

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

21 December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Place and Prosperity Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Thursday, 5 January 2023**, commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. GCSE Support Revision Programme Update (report attached)
4. Flagship, High Street Entrance (report attached)
5. Review of Village Action Plans (report attached)
6. Update on Pipe Band Championships (report attached)
7. Any Other Notified Business

*****IN CONFIDENCE*****

8. Future Business Start Update (report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Cummings (Vice Chair)
Vacant	Councillor Dunlop
Alderman McDowell	Councillor Gilmour
Alderman Smith	Councillor Irvine
Alderman Wilson	Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Adair	Councillor McClean

Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Brooks	Councillor Walker (Chair)

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ITEM 3**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity
Date of Meeting	05 Januray 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	12 December 2022
File Reference	ED90
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	GCSE Support Revision Programme - Update
Attachments	

Building upon the highly successful Easter School operating in West Belfast for over 20 years, Ards and North Down Borough Council was approached by Belfast City Council in 2019 as it was exploring extending this provision outside the city. The intention of the project was to engage young people (Year 12) who had the potential to achieve a grade C in GCSE English and Maths but who were at risk of not achieving this.

The Economic Development Section approached the schools in the Borough where GCSE levels of achievement from A* to C in Maths and English fell below 50% of the regional average, in order to assess their interest in the programme.

Two schools responded and participated in the programme: Strangford Integrated College and Nendrum College. Despite some delays due to the pandemic in implementing the scheme, this was done successfully in 2021 and this is an updated report on the programme.

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Programme Delivery

West Belfast Partnership Board agreed the following delivery approach with both Colleges:

- Face to face Maths and English GCSE delivery would begin in the Autumn Term 2021 at both Strangford College and Nendrum College.
- Fifty students would participate (twenty-five at each College).
- The Colleges would identify those students most in need of GCSE revision support.
- All outcomes within contract would be achieved and partnership working efforts would seek to bring as much additionality as possible to ensure the outcomes.
- The majority of participants would be Year 12 students, with a small number of Year 11 students identified and support for Year 13 students who did not achieve in Year 12.
- Year 11 and Year 13 are additional to the original contract in order to provide support to make up for almost two academic years of lost learning. It is anticipated that the numbers of Years 11 and 13 will be no more than 20% of the overall participant numbers. This flexible approach will ensure that students most in need of support will have access to additional classes.
- Participating students would benefit from twenty hours of GCSE support in English or Maths.

Programme Objectives

The objectives of this programme are to:

- Contribute to improving GCSE attainment levels
- Engage with and develop relationships with schools, educators and parents/guardians that will result in securing their commitment and 'buy in'
- Address specific learning needs for GCSE Mathematics and English students by providing targeted and focused out of school hours learning support interventions.
- Ensure that each young person receives the supports required within Maths and/or English.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased % in the number of students maintaining predicted Grade C
- Increased % in the number of students exceeding their predicted Grade
- Increased % in the number of students attaining Grade C or above
- 70% participation rate by students (i.e. attendance at GCSE Support classes)

Participant Criterion

The GCSE Maths & English Support Programme would be open to young people:

- Attending Strangford Integrated College or Nendrum College
- In Key Stage 4 (Year 11/12) studying towards GCSE English and Maths

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- At high risk of not achieving GCSE Maths and/or English at Grade C but have the potential to achieve this.
- Referred into the programme from teachers/educators that can evidence/show projected grades ensuring suitability for the programme.

It was anticipated that the majority of young people participating would be students who are entitled to Free School Meals and / or live in areas of disadvantage.

PROGRAMME QUANTITATIVE DATA

The tables below present the GCSE grades achieved by the college students against their predicted grades, both in Maths and English for Nendrum College and in English only for Strangford College as the 25 pupils enrolled at Strangford college opted for English support only:

GCSE Results Nendrum College

Students attending the GCSE Maths Supports Programme

Predicted Maths GCSE Grade	Achieved Maths GCSE Grade
C	C
C/D	C+
C/D	C+
C	C+
E	C
E	C+
C	C
C/D	C+
C	C
C	C+
D	C
D	C
C	C

All thirteen students who attended the GCSE Maths Supports Programme achieved a C or C+ GCSE grade. Four pupils maintained their predicted grade C and nine achieved better than their predicted grade.

Students attending the GCSE English Supports Programme

Predicted English GCSE Grade	Achieved English GCSE Grade
D	C+
D	C
C/D	C
D	C

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C	C+
D	C+
C	C+
C	C
D	C
C/D	C+
D	D
C	C

Eleven of the twelve students who attended the GCSE English Supports Programme achieved a C or C+ GCSE grade. Two pupils maintained their predicted grade and ten achieved better than their predicted grade.

GCSE Results Strangford College (GCSE English Support only)***Students attending the GCSE English Supports Programme.***

Predicted English GCSE Grade	Achieved English GCSE Grade
C	C*
C	C
C	C
C/D	C*
C/D	G
C	C
C/D	B
C/C*	B
D	C*
C	C*
C/D	B
D	D
D	D
D	B
E/D	B
C	B
C	B
C	D
D	C
E/D	C
B	A
C	C*
C	C*
C/D	C
C	C*

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Twenty-one students gained a C grade or above, with one student being awarded an A grade, and seven students achieving a B grade.

Five students maintained their predicted grade (3 X Grade C and 2 X Grade D), two students achieved lower than their predicted grade (1 X C/D to G and 1 X C to D), eighteen students achieved higher than their predicted grade.

Participation and attendance

The tables below present the quantitative data showing student participation in the GCSE English GCSE Support Programme (both Colleges) and the Maths GCSE Support Programme (Nendrum College).

Strangford College: English				
Subject	No. of Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	25	25	B x 1 C x 12 C/D x 5 D x 5 E x 2	18 x 100% 4 x 90% 2 x 80% 1 x 70% Average: 95.6%

Nendrum College: English				
Subject	No. of Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	12	12	C x 4 C/D x 2 D x 6	12 x 100% Average: 100%

Nendrum College: Maths					
Subject	Tier	No Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
Maths	13 x Foundation	13	13	C x 6 C/D x 3 D x 2 E x 2	11 x 100% 1 x 90% 1 x 80% Average 97%

The table below provides an overall summary of the quantitative data.

Overall Totals for Strangford and Nendrum				
Subject	No Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	37	37	B x 1 C x 16	97.8%

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			C/D x 7 D x 11 E x 2	
Maths Foundation Tier	13	13	C x 6 C/D x 3 D x 2 E x 2	90%
Totals	50	50		Average: 95.2%

Super Output Areas and Free School Meal Entitlement

Using the postcodes supplied it was possible to identify students living in the 30% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas. The Application Forms also identified those students in receipt of Free School Meals. The table below shows the students living in the 30% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas, those who receive Free School Meals or both.

College and Programme	Top 30% SOA and FSM	Top 30% SOA and FSM %	Top 30% SOA	SOA %	FSM	FSM %
Strangford English (n=25)	2	8%	3	12%	3	12%
Nendrum English (n = 12)	2	16.7%	3	25%	2	16.7%
Nendrum Maths (n = 13)	5	33.3%	2	15.4%	1	7.7%
Total	9	18%	8	16%	6	12%

Twenty-three students that participated in the GCSE Support Programmes either live in one of the top 20% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas in NI, are in receipt of Free School Meals, or both. This represents 46% of the total number of participating students.

GCSE Support Programme outcomes

The table below considers the extent to which the Programme objectives were met:

Programme Objectives	Comment
Contribute to improving GCSE attainment levels	Nendrum College: Maths: All thirteen students who attended the GCSE Maths Supports Programme achieved a C or C+ GCSE grade. Four pupils maintained their predicted grade C and nine achieved better than their predicted grade.

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	<p><u>English:</u> Eleven of the twelve students who attended the GCSE English Supports Programme achieved a C or C+ GCSE grade. Two pupils maintained their predicted grade and ten achieved better than their predicted grade.</p> <p>Strangford College (English only) Five students maintained their predicted grade (3 X Grade C and 2 X Grade D), two students achieved lower than their predicted grade (1 X C/D to G and 1X C to D), eighteen students achieved higher than their predicted grade.</p>
<p>Engage with and develop relationships with schools, educators and parents/guardians that will result in securing their commitment and 'buy in'</p>	<p>Fully met, as demonstrated by high level of attendance from all students. 47 (n=48) students said they were treated well by the tutors (1 student was unsure). The majority of students believed this was an environment in which they could learn effectively.</p>
<p>Address specific learning needs for GCSE Mathematics and English students by providing targeted and focused out of school hours learning support interventions.</p>	<p>Yes – evidenced by Teacher comments who were 'able to target areas of weakness'. All students identified benefits, with 47 (n=48) students said they improved in English or Maths. The majority of students said they benefitted from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * learning new things, skills and methods * going over things they didn't understand before * things being explained in different ways so they understood more * studying and learning about topics they were unsure about
<p>Ensure that each young person receives the support required within Maths and/or English.</p>	<p>Yes – evidenced by Tutors assessing that every student progressed in English or Maths; which was also the assessment of the students about their own progress.</p>

Furthermore, the majority of students reported that they felt more confident about studying English of Maths, that they received the support they needed, and that the GCSE Programme was useful.

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Student Participation Criterion

As agreed with West Belfast Partnership Board at the outset, fifty Year 12 students participated in the Programme (twenty-five at each College), which was delivered face-to-face with groups of students and was delivered over twenty hours.

All the participant criteria were met. Each participating student was assessed by their English or Maths Teacher, with every Programme application form stating that each student was 'at significant risk of not obtaining a Grade C in English without additional support'. Those students on a predicted Grade C were 'within 5% points of Grade D'. In addition, 46% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas, were in receipt of Free School Meals, or both:

- 18% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas and were in receipt of Free School Meals
- 16% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas
- 12% of students were in receipt of Free School Meals

Conclusion:

The West Belfast Partnership Board has now produced a final evaluation report in order to inform the Council of the following objectives:

- Increased % in the number of students maintaining predicted Grade C
- Increased % in the number of students exceeding their predicted Grade
- Increased % in the number of students attaining Grade C or above

Outcome	%	Comment
% of the number of participating students maintaining predicted Grade C	16%	8 participating students (n=50) achieved their predicted grade NB: 3 students maintained predicted Grade D and 2 students achieved below predicted grade and did not pass their GCSE. In total 5 students did not pass.
% of the number of participating students exceeding their predicted Grade	74%	37 participating students (n=50) achieved a higher GCSE grade than the predicted grade prior to their engagement in the GCSE Supports Programme.
70% of the number of participating students attaining Grade C or above	92%	Of the 50 students who participated in the GCSE Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 students achieved Grade C or C+ in their Maths GCSE • 33 students achieved Grade C or above in their English GCSE.

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In terms of participation:

70% participation rate by students (ie attendance at GCSE Supports classes)	82%	Significantly exceeded, 41 students (n = 50) attended every session. The lowest participant rate was attained by one student who attended 70% of the sessions; showing that this outcome was achieved by every student.
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Belfast City Council has confirmed that they have secured a one-year extension to the programme for the 2022-23 academic year with the programme re-starting in the Autumn and a Service Level Agreement has now been signed between both parties following the approval of the Council to participate in this one-year programme at a cost of £9,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes the updated report highlighting the outcomes of the programme in terms of actual grades achieved against predicted grades.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity
Date of Meeting	05 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	12 December 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Flagship High Street Entrance
Attachments	None

The Flagship is about to open in a new format which includes an indoor market and food offerings. The Council has been approached by the owner to seek permission to remove 2 benches and 3 trees from outside the High Street entrance. This will then be used as a new gateway to the Flagship Centre. The removal will require reinstatement of the pavement to the same standard as the existing public realm using the same materials.

Planning permission for the works has been approved and DfI Roads has no objections to the removal of the items.

The picture below shows the area in question:

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to the removal of the trees and benches with the proviso that the pavement is reinstated to the required standard and all costs are met by the applicant.

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ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity
Date of Meeting	05 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	12 December 2022
File Reference	RDP189
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Review of Village Action Plans
Attachments	None

Background

As Members will be aware, the Council has developed a suite of 16 Integrated Village Plans, some of which date back to 2016. Eight of the Plans were reviewed in 2018 via funding support from the Rural Development Programme's Village Renewal Scheme.

Most of the Plans now require updating. Given the current constraints on budgets and lack of available external revenue funding, Officers will undertake a review of each of the Village Action Plans in-house.

Purpose of the Review

The purpose of the review will be to establish the current priorities for each of the local communities in our Borough's rural villages. This provides village communities with an opportunity to reflect on the actions within their plans, to consider their status and to feedback how relevant they still are.

The Action Plan Review process will also assist the Council with the development of projects, should any future funding opportunities become available, for example, through PEACE PLUS or the Shared Prosperity Fund.

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Village Action Plan Review – Process

In the first instance the Village's Community Action Groups will undertake a review of their Action Plan. Following this, public meetings/drop-in sessions will be held in each village so all groups, residents and businesses can feed into the Action Plan Review. A questionnaire has also been developed which will be available in hard copy and online.

To promote and encourage maximum participation in this process, flyers will be produced and delivered locally, and the drop-in sessions will be advertised on the Council's social media platforms.

Village Action Plan Review – Timeline

It is anticipated that 6 reviews will be completed by March 2023, with the remaining 10 being finished by March 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes the above.

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ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity
Date of Meeting	05 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	08 December 2022
File Reference	TO:EV/64
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subject	ANDBC Pipe Band Championships Events Update Report
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Letter from Royal Society of Pipe Band Association NI (RSPBANI)

Background

In October 2022, the Regeneration and Development Committee was presented with the Economic Appraisal report on the Ards and North Down Borough Council Pipe Band Championships that took place in Bangor in 2022 and Newtownards in 2019. Further to the presentation of this report it was:

‘Agreed that Council invites a deputation from RSPBANI to speak to this Committee at the earliest opportunity to provide feedback to Members on their preferences and requirements for a venue and how the event can be enhanced for Borough residents as well as the success of the RSPBANI’.

The Head of Tourism contacted the Project Officer of the Royal Society of Pipe Bands Association NI (RSPBANI) at the start of November and further to that received correspondence from the Association following discussion at their Executive meeting. The correspondence is attached as Appendix 1.

Following receipt of the letter, Officers met with the Chair, the Treasurer and the Project Officer from RSPBANI to clarify the ANDBC Pipe Band Championship 2023 date and bid amount. At this meeting the representatives confirmed that both Bangor

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and Newtownards were suitable locations for the event and were keen to work with the Council to deliver an event should a bid be forthcoming and confirmed.

The RSPBANI representatives confirmed that an event was deliverable for a bid of £14,000 (as per 2021), however it was acknowledged that some additional infrastructure such as toilets should be included in an increased bid. The Council would have the option to increase the bid to include this element or source and support the event via its own remaining budget.

At the meeting, RSPBANI representatives confirmed that the Ards Airfield and Castle Park were suitable venues, and both received good feedback from participating bands. When the Bangor venue was discussed, the representatives enquired about the use of Ward Park to potentially alleviate some traffic management issues. It was felt that a traffic management plan, at additional cost, may be required for Castle Park and/or Ward Park considering recent event planning requirements for other Bangor events. It was acknowledged that parking arrangements for the Bangor event, at either venue, may be problematic unless other parking arrangements at locations close by could be secured.

Officers undertook to establish availability of the three venues in the first instance and review traffic management requirements at each location. This is currently a work in progress at the time of writing the report.

Budget

The ANDBC Pipe Band Championship Event has been allocated £21,500 in the Business Case put forward in the Rates Setting Process. The current escalating costs relating to all event infrastructure and programming continue to be very challenging for officers in the event planning process. Research would indicate that a budget of £26,500 would be required to deliver the event in Newtownards and an indicative budget of £21,500 would cover either Bangor venue (final costings on traffic management to be developed/confirmed). This would cover the key event infrastructure requirements, with a reduced/minimal programming elements. The provisional budget does not include any Council marketing beyond the normal digital 'push' given to grant or supported partner events.

Future Potential Opportunities

During the meeting, RSPBANI representatives advised officers that should Council be interested in exploring larger scale Pipe Band events the following were available for consideration. The information provided was a high-level outline only and further information on each event, the bid process, the event infrastructure requirements and available Council resource, both financial and physical, to deliver any such opportunity alongside other Council committed Tourism Events in the chosen year, would need careful assessment.

Event Title	Indicative Bid Amount (current)	Normal calendar month	Note	Organising Body	Approx. attendee figure 2022**

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All Ireland Pipe Band Championships	£25,000	1 st weekend July	Attract ROI bands. Rotates NI/ROI will be in NI this year and ROI in 2024	RSPBANI	5000 New Ross (includes 30 Bands & 24 Drum Majors). Lower numbers in 2022 due to the location in County Wexford.
Ulster Pipe Band Championships	£25,000	1 st weekend August	Event available 2024* onwards	RSPBANI	4500 Ballymena includes 39 Bands & 31 Drum Majors
UK Championships	£75,000	2 nd Saturday in June	Available 2024 Potential clash with Council Tourism event	RSPBA	8000 Lurgan (includes 39 Bands & 30 Drum Majors)
European Pipe Band Championships	£75,000 plus	Last Saturday in July		RSPBA	17,000 Inverness (includes 90 Bands & 25 Drum Majors)

*Ward Park Council booking in place for major event 1st weekend in August until at least 2024.

** Numbers approximate. RSPBANI advise likely lower with 2 full years of no competitions post Covid-19. (Sourced via RSPBANI Glasgow and internet.)

All the above events would require Council to submit an Expression of Interest to host any of these, further to a successfully EOI the Council would then be invited to make a formal 'Bid', the outcome of which would be determined by the organising body.

At this juncture a decision is required regarding the Council bid and location for the ANDBC Pipe Band Championship event to allow officers and RSPBANI sufficient provisional planning time for the 2023 event, subject to the Rates Setting process. The decision requires confirmation on bid amount, Council budget and location.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves that:

1. Officers submit a bid for the ANDBC Pipe Band Championship 2023 to the RSPBANI at £14,000 with a total Council allocated budget to a maximum of

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£26,500, subject to the Rates Setting process and confirmation of bid by RSPBANI, and further recommends that:

2. Council decides on the host location for the annual ANDBC Pipe Band Championship from one of the following three options:
 - Option 1
Bangor - Castle Park or Ward Park. Ward Park will be dependent on officer confirmation of available suitable additional parking or
 - Option 2
Newtownards - Newtownards Airfield, Newtownards.
 - Option 3
Rotate the hosting of the event in Bangor and Newtownards Airfield, the event being at the Newtownards Airfield in 2023 and Bangor in 2024, subject to annual negotiations with the Ulster Flying Club and the bidding process.



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association
Northern Ireland Branch
Unit 34 Crescent Business Park
Ballinderry Road
Lisburn
BT28 2GN

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Patron: Sir Nigel Hamilton KCB, DL President: Winston Pinkerton
Honorary Branch Secretary: Danielle McCartney

15 November 2022

Sharon Mahaffy
Ards & North Down Borough Council
Town Hall
The Castle
Bangor
Co Down
BT20 4BT

Dear Sharon,

Council Bid - Ards & North Down Borough Council - Pipe Band Championship 2023

On behalf of the RSPBA NI Branch, we appreciate the update in your correspondence dated 7 November 2022. We have discussed this at our Executive Meeting and we are pleased you are considering a Pipe Band Championship in Ards & North Down Borough Council and grateful for the funding to support such a prestigious event.

Your Deputation Request inviting the RSPBANI to your January meeting is unnecessary, as we do not have a preferred location and in previous years, the Council have worked with us very successfully in both venues, on any matters including toilets, marketing, seating, carparking, etc.

This decision must be taken by Council, to offer us a bid including a venue and services. We are reluctant to get involved in any debate between the Elected Members of Newtownards and Bangor, as we are a governing body who delivers pipe band competition in Northern Ireland and we wish to stay neutral on this outcome.

Council have completed their own in-depth Economic Impact Assessments and with this information, we are certain your Members can prepare a bid for the RSPBANI to consider.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Pedlow
Project Officer

Tel: 07526 363296
Email: patricia.pedlow@rspbani.org

