

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

18 August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held remotely via Zoom on **Wednesday, 24 August 2022 at 7.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Mayor's Business
5. Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the Month of August 2022 (Copy attached)
6. Minutes of Council meeting dated 27 July 2022 (Copy attached)
7. Minutes of Committees
 - 7.1. Minutes of Planning Committee dated 02 August 2022 (Copy attached)
8. Consultation Documents
 - 8.1 Consultation on Audio and Video links for Court and Tribunal Hearings. This consultation will be open for 8 weeks from 29 July 2022 until 26 September 2022. Consultation documents available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/audio-and-video-links-live-links>
 - 8.2 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Observing & Celebrating Events Policy Consultation. Documents available at <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc/celebrating-observing-events-policy-bhsct> Consultation closes Tuesday 25 October 2022.

- 8.3 Northern Ireland Electricity Cluster Methodology Review Consultation. Document available at <https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/documents/regulatory-documents/cluster-methodology-review-consultation.aspx>
Closing date 5pm on Friday 9th September 2022
- 8.4 Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy - Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment. Consultation documents available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/northern-ireland-peatland-strategy-equality-impact-assessment>. The consultation is open from Friday 12th August until Friday 4th November
- 8.5 Consultation on The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) 2023-2028 Corporate Plan. Consultation document and further details available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/consultation-exercise-on-the-main-proposals-for-in/> Consultation closes 10 October 2022
9. Courses and Conferences
 - 9.1 NAC UK Licensing Conference & National AGM, Nottingham, Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September 2022 (Report attached)
10. Presentations
A request for permission to make a presentation:
 - 10.1 Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans Presentation
 - 10.2 Department for Infrastructure, Roads Southern Division, Roads Report 2021/22
11. Letter of support for Belfast City Council and Ards CCE - Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Festival of music in Ireland) (Report attached)
12. Hybrid Council Meetings - Procurement and Legislation (Report attached)
13. Ulster Bank closures in Comber and Holywood (Report attached)
14. Heritage Grants (2022-23), Round 2 (Report attached)
15. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants August 2022 (Report attached)
16. Sport NI Local Authority Sports Systems Engagement Survey (Report attached)
17. Sealing Documents
18. Transfer of Rights of Burial
19. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)

20 Notices of Motion

20.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Adair and Councillor Thompson

That Council task officers to carry out a review of Play Provision in Loughries with a view to its inclusion in the Councils Play Strategy going forward.

20.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P Smith and Councillor Smart

That this Council notes with concern the significant impact rising energy costs are having on households across Northern Ireland; recognises the need for ongoing intervention from every level of Government and agrees to write to Her Majesty's Treasury to impress upon them in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive the need to urgently deliver the energy bills support scheme to households here.

20.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Aldermen Keery and Alderman Irvine

That this Council writes and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to reduce the speed limit down to 30mph at the A48 Cotton Road after the latest road accident and fatality.

20.4 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cooper, Councillor T Smith and Councillor Irvine

That this council withdraws all funding to any sporting organisations with any political objectives or named references to terrorism in their constitution, club names, stadiums or competitions, and tasks officers to bring back a report outlining the specific relevant council policy.

20.5 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Chambers and Councillor Brooks

We ask this council to consider the urgent provision of sea rescue equipment to Cove Bay beach, known locally as the third beach, in Groomsport. A review into other locations around the Borough, should also be considered.

20.6 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Wilson and Councillor Douglas

That this council notes the widespread move to low traffic neighbourhoods in city centres across the UK and Europe and tasks officers with producing a report detailing the steps involved in progressing a project for Bangor City Centre. The report should highlight the benefits that a low traffic neighbourhood can bring, including how it could support the Council's ambitions to revive local retail and hospitality, encourage active travel, support families, and play a positive role in tackling climate change. A preliminary consultation should also take place to obtain views and ideas directly from City Centre businesses, residents, and other relevant stakeholders.

Circulated for Information:

(a) NI Housing Council Members Bulletin and Minutes dated 9 June 2022 (copies attached)

(b) Funding Innovation for Net Zero - Issue 5, Department for the Economy (copy attached)

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

21. Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated 16 August 2022 (Report to follow)
22. Recruitment of Two Director's Posts (Report to follow)
23. Civic/Office Accommodations Rationalisation and Newtownards Citizens Hub OBC update (Report to follow)
24. Request from CRCP to install a timber shed at Comber Community Garden (Report attached)
25. Request from Holywood Cricket Club (Report attached)
26. Peace Plus Application (Report to follow)
27. Update on Industrial Dispute (Report to follow)

MEMBERSHIP OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Edmund
Alderman Carson	Councillor Gilmour
Alderman Gibson	Councillor Greer
Alderman Girvan	Councillor Irvine
Alderman Irvine	Councillor Irwin
Alderman Keery	Councillor Johnson
Alderman McDowell	Councillor Kendall
Alderman McIlveen	Councillor Kennedy
Alderman Smith	Councillor McAlpine
Alderman Wilson	Councillor McArthur
Councillor Adair	Councillor McClean
Councillor Blaney (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor McKee
Councillor Boyle	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Brooks	Councillor McRandal
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Moore
Councillor Chambers	Councillor Smart
Councillor Cooper	Councillor P Smith
Councillor Cummings	Councillor T Smith
Councillor Douglas (Mayor)	Councillor Thompson

Councillor S Dunlop	Councillor Walker
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LIST OF MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS
FOR AUGUST 2022

Monday 1 August

20:00 hours Borough Cup Presentation – Drome Park, Newtownards

Tuesday 2 August

11:00 hours PR Photo – Seaside Revival Vintage Event – Bangor Station

Wednesday 3 August

10:30 hours 'Play Day' National Day of Play – Platinum Jubilee Park,
Ballygowan

Thursday 4 August

11:00 hours PR Photo to Launch the Aspects Festival – Town Hall, Bangor
11:00 hours Meeting with SERC – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

Friday 5 August

11:45 hours Annual BBQ and 30 Year Celebratory Event – Sketrick House,
Jubilee Road, Newtownards
13:00 hours Creative Peninsula Craft in The Square – Ards Arts Centre,
Conway Square, Newtownards
14:00 hours Photocall for Green Flag Awards – Walled Garden, Bangor

Saturday 6 August

12:00 hours Captain's Day – Carnalea Golf Club, Bangor
15:00 hours Let's Rock Festival – Ward Park, Bangor

Sunday 7 August

12:30 hours Portaferry Sails & Sounds Festival – Shore Road, Portaferry

Tuesday 9 August

15:00 hours Visit by Artist Amy Wyatt-Rafferty – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall,
Bangor

Wednesday 10 August

10:00 hours Meeting with Homestart – Walled Garden, Bangor

Thursday 11 August

09:30 hours Photo – Action Cancer – Town Hall, Bangor
 10:00 hours Visit to AGenda Office – Hamilton Road, Bangor
 12:00 hours Visit to North Down Community Network – Flagship Centre, Bangor

Friday 12 August

14:00 hours Castlereagh: Life & Legacy Exhibition – Mount Stewart, Newtownards

Saturday 13 August

10:00 hours Ards Allotments Open Day – Comber Road, Newtownards
 10:45 hours Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count 2022 – Cloughey Road Football Pitch, Portaferry
 14:00 hours Seaside Revival Vintage Event – Bangor Seafront

Sunday 14 August

12:30 hours MGB 60 – Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra

Monday 15 August

10:00 hours Photo for Granting of Lease of Land – Town Hall, Bangor

Tuesday 16 August

10:50 hours UTV Interview – McKee Clock, Bangor

Wednesday 17 August

10:45 hours Visit to Bangor Ambulance Station – Newtownards Road, Bangor
 12:00 hours PEACE IV Youth Shelter/Summer Scheme – Newtownards Skatepark
 18:00 hours High Street Heroes Awards 2022 – Hinch Distillery, Carryduff

Thursday 18 August

12:10 hours Visit by Diane Wabo from Black Asian & Minority Ethnic Integration Awards NI – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor
 19:15 hours Lord Castlereagh Event – Ards Arts Centre, Conway Square, Newtownards

Saturday 20 August

15:30 hours Commodore's Reception – Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, Seafront Road, Cultra

19:00 hours Ulster Youth Orchestra – Ulster Hall, Belfast

Sunday 21 August

12:30 hours Ards Peninsula Kite Festival – Millisle Beach Park

Monday 22 August

14:00 hours Photo – Portavogie Seafood Festival – Portavogie Harbour
18:00 hours Reception to Celebrate the NI Masters Euro Pro Event

Wednesday 24 August

11:00 hours Visit by Hon Consul for Cyprus in Northern Ireland – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor
13:00 hours Inspire 20th Anniversary Celebrations – Enterprise Court, Bangor
14:30 hours Photo – In Bloom Competition Winner – Ballyhalbert
15:00 hours PEACE IV Youth Shelter/Skatepark Summer Scheme – Portavogie Skatepark

Friday 26 August

14:00 hours Visit to UWT Oyster Nursery – Bangor Marina
14:00 hours **Deputy Mayor** – Walkability Audit of Ward Park, Bangor

Saturday 27 August

14:30 hours Commodore's Reception – Donaghadee Sailing Club Regatta – Shore Street, Donaghadee

Tuesday 30 August

18:30 hours Freedom of the Borough Conferment Ceremony – Gary Lightbody

Wednesday 31 August

19:00 hours Gary Lightbody Concert – McKee Clock Arena, Bangor

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held remotely using Zoom on Wednesday, 27 July 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

In the Chair:	The Mayor (Councillor Douglas)	
Aldermen:	Armstrong-Cotter	Keery
	Carson	McDowell
	Gibson	Mcllveen
	Girvan	M Smith (7.07pm)
	W Irvine	Wilson
Councillors:	Adair (7.01pm)	Kendall
	Boyle (7.09pm)	MacArthur
	Brooks	McAlpine
	Cathcart	McClellan (7.01pm)
	Chambers	McKee
	Cummings	McKimm
	Edmund (7.15pm)	McRandal
	Gilmour	Moore
	Greer	Smart (7.01pm)
	Irvine	P Smith
	Irwin	T Smith
	Johnson	Thompson (7.18pm)
	Kennedy (7.03pm)	Walker

Officers: Chief Executive (S Reid), Director of Organisational Development and Administration (W Swanston), Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie), Director of Regeneration, Development & Planning (S McCullough), Director of Environment (D Lindsay), Head of Communications and Marketing (C Jackson) and Democratic Services Officers (P Foster & R King)

1. PRAYER

The Mayor (Councillor Douglas) welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced with the Council prayer.

NOTED.

(Councillors Adair, McClellan & Smart joined the meeting at this stage – 7.01pm)

C.27.07.2022

10

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Blaney & Dunlop.

An apology for lateness had been received from Alderman Smith.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor P Smith – Item 20 – Request from Comber Regeneration Community Partnership to Install a Kitchen at Comber Community Centre.

NOTED.

(Councillor Kennedy joined the meeting at this stage – 7.03pm)

4. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

At this stage the Mayor gave Councillor P Smith the opportunity to say a few words about the recent passing of Lord David Trimble.

Councillor P Smith expressed his condolences to the late Lord Trimble's family, noting that his son had enjoyed a term of office as Mayor at Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. He referred to Lord Trimble as a child of the Ards & North Down Borough having gone to school in Bangor. Continuing he commented that during recent days how he had been described as a 'courageous' leader and recalled a number of occasions which had demonstrated that courage. In summing up he referred to his instrumental role in the negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, and how he along with John Hume had won the Nobel Peace Prize that year for his efforts.

The Mayor then regretfully drew members attention to the passing of a number of people including Stevie Robinson husband of former Councillor, Noelle Robinson. Stephen Connolly, retired Principal of Bangor Grammar School and past president of Bangor Rotary Club, who died suddenly whilst on holiday. Finally Lord David Trimble, former First Minister who was born in Bangor, she advised that the Council had opened a Book of Condolence for him.

At this stage she asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of reflection.

Continuing the Mayor stated that she was pleased to advise that she had the honour of recently travelling to France and Belgium as part of the commemorations on the 106th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, along with Councillor Janice MacArthur and the Chief Executive. Wreathes had been laid on behalf of the Council and they had taken part in the services of remembrance at the Thiepval Monument

C.27.07.2022

11

of the Missing, the Ulster Memorial Tower and at the monument to the 10th Irish Division at Guillemont.

She added that she also laid a wreath at the Pozieres British War Cemetery in honour of Edmund de Wind VC from Comber, who won the Victoria Cross. They also took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ieper, on the 94th anniversary of the first service there and she had the honour of reading the Exhortation. The Mayor commented that she was grateful for the opportunity to represent the Council at those poignant ceremonies and remember so many that had never returned home.

(Alderman Smith joined the meeting at this stage – 7.07pm)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McClean, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the Mayor's comments be noted.

(Councillors Boyle joined the meeting at this stage – 7.09pm)

5. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2022
(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the month of July 2021.

The Mayor referred members to her List of Engagements undertaken for the month of July 2022 and took the opportunity to express her thanks to her Deputy, Councillor Blaney for his assistance provided throughout the month.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor P Smith, that the information be noted.

6. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the minutes be agreed.

7. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

7.1. Audit Committee dated 27 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Councillor Gilmour proposed, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter that the minutes be adopted.

Page 8 – Corporate Governance – Annual Statements of Assurance

At this stage Councillor T Smith referred to legal and financial issues surrounding the insourcing of the former North Down Leisure Services commenting that he was opposed to this service being brought in house and was quite concerned that it only warranted a few lines within the report. Continuing he sought clarification on the costs associated with that and what those could potentially equate to for the Council.

In response the Director of Community & Wellbeing indicated that the costs at this stage were not known and the report was merely highlighting the potential risk.

Continuing Councillor T Smith emphasised the importance of establishing what those additional costs would be and having them reported back to members as soon as possible.

At this stage the Director of Finance & Performance informed members that it was the Assurance Statement which was before them was part of the Council's overall governance process and which considered the potential risk for any of its business activities. He added that it was a fully transparent process.

(Councillor Edmund joined the meeting at this stage – 7.15pm)

Councillor T Smith again asked for a guarantee that there would be no extra costs for the Council as the result of this decision.

The Director of Finance & Performance commented that there would always be risks to running any business, adding any success would be the result of how that was managed.

At this stage Councillor Cathcart stated that he too shared those concerns adding that he had raised them during a previous debate when the decision had been taken. He stated that consideration needed to be taken of the Borough's ratepayers, particularly as there appeared to be a significant difference between the actual costs and the projected costs.

(Councillor Thompson joined the meeting at this stage – 7.18pm)

Councillor Boyle remarked that everyone was living in an ever-changing world and as such it was necessary to manage matters such as this in the best way possible. He acknowledged that both Directors had been open and transparent to date and he agreed that no elected member wished for ratepayers to pay more than was necessary. He also reminded members that Covid19 remained an issue and as such he felt it would be careless to raise any alarm at this stage.

At this stage Councillor P Smith stated that the reality was this statement was just good management practice which would identify risks and ensure measures were in place to minimise the impact of those risks.

In response the Director of Finance & Performance agreed those were fair comments adding that all public sector organisations produced an annual Assurance

C.27.07.2022

13

Statement which led into the Governance Statement. He added that was mandated to be an open and transparent process which would highlight any risks any organisation may potentially face. Members were advised this was a process which was undertaken annually and one which was obligatory.

Alderman McIlveen expressed the view that it was useful for members to sit on the Audit Committee to gain an understanding of governance processes and the documentation which was produced as a result. He added that those documents were living documents and as such would be constantly updated. Continuing he concurred with Councillor Cathcart's comments adding that the DUP as a group had voiced its concern about a number of matters and he made a number of comparisons between the Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing & Leisure Complex and the Bangor Aurora Centre in terms of their operation. He also referenced the impact of the cost of living crisis and the ongoing Covid19 pandemic. As such it was now up to officers to ensure any emerging risks were identified and dealt with accordingly.

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

7.2. Planning Committee dated 5 July 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the minutes be adopted.

7.3. Minutes of Planning Committee Pre-Determination Hearing dated 20 July 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the minutes be adopted.

7.4. Minutes of Special Meeting of the Planning Committee dated 20 July 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the minutes be adopted.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Consultation on Proposal to Publish RQIA Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services – Closing Date 20 October 2022 (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority detailing its consultation on its proposals to publish the

C.27.07.2022

14

Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services through a public consultation. The Consultation would take place over a 14 week period, closing on 20 October 2022.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the consultation document be noted.

8.2. DAERA Consultation on Management of Fast Craft and PWCs in Marine Protected Areas (File – 65373) (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from Director of Environment detailing that the Council received a consultation document entitled '*Consultation on management measures on the use of fast craft and personal watercraft (PWC) in marine protected areas*', from The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The consultation stated that the proposed management measures were designed to reduce the risk of disturbance to marine species from the use of motorised craft in marine protected areas.

The stakeholder consultation process opened on 9 June 2022 and would close on 1 September 2022.

In September 2021, the UK Government consulted on how to bring Personal Watercraft within the scope of the Merchants Shipping Act 1995, in order to provide a way for their misuse to be controlled/prosecuted. The consultation results did not support the proposals in their current format; therefore, it was likely that a second consultation would be required. Officers believed that there had been no further progress on this at this present time.

However, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had coordinated a working group to consider the options for management of fast craft in marine protected areas around the coast of Northern Ireland. Officers, amongst many other agencies sit on this group. A consultation on those management options was now live and officers' draft responses were attached for Council approval.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves the consultation response attached.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McArthur, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the consultation document be noted.

8.3. Gas (Designation of Pipe-lines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence from the Department had been received advising that the Department for the Economy (DfE) had published a public notice regarding plans to make and lay subordinate legislation entitled the 'Gas (Designation of Pipe-lines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022'.

Background

The proposed Designation Order would provide for a new 3km section of high pressure gas pipe-line connecting Kilroot power station to the NI gas network to be designated under Article 59 of the Energy (NI) Order 2003 for the purposes of the common transmission tariff. This meant that certain costs relating to those pipelines would be added to a 'postalised' pot and recovered from all gas consumers across Northern Ireland (both business and domestic) over an extended period through the regulated common transmission tariff within gas bills. This was in line with established postalisation policy for the economic and efficient development of the natural gas industry in Northern Ireland and was not expected to result in any increase in consumers' gas bills.

Further information on the reasons for, and effects of, the Designation Order were outlined in the public notice, draft regulatory impact assessment, equality screening form and rural needs impact assessment which were all available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-gas-designation-pipe-lines-order-northern-ireland-2022>

Timing

Any representations on the proposed Order, or comments on the associated draft regulatory impact assessment, equality screening form, or rural needs impact assessment, were required by Tuesday 23 August 2022.

How to respond

Using the response template available at the above link:

- By e-mail to gasbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk;

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the consultation document be noted.

9. COURSES AND CONFERENCES

9.1. APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2022 Swansea: Wednesday 14 – Thursday 15 September 2022 (File CX62) (Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive stating that the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) was owned by its members and on their behalf, maintained and developed a network of local government officers, managers, and councillors from local authorities. APSE supported local authorities develop strong and sustainable public services.

Members were asked to consider the invitation to attend the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September. Attendance was free for two delegates from each Council, one Officer and one Member, with attendees responsible for

C.27.07.2022

16

relevant costs for travel and subsistence. (Approximately £108 for a return flight to Bristol, train to Swansea £40 plus £200 for accommodation for 3 nights).

Unfortunately, there were no appropriate Officers available to attend on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED that Council consider nominating a Member, to attend the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September 2022 taking up the free delegate place but including the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence as set out in this report.

Councillor Greer proposed, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that Alderman McDowell be nominated to attend the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September 2022 taking up the free delegate place but including the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence as set out in this report.

Councillor T Smith stated that he did not support such a proposal, stating that in his opinion it was a waste of money.

The proposer, Councillor Greer expressed the view that it was important for the Council to be represented at this seminar. She suggested that on his return Alderman McDowell could perhaps provide members with an A4 report summarising the highlights of the seminar.

Councillor T Smith suggested that members attended the seminar virtually via Zoom, especially given the Council's current arrangements for its own meetings such as this.

Councillor McClean indicated that he had no issues with what had been proposed but agreed that it was a distinct step away from how the Council was currently operating.

Councillors Cathcart and T Smith both asked to be recorded as being against the proposal.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that Alderman McDowell be nominated to attend the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September 2022 taking up the free delegate place but including the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence as set out in this report.

10. GRANT OF OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (FILE LR 100 / 90101)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment stating that an application for an outdoor entertainment licence had been received:

McKee Clock Arena, Queens Parade, Bangor

Applicant: Kieran Gilmore, Open House Festival, Sheridan Drive, Bangor

Days: 31 August 2022

Between the hours of: 9am to 10.00pm

Type of entertainment: Outdoor musical concert.

The applicant had provided a draft event Management Plan and there were no objections to the plan or application from the NIFRS, PSNI or Environmental Health.

The statutory public consultation period would run until the 15 July 2022 which was after the date of the preparation of this report. No objections had been received from the public before the preparation of the report. If an objection should be lodged before the 15 July 2022 the Council would need to consider it/them when they consider this report.

Special conditions

Environmental Health had requested that the following condition be attached to the licence in relation to noise control:

1. All music noise and PA announcements to cease by 10.00pm (as per application)
2. The noise from entertainment was not to exceed a music noise level of 75dB LAeq 15mins when measured at one metre from the façade of noise sensitive premises 9 Crosby Street, Bangor.

RECOMMENDED that provided there are no objections received to this application on or before the 15 July the Council, grants this licence on the following conditions:

1. That the licence is not issued or confirmed until the NIFRS, PSNI and Council Officers are satisfied with the final event plan and that the arena complies with the event plan and:
 - All music noise and PA announcements to cease by 10.00pm (as per application)
 - The noise from entertainment is not to exceed a music noise level of 75dB LAeq 15mins when measured at 1 metre from the façade of noise sensitive premises 9 Crosby Street, Bangor.
2. If objections are received on or before the 15 July 2022 the Council considers those objections before determining this application.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

11. BANGOR LADIES CHOIR (Appendix VI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration stating that Bangor Ladies Choir had written to the Council (copy attached) to ask Council to consider appointing them as Ambassadors

C.27.07.2022

18

to the recently awarded City of Bangor, under the same structure as their previous appointment by the North Down Borough Council. The Choir felt that it could promote and showcase the City of Bangor when travelling around the UK and beyond. They also felt, as a Choir of over 70 females representing a wide and diverse range of community backgrounds, that they were in an effective and prominent position to take on the role of Ambassadors for the City of Bangor. They would consider this role would be an honorary one for the Choir with no remuneration expected or required.

This request would appear reasonable and be an extension of a previously granted honorary title.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to the request from Bangor Ladies Choir to be appointed Ambassadors of the City of Bangor.

Councillor Cathcart proposed, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

Welcoming the recommendation, the proposer, Councillor Cathcart expressed his thanks to Bangor Ladies Choir for their dedication and enthusiasm and acknowledged their ongoing commitment with their excellent work.

Concurring with those comments, the seconder Alderman Irvine noted how much they had grown and progressed over recent years.

Also welcoming the proposal, Councillor Adair, noted how seriously the Choir took its role adding that they had provided him with support throughout his Mayoral term. As such he would recommend anyone to take them up on any offers of support which they may put forward.

Alderman McIlveen noted that the Choir would be representing only one area of the Borough and asked if there was a formal Council policy around appointing Ambassadors of the Borough. If so, he indicated that he would be keen to know what criteria was required.

In response the Chief Executive indicated there was currently no policy in place for this and instead officers had followed legacy North Down arrangements for such matters. However he acknowledged the point raised by Alderman McIlveen and agreed that going forward the Council needed to be mindful to ensure any future requests were appropriately managed. He stated that he would be happy for a report to brought for members consideration in the Autumn.

At this stage Alderman Mrs Smith commented that Bangor Ladies Choir were extremely dedicated and she wished them well in their role as Ambassadors of the City of Bangor.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

12. REQUESTS TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS (FILE LP37)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing the following lighting up requests:-

1. Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Requestor

Collette McMorrow – Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

Reason for request

To mark Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock red on 1 September 2022 and annually thereafter.

Background information

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI was the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to blood cancer research. Their mission was to improve survival rates and quality of life for all blood cancer patients by supporting clinicians, scientists and students in NI, researching those diseases. September was Blood Cancer Awareness Month, and their aim was to raise awareness and understanding of blood cancers. They were contacting all the Councils in NI to make the same request.

Does it meet policy requirements?

As this request did not meet the specific criteria set out in the policy (not based in or connected to the Borough), it required the consideration and approval of the Council.

2. Relate NI – 75th Anniversary

Requestor

Stevie Maginn – Relate NI

Reason for request

To mark Relate NI's 75th Anniversary as well as the beginning of Relationships Week 2022.

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock blue and orange on 4 September 2022.

Background information

Relate NI was the leading relationship support charity in NI, and they were about to celebrate their 75th anniversary of supporting relationships and families across Northern Ireland on 4 September 2022. They currently provided counselling services at various locations from Bangor to Foyle, Newry to Coleraine and Ballymena to Omagh, as well as online and telephone options. More information on their services could be found at: <https://www.relateni.org/>

Relate NI had also secured commitment from Belfast City Council to light up Belfast City Hall on the 4 September and were asking other Councils in NI to support by lighting up their civic buildings.

Does it meet policy requirements?

Yes - request had been received from a non-profit making organisation based in the Borough to mark a significant occasion.

3. Black History Month

Requestor

Evangelia Kasmetli – North West Migrants Forum

Reason for request

To mark Black History Month in the UK (October 2022) – 21 October 2022 was “Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card”.

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock red on 21 October 2022 and annually thereafter.

Background information

During October, the UK celebrated Black History Month and on 21 October 2022 “Wear Red - Show Racism the Red Card” was taking place. The aims of Black History Month were to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people not just in the UK but around the world.

Black History Month celebrated the contribution to the culture and history of black people over the years. Started in 1926, as just a week of celebration, now Black History was celebrated around the world.

The North West Migrants Forum had been steadfast in campaigning for racial equality and the recognition of black people in Northern Ireland. Illuminating Council buildings is one way of recognising the achievements and contributions of people of African and Caribbean heritage and encouraging people to learn more.

During October, North West Migrants Forum would launch a new series of events and presentations to call attention to the importance of Black History Month with a highlight of the Black History Month Summit, which would be held for the second consecutive year in Derry/Londonderry, and to encourage the public to participate in this day of action and wear red to promote anti-racism.

The Forum represented black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities who reside in Northern Ireland and there was no comparable group within the Borough.

Does it meet policy requirements?

As this request did not meet the specific criteria set out in the policy (not based in or connected to the Borough), it required the consideration and approval of the Council.

RECOMMENDED that Council:

1. Accedes to the request to light up Council buildings red on 1st September 2022 to mark Blood Cancer Awareness Month, and annually thereafter.
2. Accedes to the request to light up Council buildings blue and orange on 4th September 2022 to mark the 75th anniversary of Relate NI; and
3. Accedes to the request to light up Council buildings red on 21st October 2022 to mark Black History Month and annually thereafter.

Councillor Kendall proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Kendall, acknowledged the worthiness of all three requests, highlighting the importance of the request from the North West Migrants Forum for Black History month.

The seconder Councillor Johnson concurred with those comments and expressed his support for the proposal.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted.

13. SEA SWIMMING CONSULTATION (FILE PCA100) (Appendix VII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community & Wellbeing stating that Council in February 2022 agreed:

“That this Council recognises the health and wellbeing benefits of Sea Swimming and therefore will write to the DAERA Minister to ask him to increase the sites in our Borough where bathing water quality is tested and the time of the year which testing occurs and officers will bring back a report detailing how Council can promote and better facilitate safe sea swimming; including consultation and engagement with swimming groups to address their needs, and promote information on the activity on a central webpage.”

A report on this Notice of Motion was brought back to Council in April 2022, highlighting the seven designated bathing waters in the Borough, and the work that Council did and would continue to do to promote safe sea swimming at those and other locations including webinars, publications and, safety classes in conjunction with Swim Ulster. The webpages that were already provided were also highlighted. Council at that time also added that subject to funding, Council pursued opportunities to install additional infrastructure at the Designated Bathing Water beaches such as, external showers and benches to help changing etc.

Council responded to a DAERA consultation which asked for nominations for additional designated bathing waters and views on extending the season when water quality was analysed at designated locations.

C.27.07.2022

22

The Department had now advised landowners including Councils of the locations which had been nominated as additional candidate sites for bath water designation under the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 as a result of that consultation. Correspondence was attached at Appendix 1. The correspondence asked if Council would be willing to act at the Bathing Water Operator of any of the listed sites, which were as follows

Brompton
Skipping Stone Beach
Donaghadee Harbour
Portavoe
Barrs Bay
Burr Point
Holywood

Following receipt of this correspondence a meeting was held with the DAERA Marine Strategy Branch on 24 June to discuss each site. Two sites were immediately ruled out as option for Council as they are not Council lands (Barrs Bay and Portavoe). DAERA further highlighted the impact on their resources that taking on additional sites would have as each would require to be sampled weekly for water quality. Therefore sites which received very few nominations and are used by few people may be ruled out on that basis by DAERA, calling into question the feasibility of Burr Point and Holywood.

However, this did not rule out sea swimming taking place at any of those locations, or sea swimming classes and seminars / webinars being taken advantage of by participants at any site.

Further information was sought by Council officers on the remaining three sites for Councils consideration, ie Brompton, Skipping Stone Beach and Donaghadee Harbour, particularly concerning water quality and safety due to the presence of nearby watercraft and the harbour/marina. As reported in April, Environmental Health was of the view that water quality may fail from time to time at these locations which in turn may render the need for an advisory communication against swimming, due to the presence of Combined Storm / Sewerage Water overflows (CSOs) in the vicinity and therefore a risk of faecal material in the water after heavy rainfall. Council would be aware however of NIW works to improve the water quality at some CSOs and had asked officers to review the possibility of nominating sites for designation on the back of these anticipated improvements.

A meeting was therefore requested between DAERA Marine Strategy Branch, NIW and Council officers, in order to discuss water quality further, and thereafter officers plan to report back on the remaining three sites with a recommendation on any feasibility of Council taking on the role of bathing water operator at those locations. DAERA were arranging this meeting for the three agencies, but at the time of writing this had not yet been agreed.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the contents of the attached letter and that a further report will be brought back for consideration following a meeting with DAERA and NI Water.

Councillor McKee proposed, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor McKee, welcomed the report and progress which had been made to date. He stated that he hoped the planned meeting would bring good news for those particular areas of bathing water, particularly as he was aware they were so popular with day trippers. Continuing he also acknowledged the benefits both physical and mental which sea swimming provided. Councillor McKee welcomed the work which had been carried out to date by officers on this matter and asked if consultation had been undertaken with the users of those beaches.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing advised that during previous meetings the popularity of those areas had been highlighted with DAERA. He advised that currently officers did not have direct links with any of the Groups which regularly used those areas, however he confirmed informal links had been established.

Councillor McKee welcomed the Director's comments adding that it was important to ensure officers took seriously the commitment made within the Notice of Motion to consult with the swimming groups.

The seconder, Councillor McArthur, noted that following DAREA's consultation the Borough had made the highest number of nominations. Continuing she asked if engagement had been undertaken with the large group of swimmers from Donaghadee. She also asked how water quality would be managed going forward, adding that she was aware of significant issues with water quality currently in Donaghadee.

In response the Director of Community & Wellbeing advised members that DAERA would be undertaking engagement and currently that was at a very early stage. He suggested that more direct engagement would be undertaken in due course. It was noted DAERA would also be responsible for managing water quality with the results of that being published online. In those cases where water quality failed an advisory notice would be advertised for public information.

Councillor Irwin noted the number of responses submitted in support of Brompton and Skipping Stone beach both of which were very popular areas. She asked if the Director had any idea when the proposed meeting with DAERA and NI Water would take place.

In response the Director indicated that regrettably he was not sure at this stage when that would take place.

Councillor Irwin stated that she would look forward to hearing the outcome of that meeting.

At this stage Councillor Brooks welcomed the report and expressed his support for the proposal as put forward. He advised members that he had circulated the report amongst local groups and they had all been very happy with the progress which had

been made to date. Councillor Brooks sought an update on the availability of funding for this project.

The Director referred members to the wording of the Notice of Motion which stated "that subject to funding, Council pursued opportunities to install additional infrastructure at the Designated Bathing Water beaches such as, external showers and benches to help changing etc". This he advised would fall to the Council's Assets and Property Services section however he surmised that he did not believe that those funds would be available for this year.

In response to a further query from Councillor Brooks about the availability of money for projects which had not been budgeted for, the Director of Finance & Performance advised that requests for expenditure would be subject to a Business Case to be approved by an appropriate Committee. He also added that generally Council expenditure was budgeted and planned for through the rate setting process. Councillor Brooks thanked the Director for his comments adding that it set the context for a debate to be had later in the meeting.

At this stage the Mayor referred to recent funding opportunities which had been publicised by DAERA which she suggested could be used for a project such as this.

Expressing his support, Councillor T Smith welcomed the report particularly as water quality was currently an issue in Donaghadee. He sought further clarity on how the public would be notified of current water quality conditions.

The Director confirmed that current water quality conditions would be made available to the public on DAERA's website which the Council would promote a link to.

Councillor Edmund noted that focus appeared to be on one area of the Borough adding that there were many other areas within the Borough where there were active Groups. He added that the sea was a dangerous place to be at times and therefore the promotion of safer sea swimming was to be encouraged.

Councillor Adair advised that DAERA funding was widely available and he noted the large response which it had received from the Borough. He agreed that people should be encouraged to enjoy the great outdoors in a safe way.

At this stage Alderman Carson asked if the Council still paid the Crown Estate for the use of the foreshore along the Borough's coastline. The Director indicated that he was not aware of that detail but could come back to the member in due course.

Councillor Cathcart commented that he had visited Skipping Stone beach the previous week and he looked forward to this matter progressing.

Welcoming the report Councillor Thompson commented that Millisle was fortunate to have the safe bathing area at the Lagoon and added that he looked forward to the outcome of the planned meeting.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the recommendation be adopted.

14. **SPORTS FORUM GRANTS (FILE SD109)**

(Appendix VIII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing stating that on the 26 August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £40,000 had been allocated within the 2022/2023 revenue budget for this purpose.

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

During May 2022, the Forum received a total of 36 grant applications; 2 of which were for Coaching, 2 Events, 2 Goldcard, 28 Individual Travel/Accommodation, 1 Club Travel/Accommodation and 1 Anniversary Application. A summary of the 33 successful applications were detailed in the attached Successful Coaching, Event, Goldcard and Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

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

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded May 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	*£175	£2,028.75
Equipment	£11,000	£0	£7,000
Events	£6,000	*£2,000	£1,700
Seeding	£500	£0	£250
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£3,730	£9,020
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
New category under development	£3,000	£0	£3,000
Goldcards proposed during the period May 2022 is 2.			

*The proposed remaining budget for Coaching of **£2,028.75** was based on a proposed award of **£175** as outlined in Successful Coaching Applications – for Noting. The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£1,700** was based on a proposed award of **£2,000** – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£9,020** was based on a proposed award of **£3,730** – for Noting, and withdrawn costs of £200.

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

Councillor Boyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

Welcoming the report, the proposer Councillor Boyle, congratulated those who had been successful in securing grants. He noted however that regrettably Ards Rugby Football Club who were celebrating their 50th anniversary had not been successful albeit he noted the application had been submitted after the event. He asked what guidelines Clubs would be given in respect of anniversaries such as this adding that it was regrettable in this case that for a 50th anniversary the Club had not successfully secured grant funding. As such he asked how Club's were notified of the guidelines in place in respect of significant anniversaries.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing informed members this was a rolling programme and that sort of detail would be provided to Clubs once they had signed up to the Sports Forum. He added that any updates made to that criteria would be passed on to all affiliated members and he reassured the member he would raise this matter with the Head of Leisure in due course.

Councillor Boyle thanked the Director for his comments.

Councillor Thompson noted there had been a number of unsuccessful applications and he acknowledged there was criteria which had to be met. However he welcomed the number of successful applications there had been and while appreciating the comments made by Councillor Boyle, he noted that all affiliated members were provided with the criteria which they were required to meet. In the case of Ards Rugby Football Club he noted that it would be unlikely that any grant aid could be provided particularly as the application was being made retrospectively. He added that it was unfortunate on this occasion adding that he was aware of the hard work which was undertaken by the members of the Forum.

At this stage Alderman Irvine welcomed the report and particularly those clubs which had been successful in securing funding. Continuing he expressed best wishes to all those athletes from the Borough who would be competing at the up and coming Commonwealth Games

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

**15. BLUE PLAQUE IN HONOUR OF VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH
(FILE HER 06/CR 07/22)(Appendix IX)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing stating that as part of a series of events to mark the bicentenary of the death of Viscount Castlereagh (1769-1822), the Ulster History Circle had approved the siting of a Blue Plaque in Newtownards to acknowledge the time Castlereagh spent in the town as a child.

The Stewart home and Estate Office was located on the corner of Castle Place, adjacent to The Old Cross and was now three separate shops; Equip kitchen shop an antiques shop and the NFU. The authenticity of the site had been confirmed by the Mount Stewart Estate however both the Estate and The Ulster History Circle were reticent to locate the Blue Plaque there as there were multiple owners and it

would prove complicated to seek permissions. They also felt the standard of upkeep of the properties was not appropriate and it was not a very accessible site for viewing due to the busy road and corner location.

The Blue Plaque could not be sited at Mount Stewart as the Ulster History Circle's policy was that there could not be a financial barrier to accessing the plaque. It must be in a public area that was free for anyone to view.

All parties agreed that a more appropriate location would be the Newtownards Town Hall in Conway Square as it was a prominent and accessible public building in the town and was linked to the Mount Stewart Estate.

The agreed wording was as follows:

Robert Stewart
VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH KG
2nd MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY
1769-1822
Statesman
lived in
Newtownards

It was proposed that the Blue Plaque would be unveiled in a ceremony on 23 November 2022 by Lady Rose and Peter Lauritzen (subject to his availability), with a reception to follow in the Londonderry Room.

The cost of the production and installation of the Blue Plaque was £1,000 and this would be covered by the budget allocated to the programme of events to mark the Bicentenary.

The Blue Plaque would measure 60cm in diameter and it was recommended that it was located to the right-hand side of the building on the flat stone area between the windows as shown at Appendix 1.

Listed Building consent would be required, and officer's would apply to the Historic Environment Division for this.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to the siting of a Blue Plaque in honour of Viscount Castlereagh on the Newtownards Town Hall.

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

The proposer, Alderman McIlveen, commented that the recommendation before them was very much in line with the Notice of Motion he had brought forward on this very matter. He agreed that this location would be entirely appropriate given that Viscount Castlereagh had been a resident of Newtownards and it would draw attention to his historical significance within the town. At this stage Alderman McIlveen took the opportunity to express his thanks to the Ulster History Circle for their assistance with securing the Blue Plaque in honour of Viscount Castlereagh.

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

16. SEALING DOCUMENTS

Councillor Adair proposed, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the Seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents:-

- (a) Conveyance from ANDBC to NI Water re land at Crawfordsburn Glen
- (b) Her Majesty the Queen (1) The Crown Estate Commissioners (2) and Ards and North Down Borough Council (3) – Lease of the seabed at Portaferry, Co. Down
- (c) WIEHAG Subcontractor Warranty
- (d) The Elevator Subcontractor Warranty
- (e) ANDBC and Thornton Roofing Ireland Limited - Localised roof repairs @ Bangor Aurora Aquatics & Leisure Complex
- (f) Lease of land at Portaferry Road to Ards Football Club Limited
- (g) Grant of Right of Burial nos. 14302 – 14325 and 14283

The proposer, Councillor Adair, noted the documentation from the Crown Estate which was to be sealed for the lease of the seabed at Portaferry and suggested that would answer Alderman Carson's earlier query about the Council's relationship with the Crown Estate.

RESOLVED: - (On the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Councillor Greer)

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

- (h) Conveyance from ANDBC to NI Water re land at Crawfordsburn Glen
- (i) Her Majesty the Queen (1) The Crown Estate Commissioners (2) and Ards and North Down Borough Council (3) – Lease of the seabed at Portaferry, Co. Down
- (j) WIEHAG Subcontractor Warranty
- (k) The Elevator Subcontractor Warranty
- (l) ANDBC and Thornton Roofing Ireland Limited - Localised roof repairs @ Bangor Aurora Aquatics & Leisure Complex
- (m) Lease of land at Portaferry Road to Ards Football Club Limited

C.27.07.2022

29

(n) Grant of Right of Burial nos. 14302 – 14325 and 14283

17. TRANSFERS OF RIGHTS OF BURIAL

The Chief Executive advised that no transfer applications had been received.

NOTED.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION STATUS REPORT (FILE CG12172) (Appendix X)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing an attachment of a Status Report in respect of Notices of Motion.

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

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the recommendation be adopted.

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

19.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Aldermen Irvine and Keery

That this Council changes the name of Queen's Parade to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade in honour and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Environment Committee.

(Councillor Smart left the meeting at this stage – 8.11pm)

19.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Aldermen McIlveen and Councillor Cathcart

This Council notes with concern that a number of planted trees in urban settings along roads which have died or have been removed but not replaced;

Notes the importance of environmental and social benefits of such trees in the built environment;

C.27.07.2022

30

Notes that DfI Roads formerly had a partnership arrangement with Belfast parks for the replacement of trees but that this partnership ended some time ago;

That Council officers are tasked with opening discussions with DfI Roads and DAERA with a view to exploring the possibility of a partnership which will involve the supply and replacement of lost trees in the Borough and then providing a report to Council for further consideration.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community & Wellbeing Committee.

Circulated for Information

- a) The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust – Outcome of Consultation (Correspondence attached)
- b) DAERA Outcomes Report (Correspondence attached)
- c) Home for Ukraine Update (Correspondence attached)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the items which were Circulated for Information be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the public/press be excluded from the undernoted items of confidential business.

(Having declared an interest in the next item Councillor P Smith was removed from the meeting and put on hold – 8.25pm)

20. REQUEST FROM COMBER REGENERATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TO INSTALL A KITCHEN AT COMBER COMMUNITY CENTRE (FILE LP146) (Appendix XI)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

(Councillor P Smith re-joined the meeting at this stage – 8.26pm)

21. HARDSHIP PAYMENT

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

(Councillor McKimm left the meeting at this stage – 10.00pm)

22. PLAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BUSINESS CASE (FILE CW12/CW4) (Appendix XII)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

(Councillor Cummings left the meeting at this stage – 10.06pm)

23. REQUEST TO USE TOWN HALL CHAMBER FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT (FILE GREL 346)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

24. LEVELLING UP APPLICATIONS – REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT (FILE CX226)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

25. STAFFING MATTER

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

C.27.07.2022

32

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

26. SINGLE TENDER ACTION

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

READMITTANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor McArthur, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10.51pm

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, 2 August 2022 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman Gibson

Aldermen: Keery
McIlveen

Councillors:	Brooks	McRandal
	Cathcart	Moore
	Cooper	P Smith
	McAlpine	Thompson
	McClellan	Walker
	McKee	

Officers: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Planning (A McCullough) Senior Professional and Technical Officers (A Todd & P Kerr) and Democratic Services Officers (H Loebnau & S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McRandal declared an interest in Item 4.3.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor McRandal, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the minutes be noted.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 LA06/2021/1214/O - Replacement Dwelling, 40 m North of 23 Arview Road, Killinchy
(Appendices I & II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Comber

Committee Interest: A Local development application 'called-in' to Planning Committee from the delegated list w/c 27 June by a member of that Committee - Called in by Ald McIlveen:

To determine whether the building to be replaced exhibits the essential characteristics of a dwelling and if the committee would consider the external structural walls to be substantially intact as required under policy CTY3 of PPS21 and would therefore meet the criteria for one of the exceptions under CTY1 of PPS21.

Proposal: Replacement dwelling

Site Location: 40m North of 23 Ardview Road, Killinchy

Recommendation: Refusal

The Head of Planning gave a presentation on the planning application, the details of which are as follows. The item was with regard to a replacement dwelling at an approximate location of 40m North of 23 Ardview Road, Killinchy. Alderman McIlveen had called in the application from the delegated list order that Committee had the opportunity to determine whether the building had met the criteria under Policy CTY3 for Replacement Dwellings and as such would have met the criteria for one of the exceptions under CTY1 of PPS21.

The site was located in the countryside to the south of the settlements of Balloo and Killinchy on the Ardview Road which was close to the junction with Upper Ballymorran Road. The building was in a ruinous state and appeared on OSNI mapping for a significant number of years as could be seen from an 1833 historical map.

Policy CTY1 of PPS21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside had set out a range of types of development which were, in principle, acceptable in the countryside and further highlighted that other types of development would only be permitted where there had been overriding reasons as to why such would be essential and not located in a settlement, or that it was otherwise located for development in a development plan.

One of those types of developments considered as acceptable under Policy CTY1 was as listed and highlighted; a replacement dwelling under Policy CTY3.

It was clarified with Members in respect of the planning reason presented for call in that the initial test relating to the principle of development was whether the proposal fell within a category of development under Policy CTY1 which was in principle acceptable, or whether planning permission would only be justified through Policy CTY1 on one of the fallback bases; overriding reasons could be as to why the development was essential and could not be located in a settlement, or that the proposal was allocated for development in a development plan.

If it was found that the proposal met Policy CTY3: Replacement Dwellings, then the exceptions test would not be engaged.

Policy CTY3 of PPS21 pertained to Replacement Dwellings and set out that planning permission would be granted were the building to be replaced. It would need to exhibit the essential characteristics of a dwelling and as a minimum, all external structural walls would have to be substantially intact.

The policy had further set out that proposals for replacement dwellings, where the previous tests had been met, would have to comply with a list of criteria.

Members were asked to note that the Policy referred to, 'essential characteristics of a house,' in the present tense which would mean that a building would be required to have those essential characteristics contemporarily regardless of whether it was known that the building had been a dwelling in the past.

From images supplied in the presentation, a substantial amount of foliage had been cleared from the location over the past couple of years with an aerial image of 2015 showing that there was no way to ascertain rooms of the building whereas another aerial image in 2018 provided views of the walls dividing the ruin internally and remains of a chimney on its north side.

In applying the everyday meaning of the term, 'substantially intact,' that would have meant that a high percentage of the external walls would have to be in place, whilst the architect had noted in his submission that the existing stone walls had deteriorated beyond repair.

The planning agent had submitted a drawing in his application that showed what was asserted to be a layout of the building as planned and that 87% of the walls remained intact. That was disputed in the Case Officer Report as some of the alleged window openings were not able to be viewed on site.

In a further slide, views were shown of a pathway that cut through a field via the Upper Ballymorran Road to the building. The application had shown sight splays from the Ardview Road as opposed to access being proposed from the Upper Ballymorran Road. The DfI had indicated no objections in principle, subject to detailed scale plans and accurate survey at any reserved matters stage. A slide showed the north gable wall and chimney with an internal photograph that displayed mainly loose stones forming what could have been described as a fireplace. Another slide faced north from the opposite gable end and showed partial inner wall partition. A further slide provided a view of a window opening though evidence existed that showed repair work had been undertaken upon the corner of the structure with new mortar and cleaner stone on both sides that formed the edge of the window opening. Views were provided from the chimney gable room toward the next room with an arrow indicating a doorway in the partial partition. Another slide showed an additional view of the aforementioned room as well as the long elevation of the house that fronted the Ardview Road.

The Head of Planning summarised and advised that it was hard to ascertain the size of original openings and, if one were to surmise which openings were that of windows, they would have been extremely shallow. Whilst external walls were in place to an extent, some of the walls were almost as sill level and that some repairs

had taken place which suggested the ruin was likely in worse state prior to repairs and submission of the application.

Mr Donaldson had made references to previous decisions by other planning authorities in his speaking note and Members were reminded that they were not bound by such. The Head of Planning was not in agreement that decision by Newry, Mourne and Down was on all fours with this application, as the extract from the Case Officer report suggested there were some substantial differences. Evidence from PAC decisions existed that would support both sides of an argument for replacement dwellings. Mr Donaldson's speaking notes proffered a 2014 example and Members were reminded that each case should be determined based upon its own merits. Contrary to the Case Officer's report, the Head of Planning believed the building exhibited the essential characteristics of a building and advised that the decision would lay with the Committee on whether they agreed with the planning judgement that walls were not substantially intact to comply with Policy CTY3.

The rest of the policy requirements under CTY3 were provided as that was only an outline application, no detailed plans or drawings were submitted. However, within the Case Officer report, it was considered that there would be no issues in complying appropriately with the other requirements as had been set out by appropriate conditions. In the event that Members believed the building complied with the first two elements of the policy, it was also considered that other policies within PPS21 that related to Integration and Rural Character would not be offended subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDED Refusal of Planning Permission based upon the building not exhibiting the essential characteristics of a dwelling (this element having been conceded during the presentation) and all external walls not being substantially intact.

Alderman McIlveen asked for clarification on the interpretation of, 'substantially intact,' given the potential subjectivity of the term. The Head of Planning was unable to provide any stronger definition and cited judgements in cases held by other PAC decisions where it was deemed some ruins met the policy whereby there were walls that had completely collapsed. The applicant /gent had stated the structure lay on sloped fields which disguised the height of the remaining walls which would be difficult to assert whilst roof eaves would make for shallow window openings. The Planning Office had believed that case did not meet the second part of the policy requirement and the referenced decision by Newry, Mourne and Down was considered as an unfit comparison as glazing was still intact. Alderman McIlveen asked if it would be enough that the structure still looked like a house. The Head of Planning clarified that this was not what the policy headnote required, however, suggested that this policy would be considered within the Council's own LDP.

Councillor Cathcart agreed that policy language was vague and subjective. From photographs, he agreed it looked like an identifiable house but had obviously not been a dwelling in quite some time given its condition. He queried whether it was better to have a derelict house or a house built within conditions of the local area. The Head of Planning advised that abandonment was consistent with older policies which had been superseded by prevailing regional policy. She explained that when

the ruin was covered in foliage, it was not noticeable. However, the proposal would necessitate removal of the remaining vegetation and creation of new road access with splays delivered as part of the project. The Case Officer had stated that rural character could be satisfactorily integrated but that if the vegetation was left to grow again, the structure would not be noticeable.

Councillor McRandal was curious as to whether the recent repair work was considered in the planning application regarding percentage of ruin. The Head of Planning explained the repair was substantial but could not advise whether its lack of existence would equate to an unsubstantial threshold. It would be up to Members to decide on whether the repair work tipped the balance in any judgement. However, had there been more significant repairs, circumstances would be different.

Councillor P Smith queried if the problem was to do with whether the ruin was a dwelling, or when a dwelling became a ruin and vice versa. The Head of Planning explained that the policy referred to buildings that had previously been used as dwellings and that buildings could have been dwellings historically despite the original intent of the building not being so. Members would be unable to factor in the fact that the building had been unused as a dwelling in decades; if it had been last used as a dwelling or had the essential characteristics of one, it would meet the particular policy criterion.

At 7:29 pm, speaker David Donaldson was admitted to the meeting.

Mr Donaldson advised CTY3 was the key policy which required several key aspects to be addressed.

a. Was the structure a dwelling.

Mr Donaldson referenced the 1864 evaluation of Ireland wherein records showed the house was owned by one Mr George Irvine whilst the applicant's grandfather had been born in the house.

b. Essential characteristics of a dwelling

The building provided shelter for humans with door and window openings typical of the period whilst a chimney and flue formed part of the fireplace; characteristics Mr Donaldson argued were clearly that of a dwelling. Mr Donaldson noted that the Head of Planning had agreed characteristics of a dwelling existed during her presentation.

c. External walls substantially intact.

Mr Donaldson referenced the Case Officer's report wherein it stated the footprint was intact and that, apart from the gable, other walls were not substantially intact. Conversely, the architect's estimate of 87% retained external walls, with some above window heads and one gable end having collapsed. As the building was levelled upon a slope and thence walls were partially below ground, the internal floor level was lower than that of land externally. Mr Donaldson advised that this would have led onlookers to see a shorter wall from a viewpoint outside of the structure than from inside with wall heights within close proximity of the original eave height. The

policy did not require complete walls, but substantially intact walls. Mr Donaldson argued that by reasonable means of the substantial definition, 87% would be considered as a substantial remain, whilst had the architect quoted 75%, such would still have been considered substantial. In appeals, Mr Donaldson cited 2014 A0254 where the decision had been agreed for planning permission despite reference to partially collapsed walls and fully collapsed roof.

Mr Donaldson quoted a PPS21 objective; 'to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that meet the needs of a vibrant rural community.' He explained that revisions of the CTY3 policy were relaxed through versions to specifically facilitate redevelopment of sites with histories of residential use. CTY3 also stated, 'replacement dwellings were important to the renewal and upgrading of rural housing stock.' Mr Donaldson further quoted a Minister from 2010 introducing PPS21 to the Assembly, 'even if those buildings do not have rooves and some parts of their walls have fallen into disrepair...what is the point of having all those redundant buildings scattered around the countryside? Let's replace them with buildings appropriately designed which people can live in and use.'

Mr Donaldson explained that the Case Officer had agreed there would be no impact on rural character and no issues with integration. The SPSS had also stated that granting permission should be granted unless demonstrable harm occurred. He asked the Committee where harm lay with replacing an old dwelling with an appropriate one.

Councillor McRandal asked when repair works had been carried on the structure. Mr Donaldson's involvement had only begun from the application reaching Committee stage but believed works had occurred during the Coronavirus lockdown time and the applicant had repaired the gable corner to ensure it did not collapse. Mr Donaldson estimated the area of repair was 2 to 3 sqm which, when viewed with the scale of the building would not be a large proportion. However, if the repair was discounted from total substantial remains, Mr Donaldson believed the figure would still be above 80% and so should not dissuade Members from granting the application.

Councillor Cathcart believed the footprint of the ruin was quite small and would not make for an appropriate-sized dwelling. He asked what scale a new build would be and how such would be integrated. Mr Donaldson, before answering the question reminded Members that the Case Officer had agreed there would be no impact on integration or rural character. If permission was granted and the reserved matters process passed, they would be content for conditions to be imposed to ensure the design and scale of the dwelling would be appropriate to the location. Mr Donaldson believed the footprint was not small, being approximately 65 sqm. It would not require much of an increase to provide adequate living space especially when the likes of a roof space could be included. In addition, though the building sat close to the roadside and was reasonably well screened by a hedge, Mr Donaldson believed a design could be proffered that would be in keeping with what was a very attractive location.

(Mr Donaldson was returned to the public gallery at 7:38 pm.)

Councillor McRandal asked for views on Mr Donaldson referring to repairs as small in comparison to the structure's total size. The Head of Planning agreed the repair area was small and advised that members should consider this against the rest of the building.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Councillor Cathcart to grant planning permission.

Alderman McIlveen explained that, given concessions made by the Head of Planning and characteristics of a dwelling alongside the aims and objectives of policies, it had come down to whether the Committee considered the structure intact. He believed it would appear to be a dwelling if a roof had been placed upon it, adding that 80-87% intact walls would meet the interpretation of 'substantial'. Councillor Cathcart did not think demonstrable harm would be applicable and was happy in principle with the application.

Councillor P Smith & Councillor Moore had both queried if the Planning Department would be able to provide an estimate number as to the remaining walls though the Head of Planning explained the percentage calculation was not one that would normally have been carried out and that the appraisal they had carried out was based on what could be seen upon visiting, i.e. each on its own merits.

Councillor McAlpine advised that she would not be in favour of supporting a granting of permission.

VOTE – ten in favour of, two against, one abstained and one did not vote due to arriving late. The vote carried and planning permission was approved.

The Head of Planning asked if Members could clarify agreement for formulating appropriate conditions. Both Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Cathcart agreed to give officers Delegated Authority in that respect.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen seconded by Councillor Cathcart that the overturn be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

4.2 LA06/2022/0346/O - Infill site for 2 No. Dwellings with Domestic Garages between 32 and 24 Castle Espie Road, Comber
(Appendices III & IV)

Item 4.2 had been removed from the agenda to be discussed at a later Planning Committee.

Having declared an interest in Item 4.3 Councillor McRandal was removed from the meeting at 7.50 pm.

4.3 LA06/2021/0895/F - Rear balcony with External Staircase (Part Retrospective) and Retrospective Alterations to Rear Elevation Including New Windows and Raised Eaves, 4 Rhanbuoy Road, Holywood
(Appendices V - VII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Hollywood and Clandeboye

Committee Interest: A Local development application attracting six or more separate individual objections which are contrary to the officer's recommendation

Proposal: Rear balcony with external staircase (part retrospective) and retrospective alterations to rear elevation including new windows and raised eaves

Site Location: 4 Rhanbuoy Road, Hollywood

Recommendation: Approval

The Planning Officer (A Todd) explained that this application was seeking full planning permission for a part retrospective rear balcony with external staircase and retrospective alterations to rear elevation including new windows and raised eaves at 4 Rhanbuoy Road, Hollywood. The application had been brought before the Planning Committee as six or more individual objections contrary to the officer's recommendation to **approve** had been received.

The site was located within an established residential area in Seahill, Hollywood, which was characterised by detached dwellings. The site contained a detached split-level dwelling which was single storey to the front and two-storey to the rear. The pattern of development was such that the buildings were positioned in close proximity to one other, gable to gable.

In the proposed layout plan the balcony was to be located to the rear of the dwelling in a central position, 4.6m from the party boundary with No. 2 Rhanbuoy Road and 7.6m from the boundary with No. 80 Seahill Road. The application was in part retrospective as the balcony had already been partly constructed with a spiral staircase to the right-hand side, though no railings or screens had been erected around the balcony and as such, it was not in use at the time of writing. A slide showed the original proposal that was submitted with the application. The Planning Department had raised concerns with the agent regarding the potential impact on privacy of the neighbouring properties at No. 2 and No. 80 as a result of the proposal. Within the original application, only low glazed screens had been proposed which would allow views into adjacent properties whilst concerns had also been raised regarding the potential for views overlooking from the spiral staircase in close proximity to No. 2.

In views from the main living room of No.2 toward the balcony and vice versa, it was evident that the balcony as had been originally proposed would result in an unacceptable degree of overlooking.

A further slide showed the amended scheme as per request of the Planning Department which was recommended for approval. The amended proposal showed that the spiral staircase had been relocated to the opposite north-eastern side of the balcony, away from No. 2 but also of sufficient distance away from No. 80 which ensured that no unacceptable degree of overlooking would occur. In addition to conditions already contained in the planning report, it was recommended that a further condition requiring removal of the existing staircase within four months of

planning permission was also included. The overall area of the balcony was reduced from 18sqm to 9sqm in order to reduce the potential for large gatherings which may have caused unacceptable noise and disturbance to neighbouring properties at the proposed height. A taller 180cm high obscure glazed screen was also proposed on the south-western side facing No. 2 Rhanbuoy Road which would mitigate against any potential overlooking issues.

A greater distance of 11m existed between the proposed balcony and the existing balcony to the rear of No. 80. The reduced size of the balcony would mean that views toward No. 80 would be to the side of their balcony which was screened instead of the angled views back toward the centre of the balcony which the original proposal would have caused. Due to that, it was considered that a taller screen was not necessary.

At the time of writing the planning report, 13 objections had been received from 7 separate addresses. In the time since, a further three were received from Andrew McCready on 14th July, John Hutchinson on 27th July and Councillor McRandal on 29th July. An addendum to the Case Officer's report had been completed that took those into consideration and was published on the Planning Portal and shared with Members prior to the evening's meeting.

Concerns raised by objectors included;

- Retention of an intrusive structure out of keeping with the dwelling.
- Difficulty to enforce non-use of the area beyond the screening.
- Items could be placed on the area beyond the screening which would have an adverse visual impact.
- Glass screen could be moved further out at any time.
- Inconsistency of planning decisions – occupants of No. 2 asked to remove spiral staircase and pull back balcony.
- Private garden area of No. 2 would still be overlooked.
- Dominance of a 1.8m high screen.

It was not considered that the balcony would detract from the appearance of the host dwelling nor character of the surrounding area. Whilst the balcony would be visible to adjacent properties, it could not be seen from any public viewpoints and did not have a significant visual presence in the surrounding area. While the structure was considerable in size, the garden area to the rear was generous and could easily accommodate its scale. Furthermore, there was already a precedent of other large balconies and terraces within the area, including one immediately adjacent at 80 Seahill Road.

It was not considered that the non-use of the area beyond the balustrades would be difficult to enforce. Such conditions prohibiting the use of areas as balconies and terraces were applied regularly by the Planning Department. Furthermore, the permanent glazed balustrade to be erected would provide a physical barrier preventing access to the remaining area. A condition requiring that to be erected within four months of any permission and requiring it to be fixed and retained in perpetuity was recommended. Given that physical barrier and the lack of safety rails around the remaining area, it was extremely unlikely that the applicant would wish to use the area.

The Planning Department was satisfied that the condition was enforceable. The 1.8 m high screen would not result in any unacceptable dominant impact upon the neighbouring property at No. 2. The screen would be restricted to two metres in width consisting of obscure glass with a lightweight appearance and would still allow light to pass through. Furthermore, the screen would be located approximately seven metres from the closest window of No. 7 meaning there would be no overbearing impact. In regard to overlooking into the rear garden of No. 2, given the 1.8m high screen to the side, views would only be directed toward the rear portion of No. 2's garden rather than the most private area immediately to the dwelling's rear. A condition had been recommended that required the 1.8m high screen to be erected within four months of the date of any planning permission and retained in perpetuity thereafter. In addition, balconies of that nature were already characteristic of the area, with No.2 and No. 80 adjacent both having balconies that overlooked the rear gardens of the neighbouring properties. The proposed balcony would have no greater impact than those.

The occupant of No. 2 had also raised concerns of an inconsistency in approach by the Planning Department, stating that in the application for a balcony at the rear of his property, he had been required to reduce the size of his balcony, as originally proposed as well as removing a proposed spiral staircase. The request to reduce the size of the balcony was to prevent overlooking toward No. 4 as no screen was included in the proposal to obstruct views. The spiral staircase which Mr Hutchinson was also asked to remove was located only 3.5m from the boundary of the dwelling at No. 9 Rhanbuoy Park, similar in distance to the original position of the spiral staircase for the application from the party boundary with No. 2. As such, the Planning Department was satisfied that it had not been inconsistent in its approach. In each case, appropriate amendments had been sought to address potential overlooking concerns.

Councillor McRandal had raised concerns regarding the retrospective nature of the application and the fact that the applicant could have ceased construction following enforcement 'action'. It should be noted that retrospective applications were permissible and that building without planning permission was not a criminal offence in itself. The works were not subject to enforcement 'action' (enforcement action being an Enforcement Notice or a Breach of Condition Notice or a Stop Notice etc.) Following the issuing of a warning letter, the application reviewed at the evening's meeting was submitted as a means of remedying the breach of planning.

Summary

It was considered that the proposal complied with all of the policy requirements of PPS7 Addendum Residential Extensions & Alterations. The balcony was located to the rear of the property and its size and scale were not considered to be excessive within the generous sized plot nor would it appear overly dominant from any public viewpoint in the area. Balconies and terraces such as these were already characteristic of the area. Furthermore, all representations had been carefully considered and the Planning Department was content that the amended proposal alongside recommended planning conditions would ensure that there would be no adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent properties. On that basis, it was

recommended that full planning permission be granted subject to the suggested conditions.

At 8.01 pm Mr Tran and Mr Mountstephen were brought into the Committee to speak.

Mr Mountstephen advised that the retrospective nature of the application was due to a genuine misunderstanding by the applicant who had been originally told that the works in question were permitted development and upon discovering that they were not, works were stopped appropriately with an application made by the client's agent. Mr Mountstephen's involvement began thereafter. During the application, requests for changes by the Planning Department had been complied with, thus the recommendation for approval. The objections that had been received were put forth to the committee, one of which was from a neighbouring dwelling. Strategic planning policy statement established that there was a presumption in favour of development, namely that sustainable development should be permitted and with regard to the local development plan, that all material considerations had been made unless the development were to cause demonstrable harm. He advised no demonstrable harm would occur and that the key policy was EXT1 within PPS7 which stated that planning permission would be granted if four certain criteria were met. The first regarded scale, materiality and design of the proposal which were sympathetic to the current property design and would not detract from the appearance or character of the area.

Balconies of various designs existed at all properties within the immediate vicinity of the applicant dwelling, including No. 9 Rhanbuoy Park, 2 Rhanbuoy Road, No. 80 and No. 82 Seahill Road. 80 Seahill Road had a balcony significantly larger than that proposed in this application with an area that was greater than 2 m in depth. Therefore, balconies were a common and established feature of the area. The addition of the application balcony of No. 4 Rhanbuoy Road with a depth of 2m would not have an unacceptable, adverse impact. The remainder of the structure would be sympathetic to the existing property which covered a ground-level patio floor of equal metrage. Preventative development rights would allow for a significant construction to the rear of the property in terms of a single storey extension extending four metres from the rear of the property, provided it would be two metres from the nearest boundary. In comparison, the structure existing at the house extended four metres from the house and was over three metres from the nearest boundary. He concluded that, in addition to the balcony not having any adverse impact, so too would the remaining structure have no impact on the appearance or character of the area. The structure could not be seen from the public road and therefore would not have a significant visual impact. The proposal did not affect privacy or amenity of neighbouring residents and as had been established, balconies were a common feature of the surrounding area. A balcony of 2 metres depth with a 1.8 metre screen to the west and proposed siting of the spiral staircase would ensure privacy was not unduly affected particularly with regard to the closest property at No. 2. The proposal would not cause any damage to trees or landscape features whilst sufficient space existed within the curtilage of the property for recreation and parking etcetera. The proposal had been assessed thoroughly; third parties had the opportunity to make representation which were considered in detail by the Council's Planning Department. Revised proposals had been provided

at the request of the Planning Department and five precise and enforceable conditions which the applicant accepted had been proposed. He concluded that the recommendation was the result of a robust process.

Both Mr Tran & Mr Mountstephen were returned to the gallery at 8:07 pm.

Councillor P Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Cooper that the recommendation be adopted, and planning permission be granted.

Councillor P Smith stated that the case had been well made. With consideration to the number of balconies in the surrounding area, with each tailored to the circumstance of the attached properties and the number of conditions that had been applied would ensure impact on adjacent properties would be minimized.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith seconded by Councillor Cooper that the recommendation be adopted, and that planning permission be granted.

Councillor McRandal was returned to the meeting at 8.09 pm.

It was agreed to consider Item 4.4 (as no speakers were registered) at a later point in the meeting after Items 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7.

4.5 LA06/2021/1498/F - 6 No. Sculptural Artworks, Footpath and Access to Coastal Path and Associated Works, Lands at Ulster Transport Museum, Bangor Road, Holywood
(Appendices X -XII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Holywood and Clandeboye

Committee Interest: A Local development application attracting six or more separate individual objections which are contrary to the officer's recommendation

Proposal: 6 No. sculptural artworks, footpath and access to coastal path and associated works

Site Location: Lands at Ulster Transport Museum, Bangor Road, Holywood

Recommendation: Approval

The Planning Officer outlined the application that was for 6 no. sculptural artworks, footpath and access to coastal path and associated works at lands at Ulster Transport Museum, Bangor Road, Holywood.

The site was located within the grounds of the existing Ulster Transport Museum. The area was shown on a slide with a red line and consisted of grass and shrubbery as well as existing hardstanding. The site was bounded by mature trees and shrubbery and there were no TPO trees within the area where the sculptures were to be erected or affecting the site. The public coastal path was located just beyond the rear boundary of the site and there were restricted public views into the site. The application had been made by National Museums NI.

The proposal involved the installation of sculptures in connection with the 'Our Place in Space' sculpture trail. The proposal had been designed by Oliver Jeffers - a famous local artist and author. All of the sculptures featured LED lighting on timer switches, turning off at dusk in order to protect local biodiversity. Environmental Health and NIEA were consulted and were content with the proposal. The application was being presented at committee as there were 6 objections from separate addresses and the following issues were raised:

The introduction of the access gate on to the coastal path at a narrow part of path, parking issues, loss of privacy, anti-social behaviour, impact on biodiversity, opening hours, noise connected with interactive aspect of proposal and site access and future upkeep of the site. Those matters would be addressed throughout the presentation.

There were six sculptures of the solar system proposed within the museum site along a pathway leading down to the coastal path with the intention to access the coastal path and continue the trail to the remaining temporary sculptures proposed as part of the 'Our Place in Space' project. Two of the sculptures of the earth and the sun were large spherical sculptures and the remaining 4 were painted steel arches.

Turning to the development plan the proposal lay within the settlement limit in both the North Down and Ards Area Plan and Draft BMAP. The site also fell within a proposed ATC, an LLPA, a SLNCI and in an area zoned for existing recreation and open space in Draft BMAP. The proposal was in conformity with the plan and would not adversely impact the LLPA.

The relevant policy considerations were the SPPS, PPS2 Natural Heritage, PPS3 Access Movement and Parking, Addendum to PPS6 Areas of Townscape Character, PPS8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation and PPS16 Tourism.

With regard to the SPPS it recognised that tourism made a vital contribution to the Northern Ireland economy. The sculptures would create a draw for more visitors to the Museum and North Down on the whole and would help to sustain an existing tourist attraction on a currently underused site.

With regard to PPS 2 the proposal was acceptable and NIEA was content subject to conditions as per addendum that the Committee would have been privy to. Lighting on the sculptures would be in operation until 10pm/dusk and would turn off automatically.

No roads issues were required to be assessed due to the nature of the proposal and the access proposed to the coastal path was for pedestrian use only. The museum had a large parking provision and there was no expected increase in the number of vehicles each day according to the P1 form. The proposal was intended to enhance the existing museum experience rather than be a stand-alone experience.

With regard to the ATC the proposal would maintain the character of the ATC as there were limited public views into the museum site from the public roads. Within

the site there were a number of buildings of varying styles and character associated with the museum.

There were no issues with flooding at the site and the new path would be comprised of a permeable paving system. The new path involved the removal of small sections of existing grass.

The new metal access gate would allow direct pedestrian access from the museum site onto the coastal path with an information panel located just outside the gate. There would be native coastal plants planted around the new entrance. The gate would be in materials to match the existing fence. The design of the new access would ensure that there was a flow of footfall without creating 'bottle neck' issues.

With regard to PPS16 Tourism policy TSM7 referred to public art where it was linked to a tourism development needed to be of high quality, to complement existing buildings and to respect the surrounding context. The sculptures were of high quality and due to the mix of building types and the context of a museum site where it was not unusual to have contemporary sculptures existing alongside host museum buildings of differing character the proposal was deemed acceptable. The proposal brought with it positive benefits for tourism in the Borough and overall would have a positive impact on the locality and the Borough as a whole.

With regard to neighbouring amenity the closest residential properties were over 20m from the sculptures and therefore dominance and overshadowing would not be an issue. The boundaries of the museum site ensured sufficient screening for the sculptures and therefore public views of the sculptures or visitors would be limited as existing as all of the site was already accessed and used by museum visitors at present.

Environmental Health was content with the proposal. With regard to noise impact and surrounding residents, the separation distance and screening from vegetation would dampen any noise created by visitors however it was important to note that this was an existing museum site that had the capacity to run events on the land as part of its existing use. There will be no loop audio generated by the proposal and the experience was created through a smart phone virtual reality app.

In respect of PPS 8 - the site lay within an area of existing open space. The sculptures would continue to allow full use of the site with the added benefit of an additional pathway which would enhance the visitor experience and allow pedestrians to permeate throughout the site and advance onto the coastal path. The sculptures would create an added diversion for public enjoyment. There would be no adverse impact on the area of existing open space.

With regard to the objection raised about the issue of upkeep of the site, that was a matter for National Museums NI to deal with through its own site management plans and not an issue that could be assessed under planning legislation. The site could be closed to vehicles but pedestrian access was possible through the site. That would be up to National Museums NI to manage the site and protect the installation from anti-social behaviour.

The Planning Officer informed the Committee that there had been a further objection received that day via an elected member from occupier of 33 Seafront Road who had raised concerns with the Planning Committee about why the Planning Office had not asked for transport assessment and further traffic and parking assessment. The officer restated that the proposal was for the installation of six sculptures which were an additional attraction for those visiting the museum and parking at the museum was currently ample with the sculptures unlikely in the long term to increase traffic flows in a significant way. A new access point would be introduced at a point on the coastal path so the Planning Department did not feel that there would be an issue raised in relation to roads at the site and parking provision. It was not a matter for Planning to control where people parked but the obvious parking area for visitors to the museum was the museum carpark itself.

The Planning Officer stated that she would like to request Delegated Powers to add additional conditions regarding the retention of existing boundaries within the blue line to protect views into the site from the coastal path. She added that overall the proposal was policy compliant and met objectives with regards to tourism and approval was therefore recommended.

Councillor McRandal referred to the objection which had been received earlier in the day which largely restated concerns which had been raised previously. He asked for clarification that the pedestrian access from the coastal path was to be permanent as part of the application and if there was a road traffic assumption that people would park in the main carpark at the museum. He wondered if it had been an oversight not to consider the potential for parking by some people close to the coastal path itself. The pedestrian access could outlive the life of the sculptures and he viewed those two issues as being separate.

The Planning Officer explained that parking on roads close to the coastal path was not a suggested access point to the museum and it was not expected that the proposal would even increase traffic. The Planning Office could not be in a position to predict how people could behave in the future. Councillor McRandal asked if there was anything that could be put in place to apply conditions to give the residents close to the museum some peace of mind that parking outside their homes would not become a problem in the future. The Planning Officer explained that the best that could be done would be to work with National Museums NI to direct people to the main museum car park but that it was not something that could be placed in a planning permission.

Alderman Keery queried if the gate at the coastal path would be locked in the evening and whether or not cyclists would be discouraged from accessing museum property as a means to leave the coastal path. He also wondered how any potential anti-social behaviour could be prevented at dusk. The Planning Officer explained that the gate at the coastal path would be closed at the same time as the museum itself closed. At the main car park of the museum there was a vehicular barrier preventing parking and potential anti-social behaviour in the evenings. There was access available to the coastal path in the evenings currently and therefore it was not expected that the installation of six sculptures on museum property would exacerbate what was in place at the present time. She agreed that the activity of

cyclists could be hard to police but potentially the museum could erect a sign stating that access was for pedestrians only.

Mr Bronte and Ms Murphy, Turley, were introduced as agents for the proposal and they welcomed the opportunity to be present at the Planning Committee and thanked the Council's planning team for their co-operation to date. Mr Bronte explained the background to 'Our Place in Space' and that it had been a programme carried out in the United Kingdom in 2022. The sculptures in question had been designed by local artist and author Oliver Jeffers and formed part of Northern Ireland's contribution. On completion of the project visitors to the museum would be able to undertake a self-guided tour of the solar system and the sculptures would be permanently located within North Down.

That would contribute to the plan to connect the museum to its coastal setting and the sculptures would be secured with a concrete foundation. None of those sculptures' foundations would be in the root protection zone of the museum's trees. Two sculptures, the sun and the earth would be spherical in nature with heights of 2m and diameters of 2.4m and they comprised an internal steel sub structure. The remaining sculptures, Mercury, Venus, Mars and the Moon were 4m in height and arched in shape and had an internal steel substructure. The sculptures would feature low light LED lighting and spotlights which would automatically switch off at dusk. A lighting plan had been submitted to support the application and no further lighting was proposed. A 2m pathway between the six sculptures would be permeable and would not encourage erosion and no trees would be felled or cut back. Effects were thought to be negligible for bats in nearby trees.

The proposed gate would remain open throughout the day and would match the neighbouring fencing and there would be an information panel for visitors at the access point on the coastal path. It was stated that there would be no visual impact on the amenity of that area and nor would there be a significant increase in noise. All statutory consultees had responded and had no objections.

Ms Murphy added that the proposed path was designed for pedestrians only and the proposal promoted sustainable forms of transport to the site. The path itself was not designed for cyclists.

Proposed by Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

Proposing the recommendation Councillor P Smith believed that all queries had been answered. There had been a matter raised by local residents about access to the coastal path but that had been explained with the gate to the path being closed at the same time as that of the museum. He was therefore satisfied that the application should proceed.

Councillor McKee was happy to second the proposal and was excited to see it come to the Borough and thought it would be a boost to the Borough in general.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be approved.

4.6 LA06/2020/0935/F - 5 dwellings - 4 terraced and 1 detached, Lamont Avenue – to the Rear of Nos. 13-23 Portaferry Road, Newtownards
(Appendices XIII & XIV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest: A Local development application attracting six or more separate individual objections which are contrary to the officer's recommendation

Proposal: 5 dwellings - 4 terraced and 1 detached

Site Location: Lamont Avenue - to the rear of Nos. 13-23 Portaferry Road, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The Planning Officer outlined the application stating that it was an application seeking full planning permission for 4 terraced dwellings and 1 detached dwelling at Lamont Avenue, Newtownards. The application had been brought before the Planning Committee as six or more individual objections contrary to the officer's recommendation to **approve** had been received.

She showed the location of the site which was to the rear of an existing row of terraced houses on the south-western side of the Portaferry Road within the settlement limit of Newtownards. The site currently comprised two existing buildings and an area of hardstanding used by the existing vehicle repair business, John Robson Motors. Access was off the Portaferry Road via Lamont Avenue and a right of way to the rear of the adjacent terraced properties ran along the north-eastern boundary of the site. As well as the existing residential properties fronting the Portaferry Road, there were various other commercial uses in the area including car sales, Martin Phillips Carpets and Unit Design.

The site lay within the settlement limit of Newtownards and there were no specific designations or zonings within the development plan affecting the site. Slides were shown with photographs taken of the site and surrounding area. The first slide showed the mix of residential and commercial uses on Portaferry Road. The next slide showed the site and access road, Lamont Avenue, and the existing right of way along the rear of the residential properties abutting the site and which would remain unaffected. The last image showed Lamont Avenue viewed from the Portaferry Road.

The proposed layout plan for the development was shown and it could be seen that the development would be arranged so that the terrace of 4 dwellings would sit at the rear of the site at a right angle to the existing terrace and the single detached dwelling would be positioned to have a frontage to Lamont Avenue. Lamont Avenue would be brought up to adoptable roads standards as requested by DFI Roads and

the details of the works were indicated on the submitted Private Streets Determination drawing.

In total, 11 car parking spaces would be provided within the curtilage of the site meaning there would be two spaces approximately per unit. Given the location close to the town centre and scope for additional visitor parking along Lamont Avenue and Portaferry Road, the provision was considered to be more than adequate, meeting the standards set out in Creating Places. Each dwelling would also have adequate private amenity space ranging between 45 – 80sqm exceeding the minimum standard of 40sqm set out in Creating Places and the density of the development would be comparable to the existing adjacent residential terrace.

A further slide showed the proposed design of the dwellings. Both terraced and detached dwellings were already characteristic of the area and the height and scale of the buildings would also reflect the established built form. The finishes would comprise dark coloured roof tiles and painted render.

Objections

14 letters of objection had been received from 7 separate addresses upon completion of the planning report. One further objection from the occupant of 19 Portaferry Road was received on 16 July after the planning report was completed however no new material considerations were raised. The main material planning considerations raised included:

- Potential damage to existing properties as a result of construction
- Unsafe access to site
- Lack of parking
- Impact on existing right of way and garages
- Impact on character of area
- Flooding
- Impact on privacy and light to existing dwellings

With regard to potential damage to existing properties during construction, no evidence had been submitted to substantiate that this would be the case. Specific concerns had been raised that the ground conditions were unsuitable at this location, however the area was already intensely developed and the onus would be on the developer to ensure that all appropriate ground survey work was carried out prior to commencement of development and that a suitable design solution was utilised for foundations etc to ensure that no damage would occur to neighbouring properties.

With regard to access and road safety, DFI Roads had requested that Lamont Avenue be brought up to adoptable standards and was satisfied that that would provide a safe access to the site in line with the recommended standards.

Furthermore, given the presence of an existing car repair business on the site, it was not anticipated that the development would result in a significant increase in traffic movements. As already outlined, adequate parking would be provided for the development in line with the recommended standards and the right of way and garages serving the existing terraces would remain unaffected.

With regard to the impact on the character of the area, there would be no harm caused. The original scheme submitted was for 6 units however the Planning Department considered that that would constitute overdevelopment of the site and the applicant was requested to reduce the scheme to 5 units. As already outlined, both the density and built form of the development were very much in keeping with the surrounding context.

With regard to potential flooding issues, the site was located within the defended flood plain of the Newtownards Canal and Strangford Lough and within an area of inundation emanating from Strangford Lough Wildfowlers Pond. However, a Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken and DFI Rivers had confirmed that it was content with the findings which concluded that the development would not result in any unacceptable flood risk at that location.

The impact of the development on the amenity of the existing adjacent dwellings was assessed in detail throughout the processing of the application. The development would be a sufficient distance from the existing terrace to ensure that there would be no adverse dominant impact or loss of light. Windows had also been carefully positioned on the buildings to ensure that no unacceptable overlooking would occur towards the rear of the existing dwellings.

In summary, the development of 5 residential units was considered to comply with the development plan and all the relevant planning policy requirements for the reasons already outlined. In addition, none of the statutory consultees had raised any objections to the proposal and all representations had been carefully considered. On that basis it was recommended that **FULL planning permission** should be granted subject to the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

Councillor McAlpine noticed that the application had been revised from six houses to five, and the detached appeared to have frontage on to Lamont Avenue and she asked if there was deemed to be enough privacy. The Planning Officer explained that the side of that house would be on to the front of the other house. The windows had been carefully placed and would have obscure glass so there would be no direct overlooking. Her second question related to the yard wall at the rear of the properties it was stated that there was sufficient space and that the Right of Way would remain in place.

Mr Keith Robson was introduced who was speaking in support of the application. He thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak and in his opinion the proposal was considered to be appropriate and was an upgraded application from what had been proposed previously with a lower density of buildings and a reduction in the heights of those buildings. Work had been carried out with all stakeholders to come up with something that was acceptable on the site. He was cognisant of the previous concerns and believed that what was being presented now was appropriate. He appreciated the work of the Council's planning team and believed that the application would improve the area where it would be located.

Proposed by Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that planning permission be approved.

Proposing the application Councillor P Smith considered that what had been presented was adequate, the Right of Way would be protected, and the density had been reduced to meet planning requirements. Councillor Cathcart had nothing further to add to those comments.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be approved.

4.7 LA06/2022/0167/F - Installation of A3 plaque, Wall at the Entrance to Ards Hospital, Church Street, Newtownards
(Appendices XV & XVI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest: An application made by the Council

Proposal: Installation of A3 plaque

Site Location: Wall at the entrance to Ards Hospital
Church Street, Newtownards

Recommendation: Grant Consent

The Head of Planning explained that the application was for the installation of an A3 sized plaque on the wall at the entrance to Ards Hospital on Church Street, Newtownards.

The application came about as a Notice of Motion by Councillor Kennedy and was approved by the Council in November 2018 which read as follows:

That this Council bring back a report regarding the erection of a memorial to the eight people who were killed on Church Street during the 1936 Ards TT race, which ultimately lead to the cancelling of the event, and that this memorial might be placed on the western end of the wall at Ards Hospital on Church Street.

The report to Council also stated the following:

The Ards TT race, in its early years, attracted audiences of half a million people along the route which was just over 13 miles. The race took place on public roads which were closed and there was a real sense of excitement at that time. It was a uniquely successful public event. There was a memorial to the race in Conway Square of the town but little mention of why the race had come to an end. A fatal crash at the final race had caused the death of 8 people and injured up to 40 people. The Council believed that those who had lost their lives should be remembered.

A slide was shown of the proposed location of the plaque and a street view image of the approximate location on the wall in front of Minor Injuries, Ards Hospital. The A3 wall mounted plaque had been assessed against the relevant policy and was considered to have no adverse impacts on the character of the area, residential amenity, and due to its size and location it would not be easily observable by passing traffic therefore posed no road safety risk.

It was therefore proposed that planning permission should be recommended.

Proposed by Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Proposing the application Alderman McIlveen did not consider it to be particularly controversial as a proposal. The time from when it had been proposed to this stage had been extremely long and he now hoped the plaque would be in place before the centenary year of the Ards TT. He was pleased with the recommendation and thought that a plaque to mark the tragedy in the town was appropriate. He reminded the Committee that there were other plaques to the TT in Dundonald and Comber, so there should be one in Newtownards. The TT had been a premier world event for car racing at the time, bigger than Formula One, and he was happy to propose the recommendation. Councillor Cathcart had nothing further to add and agreed with the comments of his colleague.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be approved.

RECESS 8.58 pm

RECOMMENCED 9.09 pm

(Councillor Cooper left the meeting at 8.58 pm)

4.4 LA06/2020/0940/F - Greenway from Belvedere Road, Newtownards turning NE following the former railway track in the most part to the Somme Heritage Centre, Newtownards
(Appendices VIII & IX)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest: Council application

Proposal: Greenway for approximately 3km along a traffic-free route from Belvedere Road, Newtownards, turning NE following the former railway track in the most part to the Somme Heritage Centre. A section of the former railway track between Victoria Road and Belvedere Road is also included. Widening of existing footways, new 3m wide paths, pedestrian crossings, fencing, ancillary car parking, a shared-use bridge and associated site, access and other ancillary works

Site Location: Belvedere Road, Newtownards to the Somme Heritage Centre, Bangor Road, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The Planning Officer explained that the application was for a Greenway for approximately 3km along a traffic-free route from Belvedere Road, Newtownards turning NE following the former railway track in the most part to the Somme Heritage Centre. A section of the former railway track between Victoria Road and Belvedere

Road was also included. Widening of existing footways, new 3m wide paths, pedestrian crossings, fencing, ancillary car parking, a shared-use bridge and associated site access and other ancillary works located at Belvedere Road, Newtownards to the Somme Heritage Centre, Bangor Road, Newtownards.

The proposal was being presented at Committee as it was a Council application, and there were 6 public objections from six separate addresses. EIA screening had been carried out and an environmental statement had not been requested. All consultees were content with the proposal apart from Ulster Flying Club which had a nil response after a number of attempts to contact them.

The 6 public objections received from 6 separate addresses raised the following issues:

- proposed bridge only caters for cyclists
- proposed car parking appears to be excessive and would replace green space
- parking would have a direct impact on access to front of specific residential properties
- risk of anti-social behaviour and security issues for adjacent residents
- added cycle lanes would have an impact on traffic
- impact on privacy

Those issues would be dealt with throughout the presentation.

The scheme was the first phase of the overall Greenway connecting Newtownards and Bangor. The relevant plan for the proposal was the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015. The site was located both within the settlement limit and within the countryside in the plan. The proposed Greenway followed the A21 Bangor Road which was a protected route. The site was also affected by a SLNCI, a disused Rail Track Bed and went through an area of land designated for housing. Due to the nature of the proposal, it would not have an adverse impact on those designations.

SPPS recognised that open space, sport and outdoor recreation had an important societal role to play. As well as that it met the sustainable transport objectives. The proposal was in line with the SPPS objectives.

Alongside the SPPS, the following planning policy statements applied to the proposal: PPS2 Natural Heritage, PPS3 Access Movement and Parking, PPS6 Planning Archaeology and the Built Environment, PPS8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation, PPS15 Planning and Flood Risk, PPS21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside.

With regard to PPS2 NIEA NED was consulted and was content subject to conditions. There would be no likely impact on designated sites. A condition regarding a badger mitigation plan would be included on any permission. NED was also content at the proposed buffer provided to protect smooth newts.

The proposal involved two new accesses to serve the car parking on both sides of the minor Bangor Road. DFI roads was consulted and had no objections. The car parking was necessary to allow visitors to access the Greenway without having to

cross the dual carriageway to use the existing car park at the Somme Centre. It would also alleviate the traffic stress caused by busy times at the Ark Farm as the parking was limited and would take cars away from parking on street at residential dwellings. A condition would be attached to ensure that the car park was closed at certain times to avoid anti-social behaviour. There were to be 62 parking spaces and 3 accessible parking spaces across both car parks. Although that was in excess of parking standards as was considered justified as overflow for the location to mitigate against impact for surrounding residents which had been raised as an objection. The parking would in fact direct cars away from parking near nearby residential driveways due to the generous provision. With regard to impact on residential privacy due to the location of the path and associated works, the nature of the proposal and existing boundaries there would be no significant impact.

With regard to archaeology and the built heritage HED was consulted and was content with the proposal.

With regard to residential amenity most of the nearby properties did not directly abut the site due to intervening ground. The dwellings at 237 and 284 Bangor Road directly abutted the site where the proposed car parking was to be located. The proposal was not likely to cause any significant loss of amenity to those residents due to the existing dividing boundaries which would remain as they were and the nature of the proposed use being linked to the Greenway. The proposed car parking would ensure that no irregular parking for the Greenway or Ark Farm and local businesses would take place that would impact on residential amenity.

Following on from that, with regard to open space and PPS8 as the proposal related to an open space and recreational use it was felt that that was policy compliant. The car parking that was using grassland and hardstanding that was an area of existing open space was deemed to be an exception under OS1 as the provision of the Greenway was considered accessible to current users and was a betterment in its usefulness, size, attractiveness, safety and quality.

With regard to PPS15 and flood risk a portion of the site lay within the floodplain however the proposal fell within exceptions under FLD1. A flood risk assessment was submitted and DFI Rivers was satisfied.

With regard to PPS21 due to the nature of the proposal the impact on the character of the countryside was deemed acceptable. The community benefit of the proposal would reach both rural and urban communities and taking account of the car parks and bridge outside the settlement limit due to the location on a busy road, they would not appear to be out of character. In the interests of sustainable transport provision the strategic approach to Greenways in the Borough would overall result in a necessary community facility.

The visual impact of the bridge and raised walkway had been considered and it was deemed to not be out of character for the area with a busy road such as that an appropriate location for such a structure.

The proposal largely comprised a 3m path running along the disused railway line incorporating some existing pathway at small sections. The bridge and walkway

which was a shared path for both pedestrians and cyclists would link both sides of the busy road for both users ensuring an optimum Greenway user experience.

The proposal was recommended for approval and when considered strategically with the future Greenway proposals would enable the Council to achieve sustainable transport objectives for the Borough and therefore approval was recommended.

Alderman McIlveen explained that some concerns had been raised to him by the residents of Beverley Walk in respect of access to their gardens and the response to those concerns had seemed dismissive to him. He asked why householders had the responsibility to keep their properties safe if a hazard was being created on their doorsteps and he felt that the planning system had a duty to show more consideration to people affected.

In response the Planning Officer explained that it was a balance of weighing up the community benefit of Greenways and creating a buffer between houses and the Greenway path. Consideration would always be given to encouraging sustainable forms of transport such as cycling and walking. It was not anticipated that the introduction of the Greenway would lead to anti-social behaviour and it should be viewed as a benefit to local residents rather than a problem. The walkway would not be lit at this point.

Alderman McIlveen thought that it was a valid concern expressed by residents, since currently there were no regular incidences of anti-social behaviour but building a bridge that would link a residential area in to an area that was not could pose a risk due to the increased linkages. He hoped that that risk was being considered appropriately. The Planning Officer explained that the placement of the bridge had been well thought through and this was the most appropriate place for it to be placed.

Councillor McKee asked for clarity if there would be access for users at Victoria Road at the SERC end of the Greenway. A lockable gate was shown and a set of stairs but the section was lacking in information. The Planning Officer explained that there was an existing access and the gate would not stop that but that the scheme had been cut due to DfI having alternative plans.

The Member went on to ask about the Toucan crossing at the Bangor Road and if that would remain to provide for two crossing points. It was confirmed that they would both be in place to provide a more fluid crossing and indeed it was believed that a successful Greenway would require the second crossing. Councillor McKee welcomed the Greenway in general but felt that this was a missed opportunity for onward connectivity to other forms of active travel. Members were assured that DfI Roads and Active Travel were working on that and had plans to look at further linkages to further improve accessibility on the Greenway.

Councillor McRandal asked about the car park which would be adjacent to the crossover and provide 60 spaces. He was aware that the provision was in excess of the guidance and he asked if the land had any ecological value. Members were informed that the NIEA had been consulted and were mainly content except for a few small conditions.

Proposed by Councillor P Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Moore that the planning application be approved.

Proposing the application Councillor P Smith had listened and understood some of the potential issues which had been raised by fellow Members however he viewed the development of the Greenway network and something very positive for the Borough and it would be a game changer in joining Newtownards and Bangor and had to be welcomed.

Seconding the recommendation Councillor Moore had nothing further to add.

Councillor McKee expressed his support for the further development of the Greenway and it was pleasing to see the application being brought forward and would be important for the Borough in terms of active travel. He encouraged the Council to push for further connectivity from the Department.

Alderman McIlveen agreed with most of what Councillor McKee had said but he was not in a position to support the application at this point. He believed that there were some aspects which had not been given enough attention and he hoped those matters would be explored further.

At this stage a vote on the application was taken.

On the planning application being put to the meeting 10 voted For, 1 voted Against and 1 Abstained it was declared CARRIED.

FOR (10)	AGAINST (1)	ABSTAINING (1)
Alderman	Aldermen	Alderman
Keery	McIlveen	Gibson
Councillors		
Brooks		
Cathcart		
McAlpine		
McClellan		
McKee		
McRandal		
Moore		
P Smith		
Thompson		

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Moore, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be approved.

5. UPDATE ON PLANNING APPEALS (Appendices XVII & XVIII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing the following:

New Appeals Lodged

1. The following appeal was lodged on 01 July 2022.

PAC Ref	2022/A0075
Application ref	LA06/2021/1481/O
Appellant	Mr Ivan Robinson
Subject of Appeal	Refusal of 'Erection of off-site replacement dwelling with new access to Ravara Road'
Location	Approx 185m SW of 25 Ravara Road, Ballygowan

2. The following appeal was lodged on 30 June 2022.

PAC Ref	2022/A0073
Application ref	LA06/2019/1195/F
Appellant	Ms Rosina Herron
Subject of Appeal	Refusal of 'Two single storey infill dwellings'
Location	Land adjacent to and South of 9 Killinakin Road, Killinchy

3. The following appeal was lodged on 24 June 2022.

PAC Ref	2022/A0068
Application ref	LA06/2018/1264/F
Appellant	CES Quarry Products Ltd
Subject of Appeal	Retrospective approval for redevelopment of the site to provide a building containing storage, warehousing, builders merchant, trade and retail facilities, sales and display area, entrance wall & ancillary parking – appeal against Condition 6 requiring cessation of use of mezzanine floor for café and retail use
Location	163 Moneyreagh Road, Castlereagh

Decisions

4. The following appeal was dismissed on 27 June 2022.

PAC Ref	2020/A0053
Application ref	LA06/2018/0157/F
Appellant	Mr Eric Rosborough
Subject of Appeal	Refusal of 'Retention of embankments - Biodiversity and environmental research monitoring lands (BERMs), watchtower, access and ancillary storage and amenity units all for the purposes of academic research and development'

Location	Approximately 330M West of No 251 Bangor Road, Whitespots, Newtownards
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The Council refused planning permission on 16 April 2020 for the above development for the following reasons:

- i. The proposal was contrary to the SPPS and Policy CTY 1 of PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that there were no overriding reasons why this development was essential in this rural location;
- ii. The proposal was contrary to Policy CTY 13 of PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that it was an inappropriate form of development for the site and its locality and therefore did not visually integrate into the surrounding landscape;
- iii. The proposal was contrary to Policy CTY 14 of PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside, in that it resulted in a detrimental change to the rural character of the countryside;
- iv. The proposal was contrary to Policy AMP 3 of PPS 3: Access, Movement and Parking, in that it would, if permitted, result in the intensification of use of an existing access onto a Protected Route, thereby prejudicing the free flow of traffic and road safety.

The Commissioner did not consider that refusal reasons iii. and iv. above were appropriate in relation to the R&D use as Policies CTY 13 and 14 referred to ancillary works associated with buildings, therefore those reasons for refusal were not sustained.

The Commissioner considered that the BERMs were an essential component necessary to facilitate the ongoing monitoring of the invasive species and their impact upon native species. Given they were now almost completely covered in a variety of planting which had softened their visual impact and allowed them to blend into the landscape, and not being visible from the protected route, and their limited scale, she did not consider that they had a detrimental impact upon the character of the area.

Given the uncertainty about the regularity of use of the facility or the numbers attracted to the site at any one time, the Commissioner was not persuaded that there was any requirement for such extensive areas of hardstanding around the BERMs. Whilst they would not have a detrimental visual impact, she was not persuaded that any or all of those areas of hardstanding were an essential feature at the location integral to the over use of the BERMs.

The Commissioner highlighted the considerable discrepancies in the information provided by the appellant and QUB in relation to the number of QUB staff and students using the R&D facility, including lack of detail pertaining to the ongoing research. A Technical Report addressing the issue of traffic generated by the development contradicted evidence presented regards Professor Dick visiting the site over the previous two years.

In respect of the laneway the Commissioner found that the initial stretch of laneway was essential to provide access to the R&D facility and considered that it would not have a detrimental impact on visual amenity or on the character of the rural area; however the extension of the laneway encircling the outer edge of the BERMs was not considered essential to the R&D use.

In respect of the watchtower, whilst it was considered that it may provide a panoramic longer-range view of deer movements across the entire site, facilitating the use of night vision equipment, the Commissioner considered she had insufficient evidence on its usage to persuade her that the watchtower represented an essential component of the R&D facility.

In relation to a smaller container on site, the Commissioner was not persuaded of its alleged need as being able to provide a workstation, study, toilet and clothes-drying facility, given use of the R&D facility for 9 years without such facilities.

Dealing with the access onto the protected route, the Commissioner criticised the variations in trips generated by the R&D facility and lack of evidence provided. In light of absence of explanation as to why an alleged 16 traffic movements per year would require 5 parking spaces (then reduced to 2 in a revised scheme) she was not persuaded that the additional traffic generated would be less than 5%. In that regard the Council's fourth reason for refusal was upheld.

Given the contradictory evidence presented and the lack of clear and precise details about how and when the R&D facility would operate, the Commissioner found that the appellant had failed to demonstrate that it represented an appropriate form of development in the countryside, contrary to Policy CTY 1. As such the Council's first reason for refusal was upheld.

The PAC report was attached to the report.

The Enforcement Notice below dealt with removal of the various elements determined as not being necessary in the appeal above.

5. The Enforcement Notice below was upheld but varied by the PAC on 27 June 2022.

PAC Ref	2020/E0053
Application ref	LA06/2018/0157/F
Appellant	Mr Eric & Mrs Alana Rosborough
Alleged breach of planning control	1) unauthorised extension to laneway; 2) unauthorised excavation of land and the creation of earth bunds; 3) unauthorised creation of hardcored areas; and 4) unauthorised use of the land for the purposes of shooting
Location	Approximately 330M West of No 251 Bangor Road, Whitespots, Newtownards

The Enforcement Notice set out the requirements for the offender as follows:

- i. Permanently remove the laneway and restore the land to its condition before the breach took place within six months from the date the Notice came into effect;
- ii. Permanently remove the earth bunds and restore the land to its condition before the breach took place within six months from the date the Notice came into effect;
- iii. Permanently remove the hardcored areas and restore the land to its condition before the breach took place within six months from the date the Notice came into effect;
- iv. Permanently cease the unauthorised use of the land for the purpose of shooting from the date the Notice came into effect.

In respect of the appeal against the Enforcement Notice the Commissioner determined the following:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Ground (b) | fails (appeal alleging that those matters specified had not occurred); |
| Ground (c) | fails (appeal alleging that those matters (if they occurred) did not constitute a breach of planning control; |
| Ground (d) | fails (appeal alleging that at the date when the notice was issued, no enforcement action could be taken in respect of any breach of planning control which may be constituted by those matters) |
| Ground (f) | succeeds to the extent that the Enforcement Notice is varied in relation to steps required |
| Ground (g) | fails (appeal alleging that any period specified in the notice falls short of what should reasonably be allowed) |

The Commissioner was satisfied that the earth bunds had little visual impact in the landscape and thus did not consider their removal was a necessity and further considered such removal would cause more environmental damage, not only to the appeal site but beyond.

The PAC decision was attached to this report.

Details of appeal decisions, new appeals and scheduled hearings could be viewed at www.pacni.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

The Head of Planning referred Members to the update of Planning Appeals.

Two decisions which had been previously refused at the Planning Committee had also been dismissed at Appeal and that was set out in the report. An Enforcement Notice had been served on the site in relation to what was operational development and the use of land for shooting. Those decisions from the PAC were attached. The Head of Planning also informed Members that the PAC website was currently down and work was being done on that site and it was expected to be operational soon.

Proposed by Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Cathcart asked how long an application could be appealed and if an appeal had been received from NI Water in respect of the fence erected on the coastal path. The Member was informed by the Head of Planning that applicants had four months from the date of a decision to submit an appeal and she was unaware of anything having come from NI Water however it would come before the Committee if it did.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

6. WITHDRAWN

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ELECTED MEMBER WORKSHOPS

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing that Members would be aware that the formulation of the Draft Plan Strategy was progressing and would require agreement. The draft Plan Strategy was also subject to Sustainability Appraisal.

In order to progress to advanced draft agreement, dates for a first set of workshops, open to all Elected Members, were being held for 20 and 21 September. Further dates would be presented to Members in due course.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

Proposed by Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

The Head of Planning thanked Members for noting the background report and explained that there would be presentations relating to the topics of Place, Prosperity and People. Members would have the opportunity to hear how the strategic draft had been shaped. In September the vision and objectives would be set out and in October a further meeting would take place.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 9.45 pm.

Unclassified

64

ITEM 9.1**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	17 August 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	NAC Licensing Conference and regional AGM. Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham 23rd-25th September 2022
Attachments	Correspondence, booking form and agenda

The National Secretary of the NAC has invited members to its NAC Licensing Conference and regional AGM at Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham on 23rd-25th September 2022.

Information on the event is included in the attached correspondence and booking form. Delegate fees are £350+VAT, accommodation is £85+VAT per night, plus there would be costs associated with flights and travel.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council considers whether it wishes to nominate a Member(s) to attend the NAC Licensing Conference and regional AGM.

National Association of Councillors,
Licencing Conference and regional AGM.
Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham
23rd-25th September 2022

Dear Colleagues,

This Licencing Conference is open to all members of the NAC. Eastwood Hall set in parkland just outside the village of Eastwood and is a new venue for the NAC. Once the former headquarters of the Nottinghamshire Coalfield, it has fantastic facilities for Conferences and hotel residents.

Licencing makes a fundamental contribution to how our communities develop, live, work and relax. With the right tools councils can use licencing to significantly improve the chances of businesses and residents moving to an area whether in the heart of a city or in a more rural district.

Licencing can be controversial and objections to certain types of licenses may come from various groups, members of the public and Local Authorities. Lots of small groups and small councils do not have the resources to employ Lawyers etc to fight an application. Many members of the community look to their local councillor to help and represent them in such cases.

We will look at ways to both support and object to applications to give good outcomes for the community.

To book your places at this Conference please complete the form attached and return it to me by email or post.

Councillor Brian Nelson

National Secretary

National Association of Councillors

0191 3789947 office

0779 1574879 mobile

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Conference

Licensing

Eastwood hall, Near Nottingham

23rd-25th September 2022

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Email

Telephone Number.....

Authorising Signature.....Order No if reqd.....

Printed Name.....

Position.....Organisation.....

INVOICE, email address for invoice.....

To Register – Complete the delegate details above, and either: -Email a copy of this form to
Generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

or Post form to NAC Bookings, Council Offices, 6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham DH7 6JJ

Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

Accommodation is available for delegates at the Conference Hotel at the special NAC Conference Delegate rate of £85 plus VAT per night. If you book the hotel direct the rate will be £135 inc VAT The accommodation fee is payable by delegate on arrival at the hotel unless otherwise indicated on the booking form.

Delegate Accommodation Friday & Saturdays nights YES / NO

Local Authority to be billed direct for accommodation YES / NO

Please note that double and family rooms are also available (prices available on request)

Booking Condition: Please note that a charge is payable on any bookings cancelled. These charges will be kept to a minimum and will be in accordance with cost incurred by the NAC.

Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham. NG16 3SS

67

National Association of Councillors

Licensing

Agenda

Friday 23rd September 2022

Delegates to arrive at hotel from 4pm

5-00pm Registration, Tea / Coffee

6-00pm Session 1
Chairman's Welcome

1st Speaker

Questions from Delegates

7.00pm Dinner

Saturday 24th September

10.00am Session 2

2nd Speaker

Questions from Delegates

10.45am 3rd Speaker

Questions.

11.30am Tea / Coffee

Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham. NG16 3SS

68

11-45am 4th Speaker

1-00pm Lunch

2-00pm Regional Meeting and AGM

6-15pm Reception Hosted by the Chairman

7-00pm Conference Dinner (Smart Dress Please)

Sunday 25th September

10-00am NAC Workshops

12-00pm Lunch & End of Event

Unclassified

69

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	01 August 2022
File Reference	RDP151
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Letter of support for Belfast City Council and Ards CCE
Attachments	

Belfast City Council and Ards CCE (a non-profit organisation formed to promote and foster the love of Irish traditional music, song and dance) have requested a letter of support in their bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Festival of music on the island of Ireland), which has been running for over 60 years across the island of Ireland.

The goal of the Fleadh Cheoil has been to establish standards in Irish traditional music through competition. There are various stages to the competition. In Ireland there are county and provincial competitions leading to the All-Ireland Fleadh, which attracts overseas competitors. Although the Fleadh is a competitive event it attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year and is an exciting week encompassing competitions, sessions, ceili bands, concerts, pageants, drama and exhibitions.

Belfast City Council believes this event will hugely complement Belfast's UNESCO City of Music status. The final bid is in the process of being finalised and includes reference to Bangor and Ards. If Belfast City Council were successful in securing the event, follow up meetings with Ards and North Down could benefit from this event.

Unclassified

70

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves a letter of support in relation to Belfast City Council and Ards CCE's bid to host the Festival of Music on the island of Ireland.

Unclassified

71

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Communications and Marketing
Date of Report	22 July 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Hybrid Council Meetings - Procurement and Legislation
Attachments	

In May 2022, Council agreed to purchase equipment to support 2 semi-permanent installations, 1 in Bangor Chamber and 1 in Ards Chamber, to facilitate hybrid Council and Committee meetings. It was agreed that a report would be brought to Council in August to update on the purchase and the estimated date by which the new system would be operational.

Tender Exercise

The costs involved require the Council to issue a tender for interested companies to supply the necessary equipment. Council's standard tender exercises take a minimum of 12 weeks to complete. The Procurement Manager and Multi-Media Officer met in June to agree the approach and timetable, which runs from 28 June to 11 October 2022.

Assuming a successful company is identified through this exercise, their appointment will be approved by Council in September, with installation/testing of the equipment taking place in October 2022.

Unclassified

72

Training and Operations

The equipment will be new to Council staff and the operation of a hybrid meeting will be new to many Officers and Members. It is anticipated that training will be required for all those chairing meetings, as well as officers assisting with the management of meetings.

As such, the earliest date that all Committee and Council meetings could move to the hybrid model is from 1 November 2022.

In the meantime, under an existing technical support contract, provision can be made for hybrid facilities to be set up for each committee and council meeting in September and October. Based on covering 5 meetings in each month, one-off set up will cost £817 for each meeting, plus Officer time to support the recording on each occasion. Officers do not think this would be value for money. Training will be required for all those chairing meetings.

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 empower Councils to meet remotely. This legislation is temporary, with a requirement to be extended every six months. It is due to lapse in September 2022, but at a recent meeting of the Local Government Remote/Hybrid Meetings Legislation Working Group, assurance was provided by the Department for Communities that it will be extended beyond that for another six months, allowing Councils to continue to meet remotely. This is because permanent legislation is required to be made by Affirmative Resolution, passed by a sitting Assembly, currently not in place.

Any further update on the draft legislation will be communicated to Council in due course.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note this report.

Unclassified

73

ITEM 13

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	04 August 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ulster Bank closures in Comber and Holywood
Attachments	

A Notice of Motion was debated at Council in June 2022 and agreed, stated:

“The Ulster Bank recently announced that it is closing nine branches across Northern Ireland in September and October 2022, two of which are in the Borough – Comber and Holywood. It is proposed that this Council writes to the Ulster Bank to express its total opposition to the closures and invites the Ulster Bank to a meeting to assess how the closure will affect not only the businesses in the high streets but also the local residents who are left with no banking facilities in these thriving and growing towns.”

Following this, a letter was sent from the Chief Executive on 14 July 2022 to the Chief Executive of Ulster Bank and she delegated the response to the Head of Retail Banking in NI at Ulster Bank, Mr Terry Robb. On 4 August a meeting was held with Mr Robb, chaired by the Mayor and attended by the following Councillors from the Comber DEA and Holywood and Clondeboyne DEA: Councillor McRandal, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Cummings, Councillor McClean, Councillor P Smith and Councillor Greer.

Unclassified

74

In summary, the main concerns that Councillors raised, and responses were:

- 1. The availability of ATMs:** Mr Robb explained that the continuance of the ATM lies with the new owner of the building. He confirmed that, as part of the research submitted to the FCA in relation to a branch closure, access to ATMs must be included, and that a number of free to use ATMs will still be available within the locality of both closure sites.
- 2. Impact on vulnerable groups:** Mr Robb confirmed that, through their 'Banking My Way' service, all users who have registered as vulnerable will be targeted proactively and provided information on alternative physical banking locations including services offered by the Post Office. Mr Robb confirmed that each of these customers will be given the name of an individual member of staff who can answer queries directly rather than via a call-centre. Programmes are also run via an in-branch support specialist. Following further questioning on educating and supporting vulnerable and elderly people in online banking, Mr Robb also confirmed that bespoke face-to-face education programme/workshops delivered by a specialist could be arranged for groups within the community. Mr Robb added that ahead of all closures, the Branch Manager is asked to contact a minimum of 6 community groups in their town which might be disproportionately affected. Mr Robb reiterated that, in terms of safeguarding and consumer regulations, digital banking is the safest way for vulnerable and elderly people to bank.
- 3. The introduction of a Mobile Banking Unit:** Mr Robb confirmed that the use and locations for the Mobile Banking Unit are reviewed every six months, with the next review scheduled for December. Placement of a Mobile Banking Unit will consider factors such as proximity to other Ulster Bank branches within the locality.
- 4. Impact on footfall and other services such as the Post Office:** Mr Robb confirmed that Ulster Bank will have ongoing discussions with the Post Office about how to best manage and deliver this service. As Ulster Bank had not closed a branch in the past 5 years, Mr Robb was unable to determine the exact impact the closure would have on footfall within the area.

When questioned about the lack of public consultation on the closure, Mr Robb confirmed that FCA rules do not require public consultation to take place in advance of a closure and that Ulster Bank had completed the necessary desktop analysis. Mr Robb confirmed that the branch closures in Holywood and Comber would be going ahead as planned later this year, but that no further closures would take place in 2022. Mr Robb stated that branch closures are happening across the banking sector.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

Unclassified

75

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	10 August 2022
File Reference	HER 01 03/22
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order NI (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Heritage Grants (2022-23), Round 2
Attachments	

Background

The first round of Heritage Grants for 2022-2023, allocated £3,458 to 7 different organisations, leaving a budget of £1,542 for a second round of grants.

The second round of Heritage Grants opened in late May 2022 and closed at 12pm on Wednesday 27th July 2022. Five applications were received. Two members of the Arts and Heritage Panel, Robin Masefield and Billy Carlile, assessed the applications on 2nd August 2022, along with Heather McGuicken, Museum Manager.

As detailed in Table 1, each application was scored out of 100, with an agreed pass score of 55. Applicants could apply for up to £500 for their project.

Due to the value of the applications received compared as to the funding available, the panel recommends that three of the application ranked second, third and fourth are not awarded the full grant requested, as each application had weaknesses, e.g., did not strongly align the Heritage Service's strategic objectives or strongly demonstrate value for money.

Unclassified

76

The panel also recommends that the application from the Parish of Ballyphilip & Ardquin, is not supported, as the project did not adequately meet the strategic objectives, outputs or value for money requirements and hence scored below the agreed pass mark.

Assessment Panel Recommendations

Organisation	Request ed	Project Title	Score	Award
Ards Historical Society	£500	Digitising slides and producing booklets/pamphlets	80	£500
Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company	£500	Princess Victoria Disaster 70 th anniversary	60	£421
Seacourt Print Workshop	£500	Banking at Seacourt	60	£421
Auld Bangor Historical & Cultural Society	£500	Bangor Boats and Iconic Buildings	55	£200
Parish of Ballyphilip & Ardquin	£500	Gravestone Refurbishment	36	£0
Total	£2,500			£1,542

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve the recommendations of the Heritage Grants Panel as detailed in this report.

Unclassified

77

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	31 August 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Amenities
Date of Report	26 July 2022
File Reference	SD109
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG July 2022)
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Equipment Applications Appendix 2 - Successful Goldcard Application Appendix 3 - Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation Applications Appendix 4 - Successful Club Travel/Accommodation Appendix 5 - Unsuccessful Applications

Members will be aware that on the 26th August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £40,000 had been allocated within the 2022/2023 revenue budget for this purpose.

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

During June 2022, the Forum received a total of 17 grant applications; 3 Equipment, 3 Goldcard, 9 Individual Travel/Accommodation and 2 Club Travel/Accommodation. A

Unclassified

78

summary of the **12** successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Equipment, Goldcard, Individual Travel/Accommodation and Club Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

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

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded June 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	£0	£2,028.75
Equipment	£11,000	*£1,703.30	£5,296.70
Events	£6,000	£0	£1,700
Seeding	£500	£0	£250
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£1,810.00	£7,459.52
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
New category under development	£3,000	£0	£3,000
Goldcards proposed during the period June 2022 is 1.			

*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£5,296.70** is based on a proposed award of **£1,703.30** as outlined in Successful Equipment Applications – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£7,459.52** is based on a proposed award of **£1,010.00** – for Noting and **£800** – for Approval, and withdrawn costs of £249.52.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Successful Equipment Applications - for Approving

July

2022/23

Applicant	Type	Equipment	Benefit	Cost	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Ards FC	High Performance Equipment	GPS Performance tracking bibs -will provide data to enhance information for coaches in the preparation of individual players in the different squads. Facilitate best quality care of players and more efficient support from coaches.	The equipment will be made available to all our squads. Tailored training regimes will mean players will benefit from the equipment both physically and mentally due to reduced risk of injury and opportunity to perform at their maximum fitness level.	6 x Stat Sports Performance Tracker vests. Total Cost £1000 inc VAT	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	Propose £1,000, "subject to" supplying a copy of the IFA Child Protection Policy & Procedures, that the Academy abides by, and a dated "Permission for storage" letter.
Bangor Football Club	Development New Sections	30 footballs, a pack of 30 bibs, four packs of 10 flat disc markers and a rebound board. Need equipment to assist with establishing Under 17 team.	Provide age specific and ability specific equipment for this new age group and allow Bangor FC to deliver increased capacity of training sessions.	Bibs £50 + £10 VAT = £60 & 30 footballs £225 + £45 VAT = £270 & Water Bottles £31.67 + £6.33 VAT = £38 & 4 x pk 10 flat disc £36.67 + £7.33 VAT = £44 & Rebound Board £91.63 + £18.33 VAT = £109.95. Total £521.95.	£521.96	£403.30	Footballs are fundamental but less than £300. Can't fund Water Bottles. Can't pay VAT as Club have advised on application they will be claiming VAT back. Propose £403.30, "Subject to" Safeguarding Policy, not a Safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Applicant	Type	Equipment	Benefit	Cost	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Portavogie Coastal Rowing Club	Development New Sections	New light weight rowing oars/Lighter oars will help members 50+ with their mobility of the upper body - resulting in less strains/injuries.	Improve club membership - gaining new members of the older age, lighter equipment more beneficial.	1 x 4 set of 4 St Ayles Skiff Oars - £650	£650.00	£300.00	All documentation submitted. Propose £300 towards lightweight rowing oars, as deemed 'fundamental' equipment.

Total Proposed £1,703.30

Successful Goldcards - For Noting

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Start	End	Gvm	Proposed	Notes
Rhys McClenaghan	Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 European Championships	11/08/2022	21/08/2022	Ards Blair Mayne W & LC	Awarded	Reece has submitted letters from Gymnastics Ireland advising he has been selected for the 2022 Senior National Squad and the European Championships in August. Management have approved this Goldcard as Rhys is in receipt of Tier 3 Sport Ireland funding.

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Anna McLarnon	Ireland	Weightlifting	2022 17th International Womens Weightlifting Grand	Centre Sportif Annexe Alliance,	30/06/2022 03/07/2022	£170.00	£170.00	Weightlifting Ireland email shows Anna on the entry list for the 2022 Womens 17th International Weightlifting Grand Prix in Luxembourg 30 June-3 July 2022. Recommend funding of £170.
Beth Hammond	Ireland	Weightlifting	2022 Womens 17th International Weightlifting Grand Prix	Centre Sportif Annexe Alliance,	30/06/2022 03/07/2022	£170.00	£170.00	Weightlifting Ireland email shows Beth on the entry list for the 2022 Womens 17th International Weightlifting Grand Prix in Luxembourg 30 June-3 July 2022. Recommend funding of £170.
Claire McLarnon	Ireland	Weightlifting	European Masters Championships 2022	Raszyn, Poland	20/08/2022 27/08/2022	£170.00	£170.00	Claire has provided an email showing entry authorisation for the European Masters Championships in Poland, from the NGB Secretary, along with a copy of the event start list. The start list confirms that she will be representing Ireland. Propose £170.

					Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes	
Erin McConnell	Ireland	Triathlon	2022 Africa Triathlon Premium Cup Larache, Morocco	Larache, Morocco	26/06/2022 26/06/2022	£413.35	£130.00	Selection Letter advises Erin has been selected to compete at the Africa Triathlon Premium Cup Larache, Morocco on 26 June 2022. Recommend funding of £130 (max.of £500 per athlete per year; Erin already awarded £370).	
Mason McCreery	Ulster	Athletics	2022 All Irelands (800m, Long Jump, 200m)	Tullamore, Ireland	03/07/2022 10/07/2022	£200.00	£200.00	Mason will be representing Ulster, at the All Irelands in Tullamore on two separate weekends. Propose £100 x 2 = £200.	
Sarah Niamh Menary	Ireland	Weightlifting	2022 17th International Womens Weightlifting Grand	Dudelange, Luxembourg	30/06/2022 03/07/2022	£170.00	£170.00	Weightlifting Ireland email shows Sarah on the entry list for the 2022 Womens 17th International Weightlifting Grand Prix in Luxembourg 30 June-3 July 2022. Recommend funding of £170.	
Total Proposed							£1,010.00		

Successful Club Travel/Accommodation - for Approving

July 2022/23

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/End Date	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Castle Juniors Football Club	Club	Football	2022 Stat Sports Super Cup	Coleraine Area	24.09.2022/ 29.09.2022	£500	£500	<p>Guideline's state "Clubs can apply on behalf of individuals who reside or who are active members of an affiliated sports club within the Borough to participate at club level competition, that provides a steppingstone to the next level of competition."</p> <p>14 players traveling. Travel within Northern Ireland £50. £500 max limit per club, per financial year.</p> <p>Propose £500 subject to signatures.</p>
Kestrel Trampoline and DMT Club	Club	Gymnastics	2022 Hans Anderson International Games	Odense, Denmark	2.08.2022/ 7.08.2022	£350	£300	<p>Kestrel Trampoline & DMT have only submitted British Gymnastics Safeguarding and a "Club Rules" document, no other Essential Documentation, and Declaration not signed. Recommend £300 for Europe, "subject to" all essential documentation/signature.</p>
Total Funding Proposed							£800	

Unsuccessful Applications Report

July

2022/23

19 July 2022

85

Applicant	Application	Request	Evidence Required	Explanation
Beth Hammond	Goldcard	Beth applied for a Goldcard to assist with her training for the 2022 Womens International Grand Prix in Luxembourg, starting on 30 June 2022.	Our guidelines currently state - Individuals who have qualified and are training for a specific event and/or competition, can apply for concessionary use of leisure facilities within the Ards and North Down Borough.	Applied 7 June, for Event on 30 June. Due to assessment date of 7 July, applicant was emailed regarding purpose of Goldcard. Advised any future applications should be made in good time. Funding not currently recommended.
Ben Law	Goldcard	Ben applied for a Goldcard to assist with his training for the 2022 Scotland Series , starting on 1 July 2022.	Our guidelines currently state - Individuals who have qualified and are training for a specific event and/or competition, can apply for concessionary use of leisure facilities within the Ards and North Down Borough.	Applied 5 June, for Event on 1 July. Due to assessment date of 7 July, applicants father called regarding purpose of Goldcard/Selection. Father advised selection for Scotland Series will not be made until 27 June (after GCSE's). Funding not currently recommended.

Applicant	Application	Request	Evidence Required	Explanation
Claire McLarnon	Travel / Acc	Claire has provided an email showing entry confirmation for the National Senior Championships in Waterford, from the Weightlifting Ireland Secretary.	Assistance will be available for individuals who are representing their sport at a specific event at Provincial/ National/ International level.	Senior Nationals is the highest level of National competition within Ireland; athletes must meet or exceed qualifying entry totals, in order to compete at the National Senior Championships. However, Claire will not be representing her province/country.
Aaron Corbett	Travel / Acc	Aaron has provided an email showing entry confirmation for the National Senior Championships in Waterford, from the Weightlifting Ireland Secretary.	Assistance will be available for individuals who are representing their sport at a specific event at Provincial/ National/ International level.	Senior Nationals is the highest level of National competition within Ireland; athletes must meet or exceed qualifying entry totals, in order to compete at the National Senior Championships. However, Aaron will not be representing his province/country.

Applicant	Application	Request	Evidence Required	Explanation
Estella Volkoff	Travel / Acc	An Event was not advised on the application, only mileage to training. Estella hopes to represent her country Junior Europeans 2024.	The guidelines state that, assistance will be available for individuals who are representing their sport at a specific event at Provincial/ National/ International level. Applicants must: Be a resident of Ards and North Down Borough Provide specific event selection letter (confirming selection) from the relevant SNI/Sport Ireland recognised Governing Body.	Estella failed to meet the following criteria - she is not a resident of the Borough and did not provide an event selection letter. Recommend Estella applies for a Grant from her local Council.

Unclassified

88

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	31 August 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Amenities
Date of Report	10 August 2022
File Reference	SD109
Legislation	Recreation and Youth services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Sport NI - Local Authority Sports Systems Engagement Survey
Attachments	Appendix 1: Proposed Survey Response

Aim of Survey

Sport NI is designing a new investment programme to enhance and develop the sports system. The programme will be aligned to Sport NI's corporate plan outcomes and underpinned by their four cornerstones. In developing their approach to future investment in a range of partners, Sport NI want to engage across the sports sector. As part of the engagement process, a series of surveys have been launched to gather feedback.

This survey is an opportunity for Local Authorities to provide feedback on previous Sport NI investment programmes and to help shape and inform future investment.

Ards and North Down Borough Council have been asked to complete and submit only one survey and therefore the proposed Survey Response (Appendix 1) has been completed by officers within Sports Development, Leisure and Community planning. The deadline for complete is the end of August.

Unclassified

89

Additional Information

Sport NI's Corporate Plan Outcomes are:

Outcome One - People adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity.

Outcome Two - Our athletes among the best in the world.

In order to ensure that any strong Sporting System remains equitable and inclusive for all, Sport NI have established cornerstones for their work. The four cornerstones are as follows:

- Build a welcoming and inclusive sports culture, recognising the rights of everyone to access and participate in sport and physical activity;
- Promote wellness and wellbeing;
- Retain a duty of care to all those engaged in the Sporting System;
- Target sport in rural communities, in disadvantaged areas and amongst under-represented groups.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve the proposed survey response at Appendix 1 and that it is submitted as part of the Sport NI's consultation process.

Appendix 1: Proposed Response to Sport NI - Local Authority Sports Systems Engagement Survey

1. Has your organisation previously and/or currently receives investment from Sport NI?

(Required) Yes No

If 'Yes', please tick which programmes:

(Required) Everybody Active 2020 Active Communities Community Planning Small Grants Capital Award/s Other (please specify) N/A

If 'Other' please specify:

Funding for Open Water Safety Awareness Project 21/22

2. How satisfied overall were you with the previous investment programme? Please rate 1-5, 1 being Extremely Dissatisfied, 5 being Extremely Satisfied:

(Required)	1 - Extremely Dissatisfied	2 - Dissatisfied	3 - Neither Dissatisfied/Satisfied	4 - Satisfied	5 - Extremely Satisfied	N/A
Community Planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Everybody Active 2020	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Active Communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small Grants	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capital Award/s	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If 'Other' please specify:

Funding for Open Water Safety Awareness Project 21/22. Community planning received a small investment to enable Council to run an event aligned with our Moved by Nature Workstream. Capital investment was also received to create an accessible beach. Capital Investment towards 50m pool.

Please provide a reason for your answer:

Active Communities and Everybody Active (EBA) 2020 - The programme administration required to register all participants/input onto databases was a significant administration burden on teams which had a knock-on effect to coaches/staff, preventing them from other aspects such as additional programme delivery, developing partnerships, developing new programmes etc. At least one day per week if not more, coaches/staff were required to be in the office for admin. Therefore, programme administration requirements to be considered for future investment programmes.

Sport NI requested from year 3 of the EBA programme that Councils had to adhere to Sport NI Data Protection Policy which again was different to Council and therefore placed another administrative burden onto already stretched teams.

Lack of clarity & policing from Sport NI re. delivering during core curriculum time.

Small Grants - Lack of prior notice of funding which left little time to roll out scheme. Additional funding into the Borough is always welcomed however this required a partnership approach and was in addition to Councils small grants scheme,

3. What do you think worked well in regards to previous or current investment programmes? (please indicate which programme you're providing feedback on):

EBA 2020 - The allocation model for funding worked well.

Active Communities & EBA 2020 - Councils were able to determine how the investment was allocated across the Borough to achieve Sport NI KPI's and targets.

Further opportunities to develop partnerships with GB's and GB's employed staff/coaches.

Community Planning - Moved by Nature. Council would have been unable to run this seminar without the investment.

4. What do you think could be improved in regards to previous or current investment programmes? (please indicate which programme you're providing feedback on):

Change in administrative and reporting of figures/targets to Sport NI - more streamlined approach. Regular meetings with other Council's.

5-7. Specifically in relation to financial processes of previous or current investment programmes:

5. What do you think worked well? Please indicate which programme you're providing feedback on:

EBA 2020 and Open Water Safety Awareness Project - The financial budget & actual claims process worked extremely well.

6. What were the challenges? Please indicate which programme you're providing feedback on:

EBA 2020 - Struggled to employ coaches/ staff to deliver key activities/sports.

Lack of notification from Sports NI re. investment and timeframes especially if Councils do not have self-ready projects/plans and have to employ staff to deliver.

Administration burden can't be stressed enough. All coaches spent a significant amount of time inputting data from registration forms onto database which took away from delivery etc. Individuals will unfortunately not self-register onto weekly programmes and therefore it became the burden for Council.

7. How could financial processes be made easier for your organisation? Please indicate which programme you're providing feedback on.

No issues identified with financial processes.

8. Previous investment for local authorities sought to deliver increased participation in sports clubs and the local community, improved health and wellbeing etc. Do you think there were any gaps in the focus areas of investment?

(Required) Yes No Don't Know

If 'Yes', please state what areas were missing? (100 words)

The focus on areas of multiple deprivation is not equitable in Ards and North Down due to the high levels of hidden deprivation we have. Rather than dictate the areas that programmes should focus on it would be more appropriate that there was a requirement to consider increasing participation in sporting activities via the community planning process. All Councils have spent the last 7 years improving local intelligence and understanding issues that exist that they want to improve. As Sport NI is a partner and has signed up to the 11 Community Plans, greater emphasis on this to drive investment would be beneficial.

9. Should investment be made available to any organisation that can deliver against Outcome 1, Outcome 2 and the cornerstones of the Sport NI Corporate Plan (eg. charities, community groups, local authorities)?

(Required) Yes No No Preference

Please provide a reason for your answer:

Local Authorities are one of the key partners of delivery, they are connected to the residents of the Borough/Sports Clubs etc through various departments such as Community Development/Planning/PCSP/Sports Development. They can determine the needs of the Borough and how to deliver against Sport NI Outcomes.

The Local Authorities have good governance structures in place for accountability / risk management.

10. In order of preference, what type of organisation should investment be made available to to deliver on outcome 1 and outcome 2, aligned with the cornerstones of the Sport NI Corporate plan? Rank in order of priority with 1 being the highest priority.

(Required)

Governing Bodies of Sport	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Local Authorities	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Not for profit organisations (sport focused)	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Not for profit organisations (other)	<input type="text" value="6"/>
Private providers	<input type="text" value="7"/>
Schools	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Sports Clubs	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text" value="8"/>

If 'Other' please specify:

11. If a new investment programme adopted a phased approach, where investment was allocated to organisations at different times throughout the year. Who do you think funding should be made available to first?

Local Authorities or Governing Bodies.

12. What would be your preferred length of investment?

(Required) 1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years 4+ years

13. Please indicate which of the following would be your preferred submission approach (tick one option):

- Rolling applications (opportunity to apply at any point during the investment period)
- The same opening and closing dates for all organisations and investment levels
- Different opening and closing dates proportionate to investment level
- The opportunity to choose an opening and closing date from specified options
- Other (please specify)

If 'Other' please specify:

N/A

14. If investment was divided into different strands of awards, which of the following would best suit your organisation?

(Required)

- Divided into outcome 1 and outcome 2
- Divided into key areas of work e.g. Culture and Integrity, People Development, Performance Sport and Sport Development and Community Planning
- Divided by the four Sport NI Cornerstones
- Other (please specify)

If 'Other' please specify:

N/A

15. What would you like the application process to look like for any new investment programmes.

Application process or allocation model per Council area. Council to decide or identify key areas for investment in line with Sport NI outcomes and Council Community Planning process.

16. Would you like a member of Sport NI staff to support your organisation with the submission?

(Required) Yes No No Preference

17. What areas would you like to see investment made available in? Rank in order of priority with 1 being the highest priority. You do not need to rank all of the options, however a top 5 would be preferable:

Developing new club facilities	<input type="text" value="3"/>
After School Sport	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Club Development	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Community Engagement	<input type="text"/>
Cost of Living	<input type="text"/>
Culture and Integrity	<input type="text"/>
Data and Insight	<input type="text"/>
Digital Connectivity	<input type="text"/>
Environmental/Climate Change	<input type="text"/>
Finance	<input type="text"/>
Governance	<input type="text"/>
High Performance	<input type="text"/>
HR	<input type="text"/>
Marketing and Comms	<input type="text"/>
Mental Health/ Health & Wellbeing	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="text"/>
Outdoor Sport & Recreation	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Participation	<input type="text" value="2"/>
People Development	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Improving existing club facilities	<input type="text" value="3"/>
School Sport	<input type="text"/>
Sport Development	<input type="text" value="1"/>

Transport

Under-represented groups

If 'Other' please specify:

18. Please indicate which of the following capital investment areas are a priority for your sport:

(Required) Facilities Equipment Both

19. Does your organisation have the knowledge, data and insight to demonstrate the capital funding needs of your sport:

(Required) Yes No Don't Know

Please provide more detail:
 The Local Authority would have a good knowledge of facility need across the Borough.
 Facility need is identified within the Council's comprehensive and Borough wide Sports Pitches Strategic Review 2014-2020 and Ards and North Down Sports Facilities Strategy 2016-2026.

20. Does your organisation have resource to provide information on the condition and capacity of the facilities in your area?

(Required) Yes No Don't Know

21. How would you prefer any future capital financial investment to be administered?

(Required)	Your organisation receives and manages an investment amount	Sport NI manages an investment amount with oversight from your organisation	Sport NI manages an investment amount with no oversight from your organisation	Investment is managed by a third party e.g. Local authority
Capital Facilities Investment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capital Equipment Investment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. What would greater financial flexibility and agility look like for your organisation?

It's important that opportunities exist to engage and develop partnerships to ensure that funding is spent as efficiently as possible and key partners work together to develop a number of high-quality sustainable facilities which can meet the needs of the widest section of the sporting family.

23. Would your organisation consider taking on more accountability if it resulted in greater flexibility of spend?

(Required) Yes No Don't Know

Please provide a reason for your answer:

This would very much depend on the levels of accountability required.

24. Do you feel your organisation needs support in relation to understanding and reporting against an Outcome Based Accountability framework?

(Required) Yes No Don't Know

25. How would you prefer for the success of the investment to be measured:

(Required)

Organisations measured against a set of standardised focus areas linked to outcome 1 and outcome 2 of the Sport NI Corporate Plan.

Organisations measured against a selection of set standardised focus areas linked to outcome 1 and outcome 2 of the Sport NI Corporate Plan.

Organisations measured against bespoke focus areas relevant to their sport and outcome 1 and outcome 2 of the Sport NI Corporate Plan.

Please provide a reason for your answer:

26. What are the opportunities and challenges for the development of sport in your area over the next 4 years?

Potential development opportunities include the development of a number of 3G pitches across the Borough to include Portavogie, Portaferry and Comber.

Other potential development opportunities include sports facility development in Donaghadee and Holywood.

Challenges

Like all organisations, budgets are restrictive therefore prioritising the investment needs across the sporting section will be challenging.

27. What organisations do you work with to deliver your sports strategy?

(Required)	Do not currently work with and not planning to in the next 4 years	Do not currently work with but planning to in the next 4 years	Currently work with a little	Currently work with a lot
Governing Bodies Sport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Local Authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not for profit organisations (sport focused)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not for profit organisations (other)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports Clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Schools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Private sport providers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department for Communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department for Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Department for Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Government Departments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Required)	Do not currently work with and not planning to in the next 4 years	Do not currently work with but planning to in the next 4 years	Currently work with a little	Currently work with a lot
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If 'Other' please specify:
N/A

28. What under-represented groups do you work with to deliver your sports strategy?

(Required)	Do not currently work with and not planning to in the next 4 years	Do not currently work with but planning to in the next 4 years	Currently work with a little	Currently work with a lot
Disabled People	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women and Girls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Older People	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Children and Young People	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Diverse Ethnic Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LGBTQ+ Community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low Income Families	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Those Living in Rural Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If 'Other' please specify:

n/a

29. Please provide any areas of support you require in relation to understanding how to engage and increase opportunities for under-represented groups?

To increase opportunities across our sporting facilities/Borough wide for disabled people.

30. Any other comments that have not been covered in this survey?

Ards and North Down Borough Council welcome opportunities for capital and/or revenue funding to assist the Council to further develop the sports system across the Borough.

ITEM 19

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	24 August 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	15 August 2022
File Reference	CG 12172
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Notices of Motion
Attachments	Notices of Motion - Status Report

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes the report.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UPDATE – AUGUST 2022

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
DATE RECEIVED	NOTICE	SUBMITTED BY	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE WHERE NOM DEBATED	MONTH IT WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO COMMITTEE	OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
31/05/15	Permanent recognition of Rory McIlroy in Holywood	Councillor Muir	24/06/15	Corporate Services Committee – October 2015	Agreed	June 2022	Update sought at Jan 22 Council – To be reported to CSC in June 2022. Further report to follow in the Autumn.
21/1/19	Shelter at slipway in Donaghadee	Councillor Brooks & Cllr Smith	Council – January 2019	Environment Committee	Agreed	TBC	
25/9/19	Report on feasibility of holding annual remembrance service for those lost to suicide	Councillor Martin	Council – October	Corporate Services – November 2019	Agreed	Reported to CSC January 2020. Further report to come back.	On draft agenda for CSC September 2022.

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						(September 2022).	
16/01/20	Closing of a public right of way at Andrew Shorefield, Groomsport	Alderman Keery	Council – January 2020	Corporate Committee – February 2020	Agreed	Reported to CSC in March and October 2020. Further report to come back (September 2022).	On draft agenda for CSC September/October 2022.
16/01/20	Installation of CCTV for Donaghadee with costings	Alderman Keery	Council – January 2020	Environment Committee – February 2020	Agreed	TBC	
27/2/20	Council opposes money spent on Irish Language Act.	Councillor Cooper	Council- June 2020	Corporate Committee – August 2020	Agreed	SoS reply reported to and noted by Nov 2020 CSC.	Letters sent to SoS and NICS Perm Sec. SoS reply reported to CSC. NICS Perm Sec reply awaited. Expected follow up needed to

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							Executive Office (TBC)
20.10.20	"I would like to task officers to produce a report to consider what could be a more environmentally friendly and benefit the wellbeing of the community for the use of the disused putting green on the Commons and play park at Hunts park in Donaghadee . Following the success of the Dog park in Bangor and the demand for a Dementia garden, both should be considered as options in the report. The process should involve consultation with the local community."	Councillor Brooks	Council October 2020	Community & Wellbeing Committee – December 2020	Agreed	TBC	Officers to liaise with Regeneration and consideration of Masterplan and also take into account play strategy local consultation when it takes place in Donaghadee and bring back a report thereafter.

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19 April 2021	Flying of Union Flag on all Council buildings and war memorials all year round. Flags at half mast on death of any monarch or any other member of the Royal Family or Prime Minister of the UK for the period of mourning.	Councillor Cooper	Council April 2021	Corporate Committee – September 2021	NOM as amended agreed at March 2022 Council	October/November 2022	EQIA closes 30 August 2022
10 May 2021	That officers are tasked to bring back a Report on how the Council might approach a Climate Change Action Plan and perhaps including - but not limited to - a review of all Council long-term investment, a Borough-wide engagement via an Innovation Lab, a Conference of Ideas, and values-based recommendations for next steps.	Councillors Walker & Egan	23 June 2021	Environment Committee – October 2021 (deferred from September Committee)	Agreed	TBC	

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20.10.2021	That officers bring back a report to consider the option of transferring responsibility for bins which are currently the responsibility of the Parks Section into the Environment Directorate.	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Council November 2021	Community & Wellbeing December 2021	Agreed	Report to C&WC April 2022. Report added to draft agenda for September C&WC	Further report to follow C&WC September 2022.
3.11.2021	That this Council, in liaison with the Department for Infrastructure, will seek permission for and explore a source of funding in order to make an artistic feature of the steps which lead from Princetown Road to Queen's Parade at Bangor seafront as part of Bangor Town regeneration, and brings back a report to Council addressing how this can be achieved as a pilot for the Borough.	Councillor Douglas & Alderman Wilson	Council November 2021	Regeneration & Development December 2021	Agreed	Update at Sept/Oct R&D	Consultation with Town Advisory Group currently taking place and outcome will be reported to future meeting.

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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31.12.21	Coastal and Storm Damage to Ballywalter Harbour, repair costs and reinstatement costs	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council January 22	Environment February 2022	Agreed	TBC	Report to be brought back (TBC).
10.1.22	Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMPs). For Department to implement, administer and deliver ROMPs	Councillors McKee and Kendal	Council January 22	Planning Committee February 22	Agreed	Report to Sept Planning Cttee	Further letter issued to Minister – 19.07.22 – response received 1.8.22
18.1.22	Refugees Sanctuary in the Borough	Councillors McKimm, Dunlop, Smart and Mathison	Council January 22	Community & Wellbeing – February 22	Agreed	Report to 15 June 2022 C&WC	Further report to follow (TBC)
20.01.22	Stand4Trees and Tree Protection Orders	Councillors Kendall and McKee	Council February 22	Planning Committee – March 22	Agreed	Planning Committee Sept/Oct 2022	Awaiting legal advice to be brought back to Council.
09.03.22	Calls for Council responsibility for a devolved Regeneration Budget	Councillor Walker and Alderman McDowell	Council - March 22	Regeneration and Development Committee – April 22	Agreed	Update to Sept R&D recommending	HOR to: 1. Draft letter to Minister;

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						postponing action until new Assembly and functioning Executive in place.	2. Outline to RDC, a united engagement campaign with other Councils, SOLACE & NILGA, to secure Ministerial support.
13.04.22	Environmental damage caused by modern day packaging	Councillors McRandal and Douglas	Council – April 2022	Environment Committee – June 2022	Agreed - ratified by June Council		Report to be brought back.
14.04.22	Locking up schedule for Playparks	Alderman Irvine and Alderman Keery	Council – April 2022	Community & Wellbeing Committee May 2022	Agreed (to be ratified by April Council)	Report added to draft agenda for September C&WC	Report to follow at C&CW September 2022
10.05.22	Discussions with EA re redevelopment of the play area fronting Victoria Primary School as a	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council – May 2022	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Agreed (to be ratified at June Council)	TBC	Peace Plus details/project not confirmed. Officers will bring back

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	potential Peace Plus project for Ballywalter						report thereafter.
17.05.22	2028 Centenary of the internationally renowned Ards TT races. Asking Council how best to commemorate this important sporting anniversary.	Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Kennedy	Council – May 2022	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Agreed (to be ratified at June Council)	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	
	RESCINDING MOTION Purchase of equipment by Council to support hybrid meetings for Bangor and Ards Chambers. To be in place onsite for 1 September 2022.	Alderman McDowell, Councillors Cummings T Smith, Greer McRandal Walker & McKee	Council – May 2022	Heard at Council Meeting May 2022	That all meetings take place onsite/hybrid from 1 September 2022 or as soon as possible after that date.		
19.05.2022	Business case for redesign of the parallel sports pitches	Councillors Cummings	Council – June 2022	Referred to Community and			

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	and facilities at Park Way, Comber	and Johnson		Wellbeing Committee – Sept 2022			
20.06.2022	Review of health and safety process re community groups	Councillors MacArthur, Brooks, T Smith and Kennedy	Council – June 2022	Referred to Corporate Services Committee – Sept 2022			On draft CSC September agenda.
20.06.2022	Report exploring the possibility of introducing a policy that shows commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our workforce by ensuring appropriate support is available to anyone undergoing IVF.	Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee	Council – June 2022	Referred to Corporate Services Committee – Sept 2022			On draft CSC September agenda.
20.06.2022	Council opposition to Ulster Bank closure of branches in Holywood and Comber	Alderman Girvan and Councillor Irwin	Council – June 2022	Heard and Agreed at Council – June 2022	Chief Executive to write to Chief Executive of Ulster Bank with	Report to be brought to August Council.	

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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					request to meet.		
21.06.2022	Widening the Council's use of digital technology (in particular QR codes) to promote and provide information about statues, built heritage and monuments	Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Council – June 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022		Further report to follow (TBC)	Report on agenda for C&CW September 2022.
21.06.2022	Engagement with relevant community stakeholders to ascertain community need and desires in respect of the Queen's Leisure Complex	Councillors Kendall, McRandal and McClean	Council - June 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022			
5.07.2022	That this Council changes the name of Queen's Parade to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade in honour and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.	Alderman Irvine & Keery	Council – July 2022	Referred to Environment Committee - September 2022			
19.07.2022	This Council notes with concern that a number of planted trees in urban	Alderman McIlveen &	Council – July 2022	Referred to Community &			Meeting with DfI Roads and DAERA to be

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	<p>settings along roads which have died or have been removed but not replaced; Notes the importance of environmental and social benefits of such trees in the built environment;</p> <p>Notes that DfI Roads formerly had a partnership arrangement with Belfast parks for the replacement of trees but that this partnership ended some time ago;</p> <p>That Council officers are tasked with opening discussions with DfI Roads and DAERA with a view to exploring the possibility of a partnership which will involve the supply and replacement of lost trees in</p>	Councillor Cathcart		Wellbeing - September 2022			organised. Officers will bring back a report thereafter.

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	the Borough and then providing a report to Council for further consideration.						



**Minutes of the 491st Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 9th June 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry & Strabane Borough
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight, Department for Communities
Kieran Devlin	Department for Communities
Martin Boyd	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, NIHE
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (NIHE Secretariat)

Apologies:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
David Polley	Director, Housing Supply Policy, Department for Communities

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price, Kieran Devlin and Martin Boyd from the Department for Communities and from the Housing Executive, Grainia Long.</p> <p>It was noted that the Secretary had been in contact with Ards & North Down Council, to replace Nick Mathison who had recently been elected as an MLA, the Council will be appointing in due course.</p> <p>Members noted that unfortunately Alderman John Finlay is very unwell it was agreed that a card and flowers to be sent to him thanking him for all his hard work and dedication over the years for the Housing Council.</p>	Secretary
2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No declarations were received</p>	

3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 490th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12th May 2022</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Bresland and seconded by Alderman Speers and resolved, that the Minutes of the 490th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 12th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">115</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair</p>
4.0 4.1 4.2	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Chartered Institute of Housing All Ireland Housing Awards Friday 27th May in the Europa Hotel Belfast.</p> <p>Mr Speers commended the successful evening at the CIH All Ireland Housing Awards. He added that the Chair of the Housing Executive, Professor Peter Roberts was presented with a lifetime achievement award.</p> <p><u>HAPPI Principles scheme in Monkstown</u></p> <p>As the HAPPI principles scheme in Monkstown had now been completed, it was agreed that a short meeting would take place followed by a site visit either in August/September.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Secretary</p>
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The forward workplan was noted.</p>	

6.0

Report from the Housing Executive's Chief Executive, Grainia Long on Housing Executive Business

Ms Long spoke in detail to her circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-

- NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update
- Finance - Budget Update 2022/23
- Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Services for Women experiencing Chronic Homelessness
- Supporting People Funding 2022/23
- Covid Funding
- COVID-19 Update and Return to the Workplace
- NIHE Pay and Grading Review
- Industrial Action
- 2021/22 Performance Report
- Cost of Living Crisis
- Ukraine Resettlement Budget

The Chair thanked Ms Long for her detailed report. She added that it is recognised of the several difficult challenges for everyone, in particular the financial hardship being faced throughout.

8.0 Presentation on Labour Market Recovery Invention

Andrew Irwin from the Department of Communities (DfC) gave Members a presentation on the Labour Market Recovery Invention. (Copies of the Presentation are appended to these minutes – Appendix A).

It was noted that DfC's main employment programme to assist people into work, One of the key components of the new offer is Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs), which aims to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working through coordinated, collaborative, multi-agency partnerships, achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localised conditions. Designed to provide support for eligible benefit recipients to find and sustain employment by delivering a personalised service to meet individual needs.

Mr Irwin highlighted some of the schemes/programme to enable those back into employment, such schemes as follows:-

- Job start
- Adviser Discretion Fund
- Work experience programme & Opportunity Guaranteed
- Work Ready Employability Services (WRES)
- Labour Market Partnerships (LMP's)
- Disability Health Intervention

Several Members commended the work being carried out and the importance and benefits these schemes have on people's lives and mental well-being.

The Chair thanked Mr Irwin or his attendance and for a comprehensive presentation.

9.0 Housing Starts February 2022

Members noted the Report.

<p>10.0</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p> <p>10.4</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Update by Department for Communities on the European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)</u></p> <p>Members noted the update.</p> <p><u>Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) Year End losses 2022</u></p> <p>Members noted the information.</p> <p><u>Account of Local Councils role in Ukraine Arrangements</u></p> <p>Members noted the brief.</p> <p><u>Update on the Demolition of the Tower Blocks in Larne</u></p> <p>Alderman Nicholl requested an update on the demolition of the Tower Blocks in Larne.</p>	<p>G Long</p>
<p>11.0</p>	<p><u>Date of next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 11th August 2022 at 10 am venue to be confirmed.</p>	

The Meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

DfC Labour Market Provision Update for Northern Ireland Housing Council

Martin Boyd
9th June 2022

JobStart


 Department for
Communities
 www.comunities.gov.uk
 |
 
 An tSeirbhís
Pobal
 |
 
 Mionáil na
Communities

Who Is the Scheme For?

16 – 24 year olds *at risk of long term unemployment* get into the job market by providing funding for employers to create 6 month job opportunities. 9 month job opportunity available for young people with Disabilities, Looked After Children and Returning Citizens

What does the young person get?

- A quality job opportunity where they will develop their skills
- Training plan – comprising of 5 x occupational skills alongside employability skills
- Any additional equipment, uniforms, accredited training employer deems appropriate for the job

What happened?

- 1,427 young people participated
- 391 young people have completed their opportunity (including 77 completing the 9 month route)
- 75% of completers retained employment or found alternative employment
- 10% of participants left the scheme

Current Status? Scheme closed to new applications at end of April 2022



 www.nidirect.gov.uk/jobstart

**Who is the scheme for?**

Adviser Discretion Fund (ADF) is a solution based product to assist customers in removing a barrier towards and into employment, retaining employment, increasing hours of employment, progressing within employment so as to increase earnings, assisting with self-employment and / or recommencing former self-employed businesses.

Support through ADF can include: job interview clothing, driving lessons, childcare costs, enhanced disclosure checks (e.g. Access NI checks), travel costs, short training courses, marketing for self-employment, professional registration fees, tools or equipment (incl IT).

Key changes since April 2021:

- an increase in the annual limit available, from £300 to £1500 per person
- broadening of the guidance to allow for an increased range of support
- introduction of the payment of upfront childcare costs (25 Oct 2021).

What happened?

- 2,970 successful applications for assistance (304 for childcare costs)
- 65% of applicants had positive work related outcome (into work or increased hours)

Current Status? Scheme continues

**Who is the scheme for?**

There are two separate strands:

- 2-8 Weeks Work Experience for 18-65 year olds and
- 13 Weeks Opportunity Guarantee for 18 to 24 year olds.

What does the participant get?

- an incentive payment of £10 per day (£50 per week) per participant which will be paid alongside existing assistance for travel and childcare expenses
- an incentive payment of £250 to employers after a participant has been on a placement for 1 week
- Opportunity Guarantee pays an additional employer incentive of £250 when placement is completed with opportunities are linked to the guarantee of an interview for a job or an apprenticeship

What happened?

- 110 Work Experience placements
- 57 Opportunity Guarantee placements
- 40% into work outcomes

Current Status? Scheme continues

**Who is the scheme for?**

Work ready individuals who have no other development needs. Primarily focused at newly unemployed who had limited recent experience of finding work.

What do participants get?

Short training modules on 6 areas of core employability skills:

- CV Building
- Job Search Techniques
- Interview Skills
- Mock interviews
- Confidence Building and Personal Development
- Digital Skills and Social Media

Participant travel and childcare costs reimbursed

**What happened?**

- 1391 modules delivered to participants
- 95% participant satisfaction rate

Current Status? Contract terminated



- LMPs are multi-agency partnerships at local (LGD) and regional levels.
- Local LMPs are required to develop Action Plans detailing proposals within key high level themes set by the Department
- Local Action Plans for 2022 -23 include
 - **Academy for unemployed** - 6 week academy in partnership with employers, focus on sectors with available jobs;
 - **Reskilling for job vacancies** - Engagement with local employers to ascertain potential job vacancies and to ensure training is provided that match job vacancies (eg HGV drivers, hospitality workers, health and social care workers);
 - **Gateway to choice for long term unemployed** - Provide a bespoke, personalised, job search and careers service covering BCC area for those 18+ who are LTU;
 - Development of **Digital Badges** which capture learning in employability and skills sector and world of work - Recognising non-accredited training and experience;
 - **Work placements and work experience** - Target group is 16-18 year olds in full time education to enable them to gain work experience in local companies; and
 - **Provide support and training for disabled people** – aimed at those who are currently out of work, enabling them to examine their aspirations alongside a specialist mentor, address any training needs and secure a flexible placement with a suitable employer.



Theme	No. of Participants
Economic Inactivity	2,257
Economic Shock	195
Long-term Unemployed	1,578
Skilled Labour Supply	1,205
Youth	2,659
Disability	168
Total	8,062



The Department also offers three Labour Market Provisions aimed at assisting citizens with a disability or health condition stay in or move closer to the labour market:

122

Access to Work Programme(NI) (AtW)

- Access to Work (NI) provides flexible forms of support to help customers with disabilities move into or retain employment. Assistance includes adaptations to premises and equipment, communication support at interview, special aids and equipment, support workers and travel to work. Help will be approved for as long as it is required and will be reviewed annually.

Condition Management Programme (CMP)

- Condition Management Programme (CMP) is a work-focused rehabilitation programme, delivered by experienced Health Care Professionals from the 5 Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland, which helps customers understand and manage their health condition(s) to enable them to progress towards, move into and/or stay in employment. It is designed to be completed within 12 sessions usually over a 3 month period, but a short extension of up to 6 sessions is available if necessary. It is entirely voluntary and has no impact on benefits.

Workable NI

- Workable (NI) offers a flexible range of long-term support to help people with disabilities who have barriers to employment to find and keep work.
-



CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

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123

AUGUST HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 11th August 2022 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom Housing Centre of alternatively via Conference Call

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present in person or by Video Conferencing

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Michael Ruane	Newry & Mourne District

Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Paul Price & David Polley from the Department for Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined *as follows*:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework

- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members then went on a Site Visit to the very impressive HAPPI principles scheme in Monkstown. The development is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland as it has been designed in line with the HAPPI (Housing Ageing Population Panel for Innovation) Principles which focus on designing high quality housing which caters for the needs of older person's as their circumstances change.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the September Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8th September 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

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FUNDING INNOVATION FOR NET ZERO

IN THIS EDITION

- ▶ New this Issue
- ▶ While there is still time
- ▶ Coming Soon
- ▶ Successful Bids

The Hydrogen and Advanced Technologies branch in the Department for the Economy has created this regular newsletter to keep you informed of any relevant external funding opportunities available. Our focus is funding which promotes clean energy and a low carbon economy. We hope you find this helpful and if you have any feedback on the newsletter, please contact us at:
HydrogenAdvancedTechnologiesBranch@economy-ni.gov.uk



Edition 5
August 2022



Disclaimer: In this newsletter we are referencing publicly available information, we acknowledge that it may not be exhaustive. We advise all interested parties to engage with funding bodies in the first instance directly at the earliest opportunity. DfE accepts no liability for discrepancies in dissemination. Funding opportunities detailed do not represent DfE endorsement or involvement in any way.

Table of Contents



New this Issue:	3
Hydrogen Business Model and Net Zero Hydrogen Fund: Electrolytic Allocation Round 2022	3
Innovate UK Smart Grants: July 2022	4
Knowledge Exchange Fellow: Environmental Response to Hydrogen Emissions	4
Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation 2.0 Competition: Call 2	5
Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator (IEEA)	6
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP): 2022 to 2023 Round 3	7
Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition – Round 5	7
Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) Phase 2: Summer 2022	8
SBRI: MRV Tools and Techniques for Land Based Greenhouse Gas Removal, Phase 1	8
APC22: Industrialising Net-Zero Automotive Technology	9
While there is still time...	10
Faraday Battery Challenge: Round 5 Feasibility Studies	10
Faraday Battery Challenge: Round 5 CR&D	11
Automotive Transformation Fund Expression of Interest: Round 24	11
Coming Soon...	12
Pre-announcement: Design Exchange Partnerships: Design the Green Transition	12
Successful Bids	13
Catagen	13

New this Issue:

Hydrogen Business Model and Net Zero Hydrogen Fund: Electrolytic Allocation Round 2022






This call is for submissions to the 2022 Hydrogen Business Model and Net Zero Hydrogen Fund Electrolytic Allocation Round.

Hydrogen will play a vital role in delivering the UK's commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

The UK is aiming to develop up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen generation by 2030, subject to affordability and value for money (VfM), with the intention that at least half of this will be from electrolytic hydrogen, drawing on the scale up of UK offshore wind, other renewables, and new nuclear.

The [Energy Security Strategy](#) detailed the ambition of the UK to support up to 1GW of electrolytic hydrogen being in construction or operational by 2025. BEIS aim to run yearly electrolytic allocation rounds for the Hydrogen Business Model (HBM) and move to price-competitive allocations by 2025 as soon as market conditions and legislation allow.

For the 2022 HBM / NZHF Electrolytic Allocation Round, BEIS propose that projects can apply for HBM revenue support only, or they can apply for joint HBM revenue support and CAPEX support through the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund (NZHF).

-  **Funding Organisation:** BEIS
-  **Opening Date:** Currently Open
-  **Closing Date to Submit an Expression of Interest:** 7th September 2022 (Once an EoI is submitted organisations will be provided with a link to the online application form)
-  **Closing Date for Application form:** 12th October 2022
-  **More information can be found at:** [Hydrogen Business Model and Net Zero Hydrogen Fund: Electrolytic Allocation Round 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hydrogen-business-model-and-net-zero-hydrogen-fund-electrolytic-allocation-round-2022)

New this Issue:

Innovate UK Smart Grants: July 2022


UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable research and development (R&D) innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £25,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 28th July 2022

 **Closing Date:** 26th October 2022 at 11 am

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Innovate UK Smart Grants: July 2022 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Knowledge Exchange Fellow: Environmental Response to Hydrogen Emissions

Apply for funding to be a knowledge exchange (KE) fellow supporting the projects funded in the environmental response to hydrogen emissions programme.


Organisations must focus on accelerating and amplifying impact throughout the cycle of the programme, by engaging and working with a range of stakeholders, partners and user communities.


Organisations can receive up to £250,000 of funding towards the fellowship. NERC will fund 100% of the full direct costs.

 **Funding Organisation:** Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and BEIS

 **Total Fund:** £250,000

 **Opening Date:** 1st August 2022

 **Closing Date:** 13th October 2022

 **More information can be found at:** [Knowledge exchange fellow: environmental response to hydrogen emissions – UKRI](#)



New this Issue:

Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation 2.0 Competition: Call 2

Lot 3 (up to £50,000 Grant Funding for Next Generation Carbon Capture Technology Feasibility Studies)

Up to £7.3million in grant funding is available for Call 2 of the CCUS Innovation 2.0 programme. This is divided into three lots:

- **Now closed:** Lot 1, up to £1.8 million, Mid Stage CCUS innovation: for projects developing and piloting mid-stage CCUS innovation currently at TRL 3-5. For Lot 1, BEIS will consider grant applications of up to £1 million.

- **Now Closed:** Lot 2, up to £5.0 million, Late Stage CCUS innovation: for projects developing late-stage CCUS innovation currently at TRL 6-8. For Lot 2, BEIS will consider grant applications of up to £5 million.
- Lot 3, up to £500,000, Next Generation Carbon Capture Technology feasibility studies: for industrial, waste or power site owners to analyse Next Generation Carbon Capture Technologies currently at TRL 3-8, to understand their feasibility for deployment at one of their UK-based sites. For Lot 3, BEIS will consider grant applications of up to £50,000.



Funding Organisation: BEIS



Total Fund for Lot 3: £500,000



Opening Date: Lot 3 Currently Open



Closing Date of Intent to Apply via Email: 3rd October 2022



Closing Date for Submitting Application: 2nd December 2022 at 11am



More information can be found at: [Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage \(CCUS\) Innovation 2.0 competition: call 2 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/carbon-capture-usage-and-storage-ccus-innovation-20-competition-call-2)

New this Issue:

Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator (IEEA)

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) IEEA is supported through its Net Zero Innovation Portfolio and funds industrial scale demonstrations of novel technologies with the potential to reduce energy consumption, maximise resource efficiency and cut carbon emissions.

It is designed to support partnerships between developers of efficient technologies and industrial companies willing to trial innovations on-site. It is open to projects from all UK industry sectors that can demonstrate either a novel technology (targeting Technology Readiness Level 5-8), or the use of an established technology in a novel way.

-  **Funding Organisation:** BEIS
-  **Total Fund:** £8,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 19th May 2022
-  **Closing Date:** 19th September 2022

More information can be found at:
[Participate in the IEEA - Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator \(IEEA\)](https://carbontrust.com/participate-in-the-ieea)
carbontrust.com



New this Issue:

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP): 2022 to 2023 Round 3

UK registered academic institutions, RTOs or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £9 million to fund innovation projects with businesses or not for profits.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £9,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 27th June 2022

 **Closing Date:** 14th September 2022

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Knowledge transfer partnerships \(KTP\): 2022 to 2023 Round 3 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovateuk.com/apply-for-innovation-funding-service)

Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition: Round 5

Innovate UK is offering up to £25 million in loans to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Loans are for highly innovative late stage research and development (R&D) projects with the best potential for the future.

There should be a clear route to commercialisation and economic impact.


Projects must lead to new products, processes or services that are significantly ahead of others currently available or propose an innovative use of existing products, processes or services. It can also involve a new or innovative business model.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

 **Total Fund:** £100,000 - £2,000,000

 **Opening Date:** 20th July 2022

 **Closing Date:** 14th September 2022

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Innovation Loans Future Economy Competition - Round 5 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovateuk.com/apply-for-innovation-funding-service)



New this Issue:

Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) Phase 2: Summer 2022

IETF Phase 2: Summer 2022 provides up to £70 million of grant funding for the following project types:

- **Studies** - feasibility and engineering studies to enable companies to investigate identified energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects prior to making an investment decision
- **Energy efficiency** - deployment of technologies to reduce industrial energy consumption
- **Deep decarbonisation** - deployment of technologies to achieve industrial emissions savings

 **Funding Organisation:** BEIS

 **Total Fund:** £70,000,000

-  **Opening Date:** 16th July 2022
-  **Closing Date:** 9th September 2022
-  **More information can be found at:** [Industrial Energy Transformation Fund \(IETF\) Phase 2: Summer 2022 - how to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/industrial-energy-transformation-fund-ietf-phase-2-summer-2022-how-to-apply)

SBRI: MRV Tools and Techniques for Land Based Greenhouse Gas Removal, Phase 1

This is a [Small Business Research Initiative](#) (SBRI) competition funded by Innovate UK as part of the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) [Greenhouse Gas Removal Demonstrators programme](#).

The aim of the competition is to deliver innovative monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) tools, technologies and techniques that assess the effectiveness,


integrity and longevity of land based greenhouse gas removal. The results of which will increase the credibility, confidence and uptake of land based greenhouse gas removal techniques.

 **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK

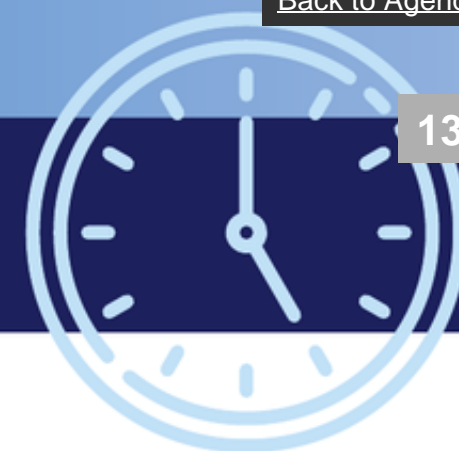
 **Total Fund:** £375,000

 **Opening Date:** 27th June 2022

 **Closing Date:** 7th September 2022 at 11am

 **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - SBRI: MRV tools and techniques for land based greenhouse gas removal, phase 1 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition-overview/sbri-mrv-tools-and-techniques-for-land-based-greenhouse-gas-removal-phase-1)

While there is still time:



Faraday Battery Challenge: Round 5 Feasibility Studies

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will invest up to £25 million in innovation projects across the two strands of this competition. This funding is from the Faraday Battery Challenge (FBC).

The aim of this competition is to:

- Support business-led research and development of sustainable propulsion batteries
- Support technologies with the potential to enter the automotive market within the next 15 years and, where appropriate, allow for early or synergistic entry into other sectors
- Move UK battery innovations from technological potential towards commercial capability
- Develop and secure material and manufacturing supply chains for battery technologies in the UK



Funding Organisation: Innovate UK



Total Fund: £25,000,000



Opening Date: 23rd May 2022



Closing Date: 17th August 2022 at 11am



More information can be found at: [Competition overview - Faraday Battery Challenge Round 5 Innovation: Feasibility Studies - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.innovateuk.com/competition-overview-faraday-battery-challenge-round-5-innovation-feasibility-studies-innovation-funding-service-apply-for-innovation-funding-service.gov.uk)



FUNDING INNOVATION FOR NET ZERO

135

While there is still time:



Faraday Battery Challenge: Round 5 CR&D

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £25 million across two strands, for innovation in propulsion battery technologies for electric vehicles.

This is the collaborative research and development (CR&D) strand.

-  **Funding Organisation:** Innovate UK
-  **Total Fund:** £25,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 23rd May 2022
-  **Closing Date:** 17th August 2022 at 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Faraday Battery Challenge Round 5 Innovation: CR&D - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Automotive Transformation Fund Expression of Interest: Round 24

UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £1 billion for capital centric investment projects that help industrialise the electrified automotive supply chain at scale in the UK.

-  **Funding Organisation:** [Automotive Transformation Fund](#) (ATF)
-  **Total Fund:** £1,000,000,000
-  **Opening Date:** 25th July 2022
-  **Closing Date:** 17th August 2022 at 11am
-  **More information can be found at:** [Competition overview - Automotive Transformation Fund Expression of Interest: Round 24 - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](#)





Coming Soon...

Pre-announcement: Design Exchange Partnerships: Design the Green Transition

Apply for funding to develop design-based solutions for specific net zero and climate crisis challenges facing UK coastal and island communities.


Your project could focus on:

- Decarbonisation
- Environmental sustainability
- Climate mitigation
- The circular economy
- The reduction of waste

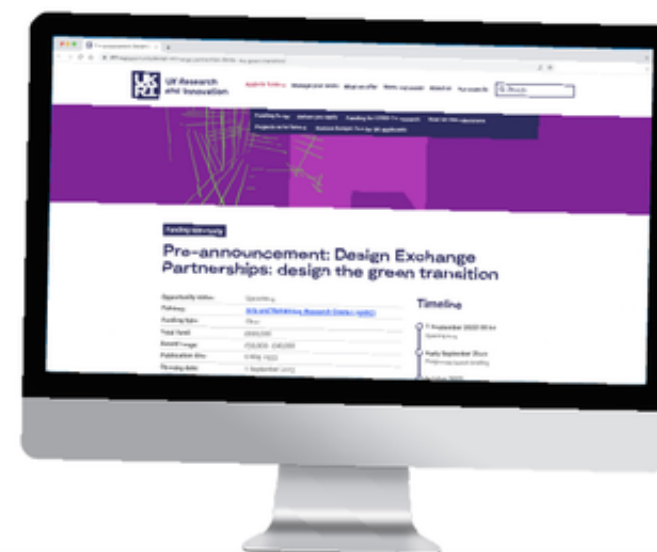
 **Funding Organisation:** Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

 **Total Fund:** £800,000

 **Opening Date:** 1st September 2022

 **Closing Date:** 30th November 2022

 **More information can be found at:**
[Pre-announcement: Design Exchange Partnerships: design the green transition - UKRI](#)






Successful Bids

Catagen

Northern Ireland based company CATAGEN have done it again, it's 5 out of 5 awards under the BEIS Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.

The Belfast-based company has successfully developed a range of net zero technologies focused on cleaning and decarbonising the air, as part of its mission to deliver greener and healthier environments. Air pollution remains the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK, causing more than 30,000 deaths every year.

In the last year alone, the company has successfully patented five new technologies, including a novel production method to sustainably create Bio-Hydrogen from a biomass source. The production of hydrogen from sustainable biomass and waste represents a key hurdle in the realisation of a green hydrogen economy, with cost, technological and operational challenges to address. The proposed CATAGEN solution has the potential to produce renewable bio-hydrogen from waste biomass with cost and emissions efficiencies.

 **More information can be found at:** [CATAGEN receives government backing to develop technology to produce Bio-Hydrogen at industrial scale - Catagen](#)



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beyond now

