

September 29th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 5th October 2023 at 7:00 pm** in **Hybrid - Church Street, Newtownards & via Zoom.**

Agenda

Virtual Meeting Guidance

[Guidance for virtual Council meetings.pdf](#)

Not included

Agenda

[P&P 05.10.2023 Agenda.pdf](#)

Page 1

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

3. City and Town Advisory Group Minutes for noting

3.1. Bangor CAG Minutes – 15.8.23

[3.1 Bangor CAG minutes 15.8.23.pdf](#)

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3.2. Comber TAG Minutes – 10.8.23

[3.2 Comber TAG minutes 10.8.23.pdf](#)

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3.3. Redacted Donaghadee TAG Minutes – 8.8.23

[3.3 Donaghadee TAG minutes 8.8.23 \(redacted\).pdf](#)

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3.4. Holywood TAG Minutes – 9.8.23

[3.4 Holywood TAG minutes 9.8.23.pdf](#)

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3.5. Newtownards TAG Minutes – 29.8.23

[3.5 Newtownards TAG minutes 29.8.23.pdf](#)

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3.5.1. Conway Square Covering

Report attached

[3.5.1 Proposed covering for Conway Square.pdf](#)

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4. Review of City and Town Advisory Groups

Report attached

5. Notification of launch of engagement re Eastern Transport Plan 2035 (formerly Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2035)

Report attached

5 - Notification of Launch of Eastern Transport Plan.pdf

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5.1 - Eastern Transport Plan 2035 launch letter.pdf

Page 43

6. Labour Market Partnership Update

Report attached

6 - Labour Market Partnership Update.pdf

Page 45

6.1 - AND LMP Action Plan 2023-24.pdf

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7. Renewed Ambition Costed Proposal

Report attached

7 Renewed Ambition Costed Proposal.pdf

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8. Any Other Notified Business

IN CONFIDENCE

9. Pilot Bookable Event Spaces

Report attached

9_Pilot McKee Clock and Marine Gardens Events Space Booking Procedure (002).pdf

Not included

9.1_benchmark prices.pdf

Not included

10. Governance Arrangements for Management of Council Harbours - Appointment of Duty Holder

Report attached

10 - Governance Arrangements for Management of Bangor Marina and Harbour.pdf

Not included

10.1 - Appendix 1 - RDP 06.09.18 Report 'Governance Arrangements'.pdf

Not included

11. Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Services (NIESS) Update

Report attached

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH

29 September 2023

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 October 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. City and Town Advisory Group Minutes for noting (attached)
 - 3.1 Bangor CAG Minutes – 15.8.23
 - 3.2 Comber TAG Minutes – 10.8.23
 - 3.3 Redacted Donaghadee TAG Minutes – 8.8.23
 - 3.4 Holywood TAG Minutes – 9.8.23
 - 3.5 Newtownards TAG Minutes – 29.8.23
 - 3.5.1 - Conway Square Covering (report attached)
4. Review of City and Town Advisory Groups (report attached)
5. Notification of launch of engagement re Eastern Transport Plan 2035 (formerly Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2035) (report attached)
6. Labour Market Partnership Update (report attached)
7. Renewed Ambition Costed Proposal (report attached)
8. Any Other Notified Business

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

9. Pilot Bookable Event Spaces (report attached)

10. Governance Arrangements for Management of Council Harbours – Appointment of Duty Holder (report attached)

11. Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Services (NIESS) Update (report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF PLACE AND PROSPERITY COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Kennedy
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor MacArthur
Alderman McDowell	Councillor McCracken
Councillor Ashe	Councillor McCollum
Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Edmund	Councillor McLaren
Councillor Gilmour	Councillor Rossiter
Councillor Hollywood	Councillor Smart

**BANGOR CITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
15TH AUGUST 2023 6PM
THE OLD MARKET HOUSE**

Attendees	<p>Paul Hogarth James Hennessy</p> <p>Ards and North Down Borough Council Alderman Karen Douglas Councillor Chris McCracken Councillor Wesley Irvine Councillor Alistair Cathcart Councillor Craig Blaney Susie McCullough-Director of Place Stephen Ferguson-Capital Projects Manager Jaqueline Harte- Communications Manager David Shivers – Urban Development Manager David Birch- Regeneration Officer Sonia Logan – Assistant Regeneration Officer</p> <p>Bangor Chamber Frank Shivers Geoff Thompson Marianne Kennerley</p> <p>Youth Rep. Julie-Ann Skinner</p> <p>Faith Rep. Philip McMillan</p> <p>Co-opt Member Alison Blayney</p> <p>Department for Communities Niall McVitty - Deputy Director</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure Stephen Gardiner</p>
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Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2 Appointment of Chair

	Councillor Craig Blaney was nominated by Councillor Alistair Cathcart as chair and this was seconded by Councillor Wesley Irvine It was agreed that Councillor Craig Blaney would take up the position as chair of the Bangor City Advisory Group.
Item 3	Apologies
	Ryan O'Neill- DfC
Item 4	Declarations of Interest
	No Conflict of Interests were received.
Item 5	Update on Waterfront Development Presentation
	<p>Susie McCullough presented an update on the Waterfront Development and the following items were discussed.</p> <p>The members enquired if the finances were secure Susie McCullough responded an FBC was still required to secure, and a letter of offer has been received.</p> <p>18.30 <i>Councillor Chris McCracken arrived.</i></p> <p>Frank Shivers asked if the budget had been raised in line with inflation Susie McCullough stated the budget has not gone up but there was significant optimum bias in the original OBC.</p> <p>Social Value-Alison Blaney asked if social value was incorporated, Stephen Ferguson stated that 10% of every construction contract will have social value incorporated and in all tender documents. Frank Shivers asked who is responsible for employment, Stephen Ferguson these will be appointed by contractors but noted that several employment opportunities will come from the investment.</p> <p>Youth interaction- Susie McCullough stated the voice of youth needs to be heard, asked the group for any ideas on how this can happen.</p> <p>Timeline- Frank Shivers asked if it was possible to move projects Stephen Ferguson responded that this was not possible as there was a process that had to be adhered to. Councillor Blaney enquired for a more detailed timeline -Stephen Ferguson responded that this was not possible as precise dates were not available at this stage.</p> <p>Kingsland residents- Susie McCullough informed the group that there was objection to apartments being built at the site of the tennis courts, she confirmed at the last public meeting in Ballyholme that apartments were not in the plans.</p> <p>Potential disruption-Frank Shivers expressed his concerns that Queens Parade would cause disruption to the business in the City once works began Susie McCullough informed him that this would be minimal as the building work would be at the front and not directly affecting the majority of business premises.</p> <p>Quick win projects- Councillor McCracken suggested quick win projects are important. It was discussed that quick wins could potentially help in turning negative narrative around.</p> <p>Comms Plan- Jaqueline Harte informed the group that the comms plan was still seeking approval and would be ready Sep/Oct.</p>

Item 6	Masterplan review Update Presentation
<p>James Hennessey presented an update the Bangor Masterplan Review, and the following items were discussed.</p> <p>Footfall Count- Niall McVitty told the group that footfall was being reconsidered as a reliable measure for evaluation given the potential for skewed figures.</p> <p>Dashboard- Councillor McCracken thanked James Hennessey for an informative presentation and noted that the dashboard was useful and would help to move things forward. He also stated that it was very clear regarding the 5 themes. He also recommended the need for high density housing to help regenerate the high street.</p> <p>Projects- David Shivers informed the group that there was funding available to work projects up to 'shovel ready' with the possibility of a 'Wayfinding' scheme and a Vacancy Scheme.</p> <p>Planning- Restrictions regarding planning were discussed, and it was suggested there was a planner should be invited to the CAG.</p> <p>Branding- rebranding was discussed. Alderman Douglas emphasised it was not just a logo that there was a necessity to create an identity. Councillor Cathcart stated that there was no need for a full rebrand as we have 'Bangor by the sea'.</p> <p>Quick win projects- Frank Shivers felt that any small projects should be put in place once works had been completed at the Waterfront in 10 years, as this would provide a basis with which to feed small projects into. James Hennessey responded that this would be appropriate for a future Masterplan.</p> <p>Councillor Blayney gave the example of the Café at Ward Park as a successful small project and asked if there were any other council owned buildings which could be revamped. Susie McCullough replied there was an internal working group developed to look at council owned land and sites.</p> <p>Sustainable Travel- DfC had commissioned traffic study for Hamilton Road two way with Dfl and AMY which concluded that the significant costs and further disruption to traffic flow would make Hamilton road two way unachievable and Niall McVitty agreed to look at this with Stephen Gardiner. Alderman Douglas requested this be an item on the agenda ACTION</p> <p>Vacant buildings- Marianne Kennerley stated the need to repurpose empty units and shops. She stated that there were models used in England regarding a reduction /exemption of rates to encourage this. David Shivers gave the example of the success of the pop-up shop in Comber which was an arrangement between the landlord and chamber of commerce.</p> <p><i>19:36 Susie McCullough, Stephen Ferguson, Jaqueline Harte, David Birch James Hennessey Left the meeting.</i></p>	
Item 7	Dfl issues
<p>David Shivers introduced Stephen Gardiner Dfl and stated that this would be a standing item on the agenda.</p> <p>The following issues were discussed.</p> <p>Resurfacing- Councillor Cathcart inquired if there was any budget for resurfacing, Stephen Gardiner responded that budgets were tight for this financial year. He hopes to give more of an allocation going forward.</p> <p>Stephen Gardiner asked for his contact details to be shared with the group -ACTION.</p> <p>Councillor Cathcart asked regarding utilities on areas of public realm Stephen Gardener said that they must reinstate like for like.</p>	

Banners-Frank Shivers asked if there was any way round hanging banners from lamp post as this was not allowed. Stephen Gardiner will follow up **ACTION**.

Signage- Geoff Thompson inquired regarding signage on pavements, can this be looked at. David Shivers informed the group a report was to go to council in Sept regarding digital signage.

Community groups-Frank Shivers suggested community groups could help with clearing weeds from the overgrown areas DfI receive complaints about, Stephen Gardiner welcomed this idea.

20.00 Councillor McCracken left.

Alderman Douglas inquired regarding cycling infrastructure. Stephen Gardiner responded that this was part of the active travel group and will try and gather some information.

Item 8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting *Circulated*

Alderman Douglas noted the date was incorrect **ACTION**

Proposed by Frank Shivers Seconded by Alderman Douglas

Item 9 Attendance of Bangor City Advisory Group.

The attendance figures for the past year were shared with the group.

MARCH -9

SEP- 10

FEB- 11

Item 10 Bangor City Advisory Group.

David Shivers informed the group that Pat O'Driscoll was on the wait list as Faith Rep and wished to remain on the list. All social members had been contacted and they all responded to state they wish to remain as members.

David Shivers asked the group to encourage attendance at future meetings, he also reiterated the importance of having members on the group with expertise.

Item 11 Update on Outstanding Actions

1. DFI-The Members suggested that DfI should be in attendance at the next meetings and the Mayor agreed and suggested the group should write to DfI and DfC for attendance to the next meeting. - INVITED

2. MILL ROW BINS- Frank Shivers informed the group that Seagulls were getting into bins and pulling out rubbish. David Shivers said he should send the details to Greg Kenny Environmental Health Officer.-SONIA CONTACTED. ASO SUGGEST THIS IS NOW REMOVED FROM AGENDA.

Response from Rachel McManus Environmental health

Hi Sonia

We have previously sent letters out to all the food businesses from Walseys down round to Bridge Street Link. Visits have also been carried out to the businesses to highlight the ongoing issues.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that we have received complaints for this area.

Environmental health had a joint meeting on site with staff from cleaning and littering approx. 2 weeks ago to see if the other departments can also assist with trying to get the area to a suitable standard. I am in the process of sending a further letter out to all of the food businesses inviting them to attend a meeting so that the issues can be discussed, and an action plan be put in place

hopefully. Gareth from Env health is also trying to determine the landowner for the laneway which is also proving to be quite difficult.

The members requested an update from Environmental Health for an update **ACTION**.

3. SHOP LOCAL-Councillor Stephen Dunlop asked for feedback on returns and figures from shop local – NO FIGURES YET

4. Floral Sculpture

The Group asked of the floral sculpture was going to be displayed again this year. David Shivers informed the Group it was in North Street Depot.

Frank Shivers commented that they were reassured they could be reused and planted.

Alison Blayney asked if Bangor in Bloom could plant it

The Chair requested that their comments were sent to Stephen Daye asked if he could report back to the group.

-RESPONSE FROM STEPHEN- Not coming back

Hi Sonia, Sorry not aware of this Mermaid Flower Sculpture, I asked John McConnell and he is not aware either. Happy to assist you if we have more info, but as I'm sure you can appreciate, we have already made plans with the budget allocated within then estimates process.

Alderman Douglas stated this was a waste of money and the sculptures should be reused.

Marianne Kennerley suggested SERC might be interested in the sculpture, she will contact and report back to the group **ACTION**

Frank Shivers requested a copy of the minutes regarding agreement to Floral Sculptures, Alderman Douglas informed 27 May 2021 minutes for clarification.

5. PROJECT 24-Marianne Kennerley requested an update on the planters and marquee from Project 24.

ACTION-planters relocated to Ballymench park, **-Marianne has been in contact with maintenance dept reg. pod furniture.**

6. PARKLETS-The Chair said one is filling with water and he will get back with further info-**RAY MCKIMM TO PROVIDE**

7.ASYLUM SEEKERS-Frank Shivers requested the situation re Asylum seekers added to the agenda – **ADDED TO AGENDA**

8. ASYLUM SEEKERS- Marianne Kennerley has attended various meeting and groups regarding the Asylum seekers and said she would provide an update to the group. **-Marianne Kennerley to provide item 13 on agenda**

Item 12			Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding		
Total Scheme Budget £1,751,000 (Urban & Rural)					
Total Expenditure Bangor - £369,598.13					
Project		Total Expenditure	Progress		
Grant Scheme	Tranche 1	£176,509.67	Complete 83 town centre businesses		
Grant Scheme	Tranche 2	£55,623.25	Complete 28 outer boundary businesses		
Grant Scheme	Tranche 3	£12,709.39	Complete 8 town centre businesses		
Total Grant Paid: £244,842.31					
Total No of Businesses: 119					
Solar Bins		£8,502.00	Complete 2no solar bins installed 2021– Main Street High Street.		
Floral Sculptures		£8,000.00	Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.		
Marketing Campaign Pt1		£3,541.30	Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the four town centres and Bangor. Including outdoor, press, digital and print.		
Parklets		£82,786.00	Complete 3 parklets installed in 2022/23 – 2 High Street 1 Main Street		
Cycle Infrastructure Urban		£8,467.12	Complete 1 Cycle Shelter, 1 Toast Rack, 1 Scooter rack, 1 Pump & Repair installed (Marina) 1 Cycle Shelter, 1 Toast Rack installed (Castle Park Car Park)		
Castle Park Lighting Scheme		£4,994.00	Complete Replacement of existing lights with upgraded LED lights to the area of Castle Park leading to Belfast Road.		
Marketing Campaign Pt2		£1,025.40	Complete Masterplan Review campaign across the four towns and Bangor in 2022. Including outdoor, press, digital and print advertising.		
Bangor Screen		£2,999.00	Nearing Completion		

		Screen and housing unit has been installed. Content currently being devised – live mid/end August.
Additional Solar Bin	£4,441.00	Complete 1no additional solar bin purchased and installed in High Street 2023 (underspend)

NOTE

Post Project Evaluation underway:

- 2no online surveys live 07 August – 04 September – business and user
- consultants appointed to conduct surveys 1-1 (users and businesses) throughout the towns and villages
- ANDBC social post to encourage participation scheduled
- Links to survey sent to members of the CAG

The position of the digital screen was discussed. David Shivers outlined the cost to remove it would be the same to provide a new screen as it was designed to the window size. Councillor Blayney agreed the toilet was not the best location. David Shivers agreed to speak with Translink regarding placing a screen there if finances became available.

Alderman Douglas asked the Chamber for feedback regarding the parklets, and Geoff Thompson stated that feedback from public had been positive , but there was a concern regarding litter and dirty pavements on a sunny day.

Item 13 Asylum Seekers Update

Marianne Kennerley provided an update, and the main points were outlined.

- last meeting was 3/8 /23
- protestor numbers have dwindled/ PSNI have scaled down.
- MC not at full capacity due to the protests with 39 Men. 3 families in Rianne House, Hollywood.
- On going Support being provided by a number of community groups/churches/associations working together. Including clothing, suitcases, cash, gym passes and opportunities to "get out & keep busy" - key message to residents.
- Potential for Volunteering opportunities in local businesses.
- Ukrainian residents facing challenges to translate degrees.

Alison Blayney noted that these are long term issues.

Frank Shivers suggested asking Asylum Seekers if they would be willing to volunteer to help tidy the weeds as raised under Item 7 Dfl issues.

Item 14 Terms of Reference for Bangor City Advisory Group

David Shivers explained that a facilitated workshop would be organised with an external consultant and the TAG members to develop a revised TOR.

Councillor Blayney requested a short workshop at the beginning of the next CAG meeting. Alderman Douglas asked if the current TOR are still relevant, David Shivers responded that they were outdated.

David Shivers suggested that Subgroups be set up to develop projects and informed the group that Officers and departments need to be involved and this was raised at the Officers workshop.

Niall McVitty told the members he was happy to coordinate inviting any representatives from his department with expertise to help once subgroups had been established.

Item 15	Any Other Business
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Market House- Alison Blayney informed the group that the laneway between the carpark and The Market House was in a poor state and unattractive and would like to proceed with an art project and was sourcing funding.

Levelling up fund-Frank Shivers raised his concerns regarding 9.8 million levelling up fund, and is it value for money. He stated there needs to be accountability for public money and the City needs to see a benefit.

David Shivers thanked Alison Blayney for hosting the CAG meeting and it was decided that future CAG meetings would be held in The Old Market House.

Item 16	Date and Time of next meeting
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TBC

The meeting was adjourned at 21.10.



COMBER TOWN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	
10TH AUGUST 2023 6PM	
COMBER LEISURE CENTRE	
Attendees	<p>PAUL HOGARTH James Hennessy</p> <p>Ards and North Down Borough Council Alderman Trevor Cummings Alderman Philip Smith Councillor Libby Douglas Councillor Patricia Morgan Councillor Rachel Ashe David Shivers – Urban Development Manager David Birch- Regeneration Officer Sonia Logan – Assistant Regeneration Officer</p> <p>Comber Chamber Iris McBride</p> <p>Faith Rep. Liz Hamilton</p> <p>Department for Communities Niall McVitty - Deputy Director Ryan O'Neill - Deputy Principal</p>
Item 1	Welcome and Introductions
David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
Item 2	Appointment of Chair
Alderman Trevor Cummings was nominated by Alderman Philip Smith as Chair, and this was seconded by Liz Hamilton Faith representative It was agreed that Alderman Trevor Cummings would take up the position as Chair of the Comber Town Advisory Group.	
Item 3	Apologies
Stephen Gardiner -DFI	

Item 4	Declarations of Interest
<p>No Conflict of Interests were received.</p>	
Item 5	Masterplan Review Update Presentation.
<p>James Hennessey presented an update the Holywood Masterplan Review, and the following items were discussed.</p> <p>1.Next steps-Alderman Cummings asked for the 'next steps' for the review. David Shivers informed the group it was to be presented at the next Place and Prosperity Committee.</p> <p>2. Subgroups-David Shivers suggested that Subgroups be set up to develop projects. Niall McVitty told the members he was happy to coordinate inviting any representatives from his department with expertise to help once subgroups had been established.</p> <p>3. Other Departments-David Shivers informed the group that Officers and departments need to be involved and this was raised at the Officers workshop. It should be a holistic partnership.</p> <p>4. Copy of the presentation -The members asked for the document to be sent to them. David Birch to set up a SharePoint site ACTION.</p> <p>5. Growth of Comber- The members discussed the 3g pitch and how this adds value to the town. They also felt that Park and Ride needed to be mentioned in the plans. Alderman Smith suggested the scale and growth of the town should be reflected in the plans.</p> <p>6 Communications- Councillor Morgan when will it be made public and expressed her concerns at how this would be communicated to the wider public. David Shivers stated the document would largely be available digitally by the end of September and budget considerations would determine any wider launch but suggested it could go out on social media platforms and would liaise with Corporate comms.</p> <p>7.Dashboard- Alderman Cummings felt that the Dashboard was a good idea. David Shivers hoped it would be reviewed every 3 months and a yearly final review.</p>	
Item 6	DFI ISSUES
<p>David Shivers informed the Group that Dfi representative Stephen Gardiner intends to attend future meetings, and this will be kept on the agenda.</p>	

Item 7	Minutes of previous meeting circulated
<p>It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of proceedings. Proposed by Alderman Smith, and seconded by Councillor Morgan.</p>	
Item 8	Attendance of Comber Town Advisory Group.
<p>The attendance figures for the past year were shared with the group. MARCH 2022-3 OCT 2022-6 FEB 2023-6</p>	
Item 9	Membership of Comber Town Advisory Group.
<p>David Shivers informed the group they had no representation from the youth sector and advised the members to try and gain a rep from this sector as it is underrepresented within the TAGS. David Shivers asked the group to encourage attendance at future meetings, he also reiterated the importance of having members on the group with expertise.</p>	
Item 10	Update on Outstanding Actions
<p>1. MASTERPLAN- David Shivers to supply Comber baseline report- SONIA EMAILED TO MEMEBERS</p> <p>2 CYCLE SHELTER VANDALISM- Cycle shelter now removed; rack remains.</p> <p>3.FLOODING- The Chair also raised the issue of flooding and agreed to contact Peter Caldwell – This has now been rectified as part of the Comber Carpark upgrade.</p> <p>4. LAUREL BANK-An update regarding Laurel Bank was requested – Sonia Logan to contact Stephen Daye for an update-</p> <p>UPDATE FROM NOELEEN FARRY-BIODIVERSITY OFFICER ANDBC <i>I believe the group were previously informed the Laurel bank feasibility study was to be progressed after the publication of our 'Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2023-2032'. I am pleased to confirm the LBAP was agreed at the last Council meeting and publication will take place in due course. In the meantime, I have managed to make contact with the Managing Director of a consultancy firm. There was a delay in contact due to the directors' international work commitments. Over a recent team meeting I was able to provide him with further details, these are due to be passed onto his team this week. At the moment we are awaiting a proposed plan and associated costs, once received I will be in a position to update the group again.</i></p>	

Item 11		Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding	
Total Expenditure Comber - £304,564.34			
Project	Total Expenditure	Progress	
Grant Scheme Tranche 1	£61,169.46	Complete 28 town centre businesses	
Grant Scheme Tranche 2	£23,446.03	Complete 14 outer boundary businesses	
Grant Scheme Tranche 3	£6,264.22	Complete 3 town centre businesses	
Total Grant Paid: £90,879.71			
Total No of Businesses: 45			
Solar Bins	£8,502.00	Complete 2no solar bins installed 2021.	
Floral Sculptures	£8,000.00	Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.	
Marketing Campaign Pt1	£3,541.30	Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the four town centres and Bangor city. Including outdoor, press, digital and print.	
Parklets	£16,241.00	Complete 1no parklet installed in 2022/23.	
Cycle Infrastructure Urban	£7,483.85	Complete 1 Cycle Shelter & 1 Scooter Rack (Comber Square) installed, 1 Cycle Shelter & 1 Toast Rack & 1 Scooter Rack & 1 Pump and Repair Installed (Bridge Street Link).	
Marketing Campaign Pt2	£1,025.40	Complete Masterplan Review campaign across the four towns and Bangor City in 2022. Including outdoor, press, digital and print advertising.	
Environmental Improvement Scheme Part 1	£25,449.15	Complete. Minor environmental improvement scheme completed in 2021/22 to include creation of connecting pathway, bins, and seating area.	
Environmental Improvement Scheme Part 2 – Comber Leisure Car Park	£143,441.93	Complete. Environmental improvement scheme completed in 2022/23 to include resurfacing, LED lighting, event pillars, improved layout, and signage.	
NOTE			

Post Project Evaluation underway:
 -2no online surveys live 07 August – 04 September – business and user
 -consultants appointed to conduct surveys 1-1 (users and businesses) throughout the towns and villages
 -ANDBC social post to encourage participation scheduled
 -Links to survey sent to members of the TAG

Niall McVitty expressed his thanks to officers for their hard work and dedication in completing all the projects.

Iris McBride also shared her thanks and informed the group that due to the works in the Comber carpark upgrade the recent Comber Earlies festival held in the carpark attracted a substantial number of visitors.

Item 12 Terms of Reference for Comber TAG

David Shivers explained that a facilitated workshop would be organised with an external consultant and the TAG members to develop a revised TOR.

Item 13 AOB

Hoardings at 18-22 Castle Street

Councillor Morgan expressed her concerns regarding the condition of the fencing and felt it was a health and safety concern. David Shivers informed that it was now privately owned and does not fall within council remit.

Iris McBride stated that a review of the condition had been carried out and it was deemed in a poor state of disrepair and would not hold the vinyl if it was covered. Alderman Smith informed the group that the owner had been contacted and was happy for it to be covered. The members discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to help with repairs.

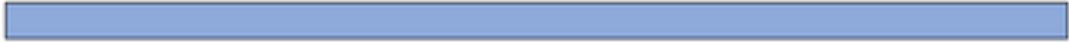
The Brent Goose Sculpture -David Shivers informed the members that the Brent Goose had been safely delivered at Castle Espie Wetlands. Images have been requested and will be circulated to the group once received.

Projects- David Shivers informed the group that there was funding available to work projects up to 'shovel ready' with the possibility of a 'Wayfinding' scheme and a Vacancy Scheme.

Notice of motion from Councillor Smart referred to dereliction and council powers will help inform the vacancy scheme.

Item 14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

TBC
 The meeting was adjourned at 19.20



DONAGHADEE TOWN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 8TH AUGUST 2023 6PM DONAGHADEE COMMUNITY CENTRE	
Attendees	<p>Paul Hogarth Company James Hennessey</p> <p>Ards and North Down Borough Council Deputy Mayor Hannah Irwin Alderman Mark Brooks Councillor James Cochrane Councillor David Chambers Councillor Gillian McCollum</p> <p>David Shivers – Urban Development Manager David Birch- Regeneration Officer Sonia Logan – Assistant Regeneration Officer Martin Mawhinney – Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Chamber Representatives John Caldwell Kate Boyd</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure Niall McVitty</p> <p>Donaghadee Community Development Association Adrian Kerr</p>
Item 1	Welcome and Introductions
	David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Item 2	Appointment of Chair
	Adrian Kerr was nominated by Alderman Mark Brooks and seconded by Councillor Gillian McCollum. It was agreed that Adrian Kerr would take up the position as chair of the Donaghadee Town Advisory Group.
Item 3	Apologies
	Stephen Gardiner -DfI Councillor Janice MacArthur
Item 4	Declarations of Interest
	No Conflicts of Interest were received.

Item 5	Masterplan Review Update Presentation.
<p>James Hennessey presented an update the Donaghadee Masterplan Review, and the following items were discussed.</p> <p>1. Masterplan turnout – James Hennessey reflected that there had been a positive turnout for the Masterplan’s consultation process in March 2023.</p> <p>2. Feedback – James Hennessey informed that any feedback provided to him could be worked into the document.</p> <p>3. The Harbour – Alderman Brooks raised the issue surrounding the maintenance of the harbour. David Shivers referred to the Harbour study and the cost of an intervention was circa £10 million David Shivers also pointed out that Dfl had previously maintained the Harbour but handed it to Council with no funding. John Caldwell said he had contacted David Lindsay, as a member of the Coastal Erosion Group, about the matter. John Caldwell expressed the pressing need for responsibility to be taken in this area. David Shivers assured the group that he would find out which officer would be assigned to this. ACTION</p> <p>*IN CONFIDENCE*</p> <p>4. Peace Plus funding</p> <p>*IN CONFIDENCE END*</p> <p>5. Masterplan presentation – Adrian Kerr asked James Hennessey if he could make the presentation, he had delivered available to the group. James Hennessey agreed to do so. ACTION</p> <p>Niall McVitty, Dfl, explained to the group that the Department were currently exploring how effective footfall was as a metric for measuring success in towns.</p>	
Item 6	DFI ISSUES
<p>David Shivers informed the Group that Dfl representative Stephen Gardiner intends to attend future meetings, and this will be kept on the agenda.</p>	
Item 7	Minutes of previous meeting <i>circulated</i>
<p>John Caldwell pointed out his name was not included in the attendees. ACTION David Shivers informed the group minutes would be circulated among the group post meeting for review.</p>	
Item 8	Attendance of Donaghadee Town Advisory Group.
<p>The attendance figures for the past year were shared with the group.</p> <p>MARCH-6 JUNE-4 OCT-4 FEB</p>	
Item 9	Membership of Donaghadee Town Advisory Group.
<p>Membership of the group was discussed. David Shivers reported Christopher Mason (youth representative) and Alan Cowan (faith representative) had been contacted to enquire if they</p>	

wish to remain as members but there had been no response. David Shivers informed the members that there was also room for one more social partner. **ACTION**
 . David Shivers suggested that further subgroups could also be established. Adrian Kerr welcomed this as a useful opportunity to start afresh with new faces.

Item 10 Update on Outstanding Actions

1. CROMMELIN PARK CARAVANS- James Hennessey said it was on the Commons plan and the Chair said they are looking at Crommelin.

Response from Alex Irvine-

"At present the space is utilised for sporting activity in the town and until such times as council find the land surplus to requirements it would not be looking at options to change its use."

Alderman Brooks suggested mirroring best practice in this area from Causeway and Glens. Alderman Brooks suggested the TAG contact Ann McCullough, Director of Prosperity, ANDBC David Shivers agreed he would contact Ann McCullough **ACTION**

2. PURPLE FLAG ACCREDITATION-Janice asked what towns Purple Flag accreditation and Liam will provide a link.

LINK SENT TO MEMEBERS 9/05

3. LETTER TO MARK BROOKS- Janice MacArthur suggested the committee send a letter to Councillor Mark Brooks to wish him a speedy recovery.

-LETTER SENT 21/02/23

4. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT MOAT- it was suggested the police be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss-

On further investigation it was noted that there have been no more incidents of anti -social behaviour reported in this area. We will keep monitoring the situation.

The group agreed that a member of the PSNI should be invited to the next meeting. Kate Boyd will forward on the details of a PSNI officer for Sonia Logan to contact **ACTION**.

Item 11 Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding

Total Expenditure Donaghadee - £207,523.56

Project	Total Expenditure	Progress
Grant Scheme Tranche 1	£41,172.99	Complete 21 town centre businesses
Grant Scheme Tranche 2	£6,815.91	Complete 5 outer boundary businesses
Grant Scheme Tranche 3	£5,000.00	Complete 2 town centre businesses
Total Grant Paid: £52,988.90		
Total No of Businesses: 28		
Solar Bins	£8,502.00	Complete

		2no solar bins installed 2021.
Floral Sculptures	£8,000.00	Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.
Marketing Campaign Pt1	£3,541.30	Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the four town centres and Bangor city. Including outdoor, press, digital and print.
Cycle Infrastructure Urban	£3,485.06	Complete 3 Scooter Racks, 1 Pump & Repair station & 1 Toast Rack installed.
Marketing Campaign Pt2	£1,025.40	Complete Masterplan Review campaign delivered across the four towns and Bangor City in 2022. Including outdoor, press, digital and print advertising.
Copelands Court Environmental Improvement Scheme	£120,000.00	Complete Minor Environmental Improvement Scheme to include resurfacing, public art and creation of an event space.
Seating at Lemon's Wharf	£9,980.90	Complete Double sided benches and picnic tables installed in 2023.

Post Project Evaluation underway:

- 2no online surveys live 07 August – 04 September – business and user
- consultants appointed to conduct surveys 1-1 (users and businesses) throughout the towns and villages
- ANDBC social post to encourage participation scheduled
- Links to survey sent to members of the TAG

John Caldwell reflected that it had been a worthwhile process. Kate Boyd noted that she had completed the user's survey and complimented the new double-sided benches that had been installed at Lemons Wharf play park.

Item 12 Terms of Reference for Donaghadee TAG

David Shivers explained that a facilitated workshop would be organised with an external consultant and the TAG members to develop a revised TOR.

David Shivers agreed to circulate the original terms of reference among members, following a request from the chair. **ACTION**

Item 13 Any other business

New standing item
Adrian Kerr noted that DCDA should be a separate point and introduced as a standing item on the agenda. **ACTION**

Items of interest

John Caldwell referred to several items of interest, including listing events for Donaghadee Festival and a positive participation from Donaghadee for Britain in Bloom. He noted his thanks and appreciation for the Parks Department team at ANDBC for their help with Britain in Bloom.

Donaghadee statistics

John Caldwell also drew members attention to work being conducted by the Royal Statistical Society, which had been looking at statistics from the Census 2021, concluding that Donaghadee had the oldest age profile of any town in Northern Ireland and one of the top 15 busiest Health Centres in Northern Ireland.

Climate change framework

John Caldwell said that DCDA was working on a climate change framework for Donaghadee, for which it had obtained £10,000 of Lottery funding. , David Shivers suggested that John Caldwell contact Emma Adair, Compliance Officer, ANDBC and investigate further potential funding avenues with her help. **ACTION**

Live Here, Love Here funding

Adrian Kerr announced that DCDA had received a grant towards Crommelin wood restoration project of £1900.

RNLI Mural

Alderman Brooks asked if individuals featured on the RNLI wall mural in the town could have their names included on it in some way. David Shivers confirmed that permission could be sought for this. **ACTION**

Moat car park

David Shivers noted that the scheme had caused a few concerns from residents who live beside the carpark, and as a result of this a separate planning application had been submitted so as to not hold up the Moat public Realm scheme. David Shivers requested a response from the TAG members and

John Caldwell asked David Shivers to send members the relevant plans, which they could then review and discuss. **ACTION**

Ulster Scots Heritage event

John Caldwell expressed his frustration at difficulties he had faced gaining permissions from Council regarding events at Lemons Wharf. He felt that due to the health and safety restrictions put in place this was detrimental to the future of community events in Donaghadee. Adrian Kerr informed the group that a letter had been received from Council deeming lemons wharf unsafe for events

David Shivers suggested addressing a letter to the Chief Executive to state that the TAG had discussed the matter and felt it was unreasonable. **ACTION**

Heritage Regeneration Initiative

David Shivers drew members' attention to the Heritage Regeneration Initiative EOI which was now open for applications.

Projects.

David Shivers informed the group that there was funding available to work projects up to 'shovel ready' with the possibility of a 'Wayfinding' scheme and a Vacancy Scheme coming through from the Masterplan.

Adrian Kerr suggested that a sensory garden (such as those seen with the Men’s Shed) could be another way to spend such money, adding that a site for such a development had already been identified at the garages on Crommelin Park.

David Shivers noted that while Regeneration, ANDBC may not be able to help financially with some projects, it could potentially assist with providing a letter of support or assistance with applications for external funding.

Dee Bloomers

Councillor MacArthur put on record her thanks for the work of Dee Bloomers while Kate Boyd paid tribute to the manner in which they helped to bring together the community.

New members

Councillor McCollum asked if it was necessary to have new members for the TAG to be in place in time for the next TAG meeting. David Shivers responded they could write to any new members to confirm their details and invite them to the next meeting.

Item 14	Date and Time of Next Meeting
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TBC – Late October / Early November 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 19.42.

HOLYWOOD TOWN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 9TH AUGUST 2023 6PM QUEENS LEISURE COMPLEX	
Attendees	<p>PAUL HOGARTH James Hennessy</p> <p>Ards and North Down Borough Council Councillor Rachel Woods Councillor Martin McRandal Councillor David Rossiter</p> <p>David Shivers – Urban Development Manager David Birch- Regeneration Officer Sonia Logan – Assistant Regeneration Officer</p> <p>Hollywood Resident association Christine Layton</p> <p>Hollywood Shared Town Robin Masefield</p> <p>Department for Communities Niall McVitty - Deputy Director Ryan O'Neill - Deputy Principal</p>
Item 1	Welcome and Introductions
David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
Item 2	Appointment of Chair
Councillor Rachel Woods was nominated by Councillor Martin McRandal as chair and this was seconded by Councillor Rossiter. It was agreed that Councillor Rachel Woods would take up the position as chair of the Hollywood Town Advisory Group.	
Item 3	Apologies
Stephen Gardiner -DFI, Nadia Dornan	

Item 4	Declarations of Interest
No Conflict of Interests were received.	
Item 5	Masterplan Review Update Presentation.
<p>James Hennessey presented an update the Holywood Masterplan Review, and the following items were discussed.</p> <p>1. Dashboard- Councillor McRandal asked how this would be accessed, it was discussed that a share point site could be set up.</p> <p>2. Project development- Councillor McRandal enquired as to how the actions become tangible, James Hennessey explained it was a process that would involve funding, project development and stakeholder involvement.</p> <p>3. Subgroups-David Shivers suggested that subgroups be set up to develop projects.</p> <p>4. Budget-The group enquired as to how this was split between the towns, David Shivers stated it was a Council decision depending on tangible, deliverable projects.</p> <p>5. Dfi-Councillor Rossiter stated the importance of having Dfi present. David Shivers responded that Stephen Gardiner Dfi is keen to be involved and will be present at future meetings but is on leave at present.</p> <p>6 Subway maintenance-Christine Layton stated that small things make a big difference in the town for example the cleaning of the subway.</p> <p>7. Queens Hall-Robin Masefield referred to Queens Hall, stating it needed a 'root and branch' review.</p> <p>8. Other Departments-David Shivers informed the group that Officers and departments need to be involved and this was raised at the Officers workshop. Councillor Woods stated the importance of not relying on volunteers, and there were too many barriers raised by Council e.g., planning permissions.</p> <p>9. Innovation Hub- Councillor Woods asked for more detail on the Innovation Hub- David Shivers said he would ask Economic Development for a written update. ACTION</p> <p>10. Next steps-Robin Masefield asked for the 'next steps' for the review. David Shivers informed the group it was to be presented at the next Place and Prosperity Committee. David Shivers stated the document would largely be available digitally and budget considerations would determine any wider launch but suggested it could go out on social media platforms and will liaise with Corporate Comms.</p>	
Item 6	DFI ISSUES
David Shivers informed the Group that Dfi representative Stephen Gardiner intends to attend future meetings, and this will be kept on the agenda.	
Item 7	Minutes of previous meeting circulated
Robin Masefield summarised a project he was working on regarding the history of Holywood which involves a banner at Translink station.	

Robin Masefield raised the issue of the fencing at Palace Barracks, the fence has been erected the wrong way round and is a traffic hazard. He has had no response from station manager to date.

Item 8 Attendance of Holywood Town Advisory Group.

The attendance figures for the past year were shared with the group.

MARCH 2022-6

JUNE 2022-6

OCT 2022-8

FEB 2023-6

Item 9 Membership of Holywood Town Advisory Group.

Councillor Woods requested a full list of members. **ACTION**

Barry Ditty is to be removed from the list due to ill health **ACTION.**

David Shivers asked the group to encourage attendance at future meetings, he also reiterated the importance of having members on the group with expertise.

Niall McVitty told the members he was happy to coordinate inviting any representatives from his department with expertise to help once subgroups had been established.

Item 10 Update on Outstanding Actions

1. MAINTENANCE ON FLOWER BEDS - proposed by Marilyn Toogood and seconded by Rachel Woods-It was decided to invite someone from maintenance team and parks to discuss. David Shivers stated that it was necessary to identify the issues first.

Councillor Woods requested a representative from the Parks Department be invited to attend the next meeting. **ACTION**

2. INVITE Dfi TO NEXT MEETING- Invite sent.

3. MOBILE URBAN ORCHARD- Update to be provided by Stephen Daye-On COVID update.

4. PALACE BARRACKS FENCING- Covered under Item 7.

5. PLAY STRATEGY DOCUMENTS- Edel Trainor to be asked for an update/attend next meeting

Response from Edel- No update yet, they intend to run an online survey and public event Sep/Oct and once this is complete Edel will update the members.

Members were disappointed that Edel had not attended.

Item 11		Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding	
Total Scheme Budget		£1,751,000	
Total Expenditure Holywood		£201,354.92	
Project	Total Expenditure	Progress	
Grant Scheme Tranche 1	£91,623.69	Complete 42 town centre businesses	
Grant Scheme Tranche 2	£19,060.23	Complete 8 outer boundary businesses	
Grant Scheme Tranche 3	£2,739.43	Complete 2 town centre businesses	
Total Grant Paid: £52,988.90		Total No of Businesses: 28	
Solar Bins	£8,502.00	Complete 2no solar bins installed 2021.	
Floral Sculptures	£8,000.00	Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.	
Marketing Campaign Pt1	£3,541.30	Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the four town centres and Bangor city. Including outdoor, press, digital and print.	
Green Scheme	£2,815.00	Complete Art-led subway improvement scheme completed.	
Cycle Infrastructure Urban	£3,607.12	Complete 1 Scooter Rack (Johnny the Jig), 1 Cycle Shelter & Toast Rack (High Street)	
Marketing Campaign Pt2	£1,025.40	Complete Masterplan Review campaign delivered across the four towns and Bangor City in 2022. Including outdoor, press, digital and print advertising.	
Johnny the Jig Playpark Enhancements	£29,228.75	Complete Public realm enhancements (seating, picnic benches, cycle stands, bins)	
Additional Solar Bins	£8,502.00	Complete 2no additional solar bins installed 2023.	

Additional Infrastructure	Cycle £405.00	Complete 3 Sheffield Stands installed Sullivan Place (Queens Hall) & 2 Sheffield Stands installed Church Road (car park entrance)
Urban Orchard	£14,000.00	Nearing Completion Trees and planters purchased and received. Branded banners designed – awaiting delivery (expected late August). Due to weather conditions planting is expected October. Proposed location – Redburn Square.
Artificial Christmas Tree	£7,925.00	Complete Delivery expected October. Installation to be complete by ANDBC contractor for festive period.

Post Project Evaluation underway:

- 2no online surveys live 07 August – 04 September – business and user
- consultants appointed to conduct surveys 1-1 (users and businesses) throughout the towns and villages
- ANDBC social post to encourage participation scheduled
- Links to survey sent to members of the TAG

Councillor McRandal requested more information on the Urban Orchard Project. Concerns were also raised regarding the position of it at Redburn Square and the impact of pollution from the A2.

Councillor Woods requested that the artificial Christmas Tree should be presented to the Town in a positive way. David Shivers stated that he would contact Corporate Comms. regarding a social media post on sustainability before it is placed in the Town. **ACTION**

Niall McVitty expressed his thanks to officers for their hard work and dedication in completing all the projects.

Item 12 Maintenance of Public Realm

It was agreed that this would be discussed with Stephen Gardiner DfI at the next meeting. Councillor Rossiter raised his concerns regarding graffiti in the town and was informed that council will only remove offensive language. More information regarding this will be sought and reported back to the group. **ACTION**

Item 13 Terms of Reference for Holywood TAG.

David Shivers explained that a facilitated workshop would be organised with an external consultant and the TAG members to develop a revised TOR.

Item 14 AOB

1. Laneways Project- David Shivers asked the group to provide anecdotal feedback regarding the refurbishment of Patton's Lane and Gray's Lane indicated that the scheme has been well received and is now more accessible and safer.

Councillor Woods mentioned that a nearby shop had been dumping rubbish in Patton's Lane.

2.Councillor Woods took the opportunity to thank Robin Masefield for his continuous engagement and involvement in Holywood Town and noted that he will be missed by the Group.

3.David Shivers informed the group he will keep them up to date with any progress on future schemes.

Item 15	Date and Time of Next Meeting
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TBC

The meeting was adjourned at 19.55.

Newtownards Town Advisory Group		
<u>TIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
6PM	Thursday 29th August 2023	ABM LEISURE COMPLEX
Attendees	<p>Alderman Stephen McIlveen – Chair Councillor Steven Irvine Councillor Alan McDowell Derek Wright - Chamber Representative Ian Foster – Chamber Representative Heather Lavery – Chamber Representative Pam Williamson – Ards and North Down Street Pastors</p> <p>Niall McVitty - DfC Ryan O’Neil - DfC Stephen Gardiner - DfI</p> <p>David Shivers - Urban Development Manager, ANDBC David Birch - Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Glynis Poots - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Sonia Logan – Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC</p> <p>Angela Reavey – Economist James Hennessey – The Paul Hogarth Company</p>	
Item 1	Welcome	
	David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
Item 2	Appointment of Chair	
	Alderman Stephen McIlveen was nominated by Derek Wright as chair of the Newtownards Town Advisory Group and was seconded by Councillor Steven Irvine. It was agreed that Alderman Stephen McIlveen would Chair the Town Advisory Group.	

Item 3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest
	Apologies were received from: Councillor Victoria Moore Councillor Richard Smart
Item 4	Declarations of Interest
	No declarations of interest.
Item 5	Conway Square Cover – Angela Reavey (Economist)
	<p>Angela Reavey presented an Economic Appraisal for the Conway Square Cover. And the following items were discussed:</p> <p>Councillor Alan McDowell asked if the research only discussed out of state visitors and stated visitors from NI would have economic value. He also stated that a partial covering of square, similar to the picture of the market in Belfast would be a considerable reduction in cost.</p> <p>Angela Reavey replied saying it wouldn't be normal to look at visitors from NI as not an addition to the economy.</p> <p>Derek Wright informed the group that there was a need to drive footfall to improve our economy and not lose out to online shopping. He stated that historically there have been cancellations of markets and events due to weather and he suggested looking at the figures again.</p> <p>Angela Reavey replied that the traders did not provide feedback and there is little or no evidence to assess non-monetary benefits.</p> <p>Derek Wright noted his disappointment that the decision regarding the cover was printed in the Chronicle months ago.</p> <p>David Shivers stated that the report had been available to the Town Advisory Group since April and was attached to the invitation to the previous meeting which was postponed due to the election.</p> <p>Councillor Stephen McIlveen felt that monetary value should be in confidence, and he would feed back to the Director.</p> <p>Ian Foster stated that The Chamber had not received the 55-page report. David Shivers informed him it had previously been sent to all members.</p> <p>Action: David Shivers to resend report to Ian Foster</p>

Angela Reavey stated that she undertook socio economic assessment and followed NI Tourisms best practice guidelines.

David Shivers explained that without economic evidence we cannot look for funding. He continued that a positive economic appraisal can only go forward for example to Levelling Up.

Ian Foster requested a copy of the economic appraisal from the previous Newtownards public realm scheme.

Action: David Shivers to provide

Heather Lavery explained that Ards does not have a venue for events so they would be unable to make a comparison.

Alderman Stephen McIlveen asked if they could get clarification from DfC.

Niall McVitty stated that if a Business Case is submitted DfC look for tangible evidence of success.

Councillor Alan McDowell stated that we are measuring through the wrong prism – tourism rather than economic development.

Angela Reavey confirmed that this Economic Appraisal findings reflected a non-monetary project that does not have an economic benefit.

Councillor Alan McDowell used Dundonald Ice bowl as an example and said there is a need for a covered facility.

David Shivers explained that this is a model required for funding, there are no tangible figures and we must be mindful of displacement.

Angela Reavey explained that we would need to monetise the benefits, not displacing jobs. At present there is no data to monetise the increase in jobs.

Ian Foster said he disagreed with the assumptions.

Alderman Stephen McIlveen asked what the next stage was.

David Shivers explained it would have to go back to Committee.

Councillor Alan McDowell said the group should look at alternatives – a more simple structure. Look at other potential economic benefits and highlight disagreements on report.

	<p>Alderman Stephen McIlveen stated that it was disappointing that there was no events budget. The Council could do more.</p> <p>David Shivers explained if the Group was to investigate alternatives, a temporary structure, it would be necessary to get information on revenue impact, would it require planning, logistic, cost, storage and manpower to erect and take down.</p> <p>Councillor Alan McDowell proposed that the decision is postponed to give the Chamber the opportunity to highlight the issues in the Economic Appraisal</p> <p>This proposal seconded by Councillor Steven Irvine</p> <p>Alderman Stephen McIlveen thanked Angela Reavey and she left the meeting at 7.03pm</p>
Item 6	Masterplan Review Presentation - James Hennessey from Paul Hogarth Company
	<p>James Hennessey provided the final update to the Newtownards Masterplan before they go to Committee.</p> <p>Councillor Alan McDowell said that a successful town needs good retail, entertainment and people working, we need a business hub rather than a community hub to create jobs in the town centre.</p> <p>Alderman Stephen McIlveen asked about Queens Hall as a location for the Community Hub.</p> <p>James Hennessey replied that the town would need a flexible space, augmenting it along side the Town Hall. Rebranding the Arts Centre.</p> <p>Derek Wright informed the Group that there are adjacent properties to the library and Queens Hall that are for sale and they would be a great opportunity for more space.</p> <p>Action: David Shivers to provide an update on the library from the Business Case.</p> <p>David Shivers explained that the Masterplans will go to Council on 15th September and if there were any changes it would need to be put back until the October meeting.</p> <p>James Hennessey left the meeting at 7.35pm</p>
Item 7	Dfl Issues
	<p>David Shivers expressed his delight that Stephen Gardiner from Dfl could attend the meeting.</p>

	<p>Stephen Gardiner explained that from a 2.1 million resurfacing budget £650,000 allocated to Newtownards and he discussed the following;</p> <p>Resurfacing scheduled for the old swimming pool location in Oct/Nov</p> <p>Dropped Kerbs for the Westwinds</p> <p>Frances Street and Court Street Lights</p> <p>Stephen Gardiner will provide a contact email address to the Group Action Sonia Logan to provide SG s contact details to the group</p> <p>Derek Wright enquired about the by-pass</p> <p>Stephen Gardiner explained that the road progression was developer led and is currently at Beverley Garden Village.</p> <p>Stephen Gardiner said he would provide an update at the next meeting. Action:</p>
Item 8	<i>Minutes of previous meetings (Newtownards Town Advisory Group) circulated</i>
	<p><i>Previously Circulated: Newtownards TAG minutes</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of proceedings.</p> <p>David Shivers explained that as a point of information the 55- page report on Conway Square Cover has already been sent out to the Group.</p>
Item 9	Attendance of Newtownards Advisory Group
	<p>The attendance figures for the past year were shared with the group. MARCH 2022- 6 SEP 2022-7 MARCH 2023-3</p> <p>David Shivers said it was great to see so many attendees this evening.</p>
Item 10	Membership of Newtownards Advisory Group
	<p>David Shivers asked if the group could confirm if Jonathan Duncan was still interested in being a member of the Group. Action: Derek Wright to contact Jonathan Duncan</p>

Item 11	Update on outstanding actions- David Shivers -Urban Development Manager ANDBC																																	
	<p>1. Derek Wright requested a copy of the presentation as turnout at the meeting was low ACTION Presentation emailed to Derek Wright on Monday 6th March 2023</p> <p>2.Derek Wright requested a copy of Covid Recovery details to be sent to Chamber. ACTION Sent to Chamber 3rd March 2023</p> <p>3. Discuss cover at next meeting Action – added to agenda</p>																																	
Item 12	Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding- David Shivers Urban Development Manager ANDBC																																	
	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme 2021-2023 Total Scheme Budget £1,751,000 (Urban & Rural) Total Expenditure Newtownards - £392,953.40</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 996 1437 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Total Expenditure</th> <th>Progress</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Grant Scheme Tranche 1</td> <td>£140,219.35</td> <td>Complete 64 town centre businesses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant Scheme Tranche 2</td> <td>£51,728.93</td> <td>Complete 29 outer boundary businesses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant Scheme Tranche 3</td> <td>£20,622.63</td> <td>Complete 11 town centre businesses</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total Grant Paid: £212,570.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total No of Businesses: 104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solar Bins</td> <td>£8,502.00</td> <td>Complete 2no solar bins installed 2021.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floral Sculptures</td> <td>£8,000.00</td> <td>Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marketing Campaign Pt1</td> <td>£3,541.30</td> <td>Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the towns/city outdoor, press, digital and print.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parklets</td> <td>£72,378.00</td> <td>Complete 3 parklets installed in 2022/23.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cycle Infrastructure Urban</td> <td>£16,521.23</td> <td>Complete 2 x Planter rack, & Scooter rack, Conway Square Cycle Shelter & Toast rack & Pump & Repair, South Street Cycle Shelter & Toast Rack,</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Project	Total Expenditure	Progress	Grant Scheme Tranche 1	£140,219.35	Complete 64 town centre businesses	Grant Scheme Tranche 2	£51,728.93	Complete 29 outer boundary businesses	Grant Scheme Tranche 3	£20,622.63	Complete 11 town centre businesses	Total Grant Paid: £212,570.91			Total No of Businesses: 104			Solar Bins	£8,502.00	Complete 2no solar bins installed 2021.	Floral Sculptures	£8,000.00	Complete Floral sculpture designed, constructed, and installed in 2021.	Marketing Campaign Pt1	£3,541.30	Complete Shop Local marketing campaign delivered in 2021 across the towns/city outdoor, press, digital and print.	Parklets	£72,378.00	Complete 3 parklets installed in 2022/23.	Cycle Infrastructure Urban	£16,521.23	Complete 2 x Planter rack, & Scooter rack, Conway Square Cycle Shelter & Toast rack & Pump & Repair, South Street Cycle Shelter & Toast Rack,
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			Gibson's Lane 2 Cycle Stands, Mill Street	
	Conway Square Seating	£65,973.56	Ongoing Benches and chess style tables received – awaiting installation tbc	
	Marketing Campaign Pt2	£1,025.40	Complete Masterplan Review campaign across the towns/city in 2022. Including outdoor, press, digital and print advertising.	
	Additional Solar Bin	£4,441.00	Complete 1no additional solar bin purchased and installed 2023 (underspend)	
	<p>NOTE</p> <p>Post Project Evaluation underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2no online surveys live 07 August – 04 September – business and user -consultants appointed to conduct surveys 1-1 (users and businesses) throughout the towns and villages -ANDBC social post to encourage participation scheduled -Links to survey sent to members of the CAG <p>Niall McVitty expressed his thanks to officers for their hard work and dedication in completing all the projects in a timely manner.</p> <p>Derek Wright also noted his thanks to the Officers involved in the Business Grant Scheme.</p> <p>Niall McVitty asked for feedback from the questionnaire responses. Action: Sonia Logan to provide feedback</p> <p>Derek Wright stated that the parklets were proving popular.</p> <p>Alderman Stephen McIlveen said one parklet was covering a gully. David Shivers responded that officers were aware and looking for solutions Action: Stephen Gardiner to assess</p>			
Item 13	Terms of Reference for Newtownards Town Advisory Group			
	David Shivers explained that a facilitated workshop would be organised with an internal consultant and the tag members to develop a revised TOR			

Item 14	Any other business
	<p>David Shivers informed the Group that there was funding to work projects up to 'shovel ready' with the possibility of a way finding scheme and a vacancy and dereliction scheme.</p> <p>Projects are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dereliction and Vacancy 2. Way finding with heritage and history. <p>Derek Wright stated that the Chamber are actively trying to engage with The Active Travel Committee and are concerned that the Ards Greenway will be disconnected from the Town.</p> <p>David Shivers replied that we should wait until the next meeting and if the Active Travel Committee hadn't responded he would write to the Permanent Secretary.</p> <p>Councillor Alan McDowell left the meeting at 8.05pm</p> <p>Meeting House Lane</p> <p>David Shivers explained that funding was not available for lighting. Ian Foster replied that the group needed a response to the proposed footpath as it has been some time since it was raised, David Shivers asked Stephen Gardiner if he would be able to help with this. Alderman Stephen McIlveen asked for this to be added to the next meeting agenda.</p> <p>Action: Sonia Logan to add to next agenda</p> <p>Derrek Wright then discussed the negative impact on the community of the drug feud and thanked the local Councillors who are working with the community. He also mentioned the anti-social behaviour at Blair Mayne. Pam Williamson that they are looking at projects to engage youth for example decorating the outside of a toilet block.</p>
Item 8	Date and Time of Next Meeting
Action	TBC
Item 9	Adjournment
	Alderman Stephen McIlveen thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned

Unclassified

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ITEM 3.5.1**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 October 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	20 September 2023
File Reference	RDP230
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Proposed covering for Conway Square
Attachments	None

1. Background

As Members will be aware the Council appointed Hall McKnight Architects to undertake an economic appraisal of the proposed covering for Conway Square to ascertain the financial viability, economic benefits and fundability of a potential covering. There was a break clause in the contract that required a positive economic appraisal to be received before moving to a detailed design and planning application.

The Outline Business Case (OBC), previously presented to Council in June, outlines that whilst some benefits would be experienced from the project, they were outweighed by the risks and low economic return to Newtownards/the Borough., with the OBC clearly identifying several key constraints:

- Availability of capital funding from ANDBC or any other source.
- Availability of revenue funding and resources to manage the facility.
- The need to operate in a financially viable and sustainable manner.
- Obtaining planning permission could be pragmatic (although there has been engagement with Planning and HED)

Not Applicable

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In terms of the capital costs, this project investment (£798k) is not currently within the Council's capital budget nor is it included in the Council's capital projects prioritisation list. Also given the findings set out in the OBC it would be extremely unlikely that this project could attract external funding as a positive economic appraisal would be essential.

A further key issue is the management of the Square and its events. The Council currently does not have the funding or resources to manage and deliver events in the Square. This extra budget/resource could be needed to animate the area should the project go ahead.

The project, under the economic evaluation, results in a Net Present Social cost and a Benefit Cost Ratio below 1:1 (a benchmark for value for money). Based on the limited data available, the project is not forecast to present a net economic benefit to the economy, although there would be non-monetary benefits, thus the OBC concludes that the project is not considered to represent Value for Money.

2. Update

As requested by Council, this was taken back to the Town Advisory Group on 29th August 2023. At the meeting it was suggested that the Chamber would be given further time to respond to the OBC, which they received on 27th April 2023. At the date of writing the report no response has been received.

The commission with Hall McKnight has ended and no budget is currently available for further work on this project. The results of the independently procured OBC are clear that no economic case exists to further progress this project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the above.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 October 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	20 September 2023
File Reference	RDP60
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Review of Town/City Advisory Groups
Attachments	None

Background

As Members will be aware and following on from previous reports, each of the towns/city in the Borough have had Town/City Advisory Group for the last five years. The Steering Groups were derived from the original public realm Steering Groups and further developed over time.

As the remit of the new Town/City Advisory Groups has been broadened beyond the current regeneration functions to encompass wider Council services these were reformed to be more reflective of the wider community. In addition to DEA Councillors, the Advisory Groups now include Chamber of Commerce representatives, community representatives, regeneration group representatives and also faith and youth representations. The number of social partners is equal to the number of Elected Members for each respective DEA.

In order to remain independent from this process, the Regeneration Unit sought assistance from Community Development Section to develop and run a process to attract social partners (community, faith and youth). In instances where there was

Not Applicable

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more than the prescribed number of representatives, social partners were rotated on a yearly basis as agreed by the Advisory Group.

Update

The current remit of the TAGs/CAG is:

"The Town/City Advisory Groups have been established to progress work in relation to Ards and North Down Borough Council developing a local approach to regeneration issues, Masterplanning/Place making, community planning, and other localised issues, defining outcomes and agreeing the processes and structures to support localised solutions. The minutes of the Town/City Advisory Groups will be circulated at the Place and Prosperity Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council for noting. The Groups will also function to include proposals and objectives of other Council Departments."

Through the review of the Masterplans in consultation with the TAGs/CAG it has been agreed that whilst the TAGs/CAG are a valuable vehicle to raise localised regeneration issues and other pertinent town/city concerns, the current terms of reference are limiting. In order to make the TAGs/CAG more dynamic as partnerships, where collective solutions to problem solving for issues facing the towns/city, a review on how the TAGs/CAG are structured would be beneficial to further enhance this valuable work.

The current consultants, Paul Hogarth & Co have been at the forefront of these discussions and having been the successful tenderer for the review of the Masterplans is now best placed to undertake further work on the future functions of the TAGs/CAG. The appointment would be made in line with Procurement Policy subject to Council approval to undertake the work.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to proceed to appoint Paul Hogarth & Co to undertake the review of the TAGs/CAG to the value of c£12K which can be met from existing budgets.

Unclassified

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ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 October 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	N/A
Date of Report	20 September 2023
File Reference	RDP69
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notification of launch of Eastern Transport Plan
Attachments	Letter from DFI dated 1 September 2023 re BMTP

Background

The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) is currently preparing a new Transport Plan which will set the framework for making transport policy and investment decisions up until 2035. The Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035, previously known as the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP), covers five council areas (including AND) and will also support the preparation of the Local Development Plans for these councils.

Detail

Council previously received notification that the Permanent Secretary of DFI had taken the decision to change the name of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan to the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035.

Elected members, the Chief Executive and senior officers were invited to an engagement event with presentation by DFI and Atkins on 31 July 2023.

Not Applicable

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DFI have written to the Chief Executive (letter attached) to advise that engagement on the ETP's proposed draft Vision and Objectives opened on 04 September 2023 for eight weeks.

Members should be advised that regular updates on the ETP Working Group are reported to Planning Committee as Steering Group for the Council's Local Development Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

SIAN KERR
Director, Transport Planning and Policy Directorate



Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards & North Down Borough Council

Via email:
catherine.mcdowell@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Director of Transport Planning and Policy
Room 2-18
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9034 6228
Email: sian.kerr@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference:
Date: 1 September 2023

Dear Stephen

BELFAST METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PLAN (BMTP) 2035

As preparation of the BMTP progresses, and our engagement with stakeholders continues, I wanted to take an opportunity to provide an update regarding the Plan.

Following consideration of stakeholder feedback, the Permanent Secretary has recently taken the decision to change the name of the BMTP to the **Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035**. It is hoped that renaming the plan as the ETP 2035 will increase the level of community engagement across the Plan area as we approach the formal launch of the project.

I would also like to confirm that the ETP 2035 will be formally launched on **Monday 4 September 2023**. An 8-week public engagement exercise will also commence on this date and will close at **5pm on Monday 30 October 2023**.

It would be of great assistance to the preparation of the Plan if you might be able to reach out to your Elected Members and any individuals, organisations or community groups on your contact databases on or after the 4th September to advise of the launch and public engagement and to direct towards the links to our website and survey set out below. I would also be grateful if you might be agreeable to publicising the launch of the Plan on your social media streams following the launch as this will assist in raising public awareness.

Further information can be found via the following links, which will be accessible from launch.

Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 Website:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/eastern-transport-plan-etp-2035>

Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 Survey:

<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/eastern-transport-plan-consultation>

Should you have any queries in relation to the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 and the public engagement exercise, please contact the Department's Press Office at press.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



SIAN KERR
Director

Unclassified

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ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 October 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	19 September 2023
File Reference	ED 123
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Labour Market Partnership Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2023-2024

Ards and North Down established its Labour Market Partnership (LMP) in August 2021 when the Department for Communities (DfC) made funding available for the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships within each of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland.

The aim of Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership is to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally. The LMP works through co-ordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships to meet their regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees.

After having its budget withdrawn in May 2023, the Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership saw its funding reinstated by the Department for Communities after a successful case was made through an elaborate response to its Equality Impact Assessment.

Unclassified

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The Letter of Offer from DfC then was received on the 28 July 2023 for the reduced budget figure of £300,413.81 (excluding operational costs) and was returned to the Department on the 4 August 2023.

Action Plan for 2023-24

The AND LMP 2023-24 Action Plan aims to achieve the following:

Activities	No. of participants/attendees
Events	260
Participants in activities and programmes	207 (155 completers)
Employers engaged with across all programmes	55
Employment	74 to gain employment or to progress in better positions

The Customer Facing Action Plan for 2023-2024 has now been agreed with DfC and is attached to this report.

The Action Plan 2023-2024 for the reduced budget is currently being implemented by the ANDLMP. The offer for the full budget may still be made by DfC at some stage in the Autumn and if additional money is offered, it will be reported to the Council for information. As per the conditions of the Letter of Offer, all activities should be completed by the end of this financial year. It is however expected that, as the Letter of Offer was significantly delayed, some flexibility might be shown by the DfC and accruals allowed. This will need to be negotiated.

Current Activities are as follows:

A Transport Academy tender was published on the 24 August for the total value of £78,489. This is to recruit and train at least 45 candidates, the breakdown of which is: 30 candidates (basic HGV licence), 10 upskilling for HGV licences and 5 candidates to receive a PSV/ Coach Licence. This tender closed on the 14 September and is currently being evaluated.

The tender for a **Job Focused Academy** for People with Disabilities was published on the 18 September for the total value of £39,650. This is to recruit and develop suitable academies for up to 22 participants. This employer-led programme aims to offer people with disabilities an opportunity to gain a qualification and access sustainable employment where gaps have been identified.

An online **Information Session on the LMP** was held on Tuesday 19 September. This saw over 31 companies and business representatives registering and attending to find out more about the upcoming work of the LMP. It gave the attendees an opportunity to complete an Expression of Interest, should they be interested in quoting for any of the upcoming projects. This event also doubled up as an engagement session with our local businesses and organisations. It was a direct opportunity for the LMP to ask attendees where they saw the skills and employment gaps in the local market and how the Rapid Response Academies could address these needs through short and targeted initiatives.

Unclassified

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A Careers Convention is planned for 7 February 2024 in Bangor Aurora Aquatic Centre to coincide with Apprenticeship week which will be from 5-9 February 2024. Further details on the Careers Convention will be reported to Council once agreed.

With assistance from DfC, a **Jobs Fair** is planned for March 2024, the date of which is yet to be confirmed. It is anticipated to be held in Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex. This will showcase employers within the Borough that have jobs available and are recruiting. Support agencies will also be in attendance to assist applicants where possible. Further details on the Job Fair will be reported to Council once agreed.

The LMP Action Plan document for 2023-2024 is attached in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the content of this report.



ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

Labour Market Partnership

Working Together



ACTION PLAN 2023/24

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1.0 INTRODUCTION – THE ARDS AND NORTH DOWN LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP)

The Department for Communities (DfC) made funding available for the establishment of new Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) across all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. Each Council will be accountable to the Regional LMP, and this role will be undertaken by the Employability NI (ENI) Programme Board. Ards and North Down Borough Council will provide the secretariat on behalf of DfC who will provide the funding for the administration and operational costs of this new initiative based on approved Action Plans.

This Action Plan has been developed to follow the achievements of the 2021/23 Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Action Plan, and to address the employability needs of Ards and North Down (AND) Borough Council.

The local LMP is intended to:

- Provide leadership and lead on the integration of services
- Develop local Action Plans including setting targets for performance
- Manage devolved funding and its delivery through a dynamic purchasing framework
- Manage arrangements for the evaluation of local interventions

Council has taken on the task of local convenor of a partnership approach to employability interventions in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.

A Strategic Assessment was carried out of employability outcomes and local labour market conditions in the Ards and North Down Borough Council Area. This exercise was undertaken to ensure that the priorities identified in the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan reflect priority employability and labour market issues in the area, informed by analysis of information provided by statutory partners, colleagues across council as well as the results of ongoing Borough wide engagement and consultation with local businesses and the community across the Council area.

The Strategic Assessment highlighted the key statistics for the labour market in Ards and North Down as understanding the current outlook of Ards and North Down's labour market, and analysing it effectively, was a crucial first step to establish a successful Labour Market Partnership. There have been and continue to be enormous challenges in AND's local labour market in the wake of COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, with unavoidable increases in the unemployment rate and redundancies, followed by detrimental impacts to health and even reduced demands for services and goods. It is difficult to quantify currently the exact magnitude of the impact on AND's economy as not all the data was available.

The findings from the Strategic Assessment were presented to LMP members and there was consultation with LMP members to help shape and inform the Action Plan. The Action Plan was worked and finalised at subsequent LMP meetings, reflecting the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment as well as issues identified by the partners in their feedback as part of the consultation process and as part of the work carried out in the 22/23 Action Plan.

A Turning the Curve approach has been used to develop the 2023/24 Local LMP Action Plan by identifying themes and projects that will help to achieve the desired outcomes. At a workshop of the LMP, the Strategic Assessment of Ards and North Down's labour market highlighted the issues where we need to 'turn the curve.' Information from this workshop helped shape the further engagement with LMP members to further develop 'turning the curve' actions.

The AND Labour Market Partnership has been in operation since August 2021. It was developed on the guidance issued by the Department for Communities Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by Labour Market Partnerships, and also the Council's former Employability and Skills Subgroup (ESSG). As well as representation from external organisations, Council Officers are represented on the LMP including Officers from Community Planning, Economic Development, and Community, Wellbeing and Health who bring their wealth of experience to the Partnership.

The Labour Market Partnership Membership consists of members from the following organisations:

County Down Rural Community Network

South Eastern Regional College

Ards Business Hub (Enterprise Agency)

North Down Development Organisation (Enterprise Agency)

Bangor Chamber of Commerce

Portaferry Regeneration Ltd

Education Authority

Kilcooley Women's Centre

Stepping Stones NI

Princes Trust

Department for Communities (Jobs and Benefits Office)

Department for Economy (Careers Services)

Young Enterprise NI

Close Focus Ltd

Invest NI

Now Group

2.0 THE PROCESS FOR STATISTICAL AUDIT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

The process for the statistical audit involved:

1. A review undertaken by the Council's Data and Evidence Analyst of key strategic and policy documents including:
 - The Programme for Government
 - ANDBC's overarching Community Plan "The Big Plan" 2017-2032
 - ANDBC's Corporate Plan 2021-2024
 - ANDBC's Integrated Tourism Regeneration Development Strategy 2018-2030
2. A desktop statistical audit to establish the existing evidence base available was also used to inform the Strategic Assessment, including research from NISRA, Labour Force Survey, Business Register and Employment Survey, Census 2021, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office of National Statistics, Children and Gender Inequality, Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Women in Northern Ireland, Deprivation Report (AND), Labour Market Statistics, Higher Education Statistics Agency, Inter-Departmental Business Register, UUEPC.
3. An initial meeting/workshop and two further meetings of LMP members and Council Officers.

The findings of the Strategic Assessment were used in conjunction with the experience of LMP members to develop an Action Plan for 2021-2023. The Action Plan for 2023-2024 was revised and developed with the LMP Partnership taking into consideration the scoping exercise. The updated Action Plan seeks to build on local experience, knowledge of providers and expertise, and marry this with opportunities to address key areas of need within the AND Council area. It also builds on the success of last year's Action Plan, and the lessons learned.

3.0 THEMATIC AREAS TO ADDRESS ISSUES FROM STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

As a result of the Strategic Assessment and consultations with the key stakeholders, the following themes have been identified as local priorities:

- Theme 1 – Economic inactivity
- Theme 2 – Youth unemployment
- Theme 3 – Disability
- Theme 4 – Skill and labour supply

Following a detailed Strategic Assessment of the labour market in AND, consultations with partners with local businesses, local community representatives, the Jobs and Benefits Offices (JBOs), the Labour Market Partnership has agreed that the above listed themes are the urgent and critical issues to tackle in the local area. The Action Plan will be responsive to local Labour Market Conditions aiming to find and fill gaps in provision for those furthest removed from the labour market. Consideration of other initiatives from bodies such as Department for Economy, Shared Prosperity Fund and other government departments to ensure AND LMP responses are unique and not replicating existing provision.

The partnership decided not to focus on Economic shock as the redundancy rate in AND reduced in 2021 it was felt that it would be less of a priority to 'turn the curve' on this particular theme. In addition, the partnership decided that Long-term unemployment would not be a focus as the current employment rate in AND was higher than the NI average.

In addition, the Partnership recognised there are many barriers faced by individuals in obtaining employment or training, such as no suitable qualification, poor skillsets, no or little work experience, disability or other health problems, potential in reduction or loss in benefits; difficulties in childcare arrangements; cost of transport to attend training or work placement and others. Individuals with these problems are more likely to move into temporary jobs or have difficulty in finding sustainable employment.

With this information in mind, the LMP understands the challenges to provide support for residents and putting in place systems of care to help people in need. It is our aim to ensure that participants feel supported to reach their full potential. The LMP also recognise there is no one solution to address the challenges. Thus, the LMP wishes to ensure correct programmes are implemented and supports are provided to address the outlined themes identified as high priority for the AND area.

STATISTICAL EVIDENCE RE: BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

The consultation outcomes were used with statistical analysis to identify key thematic areas against which outcomes can be measured and assessed, and a turning the curve approach was applied.

The AND Action Plan strives to address inequalities in the local labour market in respect of:

POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION



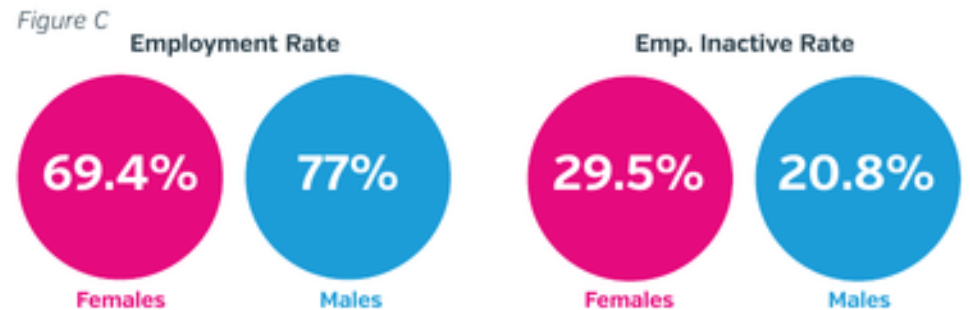
Figure A
This shows us that the perception of AND as a wealthy and privileged borough does not add up with the facts of poverty and employment deprivation.

DISABILITY



Figure B
In addition, it was found that knowledge and awareness were the main barriers to disabled people finding work, and a lack of reasonable adjustment for those disabled employees to encourage them to stay in lasting employment.

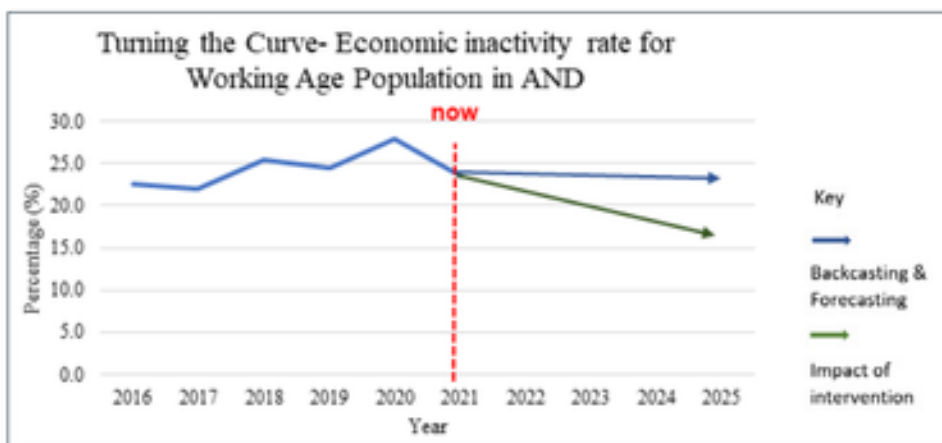
GENDER



See above. Also, the salaries for jobs located in AND showed that the gender pay gap (GPG) between females and males was 4.5% in 2022, indicating females earned 4.5 % less than males.

Theme 1: Economic Inactivity

The Economic Inactivity in 2021 in AND was 23.6% including students. It is believed that the main reason for economic inactivity was due to health reasons which equated to 8.3%, followed by students at 7.3% and retirement at 4.7%. It is hoped that by offering interventions for those that are currently economically inactive that take into consideration the needs of the currently inactive and remove barriers to entering or returning to the labour market. Academies and provision of qualification will provide skills and support while addressing sector needs in the AND area, consideration of other initiatives from bodies such as Department for Economy, Shared Prosperity Fund and other government departments to ensure AND LMP responses are unique and not replicating existing provision.



Graph produced March 2021 at the time of the Strategic Assessment

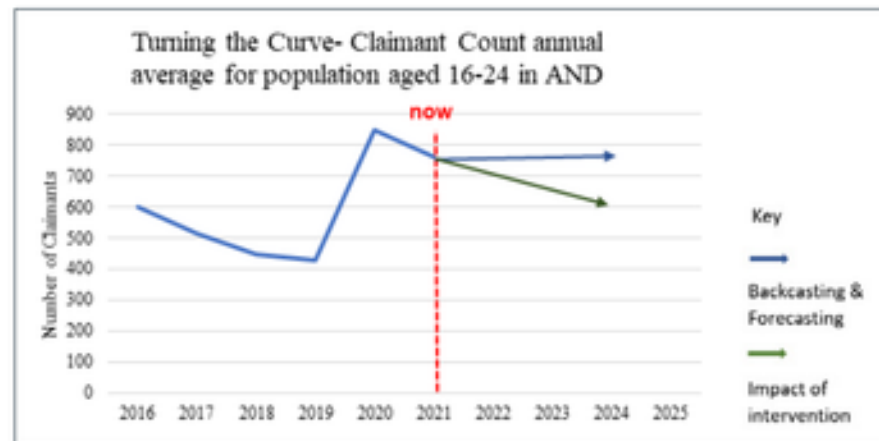
The activities identified by the LMP as a means of addressing this theme are:

- **Enterprise Readiness Programme** – The Enterprise Readiness Programme (ERP) will support individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations but who require additional pre-enterprise support. ERP will encourage them to develop enterprise skills, supporting them into sustainable employment or self-employment. It will provide personalised development support and a financial incentive for those entering self-employment.
- **Rapid Response Academies** – These will be flexible training opportunities for retirees, returners to work, newcomers to the area, young people, people with disabilities, economically inactive, long term unemployed. The Academies will provide responsive training for job opportunities, including work readiness, confidence building, skills development.
- **Mentoring Programme** – A mentor training programme was delivered through Year 1 Action Plan. As a result, the LMP has a pool of trained mentors. The LMP Action Plan participants will benefit from this as the mentors will support people on a one-to-one basis across any or all programmes as required.



Theme 2: Youth Unemployment

Youths may lack aspiration from people around them. Some of them see claiming benefit as a solution for their future. Nowadays, in the midst of redundancies, high inflation and continued low growth, the labour market is particularly challenging for young people. Some young people experience poor preparation for the reality of the world of work and a chaotic transition from education. The partnerships will aim to support young people within the Borough on their career development and provide appropriate support to maximise their potential.



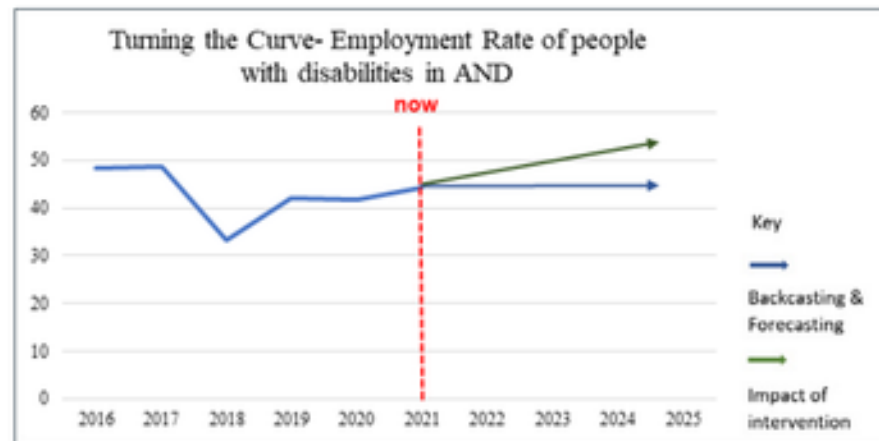
NISRA Labour Force Survey

The activities identified by the LMP as a means of addressing this theme are:

- **Distribution of workplace videos to new year groups** – The LMP developed a series of 12 workplace videos which showcase local employers and job opportunities in the local area. With no further cost, the LMP will distribute these videos to all 13 post primary schools in their LMP area to highlight local employers and local job opportunities.

Theme 3: Disability

When reviewing the statistical analysis data around Disability it showed that only 44.3% of people with a disability were employed in 2021 compared to the 81.3% of average employment rate in AND. Within the Action Plan it is planned to run a specific academy for people with disabilities that takes into consideration the potential additional needs of participants with a sector specific provider. Working alongside employers and businesses offering employment opportunities it is hoped to provide jobs for people with disabilities to begin to turn the curve and increase the number of people with a disability into employment to align with the UK average.



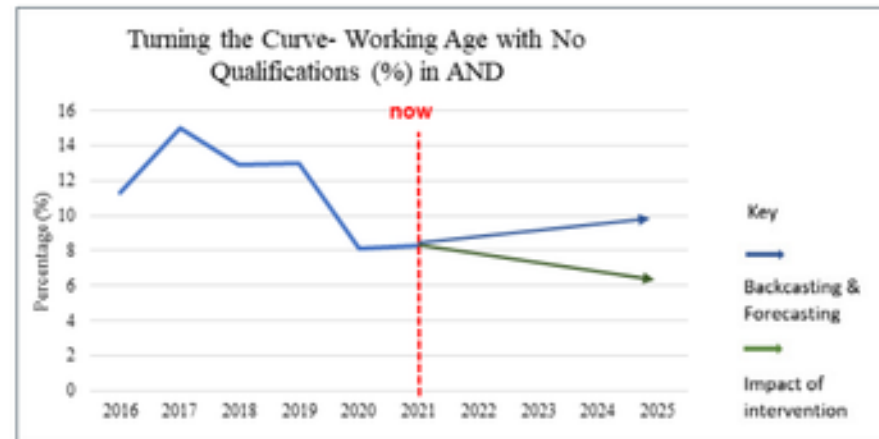
NISRA LMI Portal

The activities identified by the LMP as a means of addressing this theme are:

- **Academy for People with Disabilities** - Develop skills for available work opportunities e.g. hospitality, retail, customer service. These will be focused academies of approximately 8-12 weeks duration delivered in areas where jobs are available within the AND area. These will focus on people with disabilities to allow for additional support as required.

Theme 4: Skilled labour supply

In order to address the needs of the local labour market the partnership have identified the opportunity to provide skills opportunities that would enable them to enter the labour market. By providing interventions that will result in essential skills and confidence building to equip them for the workforce. Providing upskilling opportunities to move people into higher paid jobs. Interventions will allow the partnership to identify skills gaps that currently exist as a barrier to employment. Programmes will be designed with local business needs in mind.



NISRA Labour Force Survey



NINIS – LGD2014

The activities identified by the LMP as a means of addressing this theme are:

- 1. Transport Academy** – There are widely reported shortages of HGV drivers, PSV drivers and coach drivers, and immediate jobs available. The LMP is aware of the number of redundancies. LMP will focus specifically on this opportunity for those willing to work straight away. Training will be provided to support individuals to gain a HGV driving licence, a PSV licence, or a coach licence.
- 2. Academies** – Deliver skills academies in sectors such as construction; Digital/IT; Admin/office work. These will be focused academies of approximately 8-12 weeks duration delivered in areas where jobs are available within the AND area.
- 3. Employer led Up-skilling Programme** – 2 tranches of funding offered through a competitive process. This will be issued under 2 calls and will provide a bursary towards specific job-related qualifications and fund retrospectively externally provided e.g. first aid, manual handling, food hygiene.

4.0 ACTION PLAN

2023-24

Strategic Priority 1: To form and successfully deliver the functions of the local Labour Market Partnership for the area		
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
LMP Delivery and Development	SP1.1 LMP Delivery and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of whole LMP • Implementation of (2023/24) LMP Action Plan • Promote LMP and recruit additional members as required • Members feel they are contributing positively to the work of the LMP
LMP Delivery and Development	SP1.2 Establish working groups/sub-committees in appropriate areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee meetings • Planning and Delivery of (2023/24) LMP Action Plan • Members feel they are contributing positively to the work of the LMP
LMP Delivery and Development	SP1.3 Carry out a Strategic Assessment for 24-27 and 24/25 Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan drafted to address identified local needs and approved by Regional LMP • Strategic Assessment developed on time to inform LMP Action Plan 2024/25
LMP Delivery and Development	SP1.4 Capacity building opportunities for LMP members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support LMP members in their role through, training and case study visits, guest speakers, attendance at events and awareness raising of LMP activity • Members feel they are supported by the LMP in their role.

Strategic Priority 2: To improve employability outcomes and/or labour market conditions locally		
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
Skilled Labour Supply	SP2.1 Transport Academy Supporting People into Employment and Employment Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Training for Unemployed, Underemployed and those with low wages to upskill them to gain employment in the transport sector. • Academies will include medical assessment, provision of training, mentoring support and provision of new licences. • Academies anticipated to run from 6-9 months for full completion of programme.
Skilled Labour Supply	SP2.2 Academies Develop skills for available work opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver skills academies in suggested sectors such as construction; Digital/IT; Admin/office work. • Academies will be aimed at identifying needs in sectors and aimed at people who wish to obtain a new qualification (industry specific) and available job opportunity. • Academies will be designed to respond to identified skills gap in the local area.

Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
Economically inactive	SP2.3 Enterprise Readiness Programme (ERP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enterprise Readiness Programme (ERP) will support individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations but who require additional pre-enterprise support. ERP will encourage them to develop enterprise skills, supporting them into sustainable employment or self-employment. • Programme duration anticipated to run over 12 weeks but will be determined in programme delivery with appointed agent. • Eligible participants may include: Economically inactive; unemployed 18–24-year-olds; 25+ long-term unemployed; those claiming UC, underemployed and those at risk of losing their job. • The ERP will provide: Personalised Development Support i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Confidence building • Decision making • Communication skills • Challenges presented by mental health, emotional well-being, and addiction issues Reskilling /Upskilling Opportunities i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management • Essential Skills packages: ICT, English, Maths • Digital marketing • Customer awareness • ESOL • Additional enterprise awareness support Start-up fund – to support participants overcome financial barriers associated with securing employment or become self employed i.e. short term personal support i.e. start-up costs i.e. stock, equipment, marketing etc.

Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
Disability	SP2.4 Academy for People with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills for available work opportunities in sectors such as hospitality, retail, customer service. • Academies will be designed around sector needs and available opportunities including academy duration and content, as well as an appropriate qualification. • Academies will include classroom-based teaching, work experience opportunities and mentoring support. • Academies will be available to people who self-identify as having a disability.
Economic Inactivity	SP2.5 Rapid Response Academies For retirees, returners to work, newcomers to the area, young people, people with disabilities, economically inactive, long term unemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsive training for job opportunities - Including work readiness, confidence building, skills development. • Academies will be responsive and designed around sector needs and opportunities that present themselves, including academy duration and content as well as an appropriate qualification. • Academies will include teaching and a qualification.
Skilled Labour Supply	SP2.6 Employer Led Upskilling Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 tranches of funding towards specific job-related qualifications and fund retrospectively externally provided training e.g. first aid, manual handling, food hygiene.

Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
Economic Inactivity	SP2.7 Mentoring Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of support provided by trained mentors from AND LMP Action Plan 2021-23. Programme will continue to support matching of mentors with mentees via the Jobs and Benefits Office. • Mentoring will provide support to job seekers in areas such as CV preparation and confidence building.
Young Unemployment	SP2.8 Video Distribution Videos to Promote local job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation to schools of 12 previously produced videos of local employers highlighting the opportunities provided locally for employment. • Videos circulated to new year groups across all 13 post primary schools/colleges. • Follow up to get feedback and ensure usage

Strategic Priority 3: To support delivery of Employability NI		
Theme	Aims and Description	Key Activities
Increased Awareness	<p>SP3.1 Careers Convention</p> <p>Deliver an event which raises awareness of job opportunities with local employers in ANDBC area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of an event where employers attend with job opportunities, career paths, and to create awareness of potential jobs in the ANDBC area.
Increased Awareness	<p>SP3.2 Job Fair</p> <p>Development of job fair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 employers and 10 support agencies attend event with available job opportunities and support for job seekers. • Interviews will be facilitated and can be provided on day. • Work in partnership with DfC
Increased Awareness	<p>SP3.3 PR Campaign</p> <p>Promotion of local skills provision and employability. Promotion of the work of the LMP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR campaign will support the update of communications plan. • Billboard, digital and print adshel, bus backs. A radio campaign. Robust digital marketing campaign. Print media – advertorials in key publications.

5.0 SUMMARY

The Department for Communities made funding available for the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships (LMP) within each of the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. The aim of the LMP is to help improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through co-ordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions and helping to connect employers with employees. The partnership will be expected to provide an integrated approach to address labour market challenges by bringing together, in a single body, the necessary local knowledge and expertise to build on existing structures locally, operating in a holistic, streamlined and joined up way.

Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership is building on the success of the 2021-23 Action Plan to develop its Action Plan for 2023-24 based on the findings from a Strategic Assessment of the Labour Market in the Ards and North Down Area. The Action Plan seeks to build on local experience, knowledge of providers and expertise, and marry this with opportunities to address key areas of need within the AND Council area.

The Labour Market Partnership can assist people to:

- Overcome difficulties in getting a job
- Update and gain skills through work experience, training and development
- Gain interview and application preparation skills
- Introduce them to potential employers
- Achieve guidance in the consideration of obtaining self-employment
- Identify and provide routes to employment

Projects will be developed to address issues identified within various employment sectors to meet sector/industry specific needs at a local level; review supply and demand levels for skills, expertise, qualifications at a local level, and commission new provision to fill any local gaps.

Contact us at:

Ards and North Down Labour Market Partnership
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2 Innotec Drive
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7PD
Telephone: 0300 013 3333
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Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	05 October 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	26 September 2023
File Reference	RDP196
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Renewed Ambition Costed Proposal
Attachments	

Renewed Ambition Background

Council agreed a number of years ago to be a member of the Renewed Ambition Programme (RAP). This is a joint public/private sector led initiative that aims to work collaboratively to showcase investment and development opportunities across Belfast City Region, seeking to deliver on shared ambitions for the city region as an exciting place to work, live, visit and invest. It is a 5 pillared programme focused on activities to ensure Belfast City Region is positioned to continue to attract investment and deliver on inclusive growth. The 5 pillars include:

- Programme of Content aimed at the local and international real estate audience which aims to showcase the Belfast City Region for future real estate investment through participation at virtual and in-person conferences and showcase events.
- Programme of Engagement and Advocacy to facilitate two-way conversations with policy makers and showcase real estate opportunities to the investor community. This aims to position the Belfast City Region positively and seeks

Not Applicable

to identify and try to address barriers that investors, developers, and occupiers may face when they consider Belfast as a destination.

- Media and Stakeholder Engagement reinforcing positive messaging around the regions investment proposition through international marketing and communication campaigns targeting the national and international real estate investment and development community.
- A shared access repository which facilitates sharing of data, marketing collateral and intel to help ensure consistent messaging and shared narrative is used by all partners when promoting the city region.
- Research aligned to the impact of real estate investment to inform the city proposition and narrative.

All five BRCD partner Councils have invested in RAP, in partnership with BCC, since 2019 and it has been an important forum to showcase the real estate investment potential for the wider Belfast City Region and forthcoming BRCD projects.

Benefits achieved through the 2022/2023 Programme

Through the previous RAP programme the Council has been able to promote opportunities within the Borough to investors and developers at events including:

- MIPIM March Cannes – this is the leading global property market event, with international real estate industry attending from around the world. Council previously attended in 2019 (event was postponed in 2020/21 due to Covid). Due to global economic situation officers/members did not attend the 2022 event in person, but the Borough was represented through RAP marketing materials on the stand.
- UKREiif May Leeds– UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum. The Chief Executive and Director of Place attended the event, which brought together over 7,000 attendees from across the public and private sectors involved in regeneration of the UK's city and regions including investors, funders, developers, housebuilders and government bodies. The Borough's investment sites were uploaded onto the UKREiif investment portal, which is accessible to all attendees. Officers also undertook 1-1 meetings with a number of potential investors including four potential hotel chains who were interested in learning more about the opportunities within the Borough.

All six Council RAP partners development sites are featured in joint marketing and sales collateral. A digital version of which was promoted on the Belfast Region stand at both MIPIM and UKREiif.

As previously reported to Council RAP also undertook and launched a 'Building Impact' report, which aimed to identify and demonstrate the positive social, economic and environmental impact that real estate and built environment projects can deliver when done well.

Renewed Ambition Programme 2023/24

The 2023/24 RAP Programme of activity will run from the 1 September 2023 to the 31 August 2024. This collaborative programme of activity will be delivered across the key pillars of Research, Events, Engagement and Advocacy and Communications.

Not Applicable

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The programme will also include Belfast Region attendance at international real estate conferences - UKREiif 2024 and MIPIM 2024, to showcase the Belfast City Region to a global audience.

In 2024 the objectives are to:

- Continue to build collaboration and partnership in the city and wider region
- Continue to promote and market the Belfast region outside Northern Ireland
- Increased engagement and advocacy with all key stakeholders, in particular target investors and government.

The proposed programme of activity at MIPIM 2024 includes Belfast Region delegation participation on the Department for International Trade stand, and investment showcase and networking opportunities. MIPIM is the world's leading built environment conference and exhibition, bringing together nearly 27,000 public and private sector built environment representatives from across the globe. It provides attendees with an opportunity to promote their city/region to a global audience and connect with potential partners and sources of investment required to unlock built environment regeneration and development, while supporting the built environment industry to bring forward sustainable development and help accelerate on the road to net zero.

The programme also includes attendance at UKREiif in Leeds in May 2024. This event has grown from strength to strength over the last two years, with 7,000+ attendees expected in 2024. Belfast Region stand will be located in its same prominent position as last year and a strong programme of events is anticipated including the opportunity for ANDBC to participate in a number of speaking events within the programme, as well as 1-1 meetings.

BRCD Council partners are again being offered a special package to include the activities outlined above for £15,000, as per previous years. The majority of funding for RAP comes from the private sector and it is anticipated that all BRCD Council's will again partner with RAP. It should be noted that attendees are responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs. Based on previous years it is anticipated the cost to send up to two officers to both MIPIM and UKREiif in 2024 would be c£4,000 (to cover flights and accommodation).

Attracting investment into the Borough is an integral part of our Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy (ITRDS) and collaborating with the Renewed Ambition Programme will help AND's reach into wider markets and to achieve higher impact and leverage spend against any activity that we could undertake alone.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves participation in the Renewed Ambition Programme at a cost of £15,000 for 2023-24, as well as attendance of up to two ANDBC officers at MIPIM and UKREiif 2024 at an estimated cost of c£4,000. These can be met from existing budgets.