgates for similar requests and for events to be squeezed into the programme, allowing members to pick and choose from their DEAs. While the Event Strategy itself did not get his full backing, he felt that the original proposal was inappropriate at this time.

On being put to the meeting, with 30 voting FOR, 4 voting AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING and 6 ABSENT, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Smith, seconded by Councillor Smart, that Council doesn't bring back a report on additional Council run events.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Blaney, seconded by Alderman Adair, that the minutes be adopted.**

### **9.3. Minutes of Corporate Services Committee dated 20 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Alderman Douglas proposed, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the minutes be adopted.

#### **Item 13(b) - NOM 178 – Highest level of Potholes in Northern Ireland**

Alderman Adair proposed an amendment, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that Council writes to the DfI Permanent Secretary noting the response to date and requesting a response to that part of the Council's letter in relation to the underinvestment in our roads as a result of the unfair allocation of funding to this Council area and the need to make road repairs and resurfacing a priority.

Providing context, Alderman Adair explained It had previously been identified that Ards and North Down received the lowest funding from the 11 Councils in Northern

Ireland despite having the fourth biggest population. A letter had been sent to the Permanent Secretary to try and establish if that was still the case.

Since the Committee meeting it had been established that the Council had requested information around the share of funding for Roads from the Department of Infrastructure but it had simply not responded to this request.

In terms of the Dfl's funding criteria, Alderman Adair's understanding was that this considered the total length of road within a Council area, however he felt funding should be allocated based on population and traffic. The roads were deteriorating at a rapid rate and he understood that only five roads were planned for resurfacing this year. The condition of the roads had been the top issue flagged up during his recent election campaign and similar issues continued to be reported to him daily. Ards and North Down needed its fair allocation of funding. He asked Members for their support in making roads resurfacing and investment in the Borough's road network a priority, and to challenge Dfl for a fair share of investment.

The seconder, Alderman McIlveen voiced his disappointment at the lack of response from the Permanent Secretary which was so surprising he had initially assumed the question had not been asked. He was therefore happy to support this amendment.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Adair, seconded by Councillor McIlveen, that Council writes to the Dfl Permanent Secretary noting the response to date and requesting a response to that part of the Council' letter in relation to the underinvestment in our roads as a result of the unfair allocation of funding to this Council area and the need to make road repairs and resurfacing a priority.**

#### Item 15 –APSE report on Sickness Absence and Draft Absence Management Action Plan

Alderman McIlveen wished to raise a point of information in relation to the above item which would be discussed In Committee.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Douglas, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the minutes be adopted.**

#### **9.4. Minutes of Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 21 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Councillor Moore proposed, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the minutes be adopted.

#### Item 3 - Environmental Health Protection and Development Q4 Performance

Alderman Adair raised a recent issue he had in trying to report a dead seal which had been discovered at a local beach.

This had been reported to him on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. He had reported this to the Council's Environmental Health department at the earliest opportunity on the morning of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June but the seal was not removed until Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

This was despite phoning the Council continuously to get the seal removed which had become an environmental health risk and he felt that situation was unacceptable. He sought assurances that this would not happen again and environmental health would not be compromised.

The Director of Environment would investigate the circumstances and respond directly to the Member. The Chief Executive advised that the Council would put in place what was necessary to ensure no repeat of such incidents.

Councillor Wray added that the Council response had been poor and he understood the complaint had moved through three different departments and there was some confusion over how it was being handled. He had received some reassurance that the matter would not be repeated.

Alderman Douglas was aware of another report of a dead dolphin that evening. She understood that the Marine Wildlife reporting line was not in operation out of hours and she would welcome a confirmed pathway with relevant contact numbers for who to contact in such circumstances.

#### Item 18 – Display Bed Applications

Alderman McIlveen asked for reassurances that a display bed for Greenfinches would contain flowers, noting that had not been the case recently for Bangor Horticultural Society's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary which would have been highly appropriate.

The Director of Community and Wellbeing advised that the display beds were not flower beds and normally contained materials such as a 'banner' with wood and pebbles which had been the case for many years. If flowers were being requested that could be looked at but it was not the norm.

Alderman McIlveen proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that flowers are planted at the UDR Greenfinches display.

The seconder, Councillor Cathcart, had raised the same issue earlier in the week. He thanked the Parks team for planting a number of flowers in High Street but agreed it would be nice to have flowers included in the Greenfinches display bed given there were weeds surrounding it.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that that the recommendation be adopted and that flowers are planted at the UDR Greenfinches display.**

#### Item 21 - 21. 'Cycling Friendly Borough' - Response to Notice of Motion

Councillor W Irvine indicated that he wished to propose the following amendment:

That in view of the withdrawal of the planning application for a greenway on the North Down Coastal Path and the need for further conversations regarding its future and management, that the Council instructs Sustrans to remove the NDCCP from National Cycle Network Route 93 until future suitability is confirmed.

He was unable to find a seconder, so it was unable to proceed.

#### Item 22 – Parks & Cemeteries Q4 Performance

Referring to the Splash Pad at Groomsport which was listed as an action to be taken, Councillor MacArthur said that the finished facility did not reflect what was agreed by Members.

There was a paddling pool in the backdrop of Cockle Row cottages which was iconic. The paddling pool had meant a lot to the local residents in Groomsport and that traditional feature was one of many reasons why people visited the village. She asked why it had not been possible to retain the paddling pool element within the completed works, describing the feature as a small trough with a little drain with barely enough water to wet your toes. The inclusive element with the splash pad feature was welcomed but the agreement was for two thirds to be a splash pad with one third paddling pool and that was not the case. She asked why the wishes of Members had not been realised and why Members had not been consulted.

The Director of Community and Wellbeing advised that the alternative design agreed at Council had included a splash pad with three elements. That had not changed and had been included. There was however a requirement for certification for the paddling pool required from ROSPA and it had raised issues with the gradient, deeming it unsafe. Therefore this had resulted in a shallower smaller bowl-shaped design with reduced water flow. There were intentions to look at this and find ways of increasing the water flow to ensure water was retained over a longer period of time. Everything else was installed in line with the Council's decision but the safety element had forced the change of design of the paddling pool.

Councillor MacArthur asked if anything could be done to improve the appearance noting that two unsightly and possibly unsafe concrete plinths had been retained.

The Director responded that he was unaware of the concrete plinths but that would be investigated, along with the timing of the information received from ROSPA that had deemed the pool design to be unsafe in order to determine why it was not reported to Members. In terms of improvements, he advised that the water flow issues could be improved but it would not be possible to change the physical structure of the pool.

The Mayor expressed disappointment that Members were not informed of the changes during the development given that the DEA representatives had met to discuss their concerns and ensure that the development could be completed within the year in order to secure the funding.

Councillor Chambers echoed the comments of Councillor MacArthur and asked about the allocation of the funding and it was confirmed that the Groomspport facility cost around £120,000 but the Director did not have details of the total funding for all eight projects that the Member referred to.

Councillor Chambers understood that the total funding was £250,000 for all eight so he wondered how the remaining seven projects would be funded with just over half of that total budget and asked if the Director could respond to him personally with the information.

Councillor Chambers added that there had been unfair comments aimed at Councillors in the DEA blaming them for the facility in Groomspport falling way short of expectation. He stressed that Members of the DEA had worked hard with officers to ensure that the design reflected what the community had wanted which included the hybrid design with the splashpad and traditional paddling pool element. He was one of a small minority that had fought to keep the pool retained, so he found it extremely disappointing that he had not been consulted during the process which led to the change in design. The pool had also been there for decades without any safety concerns raised so he found it odd that the safety concerns had only been raised now and as a result had left something that provided very little in the way of entertainment, fun or excitement for young children. He asked the Director to respond to feedback he had received which included 'ripping it out and starting again' or if there was scope for further alterations to what was there if that was not going to be possible.

The Director emphasised that the splash pad was installed exactly as agreed, the issue was with the pool and the Council would be looking to improve it or add to it if that wasn't sufficient, but he could not commit to removing something that the Council had spent money on at this stage.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the minutes be adopted.**

#### **9.5. Minutes of Planning Committee dated 22 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Councillor Wray, that the minutes be adopted.

#### **Item 11 - Update on NIW Coastal Fence**

Councillor Cathcart proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the Council and the general public remain dismayed at the erection of the fencing around Seacourt Pumping Station, regardless of its lawfulness under permitted development rights. The Council continues to consider that the fencing is detrimental to the coastal environment and fails to maintain or enhance the quality of this coastal landscape and urges NI Water to remove it. If NI Water consider that there is a need for health and safety risk mitigation infrastructure at the site then we ask that NI Water engage with Council with a view to identifying and agreeing

solutions that are sympathetic to the area and the natural environment and capable of enjoying the support of the general public and elected representatives.

Furthermore Council notes with concern that the permitted development rights afforded to NI Water under Part 14 of the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 effectively mean that there are no constraints on the size and type of fence structure that NI Water could erect at Seacourt pumping station. Council will therefore write to Department for Infrastructure to highlight this legal loophole and to request urgent review of the law in order to nullify detrimental impacts that developments such as this fence could have on coastal landscapes and other protected landscapes.”

Councillor Cathcart explained that the Planning Committee had opposed the fence, noting that there were also 60 objections to it. He found it extremely frustrating that a legal loophole had been found for this fence to remain in place and the amendment, he felt enhanced his original proposal, as it asked for the legislation to be reviewed.

It was disappointing that NI Water had failed to fully engage with the Council and community. If the fence was needed for health and safety reasons, then NI Water needed to look at options to soften the impact of the fence due to the nature of the site and landscape. It was concerning that the legislation gave NI Water free reign across the country to do this and it was over something unrelated to the functioning of the water supply or sewage system, which would have been understandable.

The seconder, Councillor McRandal recalled that the initial planning application for this had been unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee and he was sure that everyone shared his view that the fence was ugly and inappropriate for the area. It was further disappointing that NI Water was not engaging with anyone about it whatsoever but he felt the Council needed to continue its efforts. It was heartening to see the community share positive ideas with alternative concepts and he believed the public had a part to play in reaching a solution which would be a good news story for NI Water. He raised further concern about the permitted development rights and there being no restrictions on the height or type of fence that NI Water could erect. The loophole needed to be highlighted to DfI in its review.

The Mayor explained that she had assisted members of the public in bringing their objections to this application when it first came to the Planning Committee and paid particular tribute to Pat Carvill who had represented the Bangor West Conservation Group in putting the argument forward as to why the fence should not be there. It was a big and ugly fence in one of the Borough's most beautiful spots. As the Council was a neighbouring landowner, she had established that there had been no effort from NI Water to engage with Council or Bangor West Conservation Group despite a number of requests, and it was extremely disappointing that this legal loophole had been established and it enabled NI Water to put whatever size fence they wished anywhere it chose.

Having also intended to bring an amendment, Councillor McLaren had felt the initial proposal at the Planning Committee had not gone far enough to hold NI Water accountable for its actions so she was pleased to see the proposal had been extended and was happy to support the amendment.



She categorically supported the removal of a monstrosity and an eye sore that was not in keeping with NI Water's own values in protecting and enhancing the environment. She felt that NI Water was well aware that it was under no legal obligation and the fact remained that the fence was a blight on the Borough's beautiful landscape. She did not believe that NI Water would ever concede there were no risks to the general health and safety of the public so she believed it would be very difficult to achieve anything beyond a compromise. Therefore she suggested approaching NI Water by acknowledging its health and safety concerns and suggesting a more appropriate alternative, hoping that it would give them incentive to join the negotiating table. She made reference to a stone-built hut used at Brompton as an example although the Mayor recalled this had been suggested to NI Water but it had deemed it unsuitable for this particular site.

Councillor W Irvine agreed that NI Water had to be robustly challenged and spoke of the importance of engagement while Councillor McKee was also supportive of the amendment, baffled by NI Water's stance which was triggering a large backlash which as public body could only lead to further embarrassment.

Alderman McAlpine was disappointed as she had previously suggested alternative solutions to NI Water representatives in attendance at a previous Planning Committee meeting but those suggestions had been dismissed and she was extremely disappointed with the attitude and lack of engagement.

Alderman McIlveen took on board all that had been said and noted that Planning Committee had given NI Water every opportunity to come up with alternatives and enhance the fence but it had chosen not to. He was doubtful of the letter changing anything particularly as NI Water now had a legal determination on its side. He agreed with the comments and felt that the height and scale of the fence was completely unnecessary for the area.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the Council and the general public remain dismayed at the erection of the fencing around Seacourt Pumping Station, regardless of its lawfulness under permitted development rights. The Council continues to consider that the fencing is detrimental to the coastal environment, and fails to maintain or enhance the quality of this coastal landscape, and urges NI Water to remove it. If NI Water consider that there is a need for health and safety risk mitigation infrastructure at the site then we ask that NI Water engage with Council with a view to identifying and agreeing solutions that are sympathetic to the area and the natural environment and capable of enjoying the support of the general public and elected representatives.**

**Furthermore Council notes with concern that the permitted development rights afforded to NI Water under Part 14 of the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 effectively mean that there are no constraints on the size and type of fence structure that NI Water could erect at Seacourt pumping station. Council will therefore write to Department for Infrastructure to highlight this legal loophole and to request urgent review of the law in order to nullify detrimental impacts that developments such as this fence could have on coastal landscapes and other protected landscapes."**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Wray, that the minutes be adopted.**

#### **9.6. Minutes of Audit Committee dated 26 June 2023**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Wray, that the minutes be adopted.**

#### **10. CHARGING AND INCOME POLICY (FILE FIN58)**

(Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Corporate Services detailing that since its inception over eight years ago, the Council had been operating under a range of legacy Finance policies.

Since last September the Finance Service had been working on a range of policies to formalise and review these practices and also to address a significant number of outstanding internal audit recommendations:

Ref	Policy	Status
284	Anti-fraud etc	Reviewed policy effective April 2023
286	Asset Management	Effective April 2023
287	Charging and Income	Council 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
289	Reserves	Awaiting ratification at 5 <sup>th</sup> July Council
303	Electric Car	For consultation
-	Budgeting	Policy development paper to be issued 30 <sup>th</sup> June
-	Travel and Expenses	Policy development paper to be considered by CLT 27 <sup>th</sup> June.
-	Employee Payments	Policy development paper to be considered by CLT 27 <sup>th</sup> June.
-	Supplier Payments	Policy development paper to be issued in due course

#### Charging and Income Policy

This specific policy was required to formalise and revise the governance framework brought forward from legacy organisations with respect to charging, income management and credit control. This addresses a number of outstanding Internal Audit recommendations.

The policy had been developed in line with the Council's policy development process and Corporate Leadership Team, Heads of Service and Service Unit Managers had all been consulted. When the version 1.0 of the policy was considered at the last Corporate Services Committee meeting a number of concerns were raised. Version 1.1 had taken on board Members concerns and a number of amendments made (these highlighted in red in the attached copy for Members' convenience).

The objectives of the policy were:

1. Establishment of charging arrangements within the context of Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Scheme of delegation, whilst retaining Council oversight;
2. Establishment of income hierarchy to assist with service delivery planning;
3. Formalisation of credit terms;
4. Formalisation of effective, timely and customer focussed credit control;
5. Establishment of a collaborative approach, establishment of controls, allocation of responsibilities, income recording, invoicing, and records management;
6. Minimisation of potential for income loss;
7. Establishment of a debt write-off framework; and
8. Establishment of a consistent approach to internal charging.

The key points to note were:

- Pg 4 – it was the Service Unit Managers' responsibility to ensure that proper Service Unit procedures were in place.
- Pg 6 – charges should be increased by inflation.
- Pg 6 – bin sales and delivery should be at cost recovery.
- Pg 7 – Approval for charges would now be delegated to Heads of Service provided the policy was followed. Minor exceptions would require a director's approval and substantial deviation would require Council approval. All charging schemes would be reported to Council for noting as part of the Estimates process.
- Pg 15 – Formal credit control procedure including the suspension of service or access where there was non-payment after the third reminder.
- Pg 17 – formal write off thresholds were set.
- Pg 18 – record keeping improvements for legal actions, to allow better income management.
- Pg 19 – Establishing a grants inward register, to improve corporate knowledge with the requirement for all claims to be reviewed by Finance.

If approved the Finance Service would conduct a number of briefing sessions across the organisation in order to raise awareness, in addition to publication on ANDI, the Council intranet.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approves the attached Charging and Income Policy and amends the Scheme of Delegation to comply with the new arrangements.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman McIlveen thanked the Director of Corporate Services for reviewing the initial report that had come before the Corporate Services Committee and he felt the changes had retained a democratic overview.

Councillor MacArthur highlighted an example of a dance group that had hired Donaghadee Community Centre last Christmas eve and it had cost the group £210.84 for three hours and that would have normally cost £42.08.

It was not a public holiday but it was outside of normal operating hours but there was nowhere on the Council website that explained what the opening hours were. She noted that report stated that the charging schedule should be published and she asked what steps would be taken to ensure that happened. She hoped that the issue over the holiday costs could be followed up too.

The Head of Finance advised that the charging schedules would be published on the website in due course.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the recommendation be adopted.**

## **11. BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT (FILE FIN45)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Corporate Services detailing that the Budgetary Control Report covered the 2-month period 1 April 2023 to 31 May 2023.

The Revenue Budgetary Control Report by Directorate was set out in Report 1 on page 3 and showed an overall surplus of £144k.

### **Explanation of Variance**

The Council's budget performance was further analysed on pages 4-6 into 3 key areas:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Report 2</b>	Payroll	£240k favourable	<b>4</b>
<b>Report 3</b>	Goods & Services	£75k adverse	<b>5</b>
<b>Report 4</b>	Income	£21k adverse	<b>6</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£144k favourable</b>	

### **Explanation of Variance**

The Council's overall variance could be summarised by the following table (variances over £25k):

<b>Type</b>	<b>Variance £'000</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Payroll Expenditure</b>	(240)	Vacancies (£265k) Vacancy Control has been introduced to help mitigate the pay agreement cost pressures.
<b>Goods &amp; Services Expenditure</b>		
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	29	Advice Services and Guitar Festival. Both offset by additional income – see below.

Type	Variance £'000	Comment
<b>Parks &amp; Cemeteries</b>	33	Parks & Cemeteries operating costs- £24k Outdoor Recreation – £12k
<b>Waste &amp; Cleansing</b>	(37)	Waste disposal costs. Tonnages slightly down on budget – Landfill down 105T. Blue bin waste down 51T. Garden waste up 27T. Food waste down 112T.
<b>Assets &amp; Property</b>	(32)	Electricity – (£15k) Gas – (£1k) Vehicle fuel – (£36k)
<b>Regeneration</b>	25	Rural Development – covid small settlements consultancy. Offset by grant income.
<b>Non-Service</b>	54	Notional interest to EMF
<b>Income – Services</b>		
<b>Community &amp; Culture</b>	(33)	Additional income for Advice Services and Guitar Festival – offsets additional spend (see above).
<b>Regulatory Services</b>	55	Car Park income £35k. NET – fine income £17k.
<b>Planning</b>	70	Planning application income.
<b>Finance</b>	(28)	Investment income.
<b>Income – Non-Service</b>		
<b>District Rates</b>	-	

<b>Report 1</b>					
<b>BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT</b>					
<b>Period 2 - May 2023</b>					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	35,404	35,700	(296)	213,400	0.8
110 Environmental Health	347,533	390,200	(42,667)	2,336,900	10.9
120 Community and Culture	334,202	379,100	(44,898)	2,490,900	11.8
140 Parks and Cemeteries	574,898	636,600	(61,702)	4,472,300	9.7
150 Leisure	338,502	388,700	(50,198)	2,690,100	12.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,630,538</b>	<b>1,830,300</b>	<b>(199,762)</b>	<b>12,203,600</b>	<b>10.9</b>
<b>Environment</b>					
200 Environment HQ	33,972	34,000	(28)	204,600	0.1
210 Waste and Cleansing Services	2,890,138	2,945,400	(55,262)	16,716,000	1.9
220 Assets and Property Services	1,337,811	1,434,400	(96,589)	10,936,600	6.7
230 Regulatory Services	71,983	51,400	20,583	297,100	40.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,333,904</b>	<b>4,465,200</b>	<b>(131,296)</b>	<b>28,154,300</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Prosperity</b>					
700 Prosperity HQ	24,226	21,900	2,326	131,800	10.6
720 Economic Development	214,547	238,500	(23,953)	1,345,500	10.0
730 Planning	255,631	224,500	31,131	1,508,100	13.9
740 Tourism	148,265	157,200	(8,935)	1,563,200	5.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>642,668</b>	<b>642,100</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>4,548,600</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Place</b>					
800 Place HQ	28,436	28,400	36	266,200	0.1
810 Regeneration	109,863	115,100	(5,237)	1,112,000	4.5
820 Strategic Capital Development	57,925	60,400	(2,475)	365,100	4.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>196,223</b>	<b>203,900</b>	<b>(7,677)</b>	<b>1,743,300</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>					
1000 Corporate Services HQ	26,415	25,700	715	155,000	2.8
1010 Internal Audit	13,868	13,900	(32)	100,000	0.2
1020 Finance	84,462	124,300	(39,838)	876,600	32.1
1030 Strategic Transformation and Performance	335,923	348,900	(12,977)	2,024,600	3.7
1040 Human Resources & Organisation Developn	194,006	205,700	(11,694)	1,119,500	5.7
1050 Administration	565,714	542,400	23,314	3,706,500	4.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,220,389</b>	<b>1,260,900</b>	<b>(40,511)</b>	<b>7,982,200</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>					
600 Chief Executive	62,136	60,300	1,836	918,400	3.0
610 Community Planning	31,424	31,500	(76)	192,300	0.2
630 Communications and Marketing	101,318	107,300	(5,982)	848,700	5.6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194,878</b>	<b>199,100</b>	<b>(4,222)</b>	<b>1,959,400</b>	<b>2.1</b>
9010 Payroll Savings Budget	-	(183,400)	183,400	(1,100,000)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(183,400)</b>	<b>183,400</b>	<b>(1,100,000)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>8,218,601</b>	<b>8,418,100</b>	<b>(199,499)</b>	<b>55,491,400</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>					
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(8,362,362)</b>	<b>(8,418,100)</b>	<b>55,739</b>	<b>(55,491,400)</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(143,761)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(143,761)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Report 2</b>					
<b>PAYROLL REPORT</b>					
<b>Period 2 - May 2023</b>					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	28,084	28,200	(116)	168,400	0.4
110 Environmental Health	409,490	443,600	(34,110)	2,679,100	7.7
120 Community and Culture	243,537	283,300	(39,763)	1,768,300	14.0
140 Parks and Cemeteries	532,208	619,300	(87,092)	3,863,100	14.1
150 Leisure	663,896	706,900	(43,004)	4,569,200	6.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,877,214</b>	<b>2,081,300</b>	<b>(204,086)</b>	<b>13,048,100</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Environment</b>					
200 Environment HQ	28,084	28,100	(16)	168,400	0.1
210 Waste and Cleansing Services	1,462,284	1,470,200	(7,916)	8,817,800	0.5
220 Assets and Property Services	333,080	382,700	(49,620)	2,308,700	13.0
230 Regulatory Services	336,070	365,200	(29,130)	2,202,600	8.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,159,519</b>	<b>2,246,200</b>	<b>(86,681)</b>	<b>13,497,500</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Prosperity</b>					
700 Prosperity HQ	22,365	20,300	2,065	121,800	10.2
720 Economic Development	117,069	147,700	(30,631)	903,500	20.7
730 Planning	357,180	391,600	(34,420)	2,349,600	8.8
740 Tourism	149,500	157,800	(8,300)	967,200	5.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>646,114</b>	<b>717,400</b>	<b>(71,286)</b>	<b>4,342,100</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Place</b>					
800 Place HQ	27,998	28,000	(2)	167,200	0.0
810 Regeneration	96,603	108,300	(11,697)	651,700	10.8
820 Strategic Capital Development	57,591	59,800	(2,209)	358,900	3.7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>182,192</b>	<b>196,100</b>	<b>(13,908)</b>	<b>1,177,800</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>					
1000 Corporate Services HQ	24,788	23,900	888	143,500	3.7
1010 Internal Audit	-	-	-	-	-
1020 Finance	153,438	162,600	(9,162)	976,200	5.6
1030 Strategic Transformation and Performance	117,496	137,700	(20,204)	826,600	14.7
1040 Human Resources & Organisation Development	129,037	145,000	(15,963)	869,200	11.0
1050 Administration	329,605	329,500	105	2,005,600	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>754,364</b>	<b>798,700</b>	<b>(44,336)</b>	<b>4,821,100</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>					
600 Chief Executive	49,192	46,300	2,892	382,600	6.2
610 Community Planning	30,697	30,600	97	183,900	0.3
630 Communications and Marketing	93,166	99,000	(5,834)	602,000	5.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>173,055</b>	<b>175,900</b>	<b>(2,845)</b>	<b>1,168,500</b>	<b>1.6</b>
9010 Payroll Savings Budget	-	(183,400)	183,400	(1,100,000)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(183,400)</b>	<b>183,400</b>	<b>(1,100,000)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>5,792,458</b>	<b>6,032,200</b>	<b>(239,742)</b>	<b>36,955,100</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>					
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>7,182</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>5,799,641</b>	<b>6,039,300</b>	<b>(239,659)</b>	<b>37,032,100</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Report 3					
GOODS AND SERVICES REPORT					
Period 2 - May 2023					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	7,319	7,500	(181)	46,600	2.4
110 Environmental Health	28,569	30,000	(1,431)	265,200	4.8
120 Community and Culture	216,146	188,100	28,046	1,721,700	14.9
140 Parks and Cemeteries	123,291	90,300	32,991	1,068,200	36.5
150 Leisure	145,880	160,700	(14,820)	1,325,000	9.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>521,204</b>	<b>476,600</b>	<b>44,604</b>	<b>4,426,700</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>Environment</b>					
200 Environment HQ	5,887	5,900	(13)	36,200	0.2
210 Waste and Cleansing Services	1,668,451	1,706,100	(37,649)	9,364,000	2.2
220 Assets and Property Services	1,090,586	1,122,200	(31,614)	8,881,800	2.8
230 Regulatory Services	100,691	106,300	(5,609)	606,300	5.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,865,616</b>	<b>2,940,500</b>	<b>(74,884)</b>	<b>18,888,300</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Prosperity</b>					
700 Prosperity HQ	1,861	1,600	261	10,000	16.3
720 Economic Development	136,395	136,600	(205)	936,500	0.1
730 Planning	20,476	24,500	(4,024)	308,100	16.4
740 Tourism	52,276	50,700	1,576	683,400	3.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>211,008</b>	<b>213,400</b>	<b>(2,392)</b>	<b>1,938,000</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Place</b>					
800 Place HQ	437	400	37	99,000	9.3
810 Regeneration	32,052	6,800	25,252	460,300	371.4
820 Strategic Capital Development	334	600	(266)	6,200	44.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32,824</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>25,024</b>	<b>565,500</b>	<b>320.8</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>					
1000 Corporate Services HQ	1,637	1,800	(163)	11,500	9.0
1010 Internal Audit	13,868	13,900	(32)	100,000	0.2
1020 Finance	2,053	4,500	(2,447)	157,700	54.4
1030 Strategic Transformation and Performance	218,428	211,200	7,228	1,198,000	3.4
1040 Human Resources & Organisation Developr	66,020	60,700	5,320	255,600	8.8
1050 Administration	311,934	291,800	20,134	2,099,600	6.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>613,940</b>	<b>583,900</b>	<b>30,040</b>	<b>3,822,400</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>					
600 Chief Executive	12,943	14,000	(1,057)	535,800	7.5
610 Community Planning	728	900	(172)	8,400	19.1
630 Communications and Marketing	8,152	8,300	(148)	246,700	1.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,823</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>(1,377)</b>	<b>790,900</b>	<b>5.9</b>
9010 Payroll Savings Budget	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>4,266,414</b>	<b>4,245,400</b>	<b>21,014</b>	<b>30,431,800</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>					
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>1,391,200</b>	<b>1,337,400</b>	<b>53,800</b>	<b>7,866,800</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>5,657,614</b>	<b>5,582,800</b>	<b>74,814</b>	<b>38,298,600</b>	<b>1.3</b>



<b>Report 4</b>					
<b>INCOME REPORT</b>					
<b>Period 2 - May 2023</b>					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
<b>Community &amp; Wellbeing</b>					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	-	-	-	(1,600)	
110 Environmental Health	(90,526)	(83,400)	(7,126)	(607,400)	(8.5)
120 Community and Culture	(125,481)	(92,300)	(33,181)	(999,100)	(35.9)
140 Parks and Cemeteries	(80,601)	(73,000)	(7,601)	(459,000)	(10.4)
150 Leisure	(471,273)	(478,900)	7,627	(3,204,100)	(1.6)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(767,880)</b>	<b>(727,600)</b>	<b>(40,280)</b>	<b>(5,271,200)</b>	<b>(5.5)</b>
<b>Environment</b>					
200 Environment HQ	-	-	-	-	
210 Waste and Cleansing Services	(240,597)	(230,900)	(9,697)	(1,465,800)	(4.2)
220 Assets and Property Services	(85,855)	(70,500)	(15,355)	(253,900)	(21.8)
230 Regulatory Services	(364,779)	(420,100)	55,321	(2,511,800)	(13.2)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(691,231)</b>	<b>(721,500)</b>	<b>30,269</b>	<b>(4,231,500)</b>	<b>(4.2)</b>
<b>Prosperity</b>					
700 Prosperity HQ	-	-	-	-	
720 Economic Development	(38,918)	(45,800)	6,882	(494,500)	(15.0)
730 Planning	(122,025)	(191,600)	69,576	(1,149,600)	(36.3)
740 Tourism	(53,512)	(51,300)	(2,212)	(87,400)	(4.3)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(214,454)</b>	<b>(288,700)</b>	<b>74,246</b>	<b>(1,731,500)</b>	<b>(25.7)</b>
<b>Place</b>					
800 Place HQ	-	-	-	-	
810 Regeneration	(18,792)	-	(18,792)	-	
820 Strategic Capital Development	-	-	-	-	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(18,792)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18,792)</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Corporate Services</b>					
1000 Corporate Services HQ	(10)	-	(10)	-	
1010 Internal Audit	-	-	-	-	
1020 Finance	(71,030)	(42,800)	(28,230)	(257,300)	(66.0)
1030 Strategic Transformation and Performance	-	-	-	-	
1040 Human Resources & Organisation Developme	(1,050)	-	(1,050)	(5,300)	
1050 Administration	(75,825)	(78,900)	3,075	(398,700)	(3.9)
1060 Data Protection & Compliance Officer	-	-	-	-	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(147,915)</b>	<b>(121,700)</b>	<b>(26,215)</b>	<b>(661,300)</b>	<b>(21.5)</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>					
600 Chief Executive	-	-	-	-	
610 Community Planning	-	-	-	-	
630 Communications and Marketing	-	-	-	-	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
9010 Payroll Savings Budget	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>(1,840,272)</b>	<b>(1,859,500)</b>	<b>19,228</b>	<b>(11,895,500)</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>					
<b>Non Service Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(9,760,744)</b>	<b>(9,762,600)</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>(63,435,200)</b>	<b>(0.0)</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>(11,601,016)</b>	<b>(11,622,100)</b>	<b>21,084</b>	<b>(75,330,700)</b>	<b>(0.2)</b>

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Graham, seconded by Alderman Smith, that the recommendation be adopted.**

## **12. ARDS AND NORTH DOWN SPORTS FORUM GRANTS (FILE SD149)**

(Appendices III - IX)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that Members would be aware that in 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 required Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates were reported to members.

During June 2023, the Forum received a total of 32 applications: 23 Individual Travel/Accommodation, 2 Goldcard, 1 Coaching, 3 Equipment, 2 Event and 1 Anniversary). A summary of the **25** successful applications were detailed in the attached Successful Anniversary, Successful Coaching, Successful Equipment, Successful Event, Successful Goldcard and Successful Travel & Accommodation Appendices.

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

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded <b>May 2023</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
Anniversary	£1,000	*£750	<b>£250</b>
Coaching	£3,000	*£296.25	<b>£2,103.75</b>
Equipment	£14,000	*£1,598.96	<b>£12,401.04</b>
Events	£6,000	*£1,000	<b>£3,400</b>
Seeding	£500	£0	<b>£500</b>
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£2,450	<b>£5,385.30</b>
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	<b>£1,000</b>
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	<b>£4,500</b>
*Goldcards proposed during the period May 2023 is 2 (7 Goldcards in total during 2023/24).			

\* The proposed remaining budget for Anniversary of **£250** was based on a proposed award of **£750.00** – for Approval. \*The proposed remaining budget for Coaching of **£2,103.75** was based on a proposed award of **£296.25** – for Approval. \*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£12,401.04** was based on a proposed award of **£1,598.96** – for Approval. \*The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£3,400** was based on a proposed award of **£1,000.00** – for Approval. \* The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£5,385.30** was based on a proposed award of **£2,450** – for Noting and Reclaimed costs of £60.23.

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.

Councillor S Irvine proposed, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

The Mayor congratulated Haleigh Miskimmin, aged 14 and from the Borough, who was an artistic gymnast and had competed in the Special Olympics and won five gold medals including a gold in the vault category and silver in the uneven bars, balance beam and floor categories. She was all round world champion.

The Mayor commented on what was an excellent achievement and an oversight that she had not mentioned this in her opening remarks. Haleigh would be invited to a reception with the Mayor to recognise the achievement.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor S Irvine, seconded by Councillor W Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.**

### **13. COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTATION TO THE RESERVE FORCES AND CADET ASSOCIATION**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive detailing that a letter had been received from Mr Michael Murdock MBE, Chief Executive of RFCA Northern Ireland with regard to Council Members representation to the RFCA (NI). He advised that traditionally each Council was asked to nominate one Member. This was done at the Annual Meeting, where Alderman Cummings was nominated as the Veterans Champion.

However, the letter asked that given additional funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust more activities have been forthcoming, making the role busier. Mr Murdoch had asked the Council to consider nominating a Deputy Veterans Champion to support the work in the area.

Alderman Cummings had indicated that he was receiving good levels of support from an additional member of staff appointed by RFCA recently. Any approval to nominate a Deputy Veterans Champion would not be a Position of Responsibility.

RECOMMENDED that the Council considers the request from RFCA (NI) to nominate a Deputy Veterans Champion for the Council.

Alderman McIlveen was aware that a Veterans Champion (Alderman Cummings) was appointed at the AGM recently and he suggested that this be reconsidered only if the Veterans Champion felt it necessary.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that Council does not nominate a Deputy Veterans Champion at this time and keeps this under review.

Alderman Cummings advised that he was comfortable with the existing workload and appreciated the sentiment of RFCA. He was also supported with compliment of staff at RFCA / NIVSO which had five full time staff and dedicated support worker. He thanked the organisation for its ongoing support but he was content to support the proposal.

The Mayor thanked Alderman Cummings for his ongoing work with veterans' issues.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the recommendation be adopted.**

#### **14. APPOINTMENT OF DIVERSITY AMBASSADORS**

(Appendices X - XI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive detailing that a letter had been received from the Chair of the Equality and Diversity Steering Group, Jacqui Dixon MBE, asking for the Council to nominate one Member and one Officer to act as Diversity Ambassadors for the Council on the steering group.

A copy of the letter and the Role Specification was attached as an appendix. At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 7 June 2023 the Council nominated three Members (Cllrs Irwin, Hollywood and McKimm) as Diversity Champions for general representation. It would seem appropriate that one of these three Members be selected to represent the Council as the Diversity Ambassador on the Local Government Equality and Diversity Group.

RECOMMENDED that the Council nominates a Member as its Diversity Ambassador on the Local Government Equality and Diversity Group and delegates the Corporate Leadership Team to select the Officer to also take on this role.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McRandal, seconded by Alderman Douglas, to appoint Councillor Irwin as Diversity Ambassador on the Local Government Equality and Diversity Group and delegates the Corporate Leadership Team to select the Officer to also take on this role.**

#### **15. URBAN REGENERATION PROJECTS**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Place detailing that Members would be aware that the Regeneration Unit received a budget to work up projects to planning/procurement stage so as to be ready to apply for and deliver the projects should capital funding become available in the future.

The Urban Regeneration Team was currently reviewing the masterplans, including Donaghadee Commons masterplan and it was anticipated that a report would be presented to the Place and Prosperity Committee in September recommending the projects to be advanced.

As well as developing Council led projects, there was an opportunity for Council to work in partnership with external bodies to develop initiatives that would greatly enhance a town/city centre area, drive footfall and help the overall regeneration of

that town/city centre. Reviewing the current opportunities one key partnership area that could be considered would be the Heritage and Culture sector.

At present many of these types of organisations were not for profit trusts or companies that have charitable status and provide a unique experience to a town /city centre as well as providing a retail offering and employment, many of whom were bringing old heritage and disused buildings back to life.

Currently there were grants available for the Heritage and Arts Sector to apply for, including funding to help with the capital development works needed to improve these facilities to make them more sustainable and to provide a better overall offering and outcomes. The issue was that many of them did not have the required funding available to work up the projects to develop an Outline Business Case which would be needed by funders and obtain planning permission. It was believed that if the Council was to work in partnership with such organisations and provide some match funding this may have been the catalyst to enable that organisation to develop plans to be ready to access funding opportunities as they materialised. Which in turn would ultimately help with the regeneration of our city and towns.

#### **The Plan:**

1. The Council would issue an Expression of Interest to NPOs or Charitable companies that wished to develop a heritage/cultural led regeneration project in a town/city centre.
2. The Council would offer up to £15,000 to work up a project. This must be at least matched by the recipient and Memorandum of Understanding agreed.
3. The Council would assess applications looking at:
  - 3.1. The type and nature of the regeneration project.
  - 3.2. The costs of developing the project and if the applicant had sufficient funds to proceed if the grant was received.
  - 3.3. The area of the town/city centre where the project was to be developed and how it would enhance the regeneration including driving footfall/evening economy/employment.
  - 3.4. Funding opportunities that may have been available to provide the capital funds to deliver the project.
  - 3.5. Any displacement.
4. The Council would fund one project in this financial year but would review the expressions of interest should further funding become available.

It was believed that partnership working of this kind could help develop regeneration projects in a sector that may currently have limited resources, but that had projects that once realised could greatly enhance the offering within a town/city.

If the Council agreed to proceed with this project the funding could be met from existing budgets.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Council approves the report and proceeds to invite expressions of interest as outlined.

Councillor McCracken proposed, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the recommendation be adopted.

Proposing, Councillor McCracken praised the initiative and commended officers for bringing it forward. Members would be aware that the budget situation in NI was critical at the moment but he was aware there was still capital available in Government budgets in particular the Department for Communities and to a lesser extent Tourism Northern Ireland. The lack of a functioning Northern Ireland government however stipulated that funding had to be spent within the year and this made projects extremely difficult because of the rules around NI public procurement policy. The timelines therefore were often unrealistic and beyond the scope of the voluntary groups that were invited for funding, which prevented that money being drawn down. This proposal required a small amount of money to be invested, but it was from existing budgets which was acceptable. It gave the option to leverage a contribution from the organisation itself and draw down capital money. This would ensure there were oven ready products for when capital came available. While there was a risk of spending money on a design for capital that might not become available, there was mitigation in that the design would already be in place for future use. He encouraged the Council to support the report's recommendation.

Councillor Blaney echoed those comments, pointing to previous frustration of missing out on funding because projects were not at a shovel ready phase and he looked forward to further projects commencing as opportunities arose.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McCracken, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the recommendation be adopted.**

## **16. GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (FILE LR100)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that an application had been received for the grant of entertainment licence as follows:

**Newtownards Orange Hall, Mary Street, Newtownards BT23 4DG**

**Applicant:** David Lowry, William Street, Newtownards

### **Days and Hours:**

Thursday and Friday between the hours of 18.00 and 23.00 hrs

Saturday between the hours of 14.00 and 23.00 hrs

**Type of entertainment:** Theatrical performances, indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind; equipment for playing snooker or similar games.

The PSNI and NIFRS had been consulted and there were no objections.

Environmental Health had recommended that to reduce noise disturbance to neighbouring premises the windows and doors should be maintained closed during entertainment.

RECOMMENDED that the application is granted with the additional condition of licence that:

All windows and doors should be maintained closed during entertainment.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Kerr, that the recommendation be adopted.**

(Alderman McDowell and Councillor Boyle declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting – 10.34pm)

**17. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – DRAFT CONSTITUTION, RESPONSE TO ANDBC FEEDBACK**

(Appendices XII - XIII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive detailing that the Council responded to the consultation from the National Association of Councillors (NAC) with regard to its draft constitution (appendix 1).

A response had been received from the Regional Secretary of the NAC (appendix 2) advising that the recommended changes to the Constitution had not been accepted.

RECOMMENDED that the response from the NAC with regard to its Constitution is noted.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McRandal, seconded by Councillor Moore, that the recommendation be adopted.**

(Alderman McDowell and Councillor Boyle returned to the meeting – 10.35pm)

**18. SEALING DOCUMENTS**

**RESOLVED: -** On the proposal of Alderman Douglas, seconded by Councillor Edmund

**THAT** the Seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents:-

(a) Grant of Rights of Burial: Nos D40028 to D40054

(b) Lease made between The Crown Estate Commissioners and Ards and North Down Borough Council – Lease of the seabed at Portaferry occupied by 2 intake pipes.

## **19. TRANSFER OF RIGHTS OF BURIAL**

Transfer/Assignment –

Transfer: Ian Elliott-John Boyce Comber Cemetery section 23 Grave 107

Transfer: Austin Laird- Tom Craig Redburn Cemetery Grave 584

Transfer: Rosemary Stevenson- Karen McKibben Comber Cemetery section 21 Grave 206

Transfer: John Rowan – Moira Crawford Comber Cemetery section 25 Grave 205

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Adair, seconded by Alderman Graham, that the transfer of rights of burials be approved.**

## **20. NOTICE OF MOTION STATUS REPORT**

(Appendix XIV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive detailing that the Status Report in respect of Notices of Motion was attached.

This was a standing item on the Council agenda each month and its aim was to keep Members updated on the outcome of Motions. Please note that as each Motion was dealt with it would be removed from the report.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

**RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Douglas, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the recommendation be adopted.**

(Councillor Ashe left the meeting – 10.40pm)

## **21. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **21.1 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN DOUGLAS AND COUNCILLORS CATHCART, W IRVINE, BLANEY, MCKIMM AND MCCRACKEN**

That this council requests officers to bring back a report with full costings and budgetary options outlining pragmatic solutions to tackling anti-social behaviour in the Bank's Lane car park, Ballyholme including the restricting of access to the car park at night. In addition, officers should clarify ownership of the Bank's Lane as part of the solution.

The Mayor advised that a request had been made for the motion to be heard at the meeting which she had agreed to given the urgency of the matter.



Alderman Douglas proposed, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the notice of motion be adopted.

Proposing, Alderman Douglas thanked the Mayor for agreeing to hear the Notice of Motion and advised it had been brought forward by all elected members for the Bangor Central DEA.

She began by explaining one of the key access points to Ballyholme Beach was via Bank Lane, which was located off the Groomsport Road near to the Groomsport Road roundabout. When travelling on Bank Lane towards the promenade there was a Council-run car park off to the left which housed a public toilet block. The car park was a fair size and well utilised all year round. To the rear of the car park and the right-hand side of the lane when seaward looking, there were houses and apartments situated close by.

She spoke of the site's popularity as a local beauty spot and location for a range of outdoor activities along with the mental and physical wellbeing benefits that it provided.

Continuing, Alderman Douglas highlighted issues regarding anti-social behaviour in the area had been raised by residents and visitors over recent years which in turn had been raised with the Police, the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and Council. Previous actions had resulted in site visits, reports to Council and ongoing discussions, but no resolution to the anti-social behaviour.

There had been a number of anti-social behaviour issues reported in the area and she listed the following:

- cars racing around the car park, doing 'donuts' late in the evening into the early hours;
- drivers sounding their horns late at night into the early hours;
- loud music blasting late at night into the early hours;
- people urinating and defecating behind the locked public amenities and / or nearby bushes within view of the local houses / apartments;
- those in cars throwing their litter across the car park; and
- people throwing their litter over the seawall and leaving litter strewn across the beach.

Those were some examples and not a comprehensive list. Residents had been appreciative of the Council staff and volunteers (many of whom were residents) who cleansed the area the following morning, and the Police in trying to tackle some of the issues.

The Notice of Motion was focusing on one specific area of concern, that being the anti-social behaviour from a small pool of drivers and their passengers who tended to arrive later in the evening, revving their engines, sounding their horns continually, blasting loud music, 'doing doughnuts', racing around the car park and the adjacent lane in the late hours of night into the early hours of the morning. All of which was causing significant disruption to local residents, impairing their ability to enjoy restful sleep and adversely impacting on their quality of life, night after night.

This behaviour did not reflect the majority of the Borough's citizens. Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour was evidenced at many of our shared spaces and beauty spots

which could lead to an adverse impact on the wellbeing of residents and their quality of life.

When Council last had a report presented a couple of years ago to look at what solutions could be offered, the report indicated the car park was a muster point for any major incident that occurred out at sea. Due to the need for emergency services requiring access, other measures were considered and implemented. Despite the additional measures, anti-social behaviour persisted, which needed a resolution for the residents.

The ASB was an issue throughout the year, escalating during the summer months. Given all other options had had little or no success, then Council was seeking further exploration of what measures could be put in place to address the anti-social behaviour.

Due to the high number of complaints, the proposer had conveyed what she felt had been a constructive and focused meeting in early June with residents, Council officers, police representation and other elected representatives attending to further consider the situation and next steps.

There had been recognition that emergency services needed access to the promenade to deal with any emergencies at sea 24/7, it was noted at that meeting this could still be permitted via the bottom of the Bank Lane. Discussion then followed as to whether there was scope to restrict access into the car park itself late evening, whilst still permitting emergency services access as required to the promenade. Other country parks for example had employed mechanisms to manage access to their respective sites at specified hours, so could there be learning in this regard and applied to the situation in the Bank Lane car park site. It was agreed that Officers would explore options further and that Members would bring a Notice of Motion for a costed report.

It was felt that a series of measures would be required to tackle the ASB including education, signage, communication, enforcement by Council and Police, and perhaps a gate or other device to manage the car park at discrete times late in the evening.

Since the meeting at Bangor City Hall last month, Council staff, Street Pastors and the Police had increased their presence in the car park sometimes in response to reports and other times as proactive outreach. Communications on social media platforms had reminded the public to show respect for the environment they visited and regard for neighbours / local residents who lived nearby. This was reported to have been welcomed and very much appreciated by residents. In addition, she understood Police had spoken to drivers where they had acted irresponsibly and issued a penalty when the driver had acted outside the law. While appreciating that Police resources were hugely stretched, it was not reasonable to expect them to be present at such sites constantly to deal with irresponsible people who had a complete disregard for others including neighbours. Council needed to explore other pragmatic solutions for the residents and other beach users.

In closing, she asked members to support this request that officers bring back a report with costings exploring all pragmatic solutions to help tackle ASB at the Banks Lane car park.

(Councillor Morgan left the meeting – 10.46pm)

The seconder, Councillor Cathcart, called for quick action. It was disappointing that such a notice of motion needed to be considered but what was taking place at the location was unacceptable. He had received a video of drivers continuously blowing their car horns together at 2am in attempt to coordinate some sort of tune.

He was aware of continued complaints over the years and it had got particularly bad during Covid restrictions and he had hoped ASB would have eased as those restrictions were lifted. That had not been the case and the problem had only got worse. This motion was aimed at striking a balance between access and protecting the local residents. Access would still be open until late at night where vehicles would be restricted. He thanked the PSNI and Street Pastors and Council's ASB team for their work over the years but it looked like new measures were required.

Adding his support to the motion, Councillor Blaney had spoken to an elderly resident who said the issues had adversely affected her mental health and every night she waited for the sound of car horns. Even on nights where the noise didn't occur she was still plagued with the fear of it. Another family struggled to get their young children to sleep and residents were being kept awake during the night. Other residents had confronted the drivers and had felt intimidated. He was disappointed this action was required and previous measures had failed and that the PSNI was unable to do more and the patrols had not worked. He felt the PSNI needed to look at different strategies because the cars were quiet when police patrolled but when they left the noise started again. He called for robust measures to tackle the ASB and hoped good solutions could be found for people living in the area. It would not solve other types of ASB such as drinking, but it would be a first step.

Councillor W Irvine welcomed the cross-party support on the issue. He recalled the meeting with residents had been well attended and it was clear how difficult the situation had been. He too recalled the efforts to tackle it over the years but again those measures had not worked and more needed to be done. He suggested bollards or camera controlled gates, and looked forward to a report that could give an indication of cost.

Councillor McKee welcomed the motion and noted it was evidently clear nothing had helped. He hoped that the report would come back quickly and the residents could get on with their lives.

Councillor Chambers was well aware of the issues given the proximity of his neighbouring DEA and was wary that when you block access you can move the problem elsewhere so it also needed robust response by the PSNI with a greater police presence and quicker response times. He advocated the use of barrier or bollards at the entrance of the car park rather than the lane itself given it was not owned by the Council.

Alderman Douglas thanked members for their support and looked forward to the report coming back as soon as possible.

**AGREED** on the proposal of Alderman Douglas, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

### **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS**

**AGREED**, on the proposal of Alderman Douglas, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business.

#### **9.3. Minutes of Corporate Services Committee dated 20 June 2023** **(continued)**

Item 15 –APSE report on Sickness Absence and Draft Absence Management Action Plan

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

A point of information was raised in relation to the above item.

#### **22. ANNUAL COUNCILLORS' RETURN TO DFC 2022-23 (FILE FIN23)** (Appendices XV)

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

A report was considered. Appendix 1 provided details of the payments made to each Councillor for the 2022/23 financial year. This information would be published on the Council website on 17 July 2023.

It was recommended that Council notes the report.

The recommendation was AGREED.

#### **23. QUEEN'S PARADE UPDATE REPORT (FILE RDP63)** (Appendices XVI - XVIII)

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

A report was considered in relation to the Queen's Parade development.

It was recommended that the Council, following the report received from its ICT, agrees the plans and specifications for the works to Marine Gardens and the McKee Clock arena and issues a licence to BM for these works when required, subject to approval by Crown Estate.

It was further recommended that as outlined in the report Council also agrees to:

- a) remove the requirement for BM to provide a building for the fence to be stored on site;
- b) the Design Brief for the Focal Area;
- c) extension of time for the Lighting Strategy to be developed as part of stage 4 design;
- d) Additional information to be supplied during stage 4 design process on the portable water and foul drainage solution as part of the events area pop-up service points;
- e) Council to undertake risk assessment for requirement, or not, of water's edge protection as part of stage 4 design process.

The recommendation was AGREED.

**24. ARDS RECTIFICATION OF TITLE - LAND TO THE REAR OF 132 CHURCH ROAD, HOLYWOOD**

(Appendices XIX - XXI)

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

A report was considered following a request in relation to a rectification of title for land at Church Road, Holywood.

It was recommended that the Council accedes to the request and proceeds with a title rectification subject to the condition that its legal fees and any other associated costs are covered by the residents who seek the rectification.

The recommendation was AGREED.

**25. BELFAST REGION CITY DEAL ANNUAL REPORT 2023 (FILE RDP22)**

(Appendix XXII)

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

Members were asked to consider a copy of the BRCD Annual Report 2023. The report was strictly embargoed until all partners had completed this stage.

It was recommended that Council approves the contents of the Belfast Region City Deal Annual Report 2022-2023.

The recommendation was AGREED.

**26. FASTER PROJECT COLLABORATION AGREEMENT**

(Appendices XXIII)

**\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\***

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)**

A report on Council entering into a collaboration agreement with the University of Ulster was considered.

It was recommended that the Council agrees to enter into a Collaborative Agreement with the University of Ulster for the design, build, installation and operation of 50 Kw rapid EV chargers for public use.

The recommendation was AGREED.

**RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS**

**AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Alderman Adair, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.**

**TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 11.54pm.

**ITEM 7.1****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Choose an item.
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	07 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Request for Deputation from Keep Recycling Local (KRL)
Attachments	Copy letter dated 3 July 2023 from KRL

A request has been received from Keep Recycling Local (KRL) to present to the Environment Committee on recycling and the circular economy.

KRL is a campaign group, representing several commercial recycling companies, created to help raise awareness about recycling in Northern Ireland.

The Director of Environment has considered this requests and commented that full reports are and will be brought forward to the Environment Committee regarding the options for recycling / management of waste. He is of the view that this organisation includes membership of businesses that may have a commercial / financial interest in future waste management decisions of the Council, including tender awards, it is suggested that the request for a deputation is therefore declined at this time.

A copy of the request is attached to this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council declines the request for a deputation from Keep Recycling Local at this time.



Democratic Services  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
City Hall, The Castle  
Bangor  
BT20 4BT  
[democraticservices@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

### **Request to present to the Environment Committee on recycling and the circular economy**

I am writing to you in my capacity as a consultant to Keep Recycling Local (KRL) seeking an opportunity to present to the Environment Committee.

KRL is a recently launched campaign group created to help raise awareness about recycling in Northern Ireland.

Our aim is to ensure that the recyclable materials collected here are also processed in Northern Ireland, to aid the circular economy and benefit our environment.

Currently the reprocessing sector in Northern Ireland provides more than 800 jobs and is worth an average of £100m per annum. We want to grow this for the benefit of the local economy, the environment and to improve the competitiveness of local industry.

Our campaign is led by prominent NI organisations such as Encirc, Enva and Bryson Recycling and is supported by a range of others such as British Glass, Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland, Friends of the Earth, Tetra-Pak, Ulster Wildlife, Action for Cartons in the Environment and Alupro.

We understand that DAERA will soon consult on statutory guidance requiring Councils to separate recycling during collections to maximise the availability of recyclable materials in the local market.

It is our view that, for the Northern Ireland economy to fully benefit from the proposed policy change, materials need to be collected in at least three streams to reduce contamination, ensuring Councils collect high quality materials which can more readily be reprocessed locally.

Streaming collections to maximise the resale potential of household and business recycling has the potential to make a significant saving to the ratepayer.

With the upcoming statutory guidance changes expected to have an impact on how collections are managed, and ahead of the upcoming DAERA consultation, we would appreciate the opportunity to present to members of the Council's Environment Committee at the earliest convenience (post July) to outline the benefits associated with keeping recycling local.

Given the potential savings for Councils, and that this is a core Council service provision, it might also be helpful for officials from the Chief Executive's Office and Finance Directorate to attend. Equally, we would be more than happy to speak with them separately.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.



Yours Sincerely

**Nicola Carruthers**

Consultant

Keep Recycling Local

E: [nicola@keeprecyclinglocal.com](mailto:nicola@keeprecyclinglocal.com)

W: [www.keeprecyclinglocal.com](http://www.keeprecyclinglocal.com)

CC: David Lindsay (Director of Environment)

[david.lindsay@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:david.lindsay@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

Cllr Patricia Morgan (Environmental Committee Chair)

[Patricia.morgan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.morgan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

Alderman Trevor Cummings (Environmental Committee Vice-Chair)

[trevor.cummings@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:trevor.cummings@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

**ITEM 7.2****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	07 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Request for Deputation - Marie Curie
Attachments	Copy email from Marie Curie

A request has been received from Marie Curie to present to a future Committee on how the Council could support people impacted by terminal illness within the Borough.

A copy of the request is attached to the report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council agrees to the request and refers it to the Corporate Services Committee.

On 21 Jun 2023, at 14:26, Austin Orr <[Austin.Orr@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:Austin.Orr@mariecurie.org.uk)> wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.



**Dear Mayor Jennifer Gilmour,**

**RE: How Councils Can Help People With Terminal Illness**

On behalf of **Marie Curie**, I want to congratulate you on your election to Ards and North Down Borough Council and wish you all the best for the coming mandate and especially for your time as Mayor.

As you may be aware, Marie Curie provides expert hospice care, community nursing care and rapid support services for people impacted by all terminal and life-limiting illnesses. We also provide a range of support for patients and their families via our Information & Support service and befriending schemes across Northern Ireland.

There are already too many local people facing barriers and challenges to accessing the care and support they need when they are impacted by death, dying and bereavement. They may face disparities due to their diagnosis, where they live or where they are being cared for.

At Marie Curie, we know that many people with a terminal illness find their palliative care needs are not identified until late in their condition trajectory, with a negative impact on their symptom management and quality of life.

Even if their clinical needs are met, patients may still miss-out on support for wider social issues – such as access to social security and decent housing – that impact so heavily on someone's end of life experience.

The people who matter most to them, including unpaid carers, may struggle to access the support they need to look after their own health and wellbeing and take a break from caring.

And when they die, the loved ones they leave behind may encounter barriers to access a bereavement support system which does not have the capacity to meet demand nor the scope to be effective.

Marie Curie has launched our ['Dying In Poverty'](#) campaign to challenge government at all levels to seriously poverty at the end of life. While there will be more pensioners in total

who will die in poverty, our research found a heightened proportion of working-age people who die facing significant financial burdens. Childcare costs along with reduced working hours and inconsistent illness and bereavement policies are just some of the factors that drive many working-age people towards poverty at the end of their life.

### Proportion Of Working Age People And Pensioners Dying In Poverty 2019 (NI Local Government Areas)

Local Authority	% working age people died in poverty	% pensioners died in poverty
Belfast	29.6%	12.2%
Derry & Strabane	28.0%	11.6%
Newry, Mourne & Down	24.5%	10.1%
Fermagh & Omagh	24.4%	10.0%
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	24.3%	10.0%
Causeway Coast & Glens	24.1%	9.9%
Mid Ulster	23.9%	9.8%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	23.5%	9.6%
Mid and East Antrim	23.5%	9.6%
Lisburn & Castlereagh	23.3%	9.5%
Ards & North Down	23.0%	9.4%

**You can view findings for all UK local authorities at [mariecurie.org.uk/poverty](http://mariecurie.org.uk/poverty)**

In NI we are falling behind our neighbours and, the longer we go without a strategic approach to palliative care, the more deeply entrenched these issues will be, and the more people in Northern Ireland will suffer.

We are asking you as an elected representative within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area and beyond, to support Marie Curie and those who rely upon the specialist services we provide. This can include ensuring your council's services are readily available to those most in need. This includes:

1. Providing support to families struggling to pay funeral costs, by ensuring the costs of burial and cremation services are set to an affordable rate across all Councils.
2. Supporting people in the bereavement process and ensuring all information is timely, easily accessible and in plain language.
3. Providing services which support those at risk of isolation and loneliness through community planning and other council services.

We would be keen to discuss these issues and how you can support people impacted by terminal illness within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area. When it is possible,

we would be happy to present to the relevant Council Committee on any of the above issues.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Orr'.

**Austin Orr**

Policy and Public Affairs Manager

Marie Curie (Northern Ireland)



**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

Our ref: C/138/2023

7 July 2023

Dear Chief Executive

**Re: Notice of Motion – Electronic Copies of Valid Insurance Certificates for the Purposes of Car Taxation Throughout Northern Ireland Post Offices**

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 3 July 2023 the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

*"The practice of requiring paper copies of insurance certificates for car taxation purposes at Northern Ireland Post Offices, is considered obsolete and archaic, creating unnecessary burdens on individuals and organisations in our jurisdiction, when presentation of electronic copies are just as valid, efficient and more practical. I call on this council, in recognising the advantages of electronic documentations and best practice in Great Britain, proposes the following actions: This Council will contact other Northern Ireland councils, seeking their agreement that electronic copies of valid car insurance certificates or cover notes, should be accepted at Northern Ireland Post Offices. Additionally, a letter will be drafted to the Department of Infrastructure Permanent Secretary; to implement administrative changes, allowing the acceptance of electronic insurance certificates or cover notes, at all Northern Ireland Post Offices for car taxation purposes".*

During discussion Members recognised for some people it was a simple process to present the relevant documents when they get a new car, however, for elderly people, vulnerable and people in need of support, this practice could be quite restrictive.

Council asks that car taxation services become more aligned with those of Great Britain and that administrative changes are implemented to allow the acceptance of electronic insurance certificates or cover notes at all Northern Ireland Post Offices for car taxation purposes.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

**Marie Ward**  
**Chief Executive**

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	10 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Place 10X – sub regional approach call for evidence – ANDBC Response’
Attachments	Appendix 1 - ANDBC Draft Response

**Background**

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is responsible for the economy across Northern Ireland and the 10X Vision is the Department’s plan to create a pathway to transform the entire economy innovatively, inclusively, and sustainably at a regional level. This is a long-term plan where Northern Ireland will become one of the top performing small, advanced economies in the world. With 10X driving ambition at the macro level, and councils leading economic development at a local level in partnership with statutory partners such as Invest NI, there is a need to consider the sub-regional focus and how the three levels link together. This is where Place10X comes in and is why DfE is asking for input to develop this approach.

The Call for Evidence opened in June 2023 and DfE will be working over the coming months to develop a body of information which will inform policy makers and a future Minister for Department for the Economy of what central intervention and support is needed or wanted.

Appendix 1 is the proposed response from Ards and North Down Borough Council. Officers will continue to liaise with Departmental officials to further influence and inform implementation of interventions and policy going forward.

The Call for Evidence consultation can be accessed through the link below:  
[PLACE 10X - A Sub-regional economic approach \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://economy-ni.gov.uk/PLACE-10X-A-Sub-regional-economic-approach)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approves the response set out in this report and it's submission to the Department for the Economy through the Call for Evidence document.



## Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence

### 1 – What is the problem we are trying to solve?

a. Firstly, there is a Departmental macro regional approach (10X) and there are local government approaches but no defined DfE sub-regional approach and no strategic link between those three levels. Is there a need for a sub-regional level?

The 10X Vision is clear that place based thinking should be applied to the programme of work DfE is involved in. This holistic approach is important to ensure that everyone in society can avail of the economic opportunities 10X will bring.

Taking this as a starting point, an initial analysis of sub-regional disparities was undertaken to create a snapshot (see Annex A) based on the geographic model of the four City and Growth Deal (CGD) regions. The CGD regions were chosen here as sub-regionally representative to provide an illustrative evidence base. The metrics showed disparities existed and a further snapshot of metrics at council area level revealed differences within the CGD regions. Even within areas that are doing relatively well there appear to be variations of economic prosperity.

While this isn't comprehensive, and it doesn't dig deeply into the factors behind the metrics, it does point to the need to at least consider there are disparities. Many of these areas will continue to show disparities unless we change our approach – the status quo has not worked to date. There is also the chance to maximise opportunities in areas that are performing better and to examine if central government support can accelerate growth. It highlights there is a challenge for the Department to consider.

#### General Comment

**There is currently often a disconnect between Departmental regional approach and what is required at a local level so, we welcome any consideration being given to place-based planning. As the events of recent years have demonstrated much more can be achieved when strategies, actions and delivery mechanisms are aligned, not only from a cost point of view, but also from a sense of cohesion to achieve agreed common outcomes for wider economic benefit.**

#### 1a. SUGGESTED RESPONSE

**The Department has included data based on the City and Growth Deal regions chosen as sub-regionally representative, although does acknowledge that there are disparities when looking at local council areas.**

**The data sets provided provides valuable detail on measures of success and indicators which are useful as a benchmark; however, account needs to be taken of infrastructure available or that needs to be planned for, to support achievement of these.**

## Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence

Sub-regions, while they can demonstrate commonalities in many areas, also have varied, unique characteristics and requirements at local level. Even within a sub-region and especially one that encompasses the capital of Northern Ireland, consideration would need to be taken to ensure that any policy and subsequent plans can be flexible enough to accommodate local needs and not just the totality of the region.

The City Deal has provided opportunity at various local levels under the various pillars; however, as the main academic institutions, major employers and population are centred in the city, regional or sub regional approaches do not always offer a well-targeted fit, or truly inclusive approach, to match the regional council profiles.

b. Further, if the Department has a role to play at a sub-regional level, does it then follow there is a role at council area? What could this be given the role and remit of local government? Should DfE be involved only sub-regionally initially leaving the local space to councils, business, academia, and communities?

The metrics point to the need for more joined up thinking across the public sector given the range of issues and the levels of government involved. Adopting a sub-regional approach and linking this to 10X and local council area plans would appear to be a sensible course of action. It could remove silos, maximise limited resources, enable delivery bodies to pivot and realign to more targeted programmes, and it brings a greater range of expertise to bear. Given the scale of this issue, it makes sense for DfE to play a central role at sub-regional level. The Department has a range of drivers and influence that can support and supplement other stakeholders to remove or lessen disparities.

This doesn't mean always taking the lead or being the decision maker but can be a role acting as a co-ordinator between a range of partners. The Department has a range of Arm's Length Bodies (ALB) such as Invest NI and Tourism NI that can play an important function here too. ALBs are already embedded in sub-regional and local level work streams, have inputted to local development plans, and have a wealth of experience at working within the unique characteristics of a place. Their knowledge will be essential in landscape mapping now, and in horizon scanning going forward.

At local level any work must be undertaken in partnership with those already acting in those places. There is even an argument that DfE should never be in the lead, but how this may manifest itself is discussed alongside geographic considerations below.

### 1b. SUGGESTED RESPONSE

**Any sub-regional approach should ensure that it would not simply introduce another layer of bureaucracy, reporting structures which councils would be expected to deliver and report against without any additional transferred authority, flexibility or resources: financial and human.**

## **Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence**

**We would encourage the Department to truly engage and to work through the Community Planning Mechanisms by the Department and not solely through Arm's Length Bodies. Consideration should be given to how the gap can be further bridged to encourage and support the creation of new, and the growth of existing, SMEs within the sectors that can make a difference and support the aspirations of the 10X Strategy. The remit of bodies such as Invest NI provides part of the pathway required but there are gaps in provision and approach so we would suggest that any role should serve to address these. There is often a gap in understanding of the importance of localised economies and the nuances that exist. ALBs and organisations operating regionally need to have greater flexibility in using local data and insight to adopt greater flexibility to enable them to adapt their regional approach to meet localised needs.**

**While we support the outcomes for all our people, the areas of focus of 10X do not present an easy match with the business profile and demographics of Ards and North Down. Any role therefore that the Department would play sub-regionally needs to take cognisance of this and work to co-design to remove silos, optimise resources and create more joined up and clearer pathways which are resourced.**

**Councils already provide a range of support in sub-regional economic development and play a key role across a number of areas but there needs to be more alignment between departments and how they work with councils to be able to deliver impact at a local level.**

### **2 – What geographic areas should Place10X cover?**

There are three possible strands to a geographic approach:

- sub-regional;
- local; and
- custom focused

With 10X as the macro regional NI approach, a local level approach could be appropriately classed as a council area. In turn sub-regional would then be anything aggregating council areas together. A custom focus, such as cross-border initiatives like the North-West Strategic Growth Partnership and the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor can be supported or a more localised approach could be developed based on need.

The City & Growth Deals (CGD) Programme has established good relationships between DfE, local government, universities, and other government departments. Invest NI and Tourism NI act as investment decision makers for new project proposals giving them an insight to sub-regional needs and they will already be applying a place based approach when considering CGD business cases. DfE and

## **Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence**

its delivery partners are already considering how resources can be reprioritised to maximise the Deal projects' potential; taking a consistent approach beyond the programme for this purpose would therefore be reasonable. It would appear to be the most appropriate starting sub-regional model for Place10X.

While some place interventions need to be at CGD project size, given the scale requirements, some must be at a more granular level due to the challenge they are tackling or that they are not able to be delivered through a City & Growth Deal project. These are the local level interventions.

With councils in the lead of local economic development and with statistical data often collected at this level, it makes sense that council areas are considered as the 'local level' in terms of Place10X. While some place interventions may need to occur at ward level or lower, developing metrics and indicators could prove difficult. Given that the macro level is directed by central government and that the CGD sub-regional level is a partnership of central and local government, it follows that local area place interventions should be designed and led by that community – whether local government, or community and third sector, or business groups – not DfE. There is a space for the Department to support and monitor actions that will aggregate towards achieving 10X goals and this should be explored with local government.

Regardless of lead, these levels are interlinked and can be complementary, allowing both top-down and bottom-up design to tackle the same issue.

### **2. SUGGESTED RESPONSE**

**City & Growth Deals have provided a good mechanism for collaboration wider than council boundaries and with varied stakeholder groups which contribute to future economic growth. This is important for sharing of information, data and optimising structures as appropriate to support higher growth aspirations.**

**We do not think that a single approach will meet all needs – many place-focused interventions will need to be localised to have any meaningful impact while others may benefit from a sub-regional approach. The Department should take a flexible approach in order to translate macro level policy into interventions which meet local needs or sub-regions as appropriate. In any approach cognisance should also be given to the Councils' Local Development Plans and strategic actions aligned as required.**

### **3 – What is expected of delivery partners?**

If DfE can use the evidence base to further identify sub-regional disparities, and policy teams are able to apply a place based lens to realign objectives and prioritise localised interventions, programme delivery partners – such as Invest NI – could then direct focused support to tackle those disparities at that level. With regional

## **Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence**

offices established, Invest NI is well placed to support Place10X. Discussions are already underway to consider how this could operate.

There is also the potential to work with other NICS departments, such as through the Department for Communities and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs led Test and Learn project. Universities, as CGD partners, could not only support actions and interventions directly, but could also support the development of policy and a metrics dataset using their academic expertise.

Local councils can play a key role in working with the Department to align their priorities with DfE's macro level indicators for success. There are also partnership opportunities if one or more councils have the same issue that the sub-regional work streams are not dealing with.

### **3. SUGGESTED RESPONSE**

**In regard to the statement that: “...*Councils can a key role in working with the Department to align their priorities with DfE’s macro level indicators for success...*”, this simply reflects how councils currently work as they consistently plan and as far as possible align their actions to regional strategies. What seems to be missing from this section is how the Department will seek to better understand what needs to be done at a local level to tackle disparities and align objectives and interventions which can help to effect change and in turn drive the change and aspirations at a macro level.**

**Councils are aware of the disparities and challenges they often face in supporting policy delivery at local level and consistently work with bodies such as Invest NI to address these, where possible. However, there needs to be more flexibility and better resource applied for wider collaboration and a true desire for more integration of approach and not simply having a seat on Community Planning structures. It can appear that councils are ready to respond to challenges but that flexibility and capacity from Departments/ALBs to change how they work with Councils is limited.**

**To have true impact the Department needs to consider how all relevant public bodies can better align budgets and resources and work towards a true co-design approach. It would not be helpful if any sub-regional approach were to simply add another layer of reporting rather than having the potential to add real value.**

**It is unclear from the call for evidence whether there is an opportunity for the Department to work with councils in a similar way to how councils co-operate directly with the Department for Communities, for example, or whether further powers/authority/resource can be delegated to councils, all of which would be welcome.**

## Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence

### 4 – What interventions could occur?

Interventions can take a range of forms – from policy and legislative changes to enable greater focus on disparities and inequalities or to remove barriers to success, to funded programme interventions that are targeted rather than rolled out at regional level as may occur at present.

Even before establishing any of these, launching a Place10X policy, building a place based dataset, embedding the concept in DfE and its ALBs, and forming a network of stakeholders committed to this approach would be a step change.

A collaboratively produced delivery plan setting out the way forward should capture not only DfE interventions but those at local government level, and associated actions of other NICS place projects with some economic benefit.

It is important that all partners have a say in the prioritisation of interventions.

### 4. SUGGESTED RESPONSE

**The initial reaction to this section is that this is what Community Planning was set up to do so, therefore is this indicating that this is the preferred route and, as such, the same thing or is it being suggested that there needs to be another approach sub-regionally which could potentially have targeted funded programme interventions, in which case this would be welcomed?**

**Community Planning has struggled to fully engage all the partners needed to make a real difference. Interventions on poverty and economic inequalities, alongside work on the Labour Market Partnership, have identified regional policy that is a barrier to achieving our ultimate outcomes. Improved acknowledgement of departmental and statutory partner responsibility, along with better resources, may help improve the impact of Community Planning Partnerships.**

**There are currently multi layers and approaches in how councils work with government departments, so we welcome any consistent and shared approach with the Department for place-based economic development. This however would also need to extend beyond this Department to have any meaningful impact.**

**The challenge will be on departmental resourcing and ensuring that any *collaboratively produced delivery plan* would not duplicate other plans and ongoing interventions.**

**Datasets and a true understanding of the profile of both local and subregions will be key to unlocking the real and actual potential of each to achieve the ambitions of 10X and to understand what can or needs to be done.**

## Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence

### 5 – What are the indicators of success?

10X metrics and indicators of success will inform those considered to measure Place10X. However, the Place10X dataset must be bespoke to meet the unique challenges that apply sub-regionally and locally. It should also be flexible to monitor emerging challenges and priorities.

We recognise that each place is unique with its own strengths and needs and that the realities of people's lives are best captured at a local and community level. We need to map out disparities and strengths at a local level as well as sub-regionally. Your evidence will help us to build up a unique picture.

To be successful we need strong evidence to provide a collective, evidence applied approach to developing robust metrics. The evidence we gather and the deeper analysis we complete will provide us with a strong foundation on which to add value. Robust evidence informed policy making will lead to sustainable and lasting place based interventions.

It will also highlight gaps in our knowledge and will be a reference point on which we can commission research.

Suggested metrics to map out an area should be comparative across geographic areas and initially based on data that is readily available.

Council level data is already collected across a wide range of topics, and this would be a focus to begin with. This does not discount other geographic information gathering such as education statistics or information from other sources but is to be seen as a starting point for discussion. If data can be produced at council area it can be aggregated up for sub-regional purposes. Similarly, some macro level data cannot be disaggregated. Your evidence and thoughts will be key in deciding which are the best indicators to use for measuring growth and success.

Below are a range of proposed themes for metrics that could provide a holistic view of Place 10X supported change at a local level:

- Population and its makeup;
- Breakdown of industry;
- Entrepreneurship and Business Growth;
- Labour Market;
- Skills & Qualifications;
- Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Equality; and
- Innovation

This list is not definitive and had been created to start discussion; further detail is provided at Annex B.

There will need to be a project undertaken to link local and sub-regional indicators to 10X metrics to ensure value of Place10X interventions can be analysed alongside macro strategic initiatives.

## **Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence**

There is a need to consider if a toolkit is required within DfE to monitor how policy and programme proposals consider Place10X. Existing tools such as the various impact assessments could be utilised to avoid creating a layer of bureaucracy that becomes a barrier to success. This work will be taken forward internally.

### **5. SUGGESTED RESPONSE**

**We would agree overall with the themes highlighted as metrics; however, the makeup/profile of each area needs to be considered as it's not always possible to benchmark and compare against different demographics, business base etc. to realise the one outcome.**

**In order to ensure that the right intervention measures can be created for a place-based approach, we would also like to see a feed to data at the local level to include, under Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Equality, access to services such as high speed broadband, reliable transport links and under Labour Market, consideration given to underrepresented groups such as women, those with disability who can/would like to enter employment etc.**

**We would support the need for a project to be undertaken to link local and sub-regional indicators to 10X metrics as at present there is some disconnect, and pathways unclear as to how 10X aspirations can be delivered and translated at a sub-regional and local level.**

**The work of Community Planning, Labour Market Partnerships etc. has developed good intelligence and data but more work needs to be done to understand how this can align or be used as a base to impact on place. All parties involved in taking an evidence based approach need to jointly agree the data that is important and how it can be collected and used.**

### **6 – Is the Department's definition of Place and use of Place 10X correct?**

We know the concept of place is wider than just the DfE remit and there is a need to ensure that Place10X works alongside other departmental and local government interpretations of what place in an economic context is, but an initial working definition is proposed:

**Place 10X:** locally designed interventions to deliver innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. Building on the existing strengths of a place to unlock potential, to empower communities, and to tackle sub-regional and local inequality.

This is not intended to be proscriptive or for others to have to adopt. This is to separate the DfE place role from that of other departments and to create a focus in establishing a sub-regional and local level response in tackling disparities.



## **Appendix 1: ANDBC Response to Place 10X Call for Evidence**

### **6. SUGGESTED RESPONSE**

**We understand that DfE is clear that its role and that of the other departments needs to be clear and we welcome the approach that the concept of place is wider than the DfE remit; but it calls for a willingness not only to delineate roles but to build and create a flexibility to ensure that a place-based approach can truly deliver across remits and be able to tackle inequalities and disparities at both sub-regional and local levels. This may require a varied approach at times and the need to flex and collaborate in different ways in order to meet and respond to the challenges and opportunities.**

**The key will be how pathways will be established to allow locally designed interventions to deliver innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth while working in tandem with regional policy.**

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	04 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Project 24 - Site Clearance/Infrastructure
Attachments	None

**Background**

Project 24 was a temporary revitalisation project located on Queen's Parade, Bangor funded by the Department for Communities. It utilised 12 bespoke artist pods. The area around the pods was landscaped with seating, a community garden, and an event space called 'The Hub'.

The project opened to the public in April 2013, bringing vibrancy and interest to this city centre location. Initially, the project was proposed for a 2-year period, however, due to its success and the pending Queen's Parade development it was extended.

**Site Permissions**

Project 24 closed to the public in March 2023, following 10 successful years. Planning consent for the site expired on the 24 April 2023 and for The Hub on the 30 June 2023. Site clearance commenced in April 2023 and has now been completed.

As Members will be aware the Project 24 site is owned by the Department for Communities. A handover meeting with Departmental officials and Council officers took place on the 14 June 2023. This was followed with written confirmation notifying

that the Council no longer had a requirement for the site and that full responsibility and liability reverted back to the Department as of Thursday 22 June 2023.

### **Project 24 Infrastructure**

A condition of the Contract for Funding for the project was to ensure the infrastructure within Project 24 was reclaimable, and where possible, to ensure its future use for a regeneration and/or economic benefit within the Borough. The infrastructure that is deemed reclaimable consists of:

- 12 shipping containers (the pods)
- 1 event space structure (the hub)
- 4 picnic benches
- 4 wooden benches
- 3 large architecturally structured trees

The Council's Assets and Property Section has confirmed the 4 picnic benches and 4 wooden benches will be relocated within the Borough. The 3 large architecturally structured trees have been replanted at Ballymenoch Park.

A high volume of requests has been received from external groups, organisations, businesses and members of the public with an interest in acquiring the Project 24 pods.

An internal meeting took place with officers from a variety of departments across the Council to enquire if the pods and/or the hub could be utilised by Council for projects located within the Borough that demonstrate a regeneration and/or economic benefit. This proved positive and was followed up by an Expression of Interest with the following conditions applied:

All proposed projects must

- be located within the Ards and North Down Borough,
- demonstrate a regeneration and/or economic benefit and that a management plan is proposed for their use,
- ensure funding/budget is in place or will be applied for and
- ensure all statutory approvals are in place or will be applied for

This process and was agreed with DfC.

Five responses were received, assessed, and approved (subject to additional information being provided).

**1. Kerbside Textile Recycling Scheme, Waste Transfer Station | Lead department: Environment**

1no container  
Textile recycling collection point.  
*Subject to planning consent*

**2. Loughview Shelter, Loughview Cemetery | Lead department: Parks and Cemeteries**

1no container

Weather protected space for bereaved members of the public with vending opportunities.

*Subject to planning consent*

**3. AND In Bloom/ STAND4Trees/ AND Biodiversity, Various locations within Borough | Lead department: Parks and Cemeteries**

3no containers

Education and awareness units with vending opportunities.

*Subject to planning consents and further information re operating model.*

**4. Greenways Networks, Various locations within Borough | Lead department: Community and Wellbeing**

3no containers

Service/repair stations and vending opportunities.

*Subject to planning consents, budget, and further information re operating model.*

**5. Cycle Park, Sportsplex, Bangor\* | Lead department: Leisure**

4no containers and event space structure

Cycle workshops, cycle education, cycle maintenance, events, and vending opportunities.

*\*Project subject to PeacePlus funding approval*

Each of the proposed projects demonstrates regeneration and/or economic benefits, with several additional benefits outlined (community, environment, sustainability and revenue/income).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council agrees the report to proceed to allocate the containers and event space as detailed.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	05 July 2023
File Reference	RDP56
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Request for Letter of Support from Kings Church
Attachments	1. Letter dated 3 July 2023 from Chair of Trustees 2. Draft Letter of Support

As Members are aware, the Council has ambitious plans for Bangor Waterfront as part of the Belfast Region City Deal. A letter has been received from the Trustees of Kings Church Bangor, which sits along the 2 mile stretch of Bangor Waterfront, advising of their plans to renovate the Kings Church building and explore ways that this facility could be used to benefit the community in future years (see Appendix 1).

As outlined in their letter, Kings Church has already opened their doors to a range of community activities, but they are keen to use the building to do more to support the vision of regeneration within Bangor Waterfront. The Director of Place met with the trustees recently who outlined their intention to improve accessibility, hospitality facilities and the frontage of the building. The vision they outlined for the project would complement the Council's own plans.

The Church is currently applying for grants to refurbish the building, particularly to ensure that it is fully accessible and is requesting a letter of support from the Council to be used when submitting applications to Charitable Trusts for grant funding. They are not seeking funding from Council. Draft letter of support provided in Appendix 2.

Unclassified

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approves the provision of a letter of support to Kings Church for use when submitting grant applications.



3rd July 2023

To: Ards and North Down Borough Council  
Ref: Kings Church Bangor

Dear Council

My wife and I met with Susie McCullough on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. We wanted to inform the Council of our plans to renovate Kings Church building and to explore ways that our facility could be used to benefit the community in the years ahead.

We have owned our building, which used to be a dance hall, for around 40 years. We have sought to maximise usage of the building for community purposes. Some current examples include: Friends - an inclusive group for adults with intellectual disabilities and able bodied; Create Space - an opportunity for people to come together to participate in art and craft, practice music, play games and chat. Around 30 people attend each week, including some of our local asylum seekers; Kids & Co - our large parent and toddler group has over 70 attending each week. This year we launched a Community Choir. We hold regular family fun events and an annual local makers' market. The School of Irish Dancing uses the building twice a week for dance classes and also for festivals (our main hall has a sprung dance floor). We have opportunities to further develop what we already do and also to launch more initiatives to benefit people who live locally.

However, we are currently limited in what we can do due to the state of the building. It badly needs refurbished with improved accessibility and hospitality facilities, and more attractive exterior. We recently launched a building renovation project to address these needs. This will include provision of an outside ramp and internal lift, repairing the roof, improving the heating, lighting, kitchens, toilets and external appearance. We also plan to modify the front office area to provide a community space. We have launched a building project to enable this work. A project board has been established and plans developed. Church members are giving generously towards the project. As part of our fundraising strategy we plan to approach charitable trusts for support.

With the plans being made for the regeneration of the seafront we want to be able to play our part in making Bangor a better place not only for residents but also for visitors. We are actively in discussion with others as to how our hall could be used by local groups and for events once we have refurbished it.

We would like to ask the Council to consider providing a letter of support for the project that we could use when making applications to charitable trusts.  
Thank you for considering this request.

Kind regards

Peter Johnston  
Chair of Trustees

RDP56

XX August 2023

Mr Peter Johnston  
Chair of Trustees  
Kings Church Bangor  
196 Seacliff Road  
Bangor  
BT20 5HA

[office@kingschurchbangor.org](mailto:office@kingschurchbangor.org)

Dear Mr Johnston

Thank you for your letter dated 3 July 2023 seeking a letter of support from Council for your project to renovate the Kings Church Building. This request was considered at a meeting of the Council held on 26 July 2023.

Council was delighted to learn of your intentions to refurbish your building with improved accessibility, hospitality facilities and frontage to maximise the usage of the building for community purposes. This would greatly complement the Council's own ambitious plans to regenerate a two-mile stretch of the Bangor Waterfront as part of the Belfast Region City Deal with the aim of bringing additional footfall, economic, community and environmental benefits to the area.

I am pleased to confirm that the Council is fully supportive of this project and wish you every success in your applications for funding to bring this to fruition.

Yours sincerely

**STEPHEN REID**  
Chief Executive



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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Corporate Services
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	10 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Letter from NILGA Chief Executive
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Letter from NILGA Chief Executive

The Council have received a letter from the Chief Executive of NILGA, Alison Allen. The letter makes two requests which can be summarised as follows (full letter attached for reference):

1. That at the early stages of the new Council term, if time could be set aside for the political leadership of NILGA, supported by the Chief Executive, to engage with Elected Members. The engagement would focus on NILGA's purpose and strategic direction, as articulated in the new Corporate Plan 2023-2027; and
2. That consideration be given to securing political agreement for the NILGA annual subscription for the 4-year local government term, rather than returning to the discussion annually.

If Council was to agree to the request at point 1 above, Officers would request a deputation from NILGA at the next meeting of Council in August.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note this report and:

1. Considers inviting NILGA to make a deputation at the Council meeting in August; and

2. Considers the request from NILGA to make a commitment to the NILGA subscription for the 4-year local government term, rather than an annual commitment.

Mr Stephen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
Town Hall  
The Castle  
BANGOR  
BT20 4BT

17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Stephen,

NILGA is currently working on a plan detailing the key activities our organisation needs to undertake in preparation for the 2023 – 2027 local government term and I will ensure the final document is shared with you when it is approved by the NILGA Executive in December 2022.

I know you will be undertaking the same planning in your Council and that the pre and post local government election period is a very busy time for you.

I thought it would be helpful to write early about a couple of items that have come up in our planning discussions with NILGA Members in the hope these can be factored into your plans now.

- **Early engagement with your Council after the local government election** – NILGA is very aware that our work is led by our 11 Member Councils as represented by those appointed by your Council to NILGA. However, in recent months there has been much discussion in NILGA about the significant number of Elected Members who have no direct involvement in NILGA and the possibility of a number of Elected Members coming into local government for the first time in May 2023. NILGA would therefore appreciate it, if time could be set aside at a very early meeting of your Full Council in the new term, for the political leadership of NILGA, supported by me as Chief Executive to engage with your Elected Members.

The engagement would focus on NILGA's purpose and strategic direction, as articulated in our new Corporate Plan 2023-2027. The new Corporate Plan will be developed in partnership with Councils in the coming months for endorsement by the new political leadership of NILGA post May 2023.

- **NILGA subscriptions** – As you know, we are very reliant on the subscriptions paid annually by your Council for membership of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and those subscriptions are put to use in our work on your behalf. NILGA is also a membership organisation only for the 11 NI Councils and the NILGA political membership is appointed for the same 4 year local government term as Councils. In recognition of this, many Councils budget and secure political agreement for the annual subscription for the 4 year local government term, rather than returning to the discussion annually.

It would be appreciated if this approach could be considered for all Councils, obviously subject to annual satisfactory performance by NILGA. This is of course without prejudice to

**Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: [office@nilga.org](mailto:office@nilga.org) web: [www.nilga.org](http://www.nilga.org) twitter: @NI\_LGA

clause 5 of the current NILGA constitution which states that any Council wishing to withdraw from NILGA, is required to give at least one full year's notice of its intention to do so, including consideration of associated liabilities. Additionally, NILGA Members (also being Council Elected Members) are very aware of the current financial pressures on Councils and always consider that when setting the subscription rate.

Your consideration of the above would be appreciated and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything further you need.

Kind Regards,



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**Alison Allen**  
**Chief Executive**

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Corporate Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Administration
Date of Report	11 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	In Confidence Classification of Reports
Attachments	

**Background**

Ahead of the new Council term, Officers endeavoured to update the list of 'report classifications' in the report template to align the list more closely with the descriptions of exempt information contained in the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (Schedule 6, Part 1). These are:

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the council.
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the council proposes— (a) to give under any statutory provision a notice by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any statutory provision.

7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Historically, the Council's 'in confidence' report classifications were as follows:

- Legal In Confidence
- Commercial in Confidence
- Staff in Confidence

It was considered that these did not accurately and fully represent the list detailed in the 2014 Act. In order to uphold the Council's commitment to transparency of information to the public, the classifications were updated as follows:

1. Exemption: relating to an individual
2. Exemption: likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Exemption: relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
4. Exemption: consultations or negotiations
5. Exemption: a claim to legal professional privilege
- 6.a. Exemption: statutory provision
- 6.b. Exemption: order or direction under any statutory provision
7. Exemption: prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime

A new report template was devised and has been in use following the Annual Meeting on 7 June 2023.

#### **Determining whether an item is 'In Committee'**

Schedule 6, para 9 of the 2014 Act states that it is, '*exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information*'. Report classifications are recommended to the Council by Senior Officers. It is the role of the Chair in the meeting, before taking such items, to seek a proposer and seconder to go into Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the updated list of report classifications for items taken 'In Committee'.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	10 July 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Letter of Support for the Regeneration of former Danske Bank Funding Application
Attachments	Appendix 1 - ANDBC Letter of Support

Members may be aware that in 2021/2022 Kilcooley Women's Centre (KWC) acquired the former Danske Bank, Main Steet Bangor. Since then, the organisation has been investigating sources of funding which will assist to revitalise the building and support a programme of interventions, attract more footfall into the centre of Bangor and create a multi-function building to deliver for both the business and wider community.

At the beginning of July 2023 an opportunity arose to apply for funding within a very short window, under the Shared Prosperity Community Ownership Fund, with a closing date of 12 July. The Chief Executive of KWC contacted the Head of Economic Development seeking a letter of support for this application, which will also help to leverage further funding from sources such as, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Biffa Awards.

Due to the short turnaround, there was not enough time to take a request for support to Council before the end of July so, retrospective approval is now sought for the Letter of Support issued to support the KWC funding application which will benefit

the regeneration of one of the key buildings within the City Centre. The Letter of Support is attached in Appendix 1.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council provides retrospective approval for the letter of Support for KWC's funding application for the regeneration of the former Danske Bank building.



7 July 2023

Alison Blayney  
Kilcooley Women's Centre  
2-4 Balloo Ave  
Bangor  
BT19 7QT

**RE: Regeneration of former Danske Bank**

Dear Alison

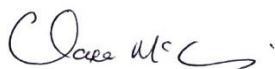
As the Head of Economic Development, I was very pleased to learn of Kilcooley Women's Centre's (KWC) plans to repurpose and develop the former Danske Bank site at 77 Main Street, Bangor, which has been vacant for some time. I am aware that the building has been placed on the 'Heritage at Risk' list by the Department of Communities Historic Environment Division, and we are keen to assist and support the Women's Centre's reversal of this designation, through the refurbishment and innovative programmes it delivers to the community.

This type of multi-function building, open to the community and businesses will not only bring footfall to the Main Street and City Centre but will be a valuable contribution to the regeneration of Bangor.

As you are aware, Ards and North Down Borough Council is currently working on and supporting projects to redevelop and transform Bangor waterfront and the surrounding area. Your project will enhance and complement all efforts being made to revitalise and renew the City Centre and we would support your application, as the repurposing of this key City Centre asset will be of benefit to the wider Bangor community.

If we can help with any aspect of this application, please do not hesitate to contact me. We hope and look forward to your application being successful and to work being able to start the building's transformation as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Clare McGill  
Head of Economic Development



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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	17 July 2023
File Reference	RDP28 & RDP208
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Levelling Up Funding towards Business Case for Whitespots Gateway Project
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Ltr of 12.7.23 from DLUHC

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has written to advise the Council that a Capacity and Capability Grant payment of £70,000 has been made to Ards and North Down Borough Council for the 2023-24 year, (Appendix 1).

Members will be aware that Council previously received an allocation of £220,000 from DLUHC to ensure the successful delivery of our Levelling Up Projects. Council agreed in March to allocate this funding to two posts, to be permanently filled, in the Capital Project Unit.

Council previously approved the Masterplan for Whitespots Country Park, and Members will also be aware that Council successfully secured £7.4m from the Complementary Fund to support the delivery of Phase 1 and are in the process of appointing the Integrated Consultancy Team to further develop the masterplan and associated planning application.

The wider vision for Whitespots includes a new Gateway Centre, incorporating visitor facilities and interpretation for the site including its mining heritage, environment and

world war heritage, the Somme Museum and potential wider military heritage. Council had hoped to have applied to funding streams such as Peace Plus measure 4.1 (Reimagining Communities) for the delivery of the Whitespots Gateway Project. However as reported to June's Community and Wellbeing Committee, due to the funder's timescales and other requirements, Council was not in a position to submit an application. Members were advised in June that there may be future funding opportunities but that an Outline Business Case would be required to assist in submitting a funding application, with the project having achieved planning approval, or have a detailed timeline to achieve planning.

In order to move towards having a 'shovel ready' project for future potential funding streams, it is therefore requested that Council agrees to allocating the recently received £70,000 DLUHC funding towards the development of a Business Case for the Whitespots Gateway Project.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is Recommended that Council agrees:

To allocate the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Capacity and Capability Grant payment of £70,000 to the development of an Outline Business Case for the Whitespots Gateway Project.



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities**

4th Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

[www.gov.uk/dluhc](http://www.gov.uk/dluhc)

Stephen Reid  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

stephen.reid@northdownandards.gov.uk

12 July 2023

Dear Stephen Reid,

**Levelling Up Fund: Local Growth Capacity Support Payment 2023-24**

I am writing to inform you that, as a grant recipient of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), you are eligible to receive a Capacity and Capability grant payment for the 2023-24 financial year. This payment is being provided to help mitigate any immediate delivery issues you may be encountering in delivering your LUF-funded projects.

The aim of this grant is to enable you make continued improvements in your capacity to accelerate and unblock the delivery of your LUF project(s). For example, you may wish to utilise the funding to either fund delivery staff directly or secure delivery consultants to accelerate delivery.

A Capacity and Capability grant payment of £70000 will be made by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to Ards and North Down Borough Council on or around 14 July 2023.

I am copying this letter to your Section 151/73 Officer and DLUHC Area Lead.

Yours Sincerely,

Johanna Howarth

Deputy Director Funding Delivery

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regulatory Services
Date of Report	17 July 2023
File Reference	LR PCL / 90101
Legislation	Licensing of Pavement Cafés 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	Grant of Pavement Café Licenses
Attachments	None

The following applications have been received for the grant of a Pavement Café Licence:

**1. Nobel Restaurant, 27 Church Road, Holywood**

**Applicant:** Mr Saul McConnell, 35 Piney Lane, Belfast

**Day and hours of use:**

Thursday - Saturday 12:00 – 23:00  
Sunday 13:00 – 20:00

**2. Giuseppe's Italian Pizzeria, 33 Frances Street, Newtownards**

**Applicant:** Mr William Cariaga Medina, 35 Manse Gate, Newtownards

**Day and hours of use:**

Monday - Saturday 10:00 – 23:00

**3. Millars Fish & Chips, 117 High Street, Bangor**

**Applicant:** Mr Stuart Millar, 39 Tullynagardy Road, Newtownards

**Day and hours of use:**

Monday - Tuesday 12:00 – 21:00

Wednesday – Saturday 11:30 – 21:00

**4. Boardwalk Social, 6-8 Quay Street, Bangor**

**Applicant:** Mr Stephen Mackie, 14 Stonebridge Drive, Bangor

**Day and hours of use:**

Monday - Sunday 09:00 – 17:00

**5. The Parlour Bar, 4 Castle Place, Newtownards**

**Applicant:** Mr John Clarke, 36 Ballycrochan Road, Bangor

**Day and hours of use:**

Monday - Saturday 11:00 – 23:00

Sunday 12:30 – 22:00

**6. Little Wing, 37-39 Main Street, Bangor**

**Applicant:** Mr Jamie Mendez, 3 Hill Street Belfast

**Day and hours of use:**

Monday - Sunday 11:00 – 22:00

**Comment**

The applications have been publicly displayed on the relevant premises for 28 days as required in the legislation. No objections have been received.

DFI Roads and the Planning Service have been consulted and where necessary the PSNI. No objections have been raised to these applications.

Under the agreed conditions of licence, the pavement cafes will be required to:

- only use the agreed area to be outlined in the licence,
- provide only the approved furniture,
- completely remove any furniture from the pavement at the end of each day's trading
- keep the area used for the café to be kept clean of litter and liquid spills.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that that the Council grants the above licences.



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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regulatory Services
Date of Report	17 July 2023
File Reference	LR 100 / 90101
Legislation	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Grant of Entertainment Licences
Attachments	None

Applications been received for the grant of entertainment licenses as follows. The PSNI and NIFRS have been consulted and there are no objections.

**Newtownards Orange Hall, Mary Street, Newtownards BT23 4DG**

**Applicant:** David Lowry, William Street, Newtownards

**Days and Hours:**

Thursday and Friday between the hours of 18.00 and 23.00 hrs

Saturday between the hours of 14.00 and 23.00 hrs

**Type of entertainment:** Theatrical performances, indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind; equipment for playing snooker or similar games.

Unclassified

Environmental Health has recommended that to reduce noise disturbance to neighbouring premises the windows and doors should be maintained closed during entertainment.

**The Parlour Bar, 4 Castle Place, Newtownards BT23 7JF**

**Applicant:** John Clarke, 36 Ballycrochan Road, Bangor

**Days and Hours:** Monday to Sunday during the permitted hours when alcohol may be served on these premises under the Licensing (NI) Order 1996

**Type of entertainment:** Indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind; machines for entertainment and amusement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council grants the applications as indicated.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regulatory Services
Date of Report	21 June 2023
File Reference	FP/2022/2005/MAST / 91200
Legislation	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Proposed Street Naming – Ballymenoch Demesne, Holywood
Attachments	None

A small development comprising of 6 dwellings is currently under construction on lands adjacent to 32 Ballymenoch Road, Holywood.

The developer has suggested the name Ballymenoch Demesne as the site lies on the boundary of The Ballymenoch Demesne and is in keeping with the general neighbourhood.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council adopts the street name of Ballymenoch Demesne for this development and that the Council accepts the general name and delegate acceptance of suffixes to the Building Control department.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regulatory Services
Date of Report	19 June 2023
File Reference	FP/2023/0907/MAST and FP/2023/3141/MAST / 91200
Legislation	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Proposed Street Naming – Oak Meadow Avenue, Oak Meadow Close, Oak Meadow Walk, Oak Meadow Way, Newtownards
Attachments	None

A large development comprising of 450 dwellings is currently under construction on the Bangor Road, Newtownards. Phase 1 has now commenced with 75 planned dwellings being built.

The developer has suggested the name for the overall site as Oak Meadow, and the suffixes will be added as Oak Meadow Avenue, Oak Meadow Close, Oak Meadow Avenue Walk, Oak Meadow Way. The developer has stated that they will plant native Irish trees and is in keeping with the general neighbourhood

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council adopts the street names of Oak Meadow Avenue, Oak Meadow Close, Oak Meadow Walk, Oak Meadow Way, Newtownards for this development and that the Council accepts the general name and delegate acceptance of suffixes to the Building Control department.

**ITEM 22****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting	26 July 2023
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	19 July 2023
File Reference	CG 12172
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notice of Motion
Attachments	Notice of Motion Status Report

Please find attached a Status Report in respect of Notices of Motion.

This is a standing item on the Council agenda each month and its aim is to keep Members updated on the outcome of motions. Please note that as each motion is dealt with it will be removed from the report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council notes the report.

NOM REF	DATE RECEIVED	NOTICE	SUBMITTED BY	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE WHERE NOM DEBATED	MONTH IT WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO COMMITTEE	OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
	31/05/15	Permanent recognition of Rory McIlroy in Holywood	Councillor Muir	Jun-15	Corporate Services Committee – October 2015	Corporate Services	Agreed	TBC	Further Report to follow during 2023.
	21/01/19	Shelter at slipway in Donaghadee	Councillor Brooks & Cllr Smith	Jan-19	Environment Committee	Environment	Agreed	TBC	Officers awaiting feedback from potential funder
	25/09/19	Report on feasibility of holding annual remembrance service for those lost to suicide	Councillor Martin	Oct-19	Corporate Services – November 2019	Corporate Services	Agreed	TBC	Further Report to follow during 2023.
NOM118	16/01/20	Closing of a public right of way at Andrew Shorefield, Groomsport	Alderman Keery	Jan-20	Corporate Committee – February 2020	Corporate Services	Agreed	TBC	Further Report to follow during 2023.
	20.10.20	"I would like to task officers to produce a report to consider what could be a more environmentally friendly and benefit the wellbeing of the community for the use of the disused putting green on the Commons and play park at Hunts park in Donaghadee . Following the success of the Dog park in Bangor and the demand for a Dementia garden, both should be considered as options in the report. The process should involve consultation with the local community."	Councillor Brooks	Oct-20	Community & Wellbeing Committee – December 2020	Community & Wellbeing	Agreed	TBC	Officers to liaise with Regeneration and consideration of Masterplan and also take into account play strategy local consultation when it takes place in Donaghadee and bring back a report thereafter.
	10/05/21	That officers are tasked to bring back a Report on how the Council might approach a Climate Change Action Plan and perhaps including - but not limited to - a review of all Council long-term investment, a Borough-wide engagement via an Innovation Lab, a Conference of Ideas, and values-based recommendations for next steps.	Councillors Walker & Egan	Jun-21	Environment Committee – October 2021 (deferred from September Committee)	Environment	Agreed	TBC	Various strands of work taking place across different departments on development of Council Climate Action Plan - led within Corporate Services Directorate.
	20.10.2021	That officers bring back a report to consider the option of transferring responsibility for bins which are currently the responsibility of the Parks Section into the Environment Directorate.	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Nov-21	Community & Wellbeing December 2021	Community & Wellbeing	Agreed	Report to October 2022 C&WC September C&W Committee	Cross departmental officer meeting took place on 14th June to progress further. Update report to September 2023 C&W Committee

	3.11.2021	That this Council, in liaison with the Department for Infrastructure, will seek permission for and explore a source of funding in order to make an artistic feature of the steps which lead from Princetown Road to Queen's Parade at Bangor seafront as part of Bangor Town regeneration, and brings back a report to Council addressing how this can be achieved as a pilot for the Borough.	Councillor Douglas & Alderman Wilson	Nov-21	Regeneration & Development December 2021	Regeneration & Development	Agreed	Sept P&P Committee	Urban Team worked up a design and met with Dfl - awaiting response
	31.12.21	Coastal and Storm Damage to Ballywalter Harbour, repair costs and reinstatement costs	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Jan-22	Environment February 2022	Environment	Agreed	TBC	Report to be brought back.
	13.04.22	Environmental damage caused by modern day packaging	Councillors McRandal and Douglas	Apr-22	Environment Committee – June 2022	Environment	Agreed		Report to be brought back - TBC.
	17.05.22	2028 Centenary of the internationally renowned Ards TT races. Asking Council how best to commemorate this important sporting anniversary.	Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Kennedy	May- 22	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed	September C&W Committee	Officers considering report to be brought back to September C&W Committee
	19.05.2022	Business case for redesign of the parallel sports pitches and facilities at Park Way, Comber	Councillors Cummings and Johnson	Jun-22	Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 – deferred	Community and Wellbeing		TBC	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee
NOM164	20.06.2022	Review of health and safety process re community groups	Councillors MacArthur, Brooks, T Smith and Kennedy	Jun-22	Corporate Services Committee - deferred to October 2022	Corporate Services	Agreed	Report to CS 20.6.2023	Further report to be brought back after the Autumn workshop
NOM165	20.06.2022	Report exploring the possibility of introducing a policy that shows commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our workforce by ensuring appropriate support is available to anyone undergoing IVF.	Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee	Jun-22	Corporate Services Committee – deferred to October 2022	Corporate Services	Agreed	Ratified at October Council	Further report to follow in 2023.
	21.06.2022	Engagement with relevant community stakeholders to ascertain community need and desires in respect of the Queen's Leisure Complex	Councillors Kendall, McRandal and McClean	Jun-22	Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 – deferred to October 2022	Community and Wellbeing		TBC	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee
	5.07.2022	That this Council changes the name of Queen's Parade to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade in honour and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. *** Amendment Received from Councillor Cathcart - That this Council, in recognition of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her conferment of City Status upon Bangor, agrees to name an appropriate place or building within Bangor in her honour and that future Council Bangor entrance signs make reference to Bangor being a Platinum Jubilee City.	Alderman Irvine & Keery	Jul-22	Environment Committee - September 2022	Environment	Amended and agreed		Sept 2022 - Recommendation to Council that item is referred to Corporate Services Committee and report to be brought to a future meeting - TBC

	19.07.2022	This Council notes with concern that a number of planted trees in urban settings along roads which have died or have been removed but not replaced; Notes the importance of environmental and social benefits of such trees in the built environment; Notes that DfI Roads formerly had a partnership arrangement with Belfast parks for the replacement of trees but that this partnership ended some time ago; That Council officers are tasked with opening discussions with DfI Roads and DAERA with a view to exploring the possibility of a partnership which will involve the supply and replacement of lost trees in the Borough and then providing a report to Council for further consideration.	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Jul-22	Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 Deferred to October 2022	Community and Wellbeing		September C&W Committee	Meeting with DfI Roads and DAERA to be organised. Officers will bring back a report to September C&W Committee
NOM167	24.08.2022	That this council withdraws all funding to any sporting organisations with any political objectives or named references to terrorism in their constitution, club names, stadiums or competitions, and tasks officers to bring back a report outlining the specific relevant council policy.	Cllrs Cooper, T Smith and Councillor Irvine	Aug-22	Corporate Committee – deferred to October 2022	Corporate Services	Amended and agreed	TBC	NoM Transferred to C&W Committee. C&W Officers considering report to be brought to future Committee
	22.08.22	Street Clutter Audit for the Borough	Councillor Dunlop and Councillor Douglas	Sep-22	Environment Committee – October 2022	Environment	Agreed	Reported to October 2022 EC Committee	Report to be brought back
	19.09.22	Establishment of an Animal Abuse Register for the Borough and write to the DAERA Minister to ask for the introduction of Lucy's Law and Reggie's Law for Northern Ireland.	Councillor T Smith and Councillor Cooper Amendment received from Councillor Woods	Sep-22	Environment Committee October 2022	Environment	Agreed	Reported to October 2022 ENV Committee	Discussed at June's Committee and agreed not to create a register and further agreed not to seek counsel's opinion on the matter.
	21.09.22	Humane control of Pigeons in Conway Square, Newtownards	Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Adair	Sep-22	Environment Committee 2022	Environment	Agreed	Reported to October 2022 ENV Committee	Signage has been erected in Conway Square
	9.11.22	That Council task officers to work with The National Trust to source external funding to develop and regenerate the Car Park at both Glastry Clay Pits & Knockinelder Bay for the benefit of residents and tourists alike in seeking to deliver the Councils Tourism Strategy for the Ards Peninsula	Councillors Adair & Thompson	Nov-22	Environment Committee - December 2022 Heard at R&D Dec 2022	Regeneration & Development	Agreed	Sept P&P Committee	
	16.11.22	That Council officers open discussions with Historic Environment Division regarding the return of the 13th century 'Movilla Stones' to the Borough and the provision of a suitable site for these to be located. Officers are also tasked with promoting these extremely important archaeological artefacts in the local community and local schools when the stones have been returned.	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cummings	Nov-22	Community & Wellbeing - December 2022	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed	March and June C&W Committee	Officers to discuss further with HED and report to future C&WC when final arrangements for return of the stones is agreed.
	24.11.22	That Council task officers to bring forward a report on options and potential funding opportunities to enhance and improve Council Football Pitches at Abbey Road Millisle to ensure they can be used and enjoyed by the local sporting clubs and community of Millisle.	Councillors Thompson & Adair	Dec-22	Community & Wellbeing Committee – January 2023	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed	TBC	Officers investigating funding opportunities and considering report to be brought back to future Committee



	09.12.22	That this Council adopts the White Ribbon Pledge to ' <i>Never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls</i> ', agrees to sign the Pledge, and tasks Officers to bring back a report outlining how we can amalgamate existing relevant policies, undertake the Listen, Learn, Lead programme within the Council, and identify effective routes to encourage other agencies and organisations in our Borough to engage with the White Ribbon Project.	Councillors Douglas & Walker	Dec-22	Corporate Services Committee – January 2023 Community and Wellbeing Committee - TBC	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed	September C&W Committee	14/3 it has been agreed that this NOM will transfer to PCSF/C&W. Report to September C&W Committee
	13.12.22	That this Council expresses concern with the number of residential and commercial bins left on public footways in the Borough long after the bin collection date. Bins left on public footways are not only unsightly, they can lead to hygiene and contamination issues, as well as safety concerns, forcing pedestrians onto the road due to the blocking of a footway. This Council notes its own lack of enforcement powers to tackle this issue and expresses concern at the Department for Infrastructure's reluctance to use its own enforcement powers. Accordingly, this Council agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure asking the Department to engage with Councils with the aim of creating appropriate enforcement powers to tackle this issue. Council Officers, will in the meantime, bring back a report to the appropriate committee detailing action that the Council can take under current powers to try address the issue of bins left on public footways.	Councillors Cathcart and MacArthur	Dec-22	Environment Committee – January 2023	Environment	Agreed	June Committee	Alternative proposal agreed at June Committee. Update report to be brought to a future meeting.
	08.12.22	This Council acknowledges the environmental and health benefits associated with the recent increase in cycling and declares Ards & North Down a cycling friendly borough. The Council also recognises that people who cycle are among the most vulnerable road users, and tasks officers with producing a report detailing ways in which we can help improve safety. The report should include possible sources of funding, potential partnerships, and ways in which we can promote good relations between users of different forms of transport	Alderman Wilson & Councillor Douglas (Postponed from Dec Council to Jan Council)	Jan-23	Community and Wellbeing Committee – February 2023	Community and Wellbeing		June C&W Committee	Further report to future C&WC including the report to recommend declaration.
		Building on the practice of other council areas, that this council tasks officers to liaise with DfI Roads as a matter of urgency to offer its assistance in providing self-service grit piles for residents and to post locations of such grit piles on the council website	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Jan-23	Environment Committee – February 2023	Environment	Agreed	TBC	The Council has contacted the DfI and a report will be brought back to Council in due course
NOM174	24.11.22	That this Council notes its declaration of a climate emergency in 2018 and the passage of the Climate Change Act 2022; agrees the need to reduce emissions to ensure happy and healthy communities and engages with community and government partners with the aim of piloting 'car free' days in our City, towns and villages.	Councillors Woods & Dunlop (Resubmitted from December Council meeting)	Jan-23	Corporate Services Committee – February 2023	Corporate Services		Update at Sept 2023 committee planned	Further Report planned in 2023.

	08.01.2023	That this Council writes to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure expressing concern that the provision of a footpath at Shore Road Ballyhalbert is currently not considered a priority by the Department following the completion of a feasibility study which demonstrated need. That the Council highlights the road safety concerns raised by residents for pedestrians using the Shore Road from the village to the residential developments including Park Homes and St Andrew's. That Council requests that the Department for Infrastructure makes the installation of a footpath a priority and commits to deliver the scheme as a matter of urgency.	Councillors Adair & Edmund	Jan-23	Place & Prosperity – February 2023	Place & Prosperity	Agreed and ratified at Council 5.7.23	TBC	Further agreed at June P&P that Council writes to DfI expressing disappointment in the response... and tasks officers to work with land owners and the caravan park to explore options to develop a safe pedestrian walkway at the location as a potential village renewal project
NOM175	17.01.2023	This Council supports local residents who have started a petition which calls for a pedestrian crossing on Moat Street, Donaghadee, near to the Spar store. This road can be extremely busy and residents have real safety concerns when trying to cross it. Not only do many people use this area to cross to shop at the Spar store, others need to cross the road to get children to and from the local schools. This Council will write to the Department of Infrastructure and call on them to listen to local residents, take on board their concerns and take the necessary steps to install a pedestrian crossing in this vicinity.	Councillors T Smith and Brooks	Jan-23	Corporate Services Committee – February 2023	Corporate Services		Report to CS 20.6.2023	Query on whether the DfI 'assessment' of the road has happened has been sent to the DfI 21/6. Remove from tracker after ratification by Council
	17.01.2023	This Council notes its previous sponsorship of the Community Asset Transfer request from Branch Out Community Group and welcomes the agreement from DfI to lease the woodland area to the group for 1 year. Officers will: • Write to DfI to express council's support for the work of Branch Out on the DfI-owned site and how it complements The Big Plan for Ards and North Down. • Write to the EA to express council's support for their work on the EA-owned site, adjacent to the woodland. • Bring back a report, identifying what can be offered to support the work of Branch Out including, but not limited to, providing advice, support, equipment and finance. • Engage directly with Branch Out to identify what support is needed.	Councillor Moore and Alderman McDowell	Jan-23	Community and Wellbeing Committee – February 2023	Community and Wellbeing		June C&W Committee	NoM is now completed and will be removed from the list after ratification at Council
NOM177	12.01.2023	This Council honours the 50th Anniversary of the UDR CGC Greenfinches following the introduction of the Ulster Defence Regiment Bill in July 1973, which permitted the recruitment of women into the regiment, recognising those who joined within the Borough, and brings back a report to outline how the Corporate Services Committee can work with local UDR Associations along with other relevant bodies to support anniversary events in the Borough.	Councillor Cummings and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Jan-23	Corporate Services Committee – February 2023	Corporate Services		Report to Council 26.4.23	Remove from tracker as events planned for 2023.
	18.01.2023	The prolonged cold weather spells just before Christmas and last week resulted in icy, slippery, and dangerous footpaths and car parks in the Borough's City and town centres. It is not acceptable that in such circumstances the Council does not have a plan or the resources or facilities to grit these areas to enable residents to walk safely to and from the main shopping areas or fall when they step out of their cars onto ice. It is proposed that officers bring back a report with costs to outline what steps can be taken to ensure that Council car parks and footpaths in the City and town centres are gritted when the weather is forecast to have heavy snowfall or prolonged freezing weather conditions.	Councillors Morgan and McRandal	Jan-23	Environment Committee – February 2023	Environment	Agreed	TBC	A report will be brought to a future meeting

	18.01.2023	That Council, subject to consultation with addressees on the road, considers changing the name of that stretch of the A21 in Newtownards which runs from Portaferry Road to the junction with upper Greenwell Street, Newtownards currently named New Road to Viscount Castlereagh Avenue as a mark of the life and legacy of Robert Stewart, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Londonderry, who was known by the courtesy title of Viscount Castlereagh during most of his life, in the 200 <sup>th</sup> year of his passing.	Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Feb-23	Environment Committee March 2023	Environment	Agreed	TBC	Report to be brought to future meeting
	08.02.2023	That this Council tasks officers to begin discussions with the Education Authority with regards to the Future of Bloomfield playing fields, Bangor. This is to include the lease and the exploring of the possibility of bringing the facility up to intermediate level for football. A report to be brought back to Council following said discussions. football. A report to be brought back to Council following said discussions.	Alderman Irvine and Alderman Keery	Feb-23	Community and Wellbeing Committee March 2023	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed	TBC	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee
NOM178	09.02.2023	That this Council is concerned that recent data shows that the Ards and North Down Borough Council area has the highest level of potholes in Northern Ireland and calls on DfI Roads Service to produce an action plan to improve the quality of roads in the Borough.	Councillor P Smith and Councillor Smart	Feb-23	Corporate Services Committee March 2023	Corporate Services		Report to CS 20.6.2023	Remove from tracker after ratification by Council
NOM179	10.02.2023	That Council writes to the South Eastern Trust rejecting their proposals to close the Bangor and Newtownards Minor Injury Units. We believe that this will lead to a detrimental impact on patient care particularly at an already overstretched Ulster Hospital. This Council calls on the Trust to not only retain the minor injury unit in Ards but also to reopen the Bangor Minor Injury Unit. We see this as a better way to treat more people locally and ease the pressure on the Ulster. We urge the South Eastern Trust to listen to the real concerns from the public and we hope that this consultation exercise is a genuine one and not a cover for something that is already a done deal.	Councillor T Smith and Councillor Kennedy, also Councillor S Irvine, Councillor McKimm, Councillor Boyle and Councillor Cathcart	Feb-23	Corporate Services Committee March 2023	Corporate Services			Response to consultation to be taken at 26 April 2023 Council. Response submitted to HSE.
NOM180	14.02.2023	This Council rename the square at Portavogie War Memorial Queen Elizabeth Square in memory of our late Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II.	Councillor Adair and Councillor Edmund	Feb-23	Corporate Services March 2023	Corporate Services			Officers considering next steps for further report to be brought back.

		That this Council rescind the decision taken at the meeting of the Council on 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 that Council notes the report and expressing concern with the report of anti-social behaviour that is ongoing in and around Playparks. Furthermore, that Council agrees to carry out local consultation before taking a decision on the locking up of the 7 playparks identified in the Northern Down area, and instead proposes that Council notes the concerns raised with the decision taken to not lock the MUGA and playpark at Clandeboye and the playpark at Bloomfield; agrees to re-lock premises at Clandeboye and Bloomfield, as soon as possible, for a trial period of 6 months, subject to review, to monitor concerns and carries out local consultation at parks effected by changes in the locking up schedule in the Borough.	Councillor McKee, Councillor Gilmour, Councillor Irwin, Alderman Wilson, Alderman Smith and Councillor Woods	Feb-23	Heard at Council February 2023	Council	Agreed	September C&W Committee	NoM moved to C&W Committee. Quotes obtained from security contractors – above tender threshold limit. Tender being prepared with assistance from Procurement Department for locking of 2 sites for 6 months trial and consultation ongoing for other 7 sites. Wording of motion amended by Council in April 2023 to change “as soon as possible” to “immediately in the meantime using Council staff” and to draw any necessary funding from reserves. Locking commenced 4th May.
	6.3.2023	In acknowledging the many negative impacts of long term commercial and residential dereliction, Officers are tasked with reviewing current powers and how Council could best effect positive change. As part of this review officers would investigate using part or all of Newtownards town centre as a pilot scheme to tackle dereliction, which could then be broadened across the Borough if successful. The review may form a working group which would consider what incentives could be provided through, DFC whom hold regeneration powers, the Planning system, Building Control, or by other means, to encourage the re-use or redevelopment of local derelict buildings to provide new business opportunities or homes. Consideration would also be given to what limitations can be placed on public and private property owners who are not willing to work in partnership for regeneration and the public good. “In acknowledging the many negative impacts of long term commercial and residential dereliction, officers are tasked with reviewing current powers and how council could best effect positive change.  As part of this review officers would investigate using part or all of Newtownards town centre as a pilot scheme to tackle dereliction, which could then be broadened across the Borough if successful. The review may form a working group which would consider what incentives could be provided through, DFC whom hold regeneration powers, the Planning system, Building Control, or by other means, to encourage the re-use or redevelopment of local derelict buildings to provide new business opportunities or homes. Consideration would also be given to what limitations can be placed on public and private property owners who are not willing to work in partnership for regeneration and the public good.	Councillors Smart & Irvine	Mar-23	Place & Prosperity June 2023	Place & Prosperity	Agreed and ratified at Council 5.7.23	TBC	
	20.3.2023	That this Council explores the possibility of supporting the Bookstart Early Years Pilot across Ards and North Down. A report is brought back detailing information about the programme, how it could be supported across the Borough, including cost and potential delivery partners.	Councillors Gilmour & Cathcart	Mar-23	Community & Wellbeing Committee 21/06/2023	Community and Wellbeing	Agreed - subject to ratification by June Council	TBC	Officers considering report to be brought back to future C&W Committee

TBC	20.3.2023	That this Council recognises the issues and concerns detailed in the letter sent to the Chief Executive by The Kircubbin Harbour Action Group and agrees to write to the Permanent Secretaries of the Departments of Infrastructure and Communities, asking them to provide details of the responsibility they have in ensuring the public safety of the harbour and listing any details of dealings their departments have had with the owner.	Councillors Thompson & Adair	Mar-23	Place and Prosperity Committee June 2023	Place & Prosperity	Agreed and ratified at Council 5.7.23	TBC	Ltrs to be issued to Perm Secretaries of DfI and DfC
TBC	18.04.23	That Council writes to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure highlighting the benefits of Community Transport and the Dial a Lift Service for elderly, disabled and socially isolated residents living in rural areas who depend on this service. Further request that funding is allocated on a longer term basis to continue this vital transport service for our residents going forward.	Councillor Adair and Councillor Edmund	Council April 2023	Heard and AGREED	Corporate Services		June C&WC	NoM moved to Corporate Committee 10th July. NoM moved to C&W Committee. Further letter sent to DfI following ratification at Council 5th July.
TBC	18.04.23	That this Council brings back a report that looks at the restoration of much missed events namely the Bangor Easter activities (including the Easter parade), Donaghadee Lights Up and Groomsport Music Festival. As part of this report, officers should engage and consult with local communities and business to gauge not only their support for the return of these events but also ask, if they do return, what could be done to improve these events to allow for more community involvement and also to maximize footfall and trade for local businesses.	Councillor T Smith and McKimm	Council April 2023		Place & Prosperity	Agreed but amended at Council 5.7.23 That Council doesn't bring back a report on additional Council run events	TBC	No further action to be taken as per amendment at Council 5.7.23
573	09.06.2023	That this Council requests officers to bring back a report with full costings and budgetary options outlining pragmatic solutions to tackling anti-social behaviour in the Bank's Lane car park, Ballyholme including the restricting of access to the car park at night. In addition, officers should clarify ownership of the Bank's Lane as part of the solution.	Alderman K Douglas and Councillor Cathcart supported by Clr W Irvine, Clr Blaney, Clr McKimm and Clr McCracken	Council July 2023	Heard at Council	- NA	Heard and Agreed at Council meeting 05.07.2023	NA	

**From:** Consultation <[consultation@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:consultation@setrust.hscni.net)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 1:11 PM

**Cc:** Consultation <[consultation@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:consultation@setrust.hscni.net)>

**Subject:** Consultation on the Future Provision of Urgent and Emergency Care Services – Ards and North Down area.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Consultee

**RE: Consultation on the Future Provision of Urgent and Emergency Care Services – Ards and North Down area.**

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust held a public consultation from 8 February to 3 May 2023 on the Future Provision of Urgent and Emergency Care Services – Ards and North Down area.

The feedback received during the consultation process was presented to Trust Board on 28 June 2023. After careful consideration, the Trust Board approved the proposal to deliver a new, 7 days a week Consultant led Urgent Care Centre, alongside the new Emergency Department at the Ulster Hospital.

The Trust Board's recommendation will now be considered by the Department of Health, in line with its policy and guidance on change or withdrawal of service. The final decision rests with the Department of Health.

If approved, a new and improved service would be based at the Ulster Hospital, replacing the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) at Ards Community Hospital and the Minor Injury Unit at Bangor Community Hospital. The Bangor unit was closed on a temporary basis in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This closure will be made permanent under the proposals endorsed by the Trust board.

As detailed in the public consultation, the initial phase of the plans would see the opening of a Minor Injury Unit 8am-6pm, 7 days a week at the Ulster Hospital site.

The second phase of the service change involves provision of a full Urgent Care Centre 8am-8pm, 7 days a week, co-located with the new Emergency Department in the Ulster Hospital's Acute Services Block.

A summary of consultee feedback and the Trust's response to the feedback can be found in the consultation feedback report available by clicking [here](#).

The Trust is very grateful to all individuals and organisations who took the time to attend meetings and/or to respond to the consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Helen Moore**

Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics  
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

## Print Version

Public Consultation Paper  
Ending Violence Against  
Women and Girls  
Strategic Framework &  
Foundational Action Plan



The  
**Executive Office**

[www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

## Introduction

1. This consultation seeks views on the new draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and Foundational Action Plan, being led by the Executive Office (TEO).
2. The seven-year (2023-2030) Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls has been co-designed with over 50 partners from across government, community and voluntary sectors and organisations, as well as wider society. Importantly, these partners also include those with lived experience.
3. It sets the agenda for all of government and society here to end violence against women and girls. It is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. It is a living document and will be adapted along the journey responding to emerging needs.

## Consultation

4. The consultation will run for 13 weeks from 04 July 2023 to 03 October 2023.
5. While we want to hear from as many people as possible on as many of the changes as possible, please feel free to comment on as few or as many of them as you see fit.
6. The proposals for the Strategic Framework and Foundational Action Plan are subject to the views of the Executive who will be responsible for final approval.

## Alternative Formats

7. An electronic copy of our consultation documents, including an Easy Read version, can be accessed on our main [consultation page](#) (external link opens to a new window / tab).
8. Young people **under the age of 16** are encouraged to use the Easy Read Version and consider completing this under the supervision of an adult.
9. Copies in other languages and formats (including Braille, large print etc.), can be made available on request. If you require the document in an alternative format, or language other than English, please contact us at [EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk), or at the address below.



## Responding to the consultation

10. The best way to respond to this consultation is online, through our survey which can be accessed here:  
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/>  
(external link opens to a new window / tab)



11. A copy of the survey is also included in this document at page 10.
12. Completed hard copy surveys and other written responses can be sent by:  
E-mail to: [EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)  
Or, by post to: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate  
A5.18, The Executive Office  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SR
13. Responses to this consultation are invited for 13 weeks after the consultation launch, and written responses will be accepted up to 03 October 2023.
14. We look forward to hearing from you. If you want to contact the team about the approach being taken, or if you or a group you are involved with would like to participate in an engagement event, please use the email address provided.

## Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

15. Following this consultation, the Department may publish all responses (subject to our Moderation Policy), except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public).
16. Where it is appropriate or necessary, we will remove email addresses, telephone numbers, and any other personal identifiers from these responses.
17. The Executive Office (TEO) is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information about what we do with your personal data please see our consultation privacy notice. That privacy notice explains how TEO uses the information supplied by you as part of a consultation, what we do with it, the ways in which we will safeguard it, and what your data protection rights are.

18. Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however, all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and UK GDPR.
19. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

## Purpose

20. This seven-year (2023-2030) Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), builds on the evidence received, and the key issues identified through the Call for Views consultation process, which took place in 2022. It sets the agenda for all of government and society to end violence against women and girls. It is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. As a living document, it will be adapted along the journey according to emerging needs.
21. The **problem statement** that this Strategic Framework is addressing was agreed by our co-design group as,

“Societal culture and systemic attitudes and beliefs enable violence against women and girls”.

22. Wellbeing for all is at the heart of what Government aims to deliver in this jurisdiction. The ability to form and enjoy healthy relationships is central to individual wellbeing, and vital to building communities and a society where everyone can thrive. This is something that we want for all our children, and for every individual and community here.
23. Violence against women and girls, in all its forms, is a critical obstacle to achieving this goal of wellbeing for all. It is damaging to women, girls, men and boys. Stopping violence against women and girls by changing the attitudes, behaviours, and social norms that accept and enable it, can create a future that is not only better and safer for women and girls, but more just, equal, and respectful for everyone.

## Overview of the Strategic Framework

24. The co-design process to develop the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls began in October 2022. It saw a group of over 50 partners come together from across government, different sectors, and wider society, including intersectional representation and, importantly, those with lived experience, to create a Strategic Framework that has been ***designed with***, not for, our communities and society.

### Vision

25. The Vision of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is

A changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them.

### Aim

26. The Aim of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is:

To work together as partners across every sector of society to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on root causes.

## Four Themes

27. In developing this Strategic Framework our co-design group identified 4 broad themes and 6 big changes or 'outcomes' required to end violence against women and girls. The outcomes are grouped under the four themes:

1. **Prevention;**
2. **Protection & Provision;**
3. **Justice System;** and
4. **Working Better Together**



For illustration purposes only

## Prevention

28. The emphasis of this Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is on the theme of **prevention**. Effective prevention can both stop violence from occurring in the first place, such as education and campaigns; as well as interrupt the cycle of violence, like making public transport safer.

29. Our main focus will be on those outcomes associated with prevention:

- Changing attitudes, behaviours, and social norms
- Building knowledge and skills of individuals to form healthy relationships
- Ensuring that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

## Outcomes

30. The 6 big changes required to end violence against women and girls identified by our Co-design group were grouped into six outcomes, with priority areas identified under each outcome:

- **Outcome 1: Changed Attitudes, Behaviours, and Social Norms.**  
Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it.
- **Outcome 2: Healthy, Respectful Relationships.**  
Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.
- **Outcome 3: Women and Girls are Safe and Feel Safe Everywhere.**  
Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.
- **Outcome 4: Quality Frontline Services, Protection, and Provision for Victims and Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls.**  
Provision of high quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.
- **Outcome 5: A Justice System which has the Confidence of Victims, Survivors and the Public in its Ability to Address Violence Against Women and Girls.**  
In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public.
- **Outcome 6: All of Government and Society Working Better Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls**  
A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within, and between the community, voluntary, and other sectors.

31. Each of these Outcomes, and the priorities for delivering them are explained in more detail in our Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

## **Overview of the Foundational Action Plan**

32. This Action Plan is a foundational one which establishes our work for the remainder of 2023/24. This approach allows us to make progress in the challenging financial climate this year, and to align our planning cycle with the financial year from March 2024. As we go forward, further conversations will be needed to allow us to advise the Executive on decisions to be taken on budgets and priorities.
33. The Action Plan consists of a series of key actions that were developed to lay the foundations of the work to bring about meaningful change and effective delivery as we move forward, and which the Strategic Framework can build upon in subsequent years.

## **Impact assessments**

34. The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), completed in relation to our Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and Foundational Action Plan, is the first stage in the ongoing monitoring of the inequalities that may be experienced by section 75 groups in respect of ending violence against women and girls. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

## **What Happens Next**

35. A number of public engagement events will be held during the consultation period. Information on these events will be published on the Executive Office website and will be distributed through a newsletter.
36. Following the close of the consultation on 03 October 2023 the responses will be analysed and considered by the EVAWG Directorate.
37. Proposals for the Strategic Framework and Foundational Action Plan are subject to the views of the Executive who will be responsible for final approval.

## Moderation Policy

38. In connection with any responses to the consultation and any which may be published we operate a moderation policy to ensure that responses are appropriate and not harmful to others. Moderation is performed in accordance with the terms set out below.
39. Responses that include any of the following may be deleted:
- threats or incitements to violence;
  - use of obscenity;
  - duplicative or substantially duplicative postings by the same person or entity;
  - postings seeking employment or containing advertisements for a commercial product or service;
  - information posted in violation of law, including libel, condoning or encouraging illegal activity, revealing classified information, or infringing on a copyright or trademark.
40. We value your time and input, and our aim is to accept as many responses as possible, while ensuring that a focused, constructive consultation takes place. To address additional matters as may be warranted, this moderation policy is subject to change.

# Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls – Consultation Questionnaire

## Overview

In total there are **21** questions in this consultation.

**It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.**

**If you or someone you know has been affected by any form of violence referred to in this document, you can seek help from the following:**

You can contact the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline at any time, free of charge:

0808 802 1414

[help@dsahelpline.org](mailto:help@dsahelpline.org)

### **If you are in danger right now**

If you are in danger right now you should call 999. If it is difficult for you to talk when you call 999, you can **press 55** on the phone to let the police know that it is an emergency.

- [Women's Aid Federation NI](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [The Rainbow Project](#)
- [PSNI](#)
- [Victim Support NI](#)
- [Men's Advisory Project NI](#)



## About You

### Privacy, Confidentiality, and Access to Consultation Responses

The Executive Office (TEO) is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information about what we do with your personal data please see our consultation privacy notice.

All the questions in the 'About You', pages are required.

When completing the rest of this consultation, you only need to answer the questions that are most relevant and important to you.

### 1. Are you responding to this consultation as a member of the public, or on behalf of an organisation?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- A member of the public. *(Please proceed to **question 2.**)*
- On behalf of an organisation. *(Please proceed to **question 8.**)*

## About You - A Member of the Public

### 2a. Within which local council district is your normal place of residence?

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Antrim and Newtownabbey
- Ards and North Down
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Belfast
- Causeway Coast and Glens
- Derry City and Strabane
- Fermanagh and Omagh
- Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Mid and East Antrim
- Mid Ulster

- Newry Mourne and Down
- Prefer not to say

**2b. Within your local council district, do you consider yourself to live in a Rural, or Urban area?**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Rural
- Urban
- Prefer not to say

**3. Please select your age range:**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- 16-17 years
- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65+ years
- Prefer not to say

*An **Easy Read Version** of this consultation is available.  
Young people **under the age of 16** are encouraged to use  
the Easy Read Version and consider completing this under  
the supervision of an adult.*

#### **4a. What is your gender identity?**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Woman/Girl
- Man/Boy
- Non-binary
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

#### **4b. Do you consider yourself to be either a transgender person or a person with a trans history?**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Yes, I do
- No, I don't
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

**5. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

**6. What is your ethnic group?**

Choose one option which best describes your ethnic group or background.

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- White
- Irish Traveller
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- African
- Caribbean
- Arab

- Any other ethnic or mixed ethnic group  
(please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

If you have selected "Any other ethnic or mixed ethnic group", please specify below.

## **7. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?**

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

This is the end of this section for those answering as a member of the public. Please proceed to the **Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls section** and **question 10**.

## About You - An Organisation

All the questions on this page are required.

**8. Please provide the name of the organisation you are answering on behalf of.**

*(Required)*

**9. Which of the following best describes the sector you operate in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of respondents the consultation has reached.**

*(Required)*

*Please select only one option*

- Central government
- Local Government
- Statutory body (e.g. health, education, transport, housing etc.)
- Private sector
- Charity / Community / Voluntary sector
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

This is the end of this section for those answering on behalf of an organisation. Please proceed to the **Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls section** and **question 10**.

## Strategic Framework

**The Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is the blueprint for society wide change to tackle this systemic problem.**

### 10. Do you agree or disagree with our vision?

"A changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them"

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft vision in the box below.

### ***What is Gender-based violence?***

*Violence against women and girls is a subset of gender-based*

*People sometimes think of violence as physical assault only, however violence against women and girls takes many forms.*

*Violence against women and girls includes:*

- *physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family (including children and young people), in the general community, or in institutions including coercive control and stalking*
- *sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space*
- *workplace sexual harassment ranging from sexual jokes or comments to unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.*
- *commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so called honour crimes*
- *harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self, or abusive to others*
- *online abuse including cyberstalking, sexual harassment, grooming for exploitation or abuse, image-based sexual abuse*
- *financial abuse such as controlling a woman's or girl's access to their money, taking loans or credit cards in their name or using their money without their consent*
- *everyday harm which includes everyday misogyny, sexist jokes and language, and discrimination.*



**11. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 1 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 1 - Changed Attitudes, Behaviours and Social Norms.**

Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and play an active role in preventing it.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 1 in the box below.

**12. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 2 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 2 – Healthy, Respectful Relationships.**

Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 2 in the box below.

**13. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 3 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 3 – Women and Girls Are Safe and Feel Safe Everywhere.**

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 3 in the box below.

**14. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 4 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 4 – Quality Frontline Services, Protection, and Provision for Victims and Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls.**

Provision of high quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 4 in the box below.

**15. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 5 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 5 – A Justice System which has the Confidence of Victims, Survivors and the Public in its Ability to Address Violence Against Women and Girls.**

In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 5 in the box below.

**16. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 6 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?**

**Outcome 6 – All of Government and Society Working Better Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls.**

A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within and between the community, voluntary and other sectors.

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 6 in the box below.

## Placing a focus on Prevention

The emphasis of this draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is on prevention.

"Prevention is about addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, to stop it before it occurs."

*UN Women, 2012*

### **17. Do you agree or disagree with our approach of focusing on PREVENTION to end violence against women and girls?**

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our approach of focusing on prevention in the box below.

## Draft Foundational Action Plan

This Action Plan is a foundational one which establishes our work for the remainder of 2023/24. This approach allows us to make progress in the challenging financial climate this year and to align our planning cycle with the financial year from March 2024. As we go forward, further conversations will be needed to allow us to advise the Executive on decisions to be taken on budgets and priorities.

## **Draft Foundational Action Plan**

### Actions falling under the theme of **Prevention**:

1. Develop a society wide communications and engagement strategy to change attitudes, behaviours and social norms.
2. Adopt the Task Group Sprint Model to consider the needs (including Intersectional needs) of specific groups.
3. Establish a forum to coordinate work on equipping and supporting families, children and young people to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships using the curriculum (including Relationships and Sexuality Education), policies and practices in early years, schools and community sector.
4. To embed structures and processes which give space for young people's voices to participate and influence decision makers in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) work.
5. Establish a cross sectoral Further and Higher Education working group to develop a plan to address EVAWG on and off campus.
6. Establish a cross-sectoral workplace forum (including unions, Labour Relations Agency, employers' organisations and other professional bodies) to develop workplace policy toolkits/ guidance and to promote workplace training/ best practice in professional standards on EVAWG, Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) to lead good practice in public sector.
7. Support the cross-sectoral group addressing EVAWG issues in the hospitality sector and the night-time economy.

### Actions falling under the theme of **Protection & Provision**:

8. Map and undertake gap analysis of violence against women and girls (VAWG) provision in general frontline services to help inform further policy development and service delivery.
9. Map and undertake gap analysis of VAWG provision in specialist frontline services including a review of referral gateways to help inform further policy development and service delivery.



Actions falling under the theme of **Justice System**:

10. Develop further tools for communicating information on the justice system and processes to improve information sharing and enhance confidence amongst victims/survivors in support of implementation of the Victim and Witness Strategy.
11. In the context of care and protections for victims in the Justice system:
  - (a) evaluate agreed interventions that are providing support to victims to access the Justice System;
  - (b) support research on victim attrition rates in serious sexual offences and domestic abuse cases, as part of implementation of Gillen Programme and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
12. Explore with partners options to create specialism in VAWG cases in court proceedings including information provision for juries.
13. Undertake a review of international best practice perpetrator prevention and management systems to inform policy development and practice in support of the review under the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
14. Undertake a review of trends in aggravating and reinforcing factors of VAWG to inform policy development and practice.

Actions falling under the theme of **Working Better Together**:

15. Create a Knowledge and Network Hub within the Executive Office (TEO) to provide an accessible central resource on EVAWG research, data & evaluation and communication & engagement.
16. Establish a cross sectoral group located within the Knowledge and Network Hub to develop and lead the programme of EVAWG work on data and evaluation.
17. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub, develop and deliver an agreed annual EVAWG research programme with advice and support from a cross jurisdictional panel of academic research experts.
18. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub create reference groups to engage with lived experience, service provision, and academic research expertise in the development of the EVAWG work programme.

19. Create a five jurisdiction officials forum to share best practice and encourage cross jurisdictional shared learning.
20. NICS will identify and implement mechanisms including Programme for Government (PfG) to mainstream opportunities to EVAWG in public policies and strategies at all levels.
21. Develop funding strategy for sustainable EVAWG work across departments and other sectors.
22. In order to build widespread support for a changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them - to seek endorsement of EVAWG strategic framework and active participation in the whole of society programme of actions by political and civic leaders.

**18. Do you agree or disagree that these are the right actions to take in our draft Foundational Action Plan?**

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft Foundational Action Plan in the box below.

## Impact Assessments

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), completed in relation to our draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and draft Foundational Action Plan, is the first stage in the ongoing monitoring of the inequalities that may be experienced by section 75 groups in respect of ending violence against women and girls. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

We have also completed other impact assessments and screenings in accordance with best practice. All Impact Assessments can be viewed on the [Executive Office website](#) (external link opens to a new window / tab).

### **19. Do you agree or disagree with the way the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out?**

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

### **20. Do you agree or disagree with the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?**

*Please select only one option*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Are there any other issues or inequalities that you believe need to be considered in the EQIA?

## Next Steps

We have an opportunity to make a generational change that will improve life for everyone here.

In the past, violence against women and girls was a hidden problem. But now, women and girls with experience of violence are telling their stories, young people are asking why we can't do things differently, people across our communities are saying that we can and must change our culture and attitudes so that violence against women and girls becomes history.

Many thanks for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

**21. If you or your organisation would like to receive our newsletter, to keep up to date with our work to end violence against women and girls, please provide a contact email address in the box below.**

We will not publish the contact details of individual respondents.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate,  
A5.18, The Executive Office  
Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate,  
Belfast BT4 3SR**

**[EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)**

**From:** TEO Equality and Human Rights <[EqualityandHumanRights@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EqualityandHumanRights@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 11, 2023 2:38 PM  
**Subject:** Further Information on TEO Spending Plans 23-24

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you to those of you who have submitted responses to the Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment Budget Allocation for 2023-2024.

The 7 June 2023 outcomes for Phase 1 of the consultation process, summarising the progress and comments received to date, have been published at:

[Consultation on The Executive Office Budget Allocation for 2023-2024 - Equality Impact Assessment | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

**Phase 2 of the EQIA consultation closes on 2 August 2023**, for those who have yet to submit responses.

In addition, we would invite comments on TEO's:

- Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA); and
- Rural Need Impact Assessment (RNIA).

To view the Consultation on the Children's Rights Impact Assessment and Rural Need Impact Assessment for the Executive Office's Spending Plans for 2023-24 please [access this link](#).

The CRIA and RNIA have a closing date 23:59 on **Monday 2 October 2023**, although responses are particularly encouraged by the closing date for the main EQIA Spending Plans Consultation of Wednesday 2 August 2023.

Responses should be submitted by email to: [rff.feedback@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:rff.feedback@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) and clearly marked 'TEO CRIA Consultation Return' or 'TEO RNIA Consultation Return' in the subject line.

Many Thanks  
Equality & Human Rights Unit